

FERRIS COVID-19 CASE COUNT   LAST UPDATED: NOV. 9		
NEW CASES THIS WEEK	CUMULATIVE CASES	ACTIVE CASES
40	377	36

# BIDEN WINS ELECTION

With pivotal wins in swing states, Joe Biden will become 46th president of United States

**Ry Rodriguez**  
News Editor

After four days of counting votes, Joe Biden was declared the winner of the 2020 Presidential Election.

The president-elect won the electoral college with 290 electors in his favor to President Donald Trump's 214, according to the Associated Press. The race was called when Biden's home state of Pennsylvania, which flipped Friday morning in his favor, was called for Biden on Saturday by the Associated Press and many major news networks.

Biden made his first speech as president-elect at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 in Wilmington, Delaware, saying it was a time for America to heal.

"I pledge to be a President who seeks not to divide, but to unify," Biden said. "Who doesn't see red and blue states, but a United States. And who will work with all my heart to win the confidence of the whole people."

Kamala Harris will make history as the woman, Black person, person of South Asian descent and a daughter of an immigrant to be elected vice president.

Biden made clear his first order of business would be addressing the COVID-19 cases on the rise across the United States. Monday, Nov. 9, he named a 13 health experts to his Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board.

"Our work begins with getting COVID under control. We cannot repair the economy, restore our vitality, or relish life's most precious moments — hugging a grandchild, birthdays, weddings, graduations, all the moments that matter most to us — until we get this virus under control."

Biden, 77, won more votes than any presidential candidate in history with 75,664,341, far surpassing former President Barack Obama's 2008 record of over 69.4 million votes. Biden is ahead 4,594,406 votes and the states of North Carolina, Georgia and Alaska are still counting.

Some states are still too close to call according to major news networks, but they all seem to have a heavy trend towards the President-Elect, namely Arizona and Georgia. The state of Georgia has not voted for a democrat since Bill Clinton in 1992.

Before Biden's winning speech was made, Harris paid tribute to the late congressman John Lewis.

"Congressman John Lewis, before his passing, wrote: 'Democracy is not a state. It is an act.' And what he meant was that America's democracy is not guaranteed," Harris said. "It is only as strong as our willingness to fight for it, to guard it and never take it for granted. And protecting our democracy takes struggle. It takes sacrifice. There is joy in it and there is progress."

"You delivered a clear message. You chose hope, unity, decency, science and, yes, truth. You chose Joe Biden as the next President of the United States of America."

Trump will also break the 2008 record for most votes for a presidential candidate and will be the candidate with the second-most votes for them, with over 71 million votes and counting.

Voter turnout was historic at over 144.8 million votes cast and counted by Saturday, with an enormous increase in mail-in ballots amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This delayed the counting process in many states, some of which had to abide by legislation that did not allow any tabulation of ballots until Election Day.

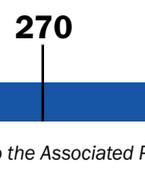
Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania were pivotal wins for Biden.

Before the announcement in Biden's favor Saturday just before noon, Trump tweeted at 10:36 a.m.: "I WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT!"

Biden and his campaign were careful not to declare themselves the winners at any point this week, but were optimistic as mail-in votes began to be tabulated throughout the



214



270

290



According to the Associated Press



Photo by Gage Skidmore (GPA Photo Archive)

Former Vice President Joe Biden will become the 46th president of the United States.

first four days of the election.

Biden's victory makes Trump the first one-term president since George H.W. Bush in 1992.

Trump responded to the result of Joe Biden gaining the title of President-Elect, accusing him of rushing to "falsely pose as the winner" and claiming "his media allies" are trying to help him to avoid the truth being exposed. White House staffers told ABC News that Trump was at a golf course a few miles from the White House "clearing his head" on Saturday when the results were announced.

Trump's lawsuits in Michigan, Wisconsin and Georgia were dismissed for lack of evidence of voter fraud, and lack of evidence of counting centers not allowing spectators.

His legal team made an attempt to appeal the ruling made by a Michigan judge, stating there was a lack of evidence to provide, got denied by the Michigan Court of Claims. This is because the legal team lacked necessary documents to proceed.

The sitting president has made it clear he will not concede the race until all lawsuits have been settled.

Trump's personal lawyer – Rudi Giuliani – held a press conference at the Four Seasons Total Landscaping on Nov. 7. Giuliani said him and his team will file lawsuits in all of the battleground states to make sure every vote is legal and the ballot watchers are allowed to view the counting process.

Lawsuits are still apparent in the state of Pennsylvania, for the late votes that arrived on Friday or later, and how the provisional ballots were counted.

The election still must go through ballot certification, but there will be recounts in Georgia and Wisconsin, and then those must be certified once more. Pennsylvania needs the margin of difference between Trump and Biden to drop between +/- .5% to trigger an automatic recount but the margin is standing at .7%.

"I am glad we patiently waited on the results, and I think the transition will be a challenging one," Ferris communication and forensics director Sean Kolhoff said.

Political science program coordinator David Takitaki partially credited Biden's win to his optimism and positivity.

"Vice President Biden's campaign realized it could not compete with Trump's operation in negative messaging and left that largely to surrogates and outside groups," Takitaki said. "Biden instead spoke in messages of unity, hope and healing. Those messages resonated with many Americans tired of the divisive nature of the Trump administration."

Takitaki believes things went wrong for Trump when his campaign failed to reach independents.

"Trump's campaign largely ran on inaccurate accusations about Vice President Biden's plans and their effect on the American people," Takitaki said. "This was mobilizing to his base, but failed to win over independents and those with an accurate understanding of Biden's positions."

Unlike elections before, the president-elect has not got any phone calls from foreign leaders, yet.

Biden's inauguration is scheduled to take place on Jan. 20, 2021.

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# NEWS

Ry Rodriguez | News Editor | rodrir16@ferris.edu

## Stop attacking poll workers' integrity

After working at the polls this year, claiming election fraud is offensive



Noah Kurkjian  
Copy Editor

On Nov. 3, I walked into the Mecosta Township Hall, put down my things, poured myself a cup of coffee and took my oath.

"I do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of this state, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of inspector of elections according to the best of my ability."

I meant all 42 of those words.

After that, I presented my Election Inspector certificate of training, signed a few documents and it began. The doors opened at 7 a.m. and there was a not so socially distanced line all the way to the street.

The process begins with voters taking an application slip, filling in their name, address, date of birth and then signing it. From there, they came to my station where the Deputy Clerk would check their ID, pull up their voter profile in the E-Poll Book (EPB) and once confirmed, the EPB would issue them a ballot number and they would be sent to me.

From there I'd find their ballot number, slide it into a secrecy sleeve and give the same speech I gave almost a thousand times that day.

"So here's your ballot, since this is a general election, you can vote either split or straight ticket, be aware there is a backside to your ballot, that is the non-partisan section, so if you voted straight ticket, you still need to fill out the back side if you so choose. Also, please make sure you're darkening in your bubbles fully or the tabulator may send your ballot back to you. Have a nice day."

This is how it went for 13 hours aside from three 15-minute lulls where we crammed in bathroom breaks and hopefully, some food.

We also had incredible first-time voter turnout. We were also registering people left and right who decided last minute that they wanted to participate. It was amazing

to witness.

There were some notable situations, though. Many people with Trump 2020 masks had to be asked to reverse them. Michigan campaign law states that no campaigning for any candidate may take place within 100 feet of a polling location. The most notable of these situations was when a candidate on the ballot came in decked out in campaign gear for himself and for Trump. So much so that he had to leave and return once he'd changed.

We were, in my opinion, lucky to only have one challenger come to our polling location. She was walked in, stood behind my station for about 90 seconds and then left.

Towards the end of the night, we started to go into mild panic mode as we had used every single 1B ballot (ballots for Stanwood Village residents to select their village president and board members) and were quickly running out of 1A general ballots. Luckily, we were able to move village voters to the VAT or Voter Assist Terminal, which is just an iPad hooked up to a printer. Our very last voter used our very last general ballot and that was a bit shocking.

"I expected a larger turnout than usually and ordered more ballots than I actually thought I would need, but we just barely made it," said Lois Brennan, Mecosta Township Clerk.

Once the polls closed is when the real work began. We started out by checking the numbers from the EPB against the numbers recorded on the tabulator. If those do not match up in an explainable way (for instance, a ballot being slotted into the auxiliary bin because it needs to be duplicated because of a problem) we have to automatically start a hand count.

Once those numbers are confirmed to equal out, the Clerk pulls the tapes from the tabulator. We must confirm that those numbers match and add the votes that were not accurately counted by the tabulator to the tap totals. (Adding in the votes that otherwise wouldn't be on the tape like the ballots from the aux bin.) Once these numbers are confirmed accurate, every election inspector must sign them.



Graphic by: Brooke Martin | Production Assistant

After this, we empty the tabulator, check to see if there are any valid write-in votes, (not all write-in votes are accepted, you must write in a candidate that was high enough in the polls to be considered, but not high enough to get their own space) and then we duplicate any ballots that were unable to be read by the machine. This is done by a team that has one republican and one democrat. One reads while the other fills in the ballot.

Once these steps are completed, all inspectors have a chance to look through all of the documentation, then sign it all. Then, the Clerk seals all of the containers in front of all inspectors and one from each party signs off on that.

Once all of these steps are completed, (there are a few others, but for brevity sake, I have left them out as it's just more paperwork and more signatures) a team drives the sealed containers to the county Clerk for her certification process and we wait for the all-clear call. After this, we are able to finally go home after a 20 hour day.

Reflecting on this experience, it was

eye-opening. I honestly did not know the extent of this process and experiencing it firsthand was amazing.

I would like to say though, it is a bit offensive to me that people are screaming "FRAUD" left and right, including the sitting President. Like I mentioned, I took my job incredibly serious, and to be quite frank, I did not make enough working an election to justify possible prison time for tampering and all of my co-workers were in agreement about that.

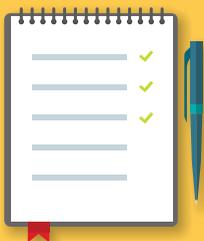
All in all, this was a long and grueling process, but I am so glad that I participated. I learned so much and I will be back come mid-terms in 2022.

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# THIS WEEK IN MICHIGAN NEWS

Catch up on news around the state

Ry Rodriguez  
News Editor

## Capital Hill

LANSING, MICH – Governor Gretchen Whitmer went on a Zoom call with the Detroit Free Press and expressed her concern on how lame-duck President Trump is the election results. She was also criticized on she helped Biden get elected, but failed to turn the Michigan legislature blue, “So we’ve been living with very gerrymandered – some of the most gerrymandered districts in the country. The fact that there was a perceived opportunity (to flip the state House) was pretty incredible to begin with,” Whitmer said.

She also declined to answer the question of what Cabinet seat she would like to pursue because, “there’s no Cabinet position that’s more gratifying as far as the work you can do than being the governor of a state, and especially a state like Michigan,” Whitmer said.

