



Ferris State University
TORCH
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FERRIS COVID-19 CASE COUNT		LAST UPDATED: NOV. 16
NEW CASES THIS WEEK	CUMULATIVE CASES	ACTIVE CASES
44	428	32

Michigan put on pause



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Torch Photographer

A Ferris student studies for their class at the FLITE library.

With new epidemic order, Ferris forced to move all classes online

Cora Hall
 Editor in Chief

In-person classes are temporarily suspended at Ferris and universities across Michigan after the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued an epidemic order on Sunday, Nov. 15.

The three-week order was announced in a press conference held by Governor Gretchen Whitmer and will go into effect Wednesday, Nov. 18 to Dec. 9. Besides universities, high schools will also pause in-person learning and many recreational locations will close including bowling alleys, casinos, indoor dining at restaurants and bars and stadiums. Organized sports will be put on hold, with the exception of professional and a limited number of NCAA sports.

"In the spring, we listened to public health experts, stomped the curve, and saved thousands of lives together. Now, we must channel that same energy and join forces again to protect our families, frontline workers and small businesses," Whitmer said in a press release. "Right now, there are thousands of cases a day and hundreds of deaths a week in Michigan, and the number is growing. If we don't act now, thousands more will die, and our hospitals will continue to be overwhelmed. We can get through this together by listening to health experts once again and taking action right now to slow the spread of this deadly virus."

Whitmer's announcements comes in the wake of Michigan's worst week of COVID-19 cases to date.

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS,

announced in the Sunday press conference that in the seven days leading up to it, Michigan reported 44,019 cases and 416 deaths. The rate of tests coming back positive has spiked to 12.5%. According to The COVID Tracking Project, there are currently 3,241 people hospitalized in Michigan due to COVID-19.

Khaldun called the recent data on COVID-19 cases "alarming" and said it will overwhelm Michigan's healthcare systems.

In response to the epidemic order, Ferris announced that all classes will be moved to remote instruction beginning Wednesday, Nov. 18 through the end of the semester. Ferris' original plan included moving to remote instruction after Thanksgiving with the exception of in-person labs, but the new plan impacts all forms of classes, according to the email from Dean of Student Life Joy Pulsifer.

Residence halls, dining, FLITE, the Rec Center and University Center will remain open and Pulsifer said the university will continue to review guidelines and will announce any additional changes made.

The new order also restricts gatherings to two households at one time and the MDHHS urged families to pick a single household to interact with over the next three weeks. The order is not a "blanket stay-home" order like in the spring and allows for work that cannot be performed at home. Outdoor gatherings, outdoor dining and parks will stay open. Hair salons, retail stores, preschool through eighth grade, childcare and gyms will remain open and restaurants and bars will remain open for takeout, delivery and outdoor dining.

"Indoor gatherings are the greatest source of spread, and sharply limiting them is our fo-

cus," MDHHS Director Robert Gordon said in the press release. "The order is targeted and temporary, but a terrible loss of life will be forever unless we act. By coming together today, we can save thousands of lives."

Republican speaker of the house Lee Chatfield criticized Whitmer's announcement in press release Sunday night, accusing the governor of taking unilateral actions.

"The legislature led the way with a comprehensive plan to address this crisis back in the spring, which the governor ignored," Chatfield said. "The Legislature also designed the plan that reopened schools and is still used to this day, along with a new plan introduced last month that has so far been ignored."

"As always, we stand ready to act in a bipartisan way when the governor decides it is worth her time. Until then, we are still reviewing the details of this order like everyone else."

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey released a statement during Whitmer's press conference, saying he was "disappointed that Gov. Whitmer chose to go it alone, again."

In Whitmer's press conference on Sunday, she said the Legislature has been included on their weekly modeling calls and a number of conversations with experts. Whitmer also said she recently asked them for codification of the mask mandate, which they refused.

"I said 'Well, what is your plan?' and there wasn't one, other than doing some public service announcements," Whitmer said in the Sunday press conference. "We've got to act swiftly and I'm going to use every tool at my disposal to save lives in Michigan."

Science professor denies science

Ferris professor calls COVID-19 'leftist stunt' and more on alleged Twitter account

Editor's note: the following story contains some profane language.

Cora Hall
 Editor in Chief

In a full staff meeting for the College of Arts and Sciences earlier this semester, professor of physical sciences Thomas Brennan revealed that he is a COVID-19 denier, leaving a comment that concerned many faculty members.

The Torch obtained a photo of the zoom chat from the meeting, which shows Brennan made a comment in the live chat that read "The pandemic and riots are a leftist stunt to overthrow the United States government and destroy our [civil] liberties."

Interim Dean of College of Arts and Sciences Trindy Williams sent an email out to faculty after the meeting saying she was addressing the incident and would take any action she deemed appropriate. Williams called Brennan's comment "unprofessional behavior" and it "undermined the gravity" of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These actions offended many meeting participants, several of whom have written to express their concerns...These actions are unacceptable and do not represent the mission and values of the College of Arts and Sciences, nor...University's values and its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion," Williams said in the email. "The University values and takes great care to foster an inclusive environment free from demoralization and is committed to providing...the University community with a respectful and safe working and learning environment."

Williams declined to meet with the Torch, as well as physical sciences department head David Frank.

A faculty member in the CAS meeting who saw the comment was "dis-mayed" by the comment and did not find it appropriate in that setting.

"Unfortunately, there are many people who for a variety of reasons, wish

Brennan | see page 2

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NEWS

Ry Rodriguez | News Editor | rodrir16@ferris.edu

BRENNAN

Continued from front page

to sow misinformation and confusion,” they said. “This politicizing of the pandemic makes it more difficult for the society to effectively deal with this public health crisis...it's particularly striking when a science professor pushes conspiracy theories challenging the scientific data.”

Brennan has also allegedly been tied to a Twitter account under his name, and tweets calling COVID-19 a hoax, those who wear masks cowards and other opinions about COVID-19 that align with the comment made in the meeting. The profile picture on the account was identified as one of Brennan through a simple eye test and his full name is used on the account.



A tweet from Oct. 4, 2019, identifies Brennan, saying “I'm a professor of physics and astronomy at Ferris State University in Michigan.” The last public tweet about COVID-19 from the account reads “Covid19 is simply (their) attempt to turn us all into slaves. They've failed.”



Brennan declined to speak to the Torch in any capacity multiple times, but after specifically asked about the Twitter account in an email, the account was made private.

The account's other tweets in regard to COVID-19 say things such as:

“Guess what the covid stunt has failed. You won't get your leftist new world order.”

“Covid19 is another jewish revolution.”

“F— this evil wizard,” in reference to a video of Dr. Anthony Fauci.

“Stand up for yourselves people, and stop falling for this corona virus hoax!”

“I'd say covid-19 is fake. An evil medical system just killed a bunch of old people.”



Other tweets take to conspiracy theories for the cause of COVID-19, which many of the tweets attribute to cellphones:

“Could be as simple as: Corona virus is partly caused by cell phones, wifi, and not just 5G, but 4G and 3G. When 2G/3G started, I could feel it. In 2005, I got mysteriously short of breath. It was horrible. Apricot pits helped me recover. You could easily confuse that for corona.”

“The coronavirus is actually nanotechnology emitted by cell phones and computers—weaponized smell-ovision.”

According to a student currently in Brennan's class, he frequently talks about his conspiracy theories on cell-phones during classtime. A rate my professor review said Brennan “has several conspiracy theories that he will spend most or all of lecture talking about instead of the material.”

“He was my physics professor for two semesters, and he talked like he is near god. He was absolutely the worst professor I have ever had. He is the biggest egotistical asshole,” said one of Brennan's past students, who wished to remain anonymous to avoid backlash from any university body.



Screenshots of tweets from this May were sent to the Torch, with at least 12 tweets using the n-word. The Torch also discovered tweets with homophobic and anti-semitic slurs, one using the word “fag,” and numerous tweets talking about the “Jewish mafia.”

The Torch reached out to Brennan several times. Brennan's superiors and members of administration refused to comment and President David Eisler was not available for comment.

EDITORIAL: Take responsibility or lose credibility

Torch Editorial Board

Since no administrators at this university will speak up to challenge those on their staff who desire to spread misinformation, we will.

The confirmed comment by professor Thomas Brennan in itself is incredibly concerning, and his adamant denial of the existence and tragic impact of COVID-19 is frankly disgusting. To disregard the thousands of people who have died and who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 is blatantly disrespectful to so many people, including those in our university community.

Everyone in the College of Arts and Sciences meeting saw this comment live in a zoom call: “The pandemic and riots are a leftist stunt to overthrow the United States government and destroy our [civil] liberties.”