## COVID Numbers

Confirmed Cases **229,117\***

Confirmed Deaths **7,944\***

Confirmed Recoveries **128,981**

\* NYT Updated every four hours

\*\* Michigan.gov Updated every Saturday

## Sports

BLOOMINGTON, IND – The University of Michigan, ranked 23, fell to the University of Indiana, ranked 13, 21-38. The Wolverines fall to an unracked position and they are tied in a three-way tie for fourth in the Big Ten East standings. This led to Harbaugh getting the question, ‘what is your future with U of M look like,’ in which came the refusal to answer the question. The Wolverines go against the badgers on Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

IOWA CITY, IOWA – The Michigan State Spartans Lost to the Iowa Hawkeyes 7-49. The loss is mainly contributed to MSU’s quarter-back, Rocky Lombardi, throwing three interceptions and 46% pass-completion rate. The Spartans will face off against the ranked number ten Hoosiers on Nov. 14 at noon.

MINNEAPOLIS – The Detroit Lions lost against the Minnesota Vikings 20-34. The Lions defense could not handle middle range passing from Vikings quarter-back Kirk Cousins. The Lions are now tied (3-5) for last with the Vikings in the NFC North.

# - ON THE RECORD -

A roundup of this week’s crime at Ferris State University

## Stops are only suggestions

Ry Rodriguez  
News Editor

### Stops are only suggestions

Nov. 2, 9:49 p.m., a non-Ferris student was pulled over for disobeying the stop sign directly outside of Ferris’ pharmacy building, failing to stop. The driver was arrested after the dust settled because they were not licensed to operate a motor vehicle.

### The Clery alert

Nov. 3, 8:00 p.m., the notifications that was sent to all students and faculty who have signed up for the Clery alerts came out the following day at 2:10 a.m. A sexual criminal conduct happened in Brophy Hall. More will come out once this case is reviewed by the district attorney.

### Snap it, rip it, flee it

Nov. 4, 6:00 p.m., someone drove into Lot 20 next to a truck with a Trump flag and decided to deface it. The perpetrators proceeded to snap the pole off the truck and then ripped the flag into pieces. They decided to drive off

with the evidence. When the victim filled the report, they described the vehicle and the perpetrators two white males. The police saw a vehicle that matches the description and an investigation entailed. It was found out the driver of that vehicle was a Black man and his mother, and the victim gave a false positive identification on the plates. The investigation was ultimately terminated over lack of leads.

### Off the grid

Nov. 5, 11:05 p.m., a non-Ferris student was pulled over in Northland Drive heading towards Knollview Drive. The first tip was, while the car was moving forward, it was dragging a piece of the car making a horrible noise. The second tip was, there was no license plate. After the officer gathered some information, the driver had no insurance nor a license. An appearance before the court ticket was issued.

# Taking precautions

## Two Ferris students stay in hometowns following election results out of hate crime fear

Veronica Mascorro  
News Reporter

When the FBI began documenting hate crime statistics in the 1990s, it was quickly discovered that hate crimes increase in big numbers before and after every Presidential Election cycle.

A hate crime, by definition is a crime, typically one involving violence, that is motivated by prejudice on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other grounds. Knowing that hate crimes tend to increase during this time, some Ferris students decided to go back to their hometowns during the election week to avoid being the victim of any hate crime incident.

Amere Blake, a junior in business administration, was one of the students who chose to stay the week of the election in his hometown of Flint. When comparing the two, Blake expressed that the differences between Flint and Big Rapids were big. Flint was more diverse than Big Rapids and Blake, being Black as well feels that he is able to see more people who look like him while at home.

Originally Blake didn’t feel that it was necessary to go back home, and wanted to stay in Big Rapids, but after having a conversation with his parents, they pointed out how he would be more at risk by staying in Big Rapids and felt that it was better to be extra cautious, than to risk have anything happen. They also felt that it would be safer because they know the people in the community and know that they tend

to share the same beliefs as them.

Blake, who voted for Joe Biden, felt that there would be a negative response no matter who won the election but now feels that he will be less safe due to Donald Trump losing the election, and Biden being announced as the President-Elect.

“I don’t think Trump is going to try and leave the office peacefully, I feel like he’s going to ask for a recount and his supporters will feel like it wasn’t a true loss,” Blake said. “They’re going to act more out of character and try to harass minorities.

Respiratory Therapy senior Garnisha Lewis also chose to go home during election week because she missed her family but because she’s also aware that hate crimes increase drastically after elections.

Lewis being from Detroit, related to the sentiments that Blake expressed when comparing his hometown and Big Rapids when it came to diversity. Although Lewis feels that she’s surrounded by a supportive community while in Big Rapids when it comes to her friends and organizations she’s involved in, she still felt that she’d be safer staying the week in Detroit.

“I don’t want to risk anything at all,” Lewis said. “People are going to be upset regardless of the results and I don’t want to risk getting hurt or attacked for something that I can’t control.”

Lewis fears now that because Biden was announced President-Elect, Trump supporters may get upset with the results and potentially harass others. Beforehand Lewis also feared

that if Trump were to win, his supporters would celebrate and still harass others.

Interestingly enough, based on the FBI’s reports, Lewis’ fears are not too far off as to what typically happens after elections. After every presidential election cycle, no matter who the candidate or who wins, hate crimes will always rise.

The FBI reports show that the last few Presidential Elections have shown more targeted examples of hate crimes towards specific groups of people. When Barack Obama won the election for both terms, hate crimes against Black people rose.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, a prominent U.S. civil rights group said it has identified 900 incidents of harassment following Trump’s election to the presidency in 2016.

The number of recorded hate crime incidents was around 6,200 in 2016 – a 5% jump from 2015. According to the FBI report on the issue, this figure increased by 17% in 2017.

According to the same FBI report, 59.6% of incidents were motivated by bias against race, ethnicity, or ancestry. Crimes motivated by a victim’s religion constituted 20.6% of attacks, and crimes against a person’s sexual orientation made up 15.8%

Many news sources are predicting that following the election results, the trend will follow the same patterns it has previous years and are warning people to be cautious when they leave their homes.

To see the FBI’s annual report on hate crimes one can visit <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime>

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CRIMES ON CAMPUS CAN BE REPORTED TO DPS AT 231-591-5000

# First gen students overcome unique challenges

Students discuss difficulties, from navigating FAFSA alone to breakaway guilt

**Alyssa Myers**  
Copy Editor

Like most universities, Ferris has a sizable number of first-generation students. These students are pioneers of their futures and as such, they have had to work through unique challenges.

The definition of a first-generation student is much disputed, but according to the Ferris first-generation admissions homepage "being a first-generation means neither of your parents has earned a bachelor's degree, regardless of siblings and other relatives."

There are many reasons why first-generation students make the decision to attend college. Some students, like dental hygiene senior Alondra Campos, are driven by the need to give back to their family and community.

"For as long as I can remember, I have always wanted to go to college," Campos said. "I want to give back to my mom. Show her what a brilliant child she raised. Me furthering my education and attending college not only beats stereotypes about my culture, but also makes everyone that helped me reach my goal proud."

Others had a different plan for life and recently reworked it.

"I decided to go to college in the middle of my senior year," social studies education sophomore Gilbert Torres said. "I had always believed I wasn't going to college, so I didn't really put effort in high school. I realized how much of a future I could have when I transferred to a new school my senior year and got the best grades I have ever gotten because I didn't have anyone I knew to distract me."

For many students, the journey to college starts in high school. Teachers, classwork and extracurriculars instill the skills needed for future success.

"I had one supporter in high school, and it was my English teacher, Sam Joseph," Torres said. "He would push me to do better with my essays and with classwork. He was the first teacher I had who actually wanted me to do better in class and if it wasn't for him, I'd still be struggling with writing and figuring out how to pace myself with school."

One thing first-generation students often struggle with is the financial side of attending college, especially the FAFSA. The importance of the document is known, but the shroud of confusion surrounding it remains, and though there are many online resources to help not everyone has equal access to them.

"Even though I was set on my grade and education part of preparing for college I still lacked on some resources," Campos said. "I did not know how to file my FAFSA, TIP or how to even apply for college. Since my family was not financially stable, I knew I had to sign up for scholarships, but I had no idea how to apply for scholarships."

Completion of the FAFSA is one of the eligibility requirements for the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP). According to the TIP homepage on Michigan.gov, "The Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) encourages eligible Medicaid recipients to complete high school by providing tuition assistance during an eligible student's qualifying certificate or associate degree program and also during the student's bachelor's degree program. These two periods of assistance are referred to as 'Phase I' and 'Phase II.'" Both phases of this program are offered at Ferris.

"I choose Ferris because they offered the Tuition Incentive Program for all four years," psychology senior Gabriela Romero said. "I don't come from a family of money so any money I could get was what was best for me. Especially since I pay for college on my own."

In an article for the Washington Post Linda Banks-Santilli, the associate dean for academic affairs at Wheelock College describes breakaway guilt as "one of the biggest struggles first-generation college students face." This sense of guilt arises from breaking away and leaving their families behind to pursue higher education.

"Yes, I have this guilty feeling about leaving home, and sometimes it can be a very overwhelming emotion," Campos said. "My family is extremely close. When I first left, they felt like I was leaving them. They knew I left home for a good reason, but they would constantly use those words to me. It got worse once I started getting more involved on campus and stayed on campus to help with events. It made me feel guilty. I felt like I was making more time for other people, but not to go home and visit my family."

Not everyone categorizes these heavy feelings as guilt, though.

"It was hard leaving home, but I do not feel guilt for breaking away from the path. My family has been struggling to get someone to finally leave that path and I get to be the one who does what they all wanted," Torres said.

Being a first-generation student isn't easy, but these students have found a way to chart out a new life for themselves and the rewards are significant if the obstacles can stay in their peripheral.