Interim Dean Trinity Williams assured faculty and staff that she would address this, but what she meant by that is unknown. As far as we have heard, no apology was made by Brennan and he still teaches here. Either he was reprimanded privately, or his superiors decided to pretend they didn't have a science professor who doesn't believe in science.

If the Twitter account does indeed belong to him—and the significant amount of evidence we have suggests it does—the fact that he is teaching at our university is unacceptable. To spread racism, anti-semitism and homophobia on social media is deplorable and hateful rhetoric like this impacts many in our university community.

While Brennan's alleged Twitter account does not directly represent the university, a tweet from the account identifies him as a Ferris professor and to have a connection between our university and an account like this is disheartening and will bring others to question the integrity of our university. There's a definite line between your First Amendment right to free speech and spewing disinformation.

Brennan's comment and the Twitter account in question spread the kind of divisive language that has contributed to the polarizing political climate in the United States right now. These beliefs, founded on conspiracy theories, are harmful and dehumanizing.

For a university that prides itself on diversity, inclusion and collaboration, it is incredibly disappointing to see nearly every person we reached out to refuse to acknowledge and respond to the offensive comments of a faculty member. Ferris had multiple opportunities to set the record straight on this and they did not.

We hope that the university will take action in response to the revelation of a faculty member who wishes to use their position to spread misinformation and unfounded conspiracy theories. Even if they don't, we will continue to speak the truth, especially when no one else will.

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THIS WEEK IN MICHIGAN NEWS

Catch up on news around the state

Ry Rodriguez
News Editor

Capital Update

LANISING, Mich – Governor Gretchen Whitmer held a press-conference on the evening of Sunday Nov. 15. The governor stated Michigan has long awaited the fall/winter surge of COVID-19 due to the dropping temperatures and driving Michiganders inside, and that Sunday marked the breaking point. Back in the early month of October the Michigan ruled along with the Republican held legislature to deny the use of Whitmer’s powers to extend the emergency powers act of 1945, but she can urge the Michigan Department of Health and Human services to issue an epidemic order almost equaling an executive order. The order takes effect on Wednesday Nov. 18 at 12:01 a.m. and will last for three weeks. This order closes all in person learning for High School and Colleges, theaters, stadiums, arenas, bowling centers, indoor dining, casinos, and more. The graphic can be found on Governor Whitmer’s twitter @GovWhitmer.

COVID-19 Update

***CASES: 275,892**

***DEATHS: 8,378**

****RECOVERED: 138,862**

***From the NYT – updated every four hours**

****From Michigan.gov – updated every Saturday**

Sports

EAST LANSING, Mich– The order will stop all Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) regulated sports for weeks at the start date. The director of the MHSAA sent out a press release to all parties affiliated stating all sports are suspended effective immediately. There were three MHSAA tournaments going on for girls swimming & diving, volleyball and football. It was stated they are exploring all options to complete the tournaments. Winter sports will also be revised with the time change. In Spartan Stadium, the Spartans failed to score any points falling to the Indiana Hoosiers 0-24. The Spartans starting quarterback – Rocky Lombardi – got pulled early from the game with only having three out of seven pass completions and two interceptions. The Spartans will play the Maryland Terrapins this week at noon Saturday.

ANN ARBOR, MI – The Wolverines struggled to put up any points in the first quarter while playing the Wisconsin Badgers, Michigan lost to Wisconsin 11-49. This was the Badgers first game in two weeks because of the programs problem with COVID-19 later in Oct. The Wolverines will play Rutgers Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

The Detroit Free Press has keyed the term Lionized for both The Michigan Wolverines and the Michigan State Spartans. Both teams are now unranked, and out of consideration for the Big Ten Championship.

DETROIT – The Lions were able to squeak out a win on a field goal with three seconds left in the fourth quarter, winning 30-27 over the Washington Football Team. This is the Lions’ second win, in which they have scored points to win under 10 seconds left in the game. The Lions are now third in the NFC North with the Minnesota Vikings a half game back. The Lions play the Carolina Panthers Sunday at 1 p.m.

Ferris offering asymptomatic COVID-19 tests



Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

Ferris began a round of asymptomatic testing for Ferris students, staff and faculty on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

Ry Rodriguez
News Editor

Amidst spikes of COVID-19 within the state of Michigan, Dean of Student Life Joy Pulsifer has sent out an email for students to sign up for asymptomatic testing.

With Thanksgiving around the corner, Ferris wanted to offer the testing so they know the holiday could be safe for the students to go home to their families, along with testing once students get back to campus if they choose to do so.

All the testing is free and is open for all Ferris students, faculty or staff that are asymptomatic (showing no symptoms). The testing site will require all members to complete the Ferris Daily Symptom Checker and must receive a green negative prior to testing and sign up for a time slot prior to showing up.

The testing that is happening before the Thanksgiving break and is being held at Wink Arena at the following times:

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 23, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

There will also be available testing at the Kendall College of Art and Design Fed Galleries Thursday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

After Thanksgiving break all testing will be held at Wink Arena at these times:

Monday, Nov. 30, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

If anyone is having symptoms it is recommended to contact Birkham Health Center at (231) 591-2614 or your own personal healthcare provider to get a referral for symptomatic testing.

To schedule a test, go to your student email, click on the link of the corresponding date, and pick a time.

If you test positive the university will contact you within 24 of the initial tests, and if negative there will be no follow-up. If there are any questions or concerns about testing, or if you live on campus and test positive email HousingCovid@Ferris.edu

Torch Corrections

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Updated August 13, 2020

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Political engagement on campus focuses on uniting, not dividing

Students talk about what's needed to bring both sides of political spectrum together

Rebecca Vanderkooi
News Reporter

This election season has had the largest voter turnout in over a century, and first-time student voters showed up in unprecedented numbers.

There has been a movement of young people becoming engaged in politics who believe in the power of their generation to unite the country after years of polarization.

Secondary education and communication senior Riley Newfer, has been involved in politics on campus through speech and debate which often focuses on political policy debates. In fact, this year he hopes to take his speech about disinformation to a national tournament.

"It's important to understand that the United States has been polarized ever since our founding," Newfer said. "On a national scale, the best way to cure this is a shift in our political parties. If we introduced something similar to a ranked-choice voting system, we would be taking some of the burdens off the Democrat and Republican parties, and shifting it across five or six major parties. This would create more divides, but in a manner more diverse than left or right."

According to the Pew Research Center, both Donald Trump and Joe Biden supporters said if the other wins, it would result in lasting harm to the country. Of Trump supporters, 89% were very concerned about the country's direction if Biden were elected and of Biden supporters, 90% felt the same if Trump were elected.

In addition to this, Pew reported that roughly eight-ten registered voters this election, from both sides, said their differences with the other side centered around "core American values."

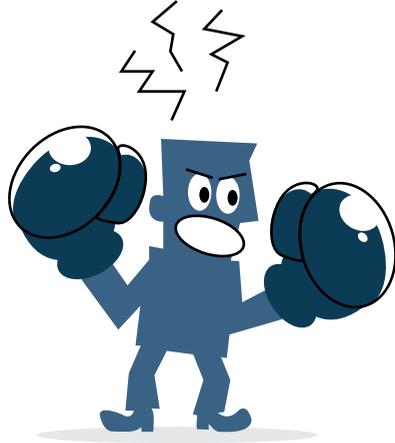
Environmental biology senior Nicholas Salinas was politically active prior to the campus democrat organization shutting down due to COVID and low student participation, he was the president. Salinas expresses similar thoughts to Newfer regarding party polarization.

"The two-party system creates an us against them type of game, a lot of people talk about politics like it's a reality TV show or competition or something," Salinas said.

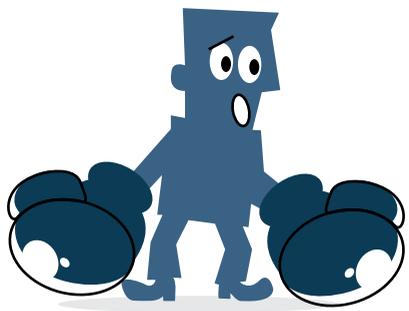
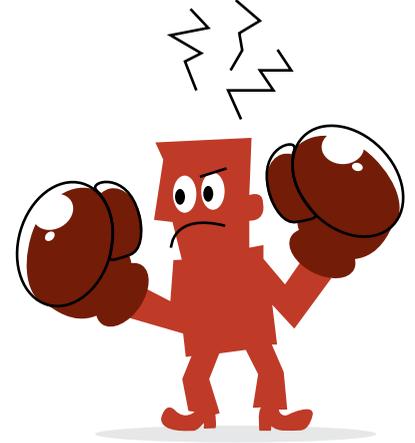
In order to combat this mentality, it's important to continually learn.

"On a personal level, we need to fight misinformation," Newfer said.