## Torch Corrections

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## SCENES FROM CAMPUS

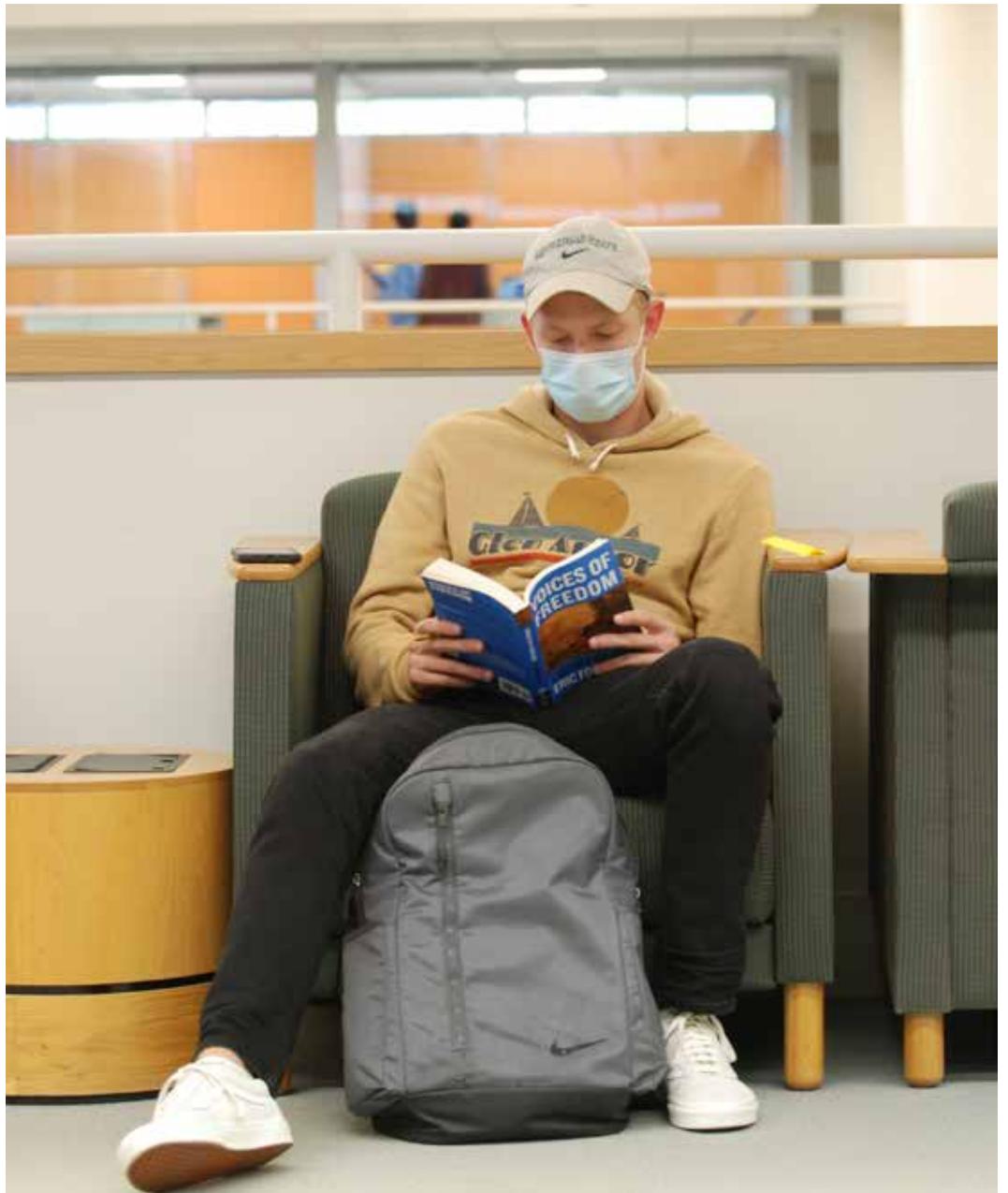


Photo by: Benjamin Totten | Torch Photographer

Students are required to wear masks on campus, per the university's COVID-19 policies. Sitting at the University Center or studying at FLITE has taken on a different look, much like the student pictured above.

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Updated August 13, 2020

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

# Student diagnosed with cancer amid pandemic

## Jacob Webster opens up about experience with cancer during COVID-19

Rebecca Vanderkooi  
News Reporter

A cancer diagnosis and chemo treatments are hard. Working and simply living within a pandemic is hard. Combine those two things together and it seems very nearly impossible. Those were the odds stacked against Jacob Webster when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer this August.

Webster, who goes by Webby because “there are a lot of Jacob’s,” bears few scars from his August bout with cancer save for a head of peach fuzz where his hair is trying to grow back. On campus he wears his trademark suits and is known by many as simply the “suit guy.” He smiles and jokes and is willing to help anyone who needs it at a moment’s notice. It’d be hard to tell from just a glance the pain and struggle he endured earlier this year.

This summer, as he prepared for his final year at Ferris studying manufacturing and engineering technology, his plans came to a sudden halt.

Three weeks before classes started Webster endured surgery to remove one of his testicles and the biopsy found that it was 80% lymphatic invasion cancer. The doctor recommended a round of chemotherapy because it would lower the risk of relapse from 50% down to 10%.

“It (the chemo) was three weeks long. For the first week it was every single day for five hours and then the next two weeks it was on Monday for two hours,” Webster said.

The first week was intensive and draining, but he didn’t really begin to feel the full effects until the following two weeks. Those weeks, virtual resident assistant training through Ferris overlapped with the chemotherapy, adding another level of exhaustion when trying to stay awake for zoom training.

COVID-19 increased the level of isolation and complexity after the unexpected diagnosis.

“Normally if you get cancer or get sick, people come see you and give support, but they couldn’t really do that. So, the only people I really made contact with were my family and the person I was dating at that time,” Webster said.

While being in the hospital receiving treatment, he was only permitted to have one visitor, and it had to be the same person throughout the weeks of treatment. He chose his mom, Christine.

“She’s a really important person for me and she pretty much knows what to say all the time and she really helped me through it,” Webster said.

Typically, cancer patients can make a variety of requests during chemotherapy, to support them through treatment. But due to COVID-19 regulations, Webster’s one meal request was impossible.

“When people get chemotherapy, they give you whatever you want to eat,” Webster said. “Well, I wanted a Philly cheese steak, but I couldn’t get those because (the restaurants) weren’t open.”

The hours spent in chemotherapy were in one giant room surrounded by other patients receiving various types of treatments. While there, Webster wasn’t allowed to walk around or do anything. Instead, he slept as his mom did work beside him.

“The funny thing about being a mother is that you just have this overwhelming sense of helplessness while you watch your kid go through pain,” Webster’s mom, Christine, said.

According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, 8,000 to 10,000

“When you go through chemotherapy your white blood cells are non-existent. So, any little flu or cough or anything can really get you, can almost kill you.”

Jacob Webster



Photo courtesy of Jacob Webster

Jacob Webster, who is commonly seen around campus wearing a suit, was diagnosed with cancer in August.

men will be develop testicular cancer every year.

“Testicular cancer is very high among young men, it’s a very important part of health and if you think there’s an issue go check it out,” Christine said. “We are constantly talking about females and breast cancer and I want to put it out there that men need to check up too. Men statistically get into bigger problems because they think it’s fine.”

Despite the sudden diagnosis, and the immense physical pain and illness, that wasn’t what was at the forefront of Webster’s mind.

“The biggest thing that really hit me was the fact that it had to do with the testicles and one of my biggest things is that I want to have my own kids,” Webster said.

It became a bigger issue than surgery, chemo or cancer because now it could directly impact a lifelong dream. Despite the illness, fatigue and sadness Webster was still able to keep a positive attitude.

“It sounds kind of dumb but I just kind of joked around with it,” said Webster. “I had days when I was pretty depressed, I just kind of pushed through it and kept going.”

While Webster went through chemotherapy there was an average of over 800 COVID diagnosis per day throughout the state, the highest infection rate since May.

“When you go through chemotherapy your white blood cells are nonexistent. So, any little flu or cough or anything can really get you, can almost kill you,” said Webster.

This is always a concern for cancer patients but was even more considering the coronavirus pandemic. Especially coming back to campus, he needed to take extra precautions because, clearly, catching COVID-19 simply wasn’t an option. He knew a diagnosis like that on top of his compromised immune system could be too much for his body to bear.

For the first few weeks back he laid low, remaining mostly in his room playing video games with a few friends. The RA’s in his building where he lives, and works were willing to pick up shifts for him so he didn’t have to spend time at the front desk, increasing his chances of getting exposed to COVID-19 or other illnesses.

His immune system was almost completely gone for two weeks after the chemo finished, for a total of five weeks of decreased immune function. This was a relatively quick recovery, but amid this pandemic required an extra level of

caution.

Fortunately, prior to his diagnosis, Webster was fit and otherwise healthy which was hugely beneficial to his recovery. Webster has always been an avid rock climber, and this exercise may be one of the reasons his immune system recovered so well.

“In 2012 I went to nationals in Colorado Springs, for my age group I was 26th in the nation for rock climbing,” explained Webster. Although since college he hasn’t been as involved in the climbing scene, it’s still a lifelong hobby.

Webster doesn’t dwell on the past or worry too much about the thought of a relapse. Instead, he is looking to the future. He’s back to wearing suits on campus, rock climbing, woodworking and sewing.

More important than any hobby is that he’s been able to spend time with friends again. Although he still needs to be cautious about COVID-19, he’s had more freedom to enjoy his friend’s company.

“The biggest feature of me is that I truly try and be loyal and stick with people and try my best to help anyone, which is one of the reasons I became an RA and also the field I’m going into is because I want to help any way I can,” said Webster.

Gretchen Parker is also a senior at Ferris, and one of Webster’s closest friends throughout the years.

“Webby is the kindest, most dependable friend anyone could ask for; he will drop everything for a friend in need whether or not what he’s doing is important. He’s one of the best listeners I’ve ever met,” said Parker.

Although there is currently no vaccination for COVID-19, and there is not a quick and easy cure for cancer, Webster is not letting that stop him from moving forward in life. For the next five years there will be scans and blood tests every three months.

“I hate the doctor, and over the next five years I’m basically under their eye to make sure that I don’t get it again,” said Webster.

Assuming the next two years of checkups go well, Webster’s risk of relapse will go down to 2%. Despite the appointments and tests Webster has vowed to not live in fear as he holds a newfound appreciation for his family, friends and his health.

# LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | *Lifestyles Editor* | russem22@ferris.edu

## ESAs are the way

*Emotional support animals can be especially helpful this semester*

**Alyssa Hubbard**  
News Reporter

Some students living in the dorms have been handling classes this semester a lot better because of the help from their Emotional Support Animals.

The Educational/Career Counseling and Disability Services offers students the opportunity to bring a registered ESA to live in the dorms with them. The option has been more encouraged during this semester of social distancing and loneliness.

Counselors of the ECDS help students with disabilities find ways to succeed. One unique way for students to feel more at ease during their time at college is having an ESA.

Criminal justice sophomore Hanna Pollard recently brought her cat, Cleo to live with her this semester.

"I registered Cleo as an ESA at the beginning of October," Pollard said. "I decided to get an ESA because all of my classes are online this semester and, after a month in my dorm by myself, my anxiety got worse. I've had Cleo for six years and she's just always helped me relax. So getting her certified as an ESA was what I needed to do to calm the anxiety."

Cleo supported Pollard in different ways. She gave Pollard companionship, relief between working on long homework assignments, and a reason to go outside. Cleo liked going on walks and spreading joy to others as they stopped to pet her.

Montana Dalman is a fifth-year communication studies major, and she has lived with her ESA since November 2018. Taking care of her cat, Bean, helped and comforted her as she handled anxiety and depression.

"Bean is just the sweetest little ball of fur," Dalman said. "She sits with me when I'd otherwise be alone. She has helped me immensely."

For Dalman, caring for her ESA Bean was easy. She gave Bean food and water often, and a lot of cuddles when she was around. Bean slept near Dalman whenever she studied.

In order to have an ESA in the dorms, a student must first complete a few steps. Some steps include setting up an appointment with the ECDS, receiving a doctor's note specifying a need for an ESA, providing proof of up-to-date vaccinations, and approval from Ferris Housing.

Social work sophomore Ainslie Clark also has a feline ESA named Bean, who only recently moved in with her this semester. For Bean to live with her, Clark needed forms signed by her primary doctor and counselor.