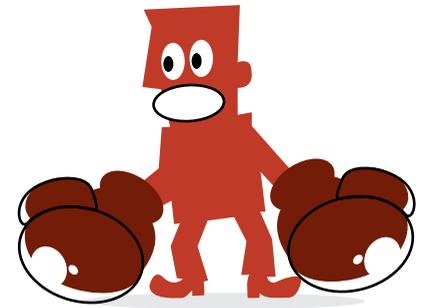
Social work junior Caitlin St. Clair - since her freshman year - has been a part of the Center for Leadership Activities and Career Services (CLACS) and is very involved with politics on campus. Last year she worked with the collegiate voter task force and was also involved with the census. This year she is a Campus Election Engage-



less arguing



more mutual communication



Graphic by: Brooke Martin | Production Assistant

ment Project (CEEP) fellow which is a nonpartisan voter education program. In addition, she is also working with the Political Engagement Program (PEP) here on campus.

A way that St. Clair believes we can fight the extreme party polarization is by recognizing the similarities shared among many.

"I definitely think that there are always going to be parts of each side that you agree with and you disagree with," St. Clair said.

As Salinas explained, looking to the media it can be easy to see just the hate and disagreements in politics.

"What people need to realize is that even though there is a bunch of different views on who they think should win and what side. No matter what, your friends will still be your friends and I don't think that it should have an impact on how you treat somebody," St. Clair said.

Beyond this, Newfer, Salinas, and St. Clair each believe that unity within a country divided by politics and different views is possible.

"On the issue of uniting, I think it's definitely possible, especially with the upcoming presidency. Joe Biden is

definitely a moderate, I don't think anything he's going to do is going to have any huge long-lasting effects for better or worse," Salinas said.

Salinas further explained that through the years politics has seen an increase in the variety and authenticity of candidates. For example, some candidates have said they will not take any corporate money and they will be completely transparent.

"Trump proved that you don't have to be experienced to be the president of the United States and I think that might actually end up bringing more outsiders to be involved in politics which I think could end up being a good thing," Salinas said.

These three students are a part of a larger movement of young people becoming engaged in politics. They believe change is possible, and that through learning, volunteering and voting everyone can make a difference in democracy.

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International students face uncertain future

Students abroad weather through changing policies amid pandemic

1,095,299



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WERE ENROLLED IN US COLLEGES IN 2019

\$45 BILLION

TOTAL ESTIMATED CONTRIBUTION TO THE US ECONOMY BY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN 2018



30% OF TOTAL TUITION REVENUE

AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN 2015 WAS CONTRIBUTED BY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



The above information was gathered from educationdata.org

Alyssa Hubbard
News Reporter

Travel and immigration regulations set in place when COVID-19 began, leaving international students to fear are where and how they would continue their studies.

Assistant Director of the Office of International Education Lisa vonReichbauer worked hard to limit the worries of the 135 international students enrolled at Ferris this year.

"There was quite a bit of ambiguity surrounding this at the time," vonReichbauer said. "Since Ferris had not moved to fully online courses for the fall semester, we worked with each of our students to secure a schedule that would meet immigration regulations. We sought guidance from the Department of Homeland Security as we developed our plans for student schedules."

The OIE provided various communication methods for the students to share their concerns or questions when the pandemic hit. They posted updates, FAQs, sent out surveys and held virtual town hall meetings with all the necessary information for students. VonReichbauer and the executive director gave every student their phone numbers to support them whenever they needed it.

Students who stayed at Ferris could take in-person, online or hybrid courses because of the accommodation extension. VonReichbauer said that most students preferred taking in-person classes so that they may still have the "social and intercultural interaction."

One student affected by these confusing and constantly changing international regulations was biotechnology junior Jennifer Nguyen. Nguyen traveled from Vietnam to obtain a degree from Ferris.

"I remember feeling very uncertain and scared when I first heard the news," Nguyen said. "I was stuck between two impossibilities: not being able to stay in the U.S. if classes are online, and not being able to go home because there were no flights. The anxiety and uncertainty kept me awake at night for weeks."

Immigration and Customs Enforcement announced in July any international students taking all online courses would have to leave the United States and the U.S. Department of State would not issue students visas. Every student affected by this now faced more troubles figuring out where they would go as well as staying safe during the pandemic.

This rule was then redacted by the end of the summer. Accommodations placed back in March were extended for students so that they could either continue taking courses in the U.S. Or travel home and take online courses. Those who returned home for online classes maintained their immigration status.

Nguyen took hybrid courses this semester which is a mix of online lectures and in-person labs. It was a difficult adjustment but Nguyen became comfortable with the new normalcy. Though Nguyen has not been able to form a deep connection with the professor through Zoom sessions.

Nguyen decided that she would return home if Ferris made all classes online in the spring semester.

Another issue exists to international students planning to get their college degrees in the U.S. The federal government aims to limit the time international students can stay in the U.S., 2 to 4 years on student visas. However, attorney generals, are joining a coalition against this limit.

"I think a policy change such as this would be extremely damaging to international education in the U.S.," vonReichbauer said. "Many prospective international students and their families have expressed concern to us that the U.S. is not a friendly and even perhaps not a safe place to study. Policies that increase barriers further will exacerbate these sentiments. As an immigration advisor, I also do not feel these measures are necessary."

VonReichbauer mentioned that F-1 and J-1 visas are the most monitored and tracked type of visas, which many international students use for their studies in the U.S. Most students understand and carefully follow the regulations so there should not be such an extreme limitation.

Nguyen was disappointed to know of this possible law. Her concerns would only grow if it were put into effect.

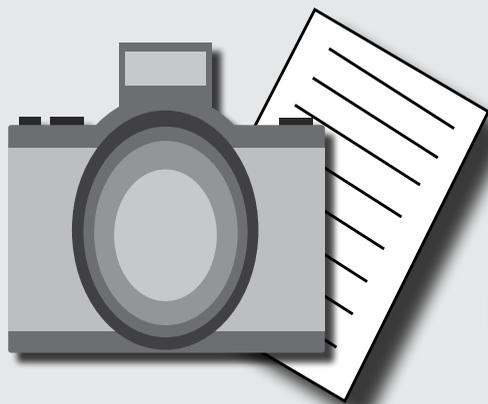
Nguyen wanted to get a Ph.D. in Toxicokinetic which would take around eight years in college. This limitation would cause problems to Nguyen's ability to fulfill her goal.

She made it clear that she is uncomfortable attending college in another country right now because of all the worldly issues happening.

"This is a very unsettling time in the U.S.," Nguyen said. "With the COVID pandemic and the largest election in history going on, there is a lot of social unrest and uncertainty. This is not my country, and I don't have many of the legal rights that Americans have. In a time like this, I, as an international student, have to be extra cautious about things I say and do."

Ferris' mission and vision statements include promises to deliver "opportunity, discovery and professional preparation for a dynamic global society." The university wants all of its students to be successful in such an ever-changing society. That may not happen if international students have restricted access to educational resources.

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LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

Faces of Ferris: Dr. Kasey Thompson

How she found inner strength and rose through the ranks of an international corporation

Marissa Russell
Lifestyles Editor

To say Dr. Kasey Thompson has had a unique career path would be an understatement. Thompson, who teaches in the College of Business at Ferris, earned both a Master of business administration and a Ph.D. in values-driven leadership from Benedictine University. The non-traditional part? She earned both degrees while working at a national advertising agency and an international corporation most are familiar with: McDonald's.

Thompson was born in Gary, Indiana, where she graduated from high school in 1989. Thompson started her first stint in college at Kentucky University, and then transferred after her freshman year. Her mother then got very sick and then passed away, so Thompson went home.

"I didn't go back to school for a while because I am the oldest of three and my brother wasn't even a teenager at the time. I went home and took care of him and took care of my sister," Thompson said.

Losing your mother is one thing, but Thompson took on the responsibility of caring for and supporting her younger siblings as well. This meant getting a job, without a college degree. But that didn't stop Thompson.

She went to an interview thinking she was interviewing to take Visa credit card applications over the phone at Arc Worldwide. Little did she know, she was interviewing to be an administrative assistant for one of the national agency's biggest campaigns. Thompson got the job, starting as a secretary and within a year, she had been promoted to account management.

Thompson watched and learned from her coworkers, many of whom were Ivy-leaguers. She listened to how they talked and modified her strategic thinking based on what she would see them say and do during their meetings.

"One day I went to my boss and just started interjecting my ideas. A position came open, an actual account management, and I knew I could do it," Thompson said. "I interviewed for it, I got the job and kept moving up from there. When I left, I left as the account supervisor over the McDonald's business and that's when I transitioned over to McDonald's on Redbox."

Arc is a national advertisement agency that led marketing campaigns from Kohl's to Visa credit cards to the United States Postal Service and McDonald's. Thompson began her second stretch of college during her 10 years at Arc.