Clark said this process was difficult. She received her ESA forms at the beginning of the school year, and it took weeks for her doctor and counselor to sign the necessary documents. Clark was finally able to bring Bean home in October.

The hassle was worth the extra effort because Clark felt more peace knowing that she and her ESA friend were there for each other.

"It makes me happier to come back and to be in my room, and it helps to have someone else relying on me," Clark said.

All three of these ESAs have become significant sources of peace and comfort for those feeling overwhelmed by personal circumstances. Overall, these ESAs made their owners happier while on-campus or attending classes during this pandemic.

"I do recommend that more students get an ESA because a lot of people struggle with life and sometimes an assistance animal is the best way to get relief," Pollard said. "However, I only recommend it to people who can actively clean up after their ESA."

ESAs can come in many forms other than cats. Dogs, birds, turtles, and more can be certified as ESAs for those who prefer other animals.

If any students are struggling or have been considering getting an Emotional Support Animal, the ECDS is open for appointments, either virtual or in-person if needed. Visit the Educational/Career Counseling and Disability Services on the Ferris website for more information.



Photo by: Ben Totten | Torch Photographer

Liz Fraley enjoying time with her ESA bird Indrid.



Photo courtesy of Montana Dalman

Montana Dalman laying down with her ESA cat, Bean.



Photo by: Caasidy Jessup | Torch Photographer

Trinity Palasek cuddling up with her ESA cat Jasmine.

# Let's sit down and talk about it

## Students talk about worries they have about the pandemic

**Matthew Miller**  
Lifestyle Reporter

People around the world are still suffering from COVID-19 as a rise in cases has been seen with the start of flu season.

Social Distancing rules have been in effect, making life look different for many. People are still able to live on with their day to day lives as long as they wear a mask.

But what happens when a person gets COVID-19? Should they feel embarrassed about getting it? Should they tell people that they have it?

"I think there is an assumption that when you contract COVID-19 that it is because you weren't following national guidelines or regulations. That isn't the case at all," Pre-optometry senior Stacey Jacobs said.

Jacobs said she has been sick once already this year and follows the social distancing rules to the best of her ability. She is an employee at Walgreens here in Big Rapids, and practices safe handwashing to the best of her ability and wears a mask but is exposed to sick people frequently.

The assumption that people acquired COVID-19 from a lack of precaution can make them feel ashamed to admit that they contracted the virus. Jacobs said that this is a big reason why so many people are afraid to talk about having it.

As of right now in the United States there are 9.76 million cases of COVID-19. In Michigan, as of Nov. 5, there are 218,000 cases. There has been an increase in COVID-19 cases over the

past couple of months.

COVID-19 isn't something that people should be embarrassed to talk about. Organizations and students across the Ferris campus have been seeing a rise in case themselves. When people don't talk about it, it can put even more people at risk of contracting the virus.

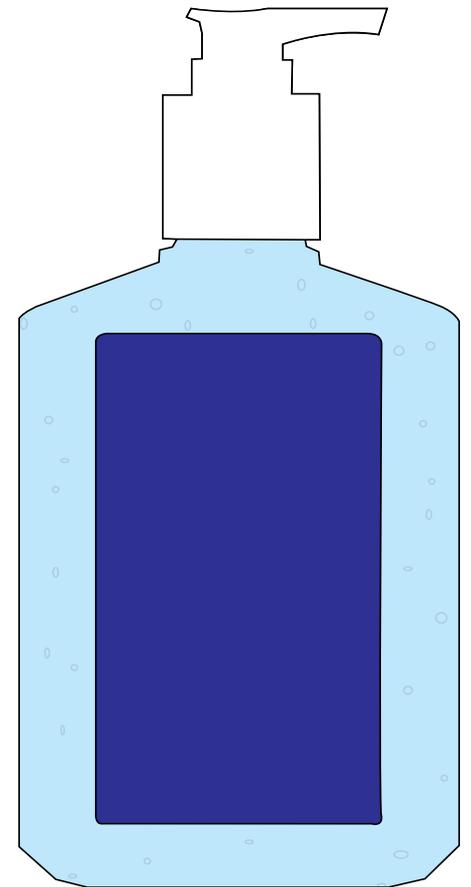
When someone has COVID-19 or has been in contact with someone that has it, they are asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

Psychology junior Brittany Decker said that COVID-19 can be a scary thing for people to talk about. Decker said that COVID-19 has affected everyone's lives and that people, especially the younger generation like to think that they are invincible to it.

"I can see why people don't want to speak about COVID," Decker said. "I do believe though that if you have it you don't need to tell the world but tell your friends and family so that they can keep themselves safe. I feel like the more we talk about it the fear of it will go down."

Decker said that she has not had COVID-19 herself and takes the necessary precautions to make sure that she won't get it. She did self-isolate during the major peaks of COVID-19 to help reduce the chances of herself getting it. Decker said if people would just wear a mask and follow the guidelines, this will be over before we know it.

COVID-19 is an issue that people should be afraid to address. Only by addressing the issue can we have hope that we will be able to decrease the numbers.



# Media Minute

## The best podcasts for my fellow nerds



**Kaylin Johnson**  
Managing Copy  
Editor

Okay, I'll admit it.

My taste in podcasts is a bit nerdy. But over the years, I've been accepting my nerdiness and reclaiming the word as a compliment.

I love to geek out about all my interests and will talk to anyone who will listen to me about my favorite books and movies.

My nerdy life is nothing to be ashamed of. I'm a proud Ravenclaw Hobbit who dreams of being a demigod.

So it logically follows that I also adore listening to other people talk about my nerdy adoration.

I have a long list of podcasts I love, but today I'll stick to the nerdier ones. Some have long episodes and some don't. Some have hundreds of episodes in their backlog and some are newer, but all are still producing new content.

For all my fellow nerds out there, these are a few of my favorite podcasts.

### Potterless

"The tale of a grown man reading the Harry Potter books for the first time."

This is the podcast that first got me excited about listening. It is a hilarious read-thru of the Harry Potter books by Mike Schubert, a part of the Multitude Collective of podcasts.

He starts out expecting to hate the books but soon finds out how much he enjoys them. He has finished all the books and is now working on covering non-canon media like "A Very Potter Musical."

### Spirits

"A boozy dive into mythology and urban legends"

Also a part of the Multitude Collective, this podcast is hosted by Amanda McLoughlin and Julia Schifini.

I have been into mythology since I was young, so this show was right up my alley. But honestly, who wouldn't like this one? It's

two girls getting drunk and talking about mythology for an hour.

### An Unexpected Podcast: Talkin' Tolkien

"Coming to you from the Shire of America"

This podcast is more of a book club than a read-thru. The community has grown and listeners really seem to connect with each other.

If you're into Middle Earth and "The Lord of the Rings," this one could be for you... if you are ready to listen for over two hours per episode. I love how it feels as if you are a part of the conversation.

There is a Facebook group where listeners post daily and they even host a gathering for listeners of the pod each year in Amanda, Ohio.

Ez and Lane, the hosts, have just moved on from "The Lord of the Rings" to "The Hobbit."

### Harry Potter Therapy

"Welcome to Hogwarts. You are magical."

If you've been a bit intimidated by the length of the others, this podcast might be

more your speed as the episodes are usually between 20 and 30 minutes long.

Host Dustin McGinnis and Dr. Janina Scarlet are doing a Harry Potter read-thru with a bit of a twist. Their show is focused specifically on mental health and the psychology behind the Harry Potter World.

They just started season three looking into "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban."

### Lingthusiasm

"A podcast that's enthusiastic about linguistics."

This podcast is so interesting and has taught me so much about the study of linguistics.

But it's not just informational; it's also super fun. My favorite episode was on trying to teach robots a language.

The best thing about this podcast is how digestible it is. Each episode is about a half hour long and the hosts do a great job of speaking simply.



## TUNE IN TO OUR WEEKLY PODCAST WITH RY RODRIGUEZ

The Torchcast can be found on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel





Photo by: Ben Totten | Torch Photographer

Ferris Derk Poortenga has decorated for Christmas, including dressing his skeleton.

# Column: Christmas fanatics

## When is it too early to decorate for Christmas?



Meghan Hartley  
Lifestyles Reporter

With Halloween over, many are in preparation for the next big holiday.

While Thanksgiving is the next holiday on the calendar, many overlook this holiday and head straight towards Christmas.

Once it hits Nov. 1, you're bound to see people begin hanging lights, pulling out Santa's sleigh, even bringing out the large pine tree to decorate with tinsel.

Claire Belke, a sophomore studying Spanish and operations in supply chain management, said that she begins celebrating the holidays the first weekend in November, putting up decorations and cranking up the Christmas music.

"Everyone's happy at Christmas, and the longer you can be happy the better," Belke said "It's a time that families are together. The longer the season lasts the better."

Belke believes that Christmas is a time in which people are at their happiest: when there is festive music, delicious cookies going around, and twinkle lights all around.

The Christmas season is known to lift up people's spirits and bring a lot of joy to their hearts. Getting quality time to spend with family and loved ones are what makes many say this holiday is one they like to celebrate as quickly as possible.

"Christmas has always given me a warm comforting feeling," social work junior Kylie Ellsworth said "It's always been a joyful time of the year with my family and friends. My family is so important to me and spending all that time with them is what makes Christmas so special."

Ellsworth mentioned that this is her first year celebrating the season so early, within the first week

of November, but said that since it is her favorite time of year she is going to enjoy it for much longer.

With all the excitement in the air as the merry season approaches, some wonder why others skip over Thanksgiving. A holiday meant for remembrance of good times, giving thanks, and having time appreciating our friends and family. Why overlook this holiday to go straight to buying and gift-giving?

"When people think of Christmas," Belke said, "they think of a whole month of presents, celebrations, and activities. Compared to when they think of Thanksgiving, they think of only one day."

Belke said that Christmas is considered to be a bigger holiday than Thanksgiving, with much more joy and liveliness around all month long, rather than just a fancy dinner.

Trinity Johnson, a sophomore, is one student who looks forward to the liveliness of the season. She said that she begins planning in the early fall for gifts, so when it comes time for the special day, it can be celebrated greatly.

"It's exciting," Johnson said, "I get to see people open the gifts I get for them and it's special because I get to spend time with family."

Johnson said that it is a unique holiday, unlike Thanksgiving, because there is more to celebrate and more to be jolly about, especially in a year like this.

Along with festivities all month long, it was also noted that there is more hype to Christmas in general because the loving time of the season is embedded in so many lives since they were young, that it carries over with them through life, and many look forward to it every year.

While some think it is too early to begin putting reindeer on rooftops, and mistletoe under door frames, it's never too early to begin celebrating the happiness in our lives and the excitement of the holiday seasons.