"It absolutely helped me grow as a person," Thompson said of her unconventional college journey. "It's all about grit. It's all about accepting whatever your life circumstance is and not letting defeat you, not letting it stop you. But you look at the circumstance and say what can I learn from this? How can I grow from this, where I am right now, and accepting that?"

"Had I gone through a traditional 4, 5 years undergrad, gone out and got a job and kinda did it a traditional way, that would have been awesome. But, in retrospect, I would have not changed one single aspect of my life. I would've wanted a mother a lot longer, but I would not have changed one aspect of my life because it helped me develop a level of grit, a level of bite in me that I was able to navigate through a national advertisement agency without the background and the credentials."

Journey to the golden arches

After McDonald's acquired Redbox, they went to the Arc to help market their campaign. When it was presented to Thompson and her colleagues, nobody really wanted it. No one knew what Redbox was at the time, but Thompson said she loved challenges and took it on.

Over the course of several months Thompson wrote the preliminary marketing plan for Redbox. Thompson's boss at the time saw her work and said that he needed Thompson to come work for the brand, which started her career at McDonald's.

She went over to McDonald's and worked on the Redbox campaign, which she co-wrote the entire strategy for. Thompson can still go to any Redbox and find things that she wrote and created 15 years ago on there, such as the logo.

When McDonald's chose to sell Redbox to Coinstar, Thompson had a choice: stay with Redbox or go over to McDonald's, which she ultimately picked.

"I developed and led strategic initiatives for the 35,000 McDonald's restaurants around the world," Thompson said. "As the Director of Menu Innovation, you oversee the entire development process. From the initial strategic brief, all the way through product development, testing, commercialization, naming, and overall brand development. For example, I led the development team that brought Fruit & Maple Oatmeal to the U.S. menu. Fruit & Maple Oatmeal remains to this day, one of the healthiest offerings on the breakfast and all-day menu."

Thompson led strategic initiative which dealt with addressing the need for healthier and more balanced Happy Meals in the U.S., Thompson was responsible for leading the team which first introduced offering fruit in Happy Meals, as well as reducing the size of the French fries in the meals. McDonald's McCafe beverages was another development Thompson led which include the Frozen Strawberry Lemonade, Cherry Berry Chiller and the Mocha Mint beverages.

Part of Thompson's journey is the challenges she faced. As a Black woman, nothing was handed to her in her career. Not only did she feel that she had something to prove to her peers, but to her family, community and even herself.

"It is so ingrained in our brain that need to work harder, to prove more, to deliver more. Do I regret having to do that? No because it actually benefitted me, it made me stronger in the end," she said. "But I am absolutely sure I worked more hours. I did have something to prove. I was a first generation college student, first generation college graduate. I am the first one to even get a bachelors and masters and earn a PhD."

"I kind of took the weight of all the women before me and I didn't take it for granted. I knew I had a large responsibility and I knew that other women of all colors looked up to me and I would mentor so many people, men and women."

Thompson sees the extra challenges in a positive light, though. The times she had to go above and beyond to prove that her idea was the best made her better in the end.



Photo courtesy of Ferris

Photo of Dr. Kasey Thompson from her bio on Ferris website.

"I look at that as me being more sharp, like I went through the fire more times but I am sharper than most because of it," Thompson said.

Her true calling

Thompson always knew that she was going to be a professor, that being a professor was in her career path. While she wasn't necessarily inspired by any of her professors, or see anything by media and movies, it was something she always knew she wanted to do.

She went into her undergraduate with the expectation of learning differently, making sure she paid attention to the way the information was delivered to guide her in her future profession.

A PhD in values-driven leadership wasn't a traditional degree to have; it was different and that was exactly what she was looking for.

"What makes it different is that it is looking at leaders from an ethical perspective," Thompson said. "My PhD is not only in business and leadership but it is in the ethical component of leaders and I find it amazing."

When Thompson got the offer from Ferris, she was in another city looking for a house. She was just about to accept a position teaching at a more well-known university, but something about Ferris piqued her interest.

"But one thing that struck me about Ferris is that — and I mean this with the greatest level of sincerity — out of all the universities I looked at, Ferris was the that seemed the most sincere in wanting to give every student an opportunity," Thompson said. "I researched the history of Ferris, with it being one of the first universities to integrate women being part of their first graduating class, African-Americans not only being allowed to come and play sports, but sit along side all of the classmates. This was one of the first universities to do something like this, to take a stand on being inclusive, to take a stand on promoting African-Americans, women and minorities. That was important to me."

While Ferris might not have been a university that Thompson had heard of before, it fit all of her values.

One of the lessons Thompson passes onto her students is that it doesn't matter if they come from Harvard or Ferris, because you have the same opportunities and you can do anything that you want to do. No one asked about Thompson's college degree when she first started at Arc, and she didn't talk about it. She put in the work, was able to learn on the job and earned her way to a top position.

Inspiring the next generation

Thompson just finished her first book titled, "Fall Down, Gritty Up: The Unconventional Mental Map for Becoming Your Own Hero" which is scheduled for release in April of 2021.

"Fall Down, Gritty Up' celebrates where we all are, right here and right now," Thompson said. "I issue personal challenges throughout the book to help readers embrace the energy of all life experiences, from the most painful to the most joyous, and I then provide many principles throughout that will hopefully drive readers to dig deep and overcome whatever obstacles they face. My goal is to ultimately help readers discover how to transform challenges into positive energy so that we all learn how to flourish."

Thompson said her motivation behind starting to write her first book was based on all of the valuable lessons she has learned from her experiences, including converting adversity into power and navigating workplace bullies.

"If I've already fought a specific battle, I feel as if it's my obligation to pass on my learnings so that you may be better prepared in your life," Thompson said. "My point in the book is that if I've already gone through many things...if I can share those and help someone better navigate their own, then it was worth every single battle that I went through."

Thompson | see page 9

An escape from reality

Ferris students talk about why they read books

Matthew Miller
Lifestyles Reporter

Reading is something that most students see as a fun way to pass time or as something that is required by a professor.

Reading is a healthy way to keep your mind stimulated as well as increase your vocabulary. It can be peaceful to do inside or out as well. Reading is a way to escape the world around us and travel into the land of fantasy, mystery and love.

Criminal Justice junior Madison Phillips said that she loves to read all the time. She said that it is a simple way to not pay attention to the chaos that is happening around the world. Phillips said that she enjoys reading fiction over nonfiction as the books play out like a movie in her head.

"My favorite book has to be *The Great Gatsby*," Phillips said. "I love the book because it shows us the true meaning of wealth, and the different perspectives of the American dream."

Phillips said that she is currently reading two books, *American Sniper* and *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*. She said that reading should not be viewed as a negative thing and people should look to finding a book they like. Reading can expand the mind and allow for creativity to flow.

Most of the time students will dread that they have to do a reading of a chapter. The hopes of are that it will allow people to gain a better understanding of the knowledge they are being taught.

HVACR senior Kurk Goodson said that he doesn't get into books as much because they don't grab his attention. Even when it comes to school textbooks, Goodson said that he is a hands-on learner and that is the way he prefers to be taught.

"I do not read because for my job and degree it is all hands on so after work, I'd rather hang out with people then sit in a place and read a book," Goodson said.

Goodson said that he sees the need for books to tell history and give information to us. School can be time consuming for many Ferris students. This can cause students to not be able to enjoy casual reading and leave them to read heavy, expensive textbooks as assignments.

Ferris Nursing senior Ariveara Piehl said that she is unable to read that often because school has taken up so much time. She said that reading will put her to sleep when she is reading a textbook trying to study for a text. Piehl does read fictions books on long car trips.

"I would say my favorite book is *Five Feet Apart*," Piehl said. "It is love and tragic. It is an emotional roller coaster that I can never put down."

Books will be around for many generations and few will become timeless classics. Books allow for people to express their creative minds and escape to lands that were never thought to be imaginable.



Horoscopes: believe it or not?

Students explain how much they buy into the science behind horoscopes

Kendall Rooks
Lifestyles Reporter

A horoscope is a short forecast for people born under a particular sign. They use natal astrology, the part which makes judgements about someone's personality. It attempts to pinpoint generally good things that readers can apply to particular experiences or perceptions of themselves. We have all likely been asked by someone what our sign is, but is there really any truth behind our horoscope readings?

Heather Peacock is a junior in Business and Economics, "I believe them to an extent," she said, "I don't take them very seriously, but I enjoy reading about my own just to form comparisons between myself and the predications. Horoscopes are given very generally; I've met other Pisces born the same year as myself and we were very different."

Alyssa Caron, a senior in social work, said she takes her horoscope seriously, but only when it is convenient to her. Similar to Peacock, Caron said, "Horoscopes tend to be rather generic, as there are millions of other Geminis like me, who live completely different lives.

Many non-believers critic horoscopes for this reason specifically, stating that they are too broad and vague to be accurate predictions of life. However, as the knowledge of astronomy and the world has evolved, the art of astrology has evolved along with it. Horoscope



Graphic by: Brooke Martin | Production Assistant

predictions can be very thorough if they are done by a professional astrologist. "Astrology tells us many things that are relevant," Caron said, "and I am rather firm in believing science, so I find there are useful truths in them. For example, everyone knows that shit hits the fan

when Mercury is in retrograde because the messenger planet is backtracking and slowing down, which is believed to mess with communication here on Earth."

There are different reasons why people will check their horoscopes. It could

be for guidance, predictions, daily readings, or checking compatibility. Peacock said she checks her horoscopes mostly for compatibility between other signs.

"It's hard to look for predictions and signs since I believe our paths can change at any given time." Unlike Peacock, Caron tries to immediately connect her horoscopes to her life and current situations. "I have never relied on them to seek compatibility rates or predictions" Caron said, "I like to live my life, "blindly" and would rather not have skewed perceptions about others or my future."

Horoscopes are most accurate when they are coming from a professional astrologist, but there are many different sources for checking your horoscopes. Social media has become a very popular source for horoscope memes and predictions. Spotify also has podcasts about daily horoscopes and more in-depth sign descriptions. Horoscope apps such as "Co-Star" or "The Pattern" also offer in-depth astrology-based horoscopes that are personalized for you to read daily. You can decide whether you believe in them or not, but you have to admit they can be scary true at times.

Senior Spotlight



Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor-in-Chief

Lane Steffke enjoying time in the University Center.

Lane Steffke Reflects on his time as a Bulldog

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter

As graduation season approaches, many are cherishing their last few semesters at Ferris. Reflecting on all they have learned, grown, and looking forward to their future after college.

Lane Steffke is one senior who is ready to graduate this spring after two years studying Music Entertainment Business here in Big Rapids. Steffke originally began his college years at Saginaw Valley, but then transferred to Ferris to pursue his interest in music entertainment.

Steffke said that Ferris has provided more opportunities for him to gain experience in his major, build his confidence, and gave him more chances to be involved on campus.

"I've been way more involved here than at my last school," Steffke said "I'm in a few RSO's, the president of two, and I'm always working on different extracurriculars. Definitely a lot of opportunities."

Through all the opportunities Ferris has given to Steffke, he feels that he has grown tremendously over the past year professionally, and contributes a lot of that learning experience to the RSO Entertainment Unlimited.

Steffke is the president of Entertainment Unlimited and has been able to understand how the entertainment world works, how to book events, put on shows, promote, even learning how to be a good leader.

"Being a part of entertainment unlimited has been a huge learning opportunity." Steffke said "I've been able to capitalize a lot of what I have learned in class and the music entertainment field. I was also the president of the homecoming committee. It taught me a lot about leadership and how to get work done efficiently."

Steffke said he feels ready to graduate and confident in what he has learned at Ferris. Transferring here was one of the best decisions he made for his future.

At his previous school, Saginaw

Valley State University, Steffke had finished his junior year in the communications program. Gearing up for his final year there he felt unsure about what he wanted out of his major.

"It was a last minute decision for me to transfer here," Steffke said "And it has probably been the most impactful decision I have ever made in my life. I think if I hadn't transferred here I would've gone back to school. But now, I feel much more confident with my major and the experience I have had here at Ferris."

After graduation Steffke hopes to go into digital marketing or advertising, and he is hopeful for his future within the music entertainment business field after a couple of years of being a bulldog.

Events calendar

WEDNESDAY

Nov. 18

No more in-person classes



LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coffee House

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

Jazz McKinney on Two-Spirit Identities and Issues

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

THURSDAY

Nov. 19

Five Star Event: Devin Jay Seymour

Contact: CLACS
231-591-2685
Location: Virtual
Time: 7 - 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Nov. 6

Virtual Study Abroad Workshop

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



Finance Division Meetings

Contact: Elizabeth Huerta
Huetae3@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 1 - 4 p.m.

FriGay Gaymes

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

Grocery Bingo

Contact: Lane Steffke
Location: Virtual
Time: 8 - 10 p.m.

MONDAY

Nov. 9

Leadership Academy: RSO Academy, Recruitment and Advertising

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

QTBIPOC Real Talk

Contact: Malik Kingsby
smitm225@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

For more events, check out calendar.ferris.edu

Zodiac Crossword

A	E	E	S	U	I	R	A	U	Q	A	C	C	T
S	P	R	E	A	E	R	I	I	I	B	R	U	T
U	O	R	L	R	E	T	R	O	G	R	A	D	E
I	O	V	U	I	D	O	U	I	A	R	I	R	I
R	I	G	M	E	B	V	I	R	G	O	G	E	U
A	P	I	R	R	I	R	P	I	S	C	E	S	I
T	R	N	O	L	O	C	A	A	S	R	G	U	A
T	O	I	I	I	P	A	R	R	C	A	E	T	R
I	C	M	A	S	T	N	C	N	R	V	S	A	I
G	S	E	R	R	R	C	U	O	O	N	A	P	E
A	R	G	O	G	L	E	N	T	A	U	R	U	S
S	N	O	O	M	E	R	M	E	S	B	A	I	N
C	P	G	T	R	O	O	E	O	I	N	U	S	G
R	I	G	C	A	P	R	I	C	O	R	N	S	A

ARIES
SAGITTARIUS
RETROGRADE
GEMINI
LIBRA
VIRGO
LEO
AQUARIUS
SUN
MOON
TAURUS
CANCER
CAPRICORN
PISCES
SCORPIO

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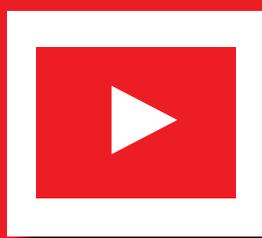


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THOMPSON

Continued from page 6

It has been Thompson's goal to write a book for many years now and it took about 2 ½ years to complete because it "continued to morph and flow along the way."

As a writer who was zero experience, Thompson said it was daunting when she was writing and publishing her book, because you didn't know who was in it purely for monetary reasons. This was a major reason why she created her publishing company, Pendulum Publishing.

"My experiences were I had a plethora of people I could reach out to, I could sit on the phone for hours and interview people. A lot of people don't have that as a resource," Thompson said. "What I wanted to do when I started Pendulum was just mitigate all that first time anxiety that first time authors go through. Let's have a conversation, let me help you find what your next step should be."

Once you start to have the first conver-

sation with writers, Thompson said, you can start to pull out all their great ideas and take out all the anxiety and hesitations they have. Thompson felt like she didn't have that kind voice to speak to when she started writing and that is what she hopes to be for others. She wants to be others' introduction into the industry.

"Pendulum Publishing helps guide authors along their writing journey and I don't seek a profit, per se, from my services," Thompson said. "I want to mitigate the worry as much as possible, because completing a manuscript is worrisome enough."

Since launching Pendulum Publishing this summer, she has had a steady stream of inquiries from authors across the U.S.

"Accepting where I am and using it to my benefit, instead sulking and saying 'woe is me,' but to say 'how do I become a greater badass as a result of everything I am going through?'" Thompson said. "That's just been the story of my life."

Kendall Rooks and Cora Hall contributed to the reporting of this article.

SPORTS

Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor | sandeb16@ferris.edu

Ferris sports set to return

GLIAC makes long awaited announcement of start dates for multiple sports

Brody Keiser
Sports Reporter

The GLIAC announced on Wednesday, Nov. 11 that its affiliate universities can proceed with a winter and spring athletic schedule, meaning that Ferris's Division II sports are set to return in 2021.

The announcement came after the GLIAC Council of Presidents and Chancellors met to discuss how winter and spring athletics would proceed. They agreed that men's and women's basketball would begin conference play Jan. 7 with the ability to individually schedule non-conference games as early as Jan. 1. Volleyball will begin Feb. 19 and men's and women's soccer are set to start March 19.

Women's tennis will be played at the same time as men's tennis in the spring, football teams can schedule up to five competitions, and spring athletics remain on as scheduled. However, everything is subject to change as more information becomes available.

Through everything, the council stated that they remained dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of all personnel involved in GLIAC athletics. By carefully monitoring COVID-19, the GLIAC COVID-19 Task Force established safe competition protocols to allow athletics to resume.

"Our administrators, coaches and the task force have been meeting weekly with the hope of getting our student-athletes back on the court or field next semester," GLIAC Commissioner Kris Dunbar said. "Their commitment to this process is impressive, and the safety of the student-athletes, staff and our communities have been at the forefront of our decisions. I can't understate how proud I am of how far we've come and what we've weath-

ered."