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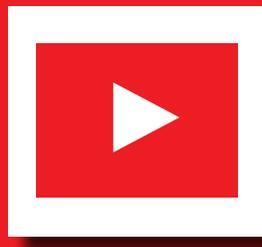
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# Events calendar

## WEDNESDAY

Nov. 11

### Veterans Day Indoor Golf Special

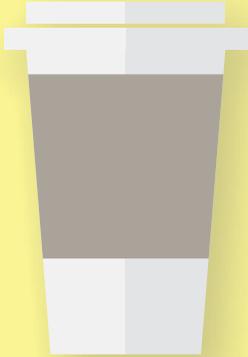
Contact: Jennifer Thede  
jenniferthede@ferris.edu  
Location: Katke Golf Course  
Time: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

### LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coffee House

Contact: Sarah Doherty  
lgbtqcenter@ferris.edu  
Location: Virtual  
Time: 4 - 6 p.m.

### How Good is Your Gaydar

Contact: Mckenna Schafer  
dsaga@ferris.edu  
Location: Virtual  
Time: 8:30 - 9:30 p.m.



## THURSDAY

Nov. 12

### Grateful Gallery

Contact: CLACS  
231-591-2685  
Location: Around campus  
Time: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

### Five Star Speaker: David Zach

Contact: Lane Steffke  
steffkl@ferris.edu  
Location: Zoom  
Time: w7 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY

Nov. 13

### Virtual Study Abroad Workshop

Contact: Megan Hauser-Tran  
MeganHauserTran@ferris.edu  
Location: Virtual  
Time: 1 - 2 p.m.

### FriGay Gaymes

Contact: Sarah Doherty  
lgbtqcenter@ferris.edu  
Location: Virtual  
Time: 3 - 5 p.m.



## MONDAY

Nov. 16

### Thankful Thoughts

Contact: CLACS  
231-591-2685  
Location: Around campus  
Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Leadership Academy: RSO Academy, Recruitment and Advertising

Contact: Sydney Layne Starmes  
starmes@ferris.edu  
Location: Virtual  
Time: 4 - 4:30 p.m.

For more events, check out [calendar.ferris.edu](http://calendar.ferris.edu)

# Modern Love



## Internet Dating



Marissa Russell  
Lifestyles Editor

The dating world is a scary place, especially now that most of it revolves around the internet.

We were taught from a young age that we are supposed to be cautious about the people we talk to on the internet but for some reason once we hit adulthood, we throw caution to the wind and meet up with strangers we barely know.

I am one of these college students. I have met strangers in their home, throwing caution to the wind and almost accepting anything horrible that happens to me because I know the risks going into these situations.

Online dating seems like the best option for people these days, especially during the pandemic. It's an easy way to find people to talk to and make yourself not feel so lonely. But the easy way out isn't always the best way. There's a lot of risks that comes to this territory, especially when you start planning meet ups with your online love connections.

The biggest risk I ever took was when my friend matched with this guy on Tinder and wanted to go meet up with him and his friends at a camping site in the middle of the woods. Major red flags from the very beginning but that wasn't even the worst part.

My friend, we'll call her Mary, didn't get a regular address from her Tinder man, she got coordinates. Again, red flag. Mary had been talking and Snapchatting with this guy for a few days so they weren't complete strangers and it was in a county that my mom worked as a dispatcher so if anything went wrong I knew most of the cops that worked out there would be to my aid in no time.

We drove out to the camping site talking about

all the horrible things that could possibly happen to us and what our friends and family would say if they knew what we were doing. We finally make it to the campsite and as we turn to pull we see three lights turn on. It was the Tinder guy and his friends headlamps. We got out of the car and assessed our company for the night. They all had guns and knives as long as my arm strapped to their person. Very intimidating.

Somehow, some way we didn't get murdered and I started texting one of the guys we met. It turns out all three of them worked for different parts in the government, so we were a lot safer than what we had originally thought. But looking back on it now I can say with full certainty that we really should not have gone out there because we could have been one of the stories you see on Facebook about girls being sold when they thought they were just meeting up with Mr. Right.

We were ones of the lucky ones but we could have easily ended up like Kevin Bacon. Bacon was a man that thought he was going to meet up with someone who was interested in him but instead he was brutally murdered by his Grindr date.

I knew better than to go out with Mary. My mom taught me a very thoroughly about stranger danger, including putting on crime shows and saying, "That could be you." We easily could have been just like Kevin Bacon.

Online dating in general is a very scary thing to do but can be okay if you are smart about it. Snapchat the person you are talking to make sure they look like their profile, meet in a public place the first couple times you meet up, and always check their social media. Make sure everything they have told you adds up. But most importantly, if something doesn't feel right get out of their immediately.

Stay safe and happy swiping!

# WE ARE HIRING

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”



# SPORTS

Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor | sandeb16@ferris.edu

## Rounding up recruits



Torch File Photos

Athletes such as Liam MacDougall, Mackenzie Dawes, and Hannah Ordiway were all recruited to play here at Ferris.

### *A deeper look at the process by which coaches formulate outstanding teams*

**Hannah Loucks**  
Sports Reporter

NBA all-star and esteemed athlete Kareem Abdul-Jabbar once said, "One man can be a crucial ingredient on a team, but one man cannot make a team."

At the college level, recruitment is necessary to cultivate and maintain an athletic team. Within Bulldog Athletics many groups of stellar individuals have come together to win National Championships as well as regional and conference titles.

As for Ferris' renowned hockey team, there is a focus on "bringing in good citizens that are mature and coachable," coach Bob Daniels said.

Daniels explains that recruitment looks different for hockey than for other collegiate sports since most players go on to play in junior hockey leagues before playing in college. This means that recruits are typically older than high school age and are often 19 or 20 years old. "We start looking at players when they are 15 or 16 and then keep an eye on them as they play in junior leagues," Daniels said.

Some skills that Daniels highlighted included skating ability, puck handling and vision. In regards to team atmosphere, Daniels said that typically the recruit spends time with players to see how they fit. The coaches collaborate to select recruits and take into account what the players thought.

As for the current pandemic, "COVID changed everything," Daniels explained that the NCAA is not allowing on-the-road

recruitment for any division one schools, meaning that all of his recruitment is virtual. Without a physical visit, prospective athletes are not able to spend time with the other players or visit campus in person.

"Thankfully, we are able to do virtual visits and watch players from recorded games on Hockey TV," Daniels said.

Jared Kelsh, the cross country and track coach, highlighted that grit and work ethic are valuable qualities that make a prospective athlete stand out. "I am most impressed by the ability to come back from a failure and push forward to continue to be successful."

As for the recruitment process, potential team members often stay on an official overnight visit. The track and cross country teams bring in high school and transfer students as recruits each year.

"Onsite and official overnight visits are key to figuring out if the athlete is going to fit in with the program and if the program is going to be a good fit for the athlete," Kelsh said.

COVID-19 has also affected recruiting for the cross country and track teams in several ways.

"There are many limitations to ensure the safety of everyone on campus. These things have made it very difficult to get the full Ferris State experience."

This full experience would usually include campus tours, team bonding, practice with the team and an overnight stay in the dorms. Many of these activities to get to know a recruit are not allowed.

"To add another layer, competition has been very differ-

ent, and the amount of people to spectate each event has been limited. This makes assessing each athlete more challenging," Kelsh said.

Typically, coaches watch a prospective athlete race or compete in person if they are being considered. As meets are limited to only family members and film for running is unavailable, this makes recruitment especially hard.

Greg Henson, the head soccer coach at Ferris, shared his perspective on the current pandemic. Although the process has changed, Henson consistently approaches recruitment with the same attitude. Above all other qualities, he values character in prospective athletes.

"Talent never trump's character. We are looking for good athletes and good students, but most importantly, good people to join our program," Henson said.

The athlete should not only fit in with the team but "the school must have a strong academic program in the field they plan to study and the soccer program should be a good fit for the player's goals. Socially, the school should match what they are looking for in terms of size, location, and distance from home," Henson said.

Similar to hockey, track and cross country, the virus has made campus visits more challenging and turned the scouting focus from live games to studying film.

"In the end, it's the same challenges for every program across the country," Henson said. "You either embrace it and move forward, or you fall behind."

# The last chance

## Two-time All-American looks ahead to final season at Ferris

**Austin Arquette**  
Sports Reporter

With one semester left in her collegiate career, Katie O'Connell is looking to make her last season at Ferris memorable.

As a junior, Katie O'Connell earned All-American honors for the second year in a row, was ranked as one of the country's top volleyball players, finished with both all-conference and all-region award recipients, was utilized as an all-around performer with ability to play multiple positions and totaled 316 kills with 407 digs and 52 blocks in 29 matches. O'Connell played in 109 total sets and hit .233 last season.

"It would mean nothing without my teammates and coaches," O'Connell said "They push me every day in practice to be better, and they help build confidence when playing. Over my last four years, I got to play with some great All-American players that I looked up to and learned from, so it's been an honor to have similar recognitions."

O'Connell not only focuses on her accomplishments on the court, but off the court she juggles being a nursing major and enjoys being with her teammates. While being a student athlete can be tough work, that hasn't stopped O'Connell's drive to succeed with her busy schedule. O'Connell said that with time and the support of the Ferris community the feeling of being overwhelmed as she managed her schedule got easier.

"I'm so grateful that all my professors would work with me if I had to miss class for volleyball and other schedule conflicts. My teammates and Coach Tia also helped plan team practices around clinicals and understood if I had to miss something," O'Connell said. "Ferris has been my home away from home for the last four years, so it's definitely bittersweet to know I'll be leaving soon."

The community atmosphere and tradition of the volleyball program was why O'Connell chose Ferris over other schools. When O'Con-

nell came on her visit four years ago, she instantly felt how close everyone on the team was and how supportive the entire Ferris community was.

Now that her senior season has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic O'Connell looks ahead to leading the team to a seventh straight GLIAC title and a chance to win a national championship in her final year.

"It was challenging at first trying to navigate how this affects everyone and our team, we just tried to stay connected, keep hope and focus on what we could do at the time. Our team is taking it one day at a time, and we're just grateful for every day we are able to be together and practice," O'Connell said. "I think it really shows the caliber of our team because none of this would've happened if we weren't pushing each other in practice every day to compete for a national championship."

As the world juggles everything that has been thrown around this year O'Connell said that she knows that the entire Ferris State athletic department and university is doing everything possible for the team to be able to compete safely again and they will follow whatever they have planned. The women's volleyball team continues to stay together during these times.

"During season, we like to play games or watch movies on the bus to have fun. We also go to other teams' games to support and cheer them on," O'Connell said. "On off days, we'll just hang out with each other, or sometimes we'll go to Grand Rapids for the day to shop or get food."

The Division II winter sport student athletes who compete during the 2020-21 academic year will receive an additional season of competition due to the Division II Management Council and the student-athletes will also receive an extension of eligibility if eligible for the waiver.



Torch File Photo

O'Connell performs a spike over two opponents during last season's strong campaign.



Torch File Photo

D'angelo Hughes attempts a free throw against Davis-Elkins.

## THIS WEEK IN SPORTS LAST YEAR

**Brendan Sanders**  
Sports Editor

Last year, the Ferris men's basketball team rallied to pull off back to back wins on Nov. 9 and Nov. 10 as they cruised to a 5-0 start on the season.

Ferris started a 10-game homestand at Jim Wink Arena as they put together a pair of wins over the weekend. The Bulldogs played two hard-fought games as they beat Davis & Elkins 85-58 on Saturday, Nov. 9 and Sunday, Nov. 10 beat Alderson-Broaddus 77-73.