The men's and women's basketball schedules were released on Thursday, Nov. 12 via a YouTube stream by the GLIAC. Both teams will play a total of 18 conference games, facing the same opponent twice in a week. Specific dates, times, and information about spectators has yet to be released.

Both teams will begin their seasons against Ashland University on Jan. 7. The men's team will play at home and the women's team will play at Ashland.

The YouTube stream included an interview with Ferris men's basketball head coach Andy Bronkema, who was optimistic about the coming season despite the difficulties everyone faces due to COVID-19.

"We've developed a good process bringing ideas to the table and getting input from everybody else and then going back to the drawing board to develop schedules," Bronkema said. "The thing we prioritized and what we wanted to see happen was just to give the student athletes the best experience we could possibly give them."

As expected, Ferris athletes were happy to finally know that they will have a season this year. Players like women's soccer senior midfielder Kira Budzynski was skeptical her team would have a season this year but is "so excited" that they officially have a start date. She is especially grateful to get a season in her senior year at Ferris.

"As a senior, I'm just trying to cherish and enjoy every moment that we get to be together this year," Budzynski said. "For the seniors, there are a lot of lasts - the last time to play together as a group, the last time to play for a GLIAC championship and to play soccer in general."

"I think that it will be really important for players to be disciplined over Christmas break to stay fit and get

some soccer in whenever possible. As a team, we need to be ready to put a lot of work in when we get back from break to prepare for the season."

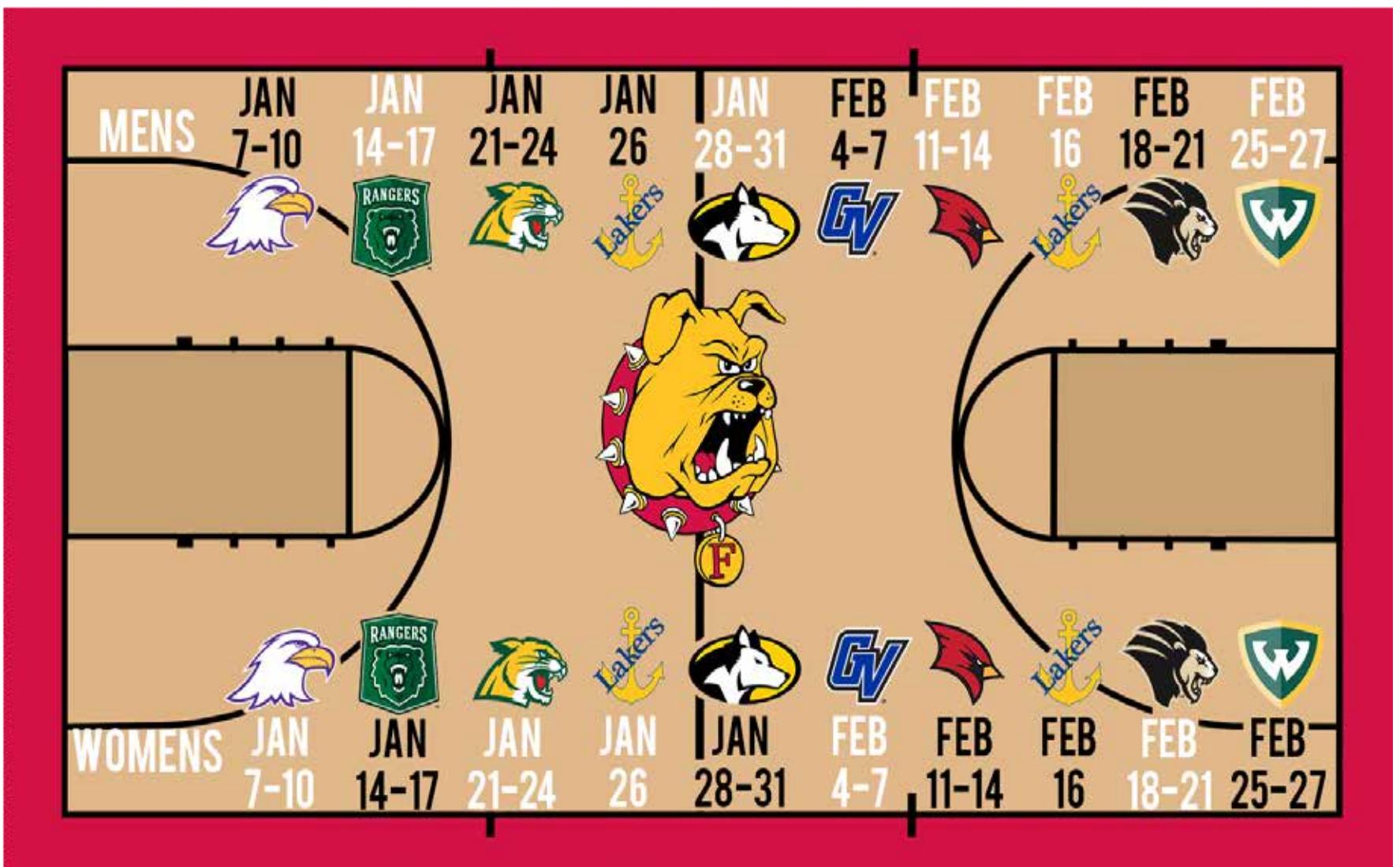
Budzynski looks forward to getting back on the field, but perhaps what she missed the most was her teammates. She said the team has a "special connection" and she cherishes the relationships with her teammates above all else.

Like Budzynski, senior volleyball libero Nina Gorgijevska missed spending time with her teammates the most. Gorgijevska also looks forward to competing again and misses the challenge that volleyball brings. However, she understands that getting the Bulldogs back to the GLIAC tournament championship for the seventh straight season will not be easy.

"We're already working hard, but the whole team has to buy into what the coaches are saying and planning," Gorgijevska said. "It's not only the physical part or skill part but also mental preparedness and the ability to carry on the legacy from previous years. The whole team has to be on the same page and understand what we're fighting for. This is not just another volleyball team-this is Bulldog volleyball."

Gorgijevska went on to explain that being a Bulldog volleyball player means working hard, cutting the complaints, and being a family. She hopes to show the young players on the team what Bulldog volleyball is all about when they take the court this year.

It has been a long time since Ferris has played sports, but that wait is almost over. Now, the athletes will look to buckle down and put together another successful year of Bulldog athletics.



Dates highlighted in black are home games while dates highlighted in white are away.

Graphic by Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant

Finding the funds

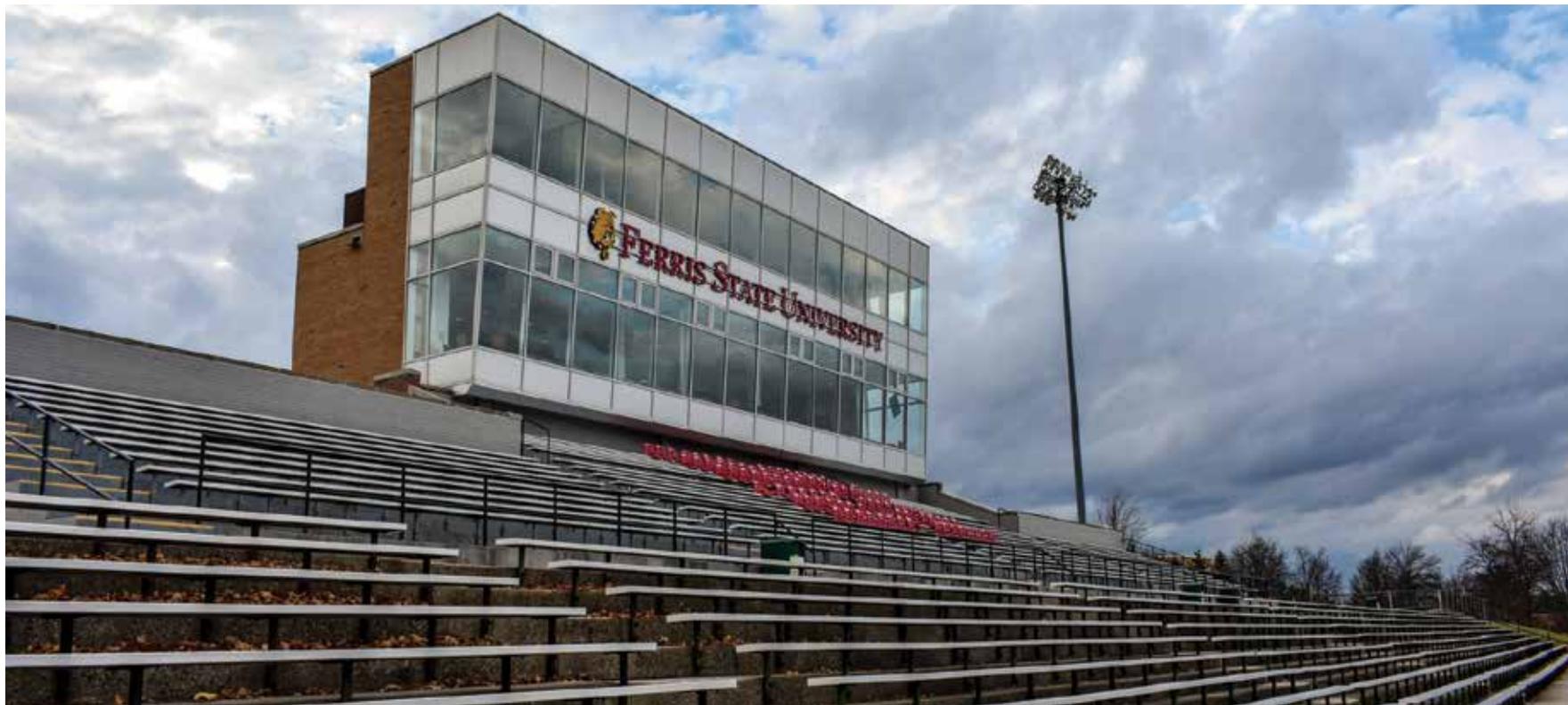


Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Torch Photographer

Top Taggart Field has sat empty this fall with the suspension of GLIAC sports at the beginning of the semester.

When the university cuts back, the Bulldog Athletic Association rises up

Hannah Loucks
Sports Reporter

Many universities across the nation have had to cut back funding due to the financial implications of COVID-19, especially since big-ticket sports seasons such as football and basketball were postponed.

This year, the Ferris board of trustees budgeted a mere 2.6% of the 2021 approved budget for athletics. This percentage amounts to \$4,759,230 to be spent on athletic needs such as recruitment, scholarship dollars, event function, facilities and staffing. Although athletic competition has not been taking place, plans for the future are being made.

In June, the board of trustees announced they were planning to cut 10% of the university's budget this year and part of that cut affected athletic funding. All students were affected by this budget cut because of the higher tuition rates. These rates were 2.78% higher for underclassmen and approximately 3.98% for upperclassmen.

Fund generation is vital in funding for athletic scholar-

ships as well as marketing, two very big components to athletic funding.

"Although we have a lot more time since athletics are not happening, it has been difficult to show stewards what they could be potentially funding," Kevin Bunce the Bulldog Athletic Advancement Officer said.

Since there is a deficit in funding from the university, external sources of funding from beneficiaries to the university are even more important.

"We have some very loyal donors who give gifts of thousands to help our university function," Bunce said.

Efforts from the Bulldog Athletic Association have continued throughout the year in preparation for sports to start again. Since the recent GLIAC decision to give the green light on competitions, these preparations have become more relevant.

"It definitely has been difficult but once we start having safe competition in an efficient manner, I am hopeful," Bunce said.

According to Bunce, once basketball and hockey are up and running, there will be an influx of funds from ticket sales

and sponsors who will be able to watch players compete again.

The Athletic Association has an annual fundraiser which also brings in revenue to keep these teams supported. This year, the fundraiser will still be taking place but will be formatted differently than years prior. Bulldog Athletic Association Coordinator, Jake Daugherty, gave insight on the donation patterns.

"Parents, alumni and friends all want to support athletes," Jake Daugherty said. "They frequently give smaller donations."

Daugherty works with the Bulldog Athletic Association organizing corporate sales and sponsorship.

During a time when money is tight because of the pandemic, the athletic department must pull together funds to prepare for a nearing competition season. Ferris State Athletics have a powerful group of individuals at the Bulldog Athletic Association doing everything they can to help things run smoothly.

Logan Stein's journey to Ferris

Learning about the rise of one of Ferris' top rated freshman

D'Andre Head
Interim Sports Reporter

Ferris hockey coaches are looking forward to seeing what type of output they'll get from all their recruits. As the team is pushing to the season, Logan Stein stands out being the only freshman goaltender on the team.

He is competing this season for a spot as potentially the starting goalie. Stein comes to Ferris for the goalie position alongside junior Roni Salmenkangas and sophomore Carter McPhail.

Stein is joining a number of other freshman Bulldogs such as Sam Skinner, Ben Schultheis, Stepan Pokorny, Antonio Venuto, and Drew Cooper.

Stein had a long road before he traveled to Ferris. He grew up in Suwanee, Georgia. He developed an interest in hockey when his dad took him to watch Atlanta Thrashers play home games. Stein also played in the Atlanta Jr Thrashers Hockey program playing against teams and traveling.

When he was 15, he moved to Detroit and started playing for the Oakland Jr. Grizzlies. During this time, he started

making a name for himself, getting drafted into the United States Hockey League.

In the USHL, he posted career bests with a .911 save percentage with 2.33 goals-against average for the Waterloo Blackhawks, Stein was sixth in save percentage in the USHL. The Blackhawks were well in first place in the USHL Western Conference standings with 33-14-2 during the time the season ceased.

Stein also helped Team USA at the World Junior A Challenge in Dawson Creek, British Columbia to a third-place finish last year. Stein had a .920 save percentage in three outings for team USA and competed in the 2020 Biosteel All-American Game. He was also goalie of the week for Jan. 15, 2019.

As an incoming freshman, Stein was also eligible for the NHL draft. Stein was also ranked by the NHL central scouting to be ranked 29th among goaltenders in the Montreal draft.

Coming out of Waterloo earlier this year, Stein has joined the Bulldogs recently and is looking to benefit the team and improve.

"Ferris has always been in my interest in a great school with great coaches," Stein said.

Coach Daniels explained how much of an impact on someone like Stein can have coming into this organization

"Bulldog hockey is going to experience an improvement. He's a freshman coming out of the USHL as a competitive top goaltender a year ago. Transferring here, Logan looks like a big potential impact," Daniels said.

Stein having many accomplishments and praise for coaches does not mean it will be easily obtaining the starting position. The coaches are looking forward to exhibition games the week of Thanksgiving for players.

"As much work as we put in the season, these games give players a chance to play together, demonstrate and compete," Daniels said.

The first game of men's hockey season will potentially start Friday, Nov. 27 against Lake Superior State. With all the preparation the team has put in the be able to play it will be interesting to see how Stein can contribute.

Sports Speculation: A rough patch for Michigan sports

Michigan sports ranked based on interest and performances in 2020 seasons

Austin Arquette
Sports Reporter

The state of Michigan has multiple major sports teams that call it home and honor the state, but which team is the best overall team? Michigan is home to multiple colleges but perhaps the biggest two are Michigan State University and the University of Michigan; both football teams have been top 25 teams in the past decade. Both of which have fallen on hard times this year. Even without the two powerhouse colleges, Michigan is home to the Detroit Tigers, Lions, Pistons, and Red Wings. Sadly it doesn't get much better than the college "powerhouses". The main ranking ideas and placement arguments are based on team performances and fan's interest in the teams and new moves they have made. The way to rank these Michigan sports teams would be as followed:

1. Detroit Lions (4-5)

Out of all the major league sports in Michigan, the Lions have been the only ones to have even a glimmer of success during the 2020 season. The choice to place the Lions number one in the ranks. The choice was obvious as neither college football teams could beat the Lions while the other professional sports teams are all in massive rebuilds as they have changed coaches and added younger new talents. The Lions haven't been perfect by any means but they do need new owners and coaches. If it wasn't for the other teams already in the rebuild stages the Lions wouldn't be number one.



2. Michigan State (MSU) Football (1-3)

College football is always exciting and thrilling to watch but this year both MSU and UofM have been disappointments to the fans. Michigan State comes off a bunch of issues that plague their sports legacy and have no true identity this year but they are still above everyone else on this list especially the pro teams who are rebuilding and fixing themselves to be back in contentions. Let's face facts. MSU destroyed UofM a few weeks back and that is why they are above UofM in these ranks. Michigan State will find a groove and change for the better, college is only four years and as MSU is known for good recruitment classes that won't change.

3. Michigan (UofM) Football (1-3)

Where does it end for the issues of Michigan football, first the quarterback controversy to start the year and McCaffery asking to be transferred and now many verbally express the need to fire head coach Jim Harbaugh. Michigan has had more what if's this year than ever before and many teams have figured out the way the team operates and it shows when they play. UofM isn't terrible by any means but they need to get things together and dig themselves out of the hole they put themselves in.