Freshman wing Deng Reng, junior wing Walt Kelser, senior point-guard D'angelo Hughes, senior post Cole Walker and junior wing Dorian Aluyi got the start for Ferris in Saturday's action. Ferris freshman point guard Jeremiah Washington added 18 minutes along with redshirt freshman wing Ben Davidson as they both contributed in multiple ways.

Cole Walker was held to only 16 minutes on Saturday, as he was in foul trouble early, but improved on Sunday as he posted another double-double on the season with 10 points and 10 rebounds. However, it was Walt Kelser who led the way for the Bulldogs with 17 points, six rebounds and four steals.

# More than a game

*Golf gave people an escape from quarantine life*

**Brody Keiser**  
Sports Reporter

Golf is one of the most popular recreational sports in the United States and it gave people a safe way to get out of the house during quarantine.

Plastics engineering senior Nathan Rieman started golfing when he was three years old. However, it was not until this past spring/summer that he started to play on a weekly basis. As he looked for a way to get out of his house, he found himself heading to the golf course much more frequently.

"When the pandemic started, I wasn't doing much of anything," Rieman said. "My life consisted of sitting at home and not going out, but when things started opening back up, I started doing a little, including golfing."

"When you're in your house for so long it starts to feel a little small, so you need to get out and experience something other than sitting at home and watching TV or binge-watching Netflix. It was a nice break for sure."

Rieman, whose grandfather and father were avid golfers, was destined to golf from a young age. He started lessons as a child, frequently went with his father to the country club and played in tournaments on weekends throughout the summer from a young age.

Once he reached high school, he played two years of varsity golf. After high school, Rieman focused on hockey and golf became a pastime hobby.

"If you're having a long day, golf can

help get your mind free and help you feel better," Rieman said. "You don't have to even play the best and it can be a great stress reliever just as long as you don't let it tear you apart. It's good exercise, it's fun and there are just a lot of advantages to going golfing."

Rieman also believed that golf gave people a great way to market themselves to employers. For example, his plastics program has a golf outing where he met people in the industry and networked himself as a future employee.

"Once you get into a full-time job you have clients or business partners you can go out and play a round of golf with them and it's a good way to make more connections," Rieman said.

Golf is great for avid and competitive players like Rieman who can play with friends for money, but also for beginners and people who want to play a little more casually.

"One of the groups I play with is pretty competitive; they've been playing their whole lives," Rieman said. "Some of my friends have also just got into golfing and we went out a couple times this year and had a lot of fun. Even for people who are beginners, it's still a good time to get out there and play."

Rieman believes that every person should golf at least once in their life and given that golf was a safe way for people to get out during lockdown, it seems that this was the year to try it out.

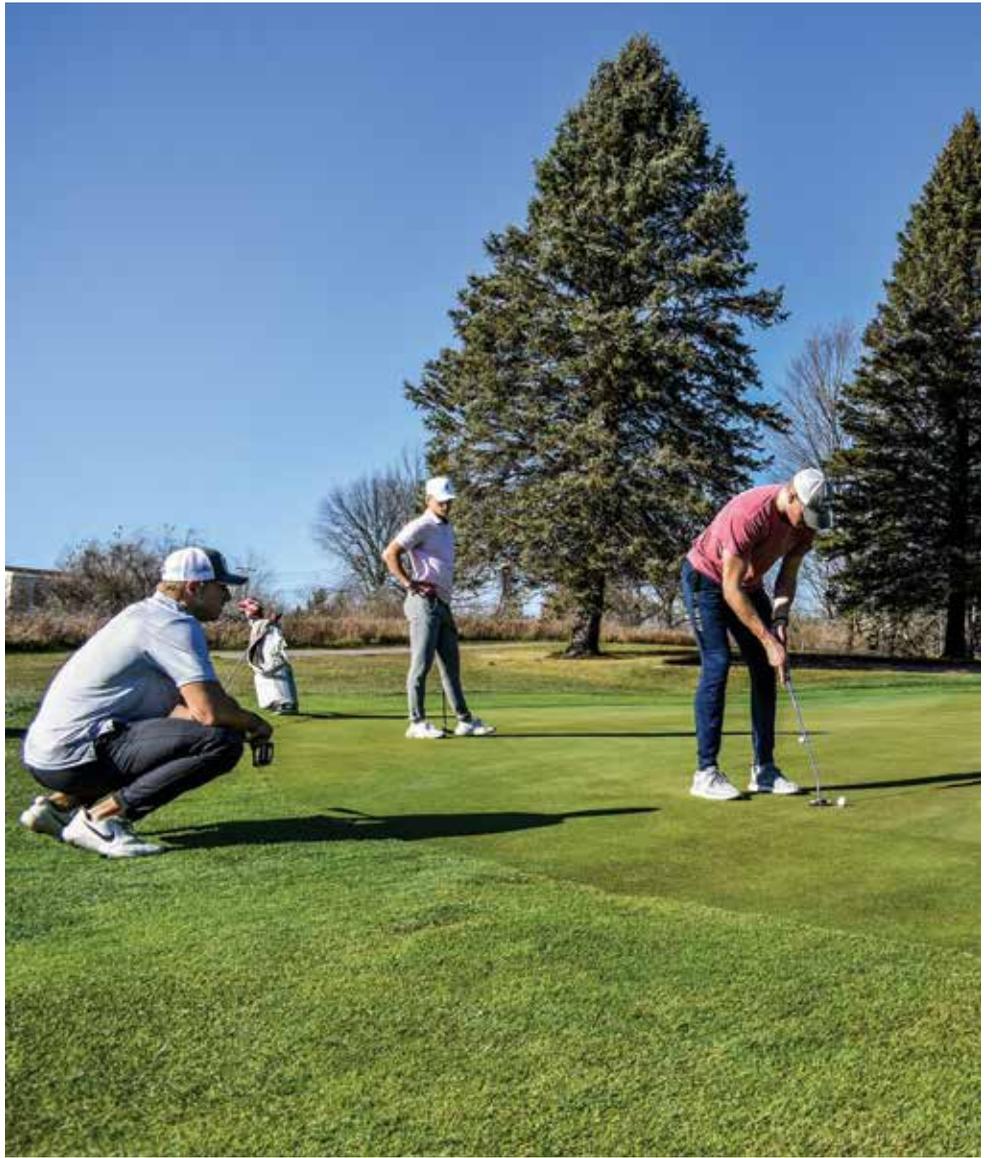


Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Torch Photographer

Nathan Rieman's friends putt on the green at the Katke Golf Course

## Sport Speculation: Playing it smart

Reasons why the NBA starting up in December is both a good and bad idea

**D'Andre Head**  
Interim Sports Reporter

An exotic year has taken the NBA by storm, the league plans to restart the season as soon as Christmas day. As the 2019-2020 season ended on Oct. 11 with the Lakers winning the series, many fans and players were excited to see what was going to happen next season.

They got that answer on Thursday, Oct. 5 when the NBA revealed plans to begin the season on Dec. 22. Producing a 73 game season where teams will be once again competing from their home arenas

Portland Trail Blazers star Damian Lillard went on Twitter saying that he was in favor of a December restart "if that gets my summer off-season back."

While the community would love to see the NBA jump back in action there are some reasons why it should be pushed back further.

Earlier this year, the NBA made the decision to finish the rest of the season in Orlando in the bubble due to the pandemic. Around the time of the NBA restart, the summer league was shining with new prospects, players were spending time with their families or the infamous banana boat crew took their typical vacation after a long season.

Eight of the NBA's 30 teams haven't played since March 11, and what this means is that 22 teams have been idle since the first round of the playoffs around Sept. 2.

While this is ideal of having teams, who need to compete for a championship ring, this leaves teams heading towards next season away from the court and not being able to have a regular practice like other teams.

This gives them very little time to be able to prepare for Christmas. It also can be said about teams like the Los Angeles Lakers and Miami Heat who had to compete for every other game leading to the finals. This gives teams no options heading towards Christmas.

On top of these other problems, one of the biggest setbacks the NBA must face is financial issues. As the bubble was one way for fans and players to stay safe during the time, it was also a way to keep money and the season flowing.

A report from Forbes shows that the league fell an estimated \$1.5 billion short of its projected revenue for 2019-2020. Losing its partnership with China, the cancellation of 171 regular-season games and due to the outbreak a big sum of ticket sales from regular season had a critical impact on their revenue.

The shortfall of this would have been an estimated \$3 billion if the league didn't come up with the bubble environment near Orlando.

ESPN estimates "a projected 40% loss in overall revenue," which equates to \$4 billion. This revenue loss would affect the team's salary cap. This would lead to problems as a salary cap decrease of this severity causes almost every

team to go into a panic over the luxury tax. The luxury tax is a baseline in which teams are not allowed to sign free agents if they observe this threshold. This leaves little money for teams to sign free agents.

The NBPA is going to discuss inflating the salary cap to keep it close to the \$109 million thresholds from last season. Rushing to start the season gives them less time to plan it out.

On top of the financial problem, there are things like the draft and training camps. It would be very stressful for the NBA to pull off the draft by Nov. 18, opening free agency and running training camps all before the expected start date.

Free agency will be thrown off due to the quick pace. Many free agents, mainly with minimum salary contracts wait weeks, even up to June or August to get a deal in place for the next season. With the season having to start earlier many agents will have to sign the first deal or even lose time with training camps due to signing so late into the off-season.

Teams like Milwaukee Bucks, Houston Rockets and Los Angeles Clippers who were heavy contenders ended up taking big upsets. It would be interesting to see how they bounce back, but it may be too soon with any details for fans or viewers to be excited about their team now.

# WEEK 10: Which tight end to start

Week 10 brings us back to tight ends for the column this week. The tight end position is extremely thin, especially now that George Kittle went down with an injury and will likely miss the remainder of the season. That being said, there are still tight ends worthy of a spot in your roster, and we will debate between **Evan Engram** and **Rob Gronkowski**.



Brody Keiser  
Sports Reporter

Engram started the season slow and did not live up to his draft day expectations. However, in recent weeks the Giant's tight end has picked up his production. In Week 7, Engram registered nine targets and collected 10 more in Week 8. While he managed only six and five receptions, respectively, his increased involvement in the offense is encouraging.

Engram has the talent and athleticism to be a top 10 fantasy tight end. This year, partly due to New York's offensive struggles, Engram has yet to have a truly dominant performance. But, he is trending in the right direction.

The tight end position is extremely volatile, and now the second-best tight end in fantasy (Kittle) is out. That means that fantasy managers will have to dig even further into the tight end pool for a starter, and Engram is a guy that is worthy of that starting spot.

This week against Philadelphia, Engram draws a favorable matchup. The Eagles rank 25th in fantasy against tight ends. With an increased role in the offense and the talent to explode at any time combined with the matchup, Engram has the chance to finally have that breakout game this week and I think he will.

The Eagles are stout up front, and the Giants struggle to run the ball. Darius Slay will likely reduce Darius Slayton's role in the Giants' offense, meaning that Daniel Jones will have to throw to someone else, and I believe that that will be Evan Engram.

Gronkowski has scored in three straight games entering Week 9. In Week 10, he plays the Panthers, a top-12 defense against tight ends. The star tight end is a fantasy starter, but I would temper expectations for him this week. His floor might be higher than Engram's, but Engram has the higher ceiling. I'm playing Engram this week and banking on this being his breakout game.

## TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BOOM THIS WEEK:

**James Robinson:** He plays the Packers. They rank last against running backs.  
**Mike Williams:** The classic boom or bust player, Williams gets Miami this week. Bryon Jones will likely shadow Keenan Allen, and Justin Herbert has to throw to someone. Williams has a big game.

## TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BUST THIS WEEK:

**Adam Thielen:** The Bears allow the fewest touchdown passes in the league and are phenomenal against receivers. Thielen will struggle, Dalvin Cook will feast.  
**Josh Jacobs:** Denver excels against the run, and Jacobs has been inconsistent this year. This is another down game for the Raider's back.



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant



Austin Arquette  
Sports Reporter

While the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have developed into a full sound team on both sides of the ball, they have dealt with injuries but that hasn't stopped the Brady to Gronk connection. In weeks six through eight Gronk had an average of four receptions and 40 yards and a touchdown in all three weeks. His role will continue to be a go to factor for Brady especially given their connection from New England.

While Tampa Bay has many offensive weapons, this will not halt Gronk's value due to him being Tom Brady's big go to in crunch time. As we all know Brady and Gronk are arguably the best quarterback/tight-end duo to ever play together. Brady is always looking to get Gronk the ball with extreme confidence and in a tough game against the Panthers he will lean on his old reliable friend.

Not only is George Kittle out with injuries but this is Travis Kelce's bye week with Kansas City. Darren Waller can't be trusted in Vegas against the Broncos and not many other tight ends draw appeals to start in a tough week for match ups.

While Carolina is ranked 11 in covering tight ends, I find it tough for them to utilize their defense as they not only have to deal with Tampa's running game with Fournette and Jones, but the receiving core of Mike Evans, Antonio Brown, and Chris Godwin. There just simply aren't enough bodies on the Panthers defense to withstand the fire power the Buccaneers have and with Brady under center it only spells trouble for the Panthers.

The Giants have just been struck with the bug that is 2020 and only went downhill, the organization has started losing hope in Daniel Jones and without much help the offense is not there. Evan Engram is talented no doubt however one man simply cannot run the horrendous Giants offense, Barkley tried and he's been hurt multiple seasons.

In this tough week for the tight end position my gut says to trust in Gronk and the high-power Tampa Bay offense instead of Engram and praying he doesn't end up on injured list like his teammate.

## TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BOOM THIS WEEK:

**David Montgomery:** In a tough divisional game against the Vikings Montgomery should see huge numbers.  
**JuJu Smith-Schuster:** As the Steelers rally behind that amazing defense in 2020 their offense only shows signs of picking up and JuJu plays up to the hype.

## TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BUST THIS WEEK:

**Any Cincinnati Receivers:** This is a bold claim, but I believe that the Steelers defense is just too good, and they will have a field day.  
**Derek Carr:** With the Broncos finding their place on defense, Carr has struggled all year and has little help.

# FERRIS FOOTBALL ALUMNI NFL STATS



**BUFFALO BILLS**  
**Justin Zimmer, Defensive Tackle**  
2 Tackles

**GREEN BAY PACKERS**  
**Malik Taylor, Wide Receiver**  
26 offensive snaps



**MIAMI DOLPHINS**  
**Zach Sieler, Defensive End**  
4 Tackles

# OPINIONS

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN: People of color showed their power in their votes

By Cora Hall

By Saturday morning, it felt like I had been holding my breath for four days, watching the votes get counted. Once Joe Biden was announced president-elect, I felt like I could relax. For many other people of color, they felt the same, but it wasn't just these past four days. They waited four years to feel that relief.

There's no denying our role in this election. People of color won this election for Joe Biden. Even more specifically, the Black people of Detroit and Atlanta played a huge part in this election.

According to NBC News, Black people made up 39% or more of the population that chose Biden, with few exceptions. Overwhelming support for Biden by young people of color was "the defining elements of the election," according to CIRCLE, who analyzed AP VoteCast data from the Associated Press. In their latest numbers, 61% of voters aged 18-29 voted for Biden.

Donald Trump led in Michigan until Tuesday night, when the majority of absentee ballots were counted and reported. His early lead in Michigan was predicted, due to the over 3 million absentee ballots cast that were predicted to lean heavily towards Biden. In the end, it came down to Detroit.

"It was just a confirmation of the power of the Black vote, the votes that turned the state blue came from the city of Detroit, which is a majority (Black) city in the state," music management senior Byron Brooks said. "It just showed the power, even though we may be a minority, the political power we have when we come together and let our voices be heard. I'm hopeful that even individuals who may have been deterred from voting because they felt their vote didn't matter, I hope that this shows them it truly does."

Because Biden jumped into the lead in Michigan, which again, was largely predicted, many people began to speculate about voting fraud. These unfounded allegations unsurprisingly were spread by the current president, who claimed in a press conference Thursday that Detroit was not a city known for its election integrity.

"From the oval office itself, it showed how many individuals, specifically individuals who are not minorities, view a minority-populated city like Detroit," Brooks said in response to Trump's comments. "Giving weightless accusations and stereotypes. I thought it was funny, because prior to the election there was a lot of movement as far as trying to target Detroiters for a vote for the other side, so for them to turn around and then attack the city's integrity, it just shows the lack of character that we currently have within the White House."

*“It was just a confirmation of the power of the Black vote, the votes that turned the state blue came from the city of Detroit.”*

Byron Brooks

Brooks drove three hours back home to Detroit to vote in person. Being from Detroit and knowing his vote made a difference in this election is a source of pride for Brooks.

"Oftentimes, people who are not from Detroit often ridicule the city of Detroit and speak on Detroit from a negative stereotype," Brooks said. "But now, in my opinion, Detroit has helped save the election...it's really giving the city more positive light and shown the importance of the city of Detroit."

From Tuesday to Saturday, Brooks said he felt constant anxiety, always checking for updates, even waking up every few hours at night to see if there was another batch of votes in. Business administration sophomore Angel Morales felt much of the same anxiety.

I was also unable to tear myself away from my TV when I wasn't at work. I anxiously sat in my living room, watching MSNBC's Steve Kornacki analyze states as votes came in, walking through paths to victory for either candidate. I zoomed in to all my classes while distracted by poll coverage and even stayed up until 3:30 a.m. Friday, watching votes come in from Pennsylvania and Georgia. distracted by poll coverage and even stayed up until 3:30 a.m. Friday, watching votes come in from Pennsylvania and Georgia.

Morales felt that this election was significant for people of color to vote in. He called it "heartbreaking" to see people not voting and not seeing the privilege they have in voting.

"This election was a really big election to vote in, especially for people of color, because people of color have endured a lot of racism throughout the four years Trump has been president and there's been a climax in the normality of racism," Morales said. "Being a person of color, it's really important to vote because it makes it known that despite all the adversity that we have endured, and all the challenges that people of color have endured, that we still have a voice, we still have a way to make a change."

"I would not be able to handle another four years of normalized racism and normalized hatred in the country."

CIRCLE's data on people of color between the ages of 18 and 29 is very telling: 87% of Black youth, 83% of Asian youth and nearly 75% of Latino youth voted for Biden.

It's really not a surprise to see people of color, especially people of our generation, vote overwhelmingly blue this election. Entire states were swung by the minority vote in cities. People of color showed up and voted and proved once and for all that their votes make a difference.

"It shows again, we are the change of which we seek," Brooks said. "All it takes is for us to understand that and not only acknowledge that, but utilize our power through avenues of voicing our opinion through our vote, becoming politically aware. Because the decisions we make as a generation are going to affect generations to come. It shows that we have the power to truly make change, so now it's just up to us to get out and do it."

Education is power. The more informed you are, the more you can make a difference, and for our generation, we have more information at our disposal than ever before.

"With our generation, they are more informed now than ever with technology in our hands, they can look up anything online and get the information they need to educate themselves and that's really powerful because previous generations weren't able to do that," Morales said. "We have it at our fingertips, and it helps keep us informed...it's really powerful because the more that we know, the more we can progress in the future."

Youth voters in the four states that decided this election played a part in Biden's victory — in Arizona, 60% voted for Biden, which gave him a net gain of 126,000 votes in a state which he currently leads by 200,000. In Georgia, 57% voted for Biden, amounting to around 188,000 more votes than Trump received from the youth, in a state that is still so close it will most likely go to a recount. Georgia might vote blue for the first time in decades.

In Michigan, 62% voted for Biden, compared to only 35% voting for Trump, which was a net gain of around 194,000 youth votes for Biden. His lead in Michigan is 146,123. In Pennsylvania, 58% voted for Biden, an estimated 154,000 youth votes in a state where he leads by just over 45,000.

Can you see now, the difference that the youth vote has made? The difference that people of color made with their vote?

Youth voters who are white were still largely split, however, with 45% voting for Trump and 51% voting for Biden, according to CIRCLE. Over 70 million people still voted for Trump. The political climate has become incredibly divisive, and the divide in our country is hard to ignore.

"First it's going to take white America to truly do a self-reflection, self-analysis, and really look at their ideologies and things of that nature on why they vote how they vote," Brooks said. "Two, understanding that elections and issues of this nature are bigger than one party...all issues are American issues, there's no such thing as Democratic issue or Republican issue, these are American issues. It's going to take all of us coming together and thinking from that standpoint."

Morales believes education is the way for us to change perspectives, to initiate lasting change.

"Most people who are white, because it doesn't affect them, won't look further into it," Morales said. "Even though you might not see it, it's still lurking around, and you can still use your voice as a white person to raise awareness."

Racism and hatred a learned behavior, in Brooks eyes, and needs to be unlearned.

"A crucial thing is re-learning and trying to defuse and dismantle and hatred and things of that nature that have been taught," Brooks said.

For now, though, Brooks and Morales have hope for the future and the power our generation holds. I do too, for what it's worth. Listening to Biden's speech on Saturday gave me hope. Things in America are not fixed, by any means, but I actually believe we are taking steps in the right direction now.

# GUEST COLUMN: Close elections are about how we respond, grow as country

Professor Gary Huey came to Ferris in 1986 after spending nine years teaching in Texas and Louisiana. Huey graduated from Washington State University with a PhD in history, specializing in social and cultural history in the United States in the 20th century. He is currently working on a book about racial unrest at Ferris State in 1969 with fellow faculty members Christian Peterson and Dr. Sarah Rescoe.

**Gary Huey**  
Guest Contributor

As I write this column, a presidential winner has finally been declared, and it is Joe Biden. Regardless of who won, it has certainly been an unusual election week. It is most gratifying to see record numbers of people voting, and even more gratifying to see an all out effort to count all the ballots.

What is not encouraging is the avalanche of false, unsubstantiated claims made by the president and some of his supporters with the goal in mind of creating so much doubt regarding the validity of the election, they could somehow overturn the results. They reasoned the more allegations the better, even though they were demonstrably false. People would be so overwhelmed by sheer numbers they would fall into the trap and believe there was some truth to the charges.

This plan had been in the making for some time. For example, the president claimed even before the election that if he lost, the election was rigged. Such rhetoric only increases the terrible polarization that has dominated this country for so long. All of this casts doubt on the democratic process and according to Republican Senator Mitt Romney, "damages freedom here and around the world." It is a very disturbing moment, maybe the most disturbing, in our history.

However, it is not the only disturbing election in U. S. history. The 1800 election was a very nasty contest. Both sides declared disaster for the country if the opponent won, and, in fact, they called their opposition their enemy. Sound familiar?

John Adams was declared to be a man who was not a friend of democracy and Thomas Jefferson was alleged to be a radical who, if elected, would set up guillotines on every street corner so heads would roll. It was further charged that, "A vote for Jefferson is a vote against God!" Revolution was predicted no matter who won. Because of a tie

vote in the Electoral College, the House of Representatives was given the task of choosing the winner. After much debate, Jefferson was declared the winner on February 18, 1801, three months after the election. Thankfully, no revolution occurred.

Another example is the 1876 election. In this race the democrat, Samuel Tilden, won the popular vote over his republican rival Rutherford B. Hayes. Republicans proved unwilling to accept the outcome. They challenged the votes in three southern states due to what they said was irregular returns, so the Electoral College could not finalize a vote. This left Tilden one vote shy of victory in the Electoral College. As weeks went by with no decision on who would be president a constitutional crisis loomed. It was finally decided an electoral commission would be appointed to count the votes in the three contested states.

This commission brokered what was called a "nefarious" compromise which ended Reconstruction, This agreement led to the Republicans abandoning their support of civil rights and the freed slaves. This led to the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, its terror campaign and the rise of Jim Crow legislation. A disastrous result that haunts the country today.

One final example is the 2000 election. Politically, the country was evenly divided which resulted in an extremely close election. Once again, the candidate with the most popular vote lost. The controversy surrounding this election was enormous. The state of Florida was at the center of that controversy. Its electoral votes would determine the winner. George W. Bush's brother, Jeb, was the governor of Florida.

After some of the networks declared the democrat, Al Gore, the winner of the state, Jeb called Fox News and told his cousin who ran Fox News that George W. had actually won the state. Networks began to reverse their declaration for Gore and said Bush had won. Gore, at that point, conceded the election to Bush. But within an hour, Gore withdrew his concession believing the vote

was too close to call, and demanded a manual recount of the votes in four counties. The Florida Supreme Court agreed to Gore's demand.

For thirty-six days the country did not know who would be the next president. As the recount continued the U.S. Supreme Court stepped in and in a five to four vote along partisan lines overruled the lower court opinion and called off the recount. This gave Bush the state of Florida by a grand total of 537 votes out of six million votes cast and thus the presidency. This decision added to the deep division that marked American society. Many believed the election had been stolen by the republicans and the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court justice John Paul Stevens agreed as he reflected the opinion of many when he wrote, "Although we may never know with complete certainty the identity of the winner of this year's Presidential election, the identity of the loser is clear. It is the nation's confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the rule of law."

Except for the election of 1800, one can argue that these hotly contested elections created lasting problems for the United States. How the country recovers from this most recent deeply contentious election is yet to be determined. One can only hope that we can once again join together to support our democracy. If we do not, I fear for our nation.

Abraham Lincoln said it best when he remarked, "A nation divided against itself cannot stand." It will be hard work for us to come together again, but that must be our goal or Lincoln's statement will come true. In the summer of 1863 Lincoln, while contemplating what our future as a nation would be after the Civil War, wrote, "We know how to save the Union.... We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth." If we, like Lincoln, are to save that "Last Best Hope," we must restore confidence in democracy and faith in our country, and we must reject those who sew discord and doubt.

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# Why fundamental human rights shouldn't be political



Rebecca Vanderkooi  
News Reporter

As another tumultuous presidential election comes to a close, I am once again astonished by the type of things that have become politicized in this country instead of being common sense or simple facets of human life.

Regardless of political party affiliation, everyone agrees that the United States Constitution is the rule of law, the foundation for the government. However, over time interpretations of various sections have been hotly disputed.

The final draft of the Constitution shares this timeless line, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

It seems rather straight forward; every person should be treated equally and share the same rights to be who they are openly and freely. Science should be believed and as a country, we should unite to help those struggling. In practice though, it hasn't always been so simple.

For many years this simple passage seemingly didn't apply to minorities, to immigrants, to people of color, to women, or to LGBTQ+ members. Long ago people thought that 2020 would bring flying cars, but instead, we as a country have denied facts and science and have not yet been able to figure out how to give every person equal opportunity.

This country led by Donald Trump has denied the facts of science again and again. Both regarding the coronavirus pandemic as well as climate change. Political views, taxation laws, and the economy are all things that can be up for debate but debating scientific facts is simply illogical.

Since science has proved that climate change is real then it's our responsibility to act accordingly in big and small ways to take care of this country and planet that we live on.

Since doctors and scientists can attest that the coronavirus pandemic is real and has so far killed over 200,000 Americans and is currently increasing in cases as a nation, we should take that seriously. Science proves that wearing a mask helps so the logical next step is to wear a mask. It's the least we can do out of simple care for our friends, our

family, and our fellow Americans.

If you could save someone's life, simply by wearing a mask why wouldn't you?

Looking back on this year it's hard to miss the racial turmoil that has been present. On May 25 the video of George Floyd being held by a police officer putting his knee to his neck spread like wildfire on the internet. Thus, ensued Black Lives Matter marches and protests fighting for justice and equal treatment for people of color.

During this time news came to light of the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor who had been sleeping in her apartment with her boyfriend when plainclothes cops entered. The cops ended up shooting 32 bullets, six of which hit Taylor. Much to the dismay of many, the officers weren't charged in Taylor's death.

"We need real change in America. I've got to still raise a little black boy here in the world we live in. ... Nobody's safe. If this can happen to Breonna, it can happen to anybody," said Austin, Taylor's aunt.

Due to the continued protests and calls for justice, for police reform, and for unity, racial issues became a huge aspect of the presidential candidate campaigns of Biden and Trump. During this time President Donald Trump repeatedly lashed out against the "thugs" and "terrorists" and even went so far as to share on Twitter that, "when the looting starts, the shooting starts."

Immigration has long since been a key component of American heritage. I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for my grandmother's immigration from the Netherlands. Some of my closest family friends are immigrants from Mexico.

However, in recent years immigration has become more complicated. In his 2016 campaign, Trump was hugely focused on building a wall between Mexico and the United States. Instead of reforming a broken system or seeing the value immigrants add to our country he vowed to shut them out and generalized that all the immigrants were drug dealers and/or trafficking humans.

Earlier this year President Trump tried to end DACA, which is a program for youth who immigrated illegally to the United States to not be deported.

In addition, many children were separated from their parents at the United States border and were held in poor conditions. Despite the uproar from the American people, the practice continued. Recently, the New York Times reported

that 545 children separated at the border have not been able to locate their parents.

For the past 100 plus years, women's rights have been a key issue. This year marks 100 years since women's right to vote was legalized and the fight for women's equality is still waging on. There is still a very real pay gap between men and women today.

According to an equity analysis by PayScale, women make an average of \$0.81 for every \$1 that men make. In addition, Amy Coney Barrett who was recently appointed to the Supreme Court in place of the late Ruth Bader Ginsberg has become a concern to many regarding the rights of women. According to NPR, there is a lot of room for concern that Barrett may allow her Catholic faith to overshadow her interpretation of the law. Religiously she is against women's access to abortion and birth control and women throughout the country wonder if she will vote against their right to either of these things.

Something that never ceases to amaze me is that it was only 2015 when gay marriage finally become legalized throughout the entire country.

It seems strange it didn't happen sooner because the primary reason it wasn't allowed was for religious reasons and there is supposed to be a separation of church and state. Marriage legalization wasn't the end of the fight for LGBTQ+ rights though. In fact, in some ways things have gotten worse.

In 2017 transgender individuals were no longer permitted to be in the military. According to NBC, the Trump administration submitted a brief to the Supreme Court saying that taxpayer-funded adoption agencies should be able to refuse same-sex couples. Although nothing has officially been passed there is much concern regarding the future of LGBTQ+ identifying individuals being able to adopt children.

All these things I've mentioned are considered political. Many were key parts of both Donald Trump and Joe Biden's presidential campaigns; both having different plans and views. However, these things shouldn't be political ideas up for debate. There is a big difference between the economy and fundamental human rights. This country, regardless of political leaning, should agree to believe in science and should see the value in every human regardless of race, sex, or gender.

## GOT AN OPINION?

### HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Deadline for submissions every Friday by 5 p.m.  
Cora Hall | Editor-in-Chief | Email: hallc36@ferris.edu

1. Think of a topic that you feel strongly about.
2. Write out your thoughts in a coherent and respectful manner.
3. include a headshot and some information about yourself (location, age, etc.).
4. Email your opinion to the editor for a chance to have your work published in our next issue!

## 2020 DECEMBER COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, December 19, 2020  
Virtual Commencement

College	Contact	Phone #	Location
Health Professions	Richelle Williams	(231) 591-2263	VFS 210
Arts & Sciences	Gayle Driggers	(231) 591-3666	ASC 3052
Business	Carri Griffis	(231) 591-2493	BUS 200
Business (graduate students)	Shannon Yost	(231) 591-2168	BUS 200
Engineering Technology	Joyce Mudel	(231) 591-3983	JOH 200
General Studies Graduates	Shelly VandePanne	(231) 591-2360	ASC 1039

**Note:** You must satisfy all of your degree requirements before you officially graduate and receive your diploma.  
**Cap and gowns,** may be purchased at the Ferris State University Bookstore (located in the University Center, 805 Campus Drive, Big Rapids MI 49307) or online at <https://ferris.shopoakhali.com> and have it shipped to you (a shipping fee will be charged). The deadline to order for Undergraduate and Graduate degrees shipping through the website is December 4, 2020.

**Virtual Commencement Slide** – To personalize your slide please visit Virtual Commencement at <https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/current/Commencement/virtualcommencement.htm>. Information must be submitted by the end of the day on Wednesday, October 21st.

**Diploma Cover & Alumni Pin Pick up** – For those Graduate who selected yes to walk you may pick up your diploma cover and Alumni Pin during the following times in the University Center on main campus in Room 123.

10/21	10:00 am – 1:30 pm	11/09	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	11/13	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
11/05	11:00 am – 1:00 pm	11/12	11:00 am – 3:00 pm	11/17	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

### Saturday, December 19, 2020

Time	College
10:00 am	College of Business College of Health Profession
1:30 pm	College of Arts & Sciences College of Engineering Technology

For special accommodations or for more information regarding the Commencement ceremony, please visit the Commencement website [www.ferris.edu/commencement](http://www.ferris.edu/commencement) or call (231) 591-3803.



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