4. Detroit Tigers (23-35 last year)

In Al Avila's final season with the Tigers, it was another pitiful season to watch. The Tigers have been in a rebuild for years and years but show no changes. However, now that Avila is gone and the Tigers hired A.J Hinch to rebuild this young core. I believe Hinch learned his lesson with sign stealing and will be a better manager for it, he is still very capable of developing players and teams to a turnaround, look at what he did with the Astros despite the controversy. The Tigers are above the Pistons and Redwings simply because they have more opportunities for change and much more freedom to fix their issues. They have a new manager but still need the players and to prove themselves.

5. Detroit Pistons (20-46 last year)

Without Blake Griffin most of the season the Pistons laid down and just gave many teams the easy win when being played against. They only won nine road games and 11 home games on the season which is why they ended 13 overall in the Eastern Conference. With poor gameplay and not many valuable players with Griffin out it only hurt the Pistons this season with new coach Dwane Casey. With a weak draft class, the Pistons will need to be smart with the seventh overall pick in the NBA draft to better the team for next year while making smart management decisions.



6. Detroit Redwings (17-49 last year)

The Redwings here are dead last in the ranks because you simply cannot play 66 games and only win 17 of those games to be called good. The Redwings only scored 39 points on the season and it's hard to place them above anyone else in Michigan sports simply because of the young team and the constant changes they underwent. The Redwings have hope to grow and continue to change for the better but it will take some time.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS LAST YEAR



Brendan Sanders
Sports Editor

In a gritty, hard fought game against Bemidji State, Ferris finally came out on top Friday, Nov. 15. Breaking their six-game losing streak, the Bulldogs improved to 1-4 in the conference and 3-7 overall.

Ferris found some rhythm after their penalty kill mid-way through the period. It seemed to loosen them up a little. That's when junior forward Coale Norris, with 2:06 left in the first period, deflected the puck in for the first goal of the night.

The second period had much of the same action as the first. However, Bemidji evened up the score early on a power play goal. The rest of the period Ferris controlled the puck and had many opportunities to score. It seemed like every loose puck and opportunity was going their way. After the second, both teams had 15 shots and 14 saves, but Ferris was in control and took over the momentum from Bemidji State.

The third period began with both teams searching for the go-ahead goal. Ferris continued their flow from the second period and created many opportunities and chances but, Bemidji State would not fall easily. After both teams got on a couple power plays, the game was still deadlocked at one.

Late in the third period, Norris found the net again to pull the Bulldogs ahead. The goal was once again assisted by senior defenseman Nate Kallen.

Norris had two big goals, but it was their defense which created their offense and gave them the momentum in the last two periods. Senior goaltender Austin Shaw had 26 saves with the help of the Bulldogs relentless defense.

Torch File Photo

Brendan Rons battles for the puck on the November 9. game against Western Michigan

WEEK 11: Run into playoff contention

The NFL season is winding down. As NFL teams try to buckle down and lock up a playoff spot, fantasy players are desperate to win games as the playoffs begin in ESPN standard leagues in just two weeks. As such, your start/sit decisions are more important now than ever, especially if you are currently on the edge of the playoffs. This week, we will help you decide between **James Conner** and **D'andre Swift** for your starting lineup.



Brody Keiser
Sports Reporter

James Conner and his Pittsburgh Steelers travel south to face the Jacksonville Jaguars. The Jaguars rank 27th in league against opposing fantasy backs, meaning Conner has one of the most favorable matchups this week. A talented player awarded high volume in a powerful offense, Conner will feast in this matchup.

Jacksonville's defense has struggled mightily this season, giving up at least 27 points in every game but one. Pittsburgh should be able to move the ball easily and score. That will result in a lot of touches for James Conner, and I can see him falling into the end zone at least once.

Swift and the Lions take on the Carolina Panthers, a defense who a year ago was the most favorable running back matchup in the league. They are still a soft run defense but are improved. Still, the Lions running backs just do not provide much confidence for fantasy managers plugging them into their starting lineups.

Swift has had multiple productive outings this season, but he has also laid some duds. With Adrian Peterson still the lead back, Swift does not have a path to high volume in any week and thus is difficult to trust in fantasy, even against a favorable matchup. I just do not see Swift getting the volume to outscore James Conner this week.

TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BOOM THIS WEEK:

Dalvin Cook: This may seem obvious, but I'm putting him here because I think he come close to scoring a record number of points this week (by the way, the record is 52.5 by Jerry Rice). This is a monster week for Cook.

Travis Fulgham: He plays the Browns, a difficult matchup for receivers. However, I think the rapport he established with Carson Wentz in his stint as WR1 in Philly makes him a reliable fantasy starter even in a tough matchup.

TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BUST THIS WEEK:

Adam Thielen: This might be crazy because he plays the Cowboys, but I do not think the Vikings go away from Cook in this game. I can see Kirk Cousins attempting 20 passes and Thielen flopping in a very favorable matchup.

Davante Adams: The Colts are in no way an unfavorable matchup, but they are a good defense. I think this is the week Adams is finally slowed down.



Austin Arquette
Sports Reporter

D'andre Swift has developed into a pass catcher back in the Lions offense as Detroit has struggled all season. However, with these struggles all around they have to right the ship eventually and I believe that it starts now. With Carolina only able to get to the quarterback on average one time a game I firmly believe whether Swift is the lead back or not he will get touches and make them worth wild.

The Panthers so far this season have allowed teams to score 16 points or more while they have given up 30 plus points to five teams. The Panthers only average two to three points on defense in fantasy and rely on their offense to win games. Regardless to Adrian Peterson being the lead back in Detroit, Swift will be easily able to get his touches and capitalize on them.

The Steelers against Jacksonville is honestly a joke of a game. The Steelers will enter this game against Jake Luton who took over for Minshew after injury. Either way whatever quarterback starts for Jacksonville it will be ugly for them and the whole team. I think that the Steelers defense has a field day and makes the offense unneeded.

Swift to me has more upside this week regardless of match ups simply due to the fact that Pittsburgh will control Jacksonville and Detroit has only given more trust to Swift and developed him more and more as the season goes on.

TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BOOM THIS WEEK:

Alvin Kamara: What more can I say other than Kamara is phenomenal not matter who they play he is an automatic starter.

Tee Higgins: Ever since week three after a two-touchdown game Higgins has only improved. Even against good defenses Higgins still produces and has built a solid connection with Joe Burrow.

TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BUST THIS WEEK:

Amari Cooper: One of the most disappointing receivers this season and it's not even his fault, the Cowboys have no quarterback and that doesn't help pass catchers at all.

Julio Jones: The Saints shut down Tom Brady easily twice. Cornerback Marshon Lattimore had shut down Mike Evan with no yards or catches, I believe he can do the same to Julio.



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant

FERRIS FOOTBALL ALUMNI NFL STATS



BUFFALO BILLS

Justin Zimmer, Defensive Tackle

1 Tackle
1 Sack

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Malik Taylor, Wide Receiver

1 Kick Return for 8 Yards



MIAMI DOLPHINS

Zach Sieler, Defensive End

5 Tackles
2 TFL

OPINIONS

Cora Hall | Editor in Chief | hallc36@ferris.edu

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Stop assuming people in leadership positions are men

By Cora Hall

I want you to take a second and imagine with me what you think of when someone mentions a person in a leadership position.

Some words I think of are integrity, kindness and determination. Did you see a gender listed there? Neither did I.

If your automatic assumption that someone in a leadership position is a man, you failed the test. I cannot tell you how frustrating it is when people hear the words "Editor in Chief" and think of a man. My news editor had been emailing with a faculty member about a story and mentioned his editor, and the faculty member assumed I was a man, calling me "he" in the email. I know this wasn't intended to be offensive, but it's just a small example of the attitude many have towards women.

Other instances have been more obvious, such as a male professor dismissing the fact that I was Editor in Chief in front of my face. I will admit that I hadn't heard my professor's original question to Torch members and asking who was the Editor in Chief, but another staff member in our class directly told him that I was Editor in Chief. Did he direct the question he had to me? No. Instead, he continued to ask questions to the former Editor in Chief and former news editor in our class and yes, you guessed it: they're both men.

I'm so tired of women not being seen as leaders. I'm so tired of women in leadership positions have their credibility questioned because of their gender. Women have to be overqualified to earn positions that are just handed to men.

A perfect example of this is Kim Ng, who was hired last week as the general manager of the Miami Marlins. She's the first woman to be a GM of a major league baseball team and the news was heralded throughout the sports world as groundbreaking. And it was.

But it was also the perfect example of what lengths women have to go to be hired for positions like this. Ng had 30 years of

experience in the MLB. She is one of the most qualified, actually overqualified, people in baseball to gain this position. She was the youngest assistant general manager for the New York Yankees and when she interviewed for a GM position in 2005 with the Los Angeles Dodgers, and she didn't get the job.

She went on to interview for GM positions at the Seattle Mariners, San Diego Padres, Anaheim Angels and San Francisco Giants and was passed over for a white man.

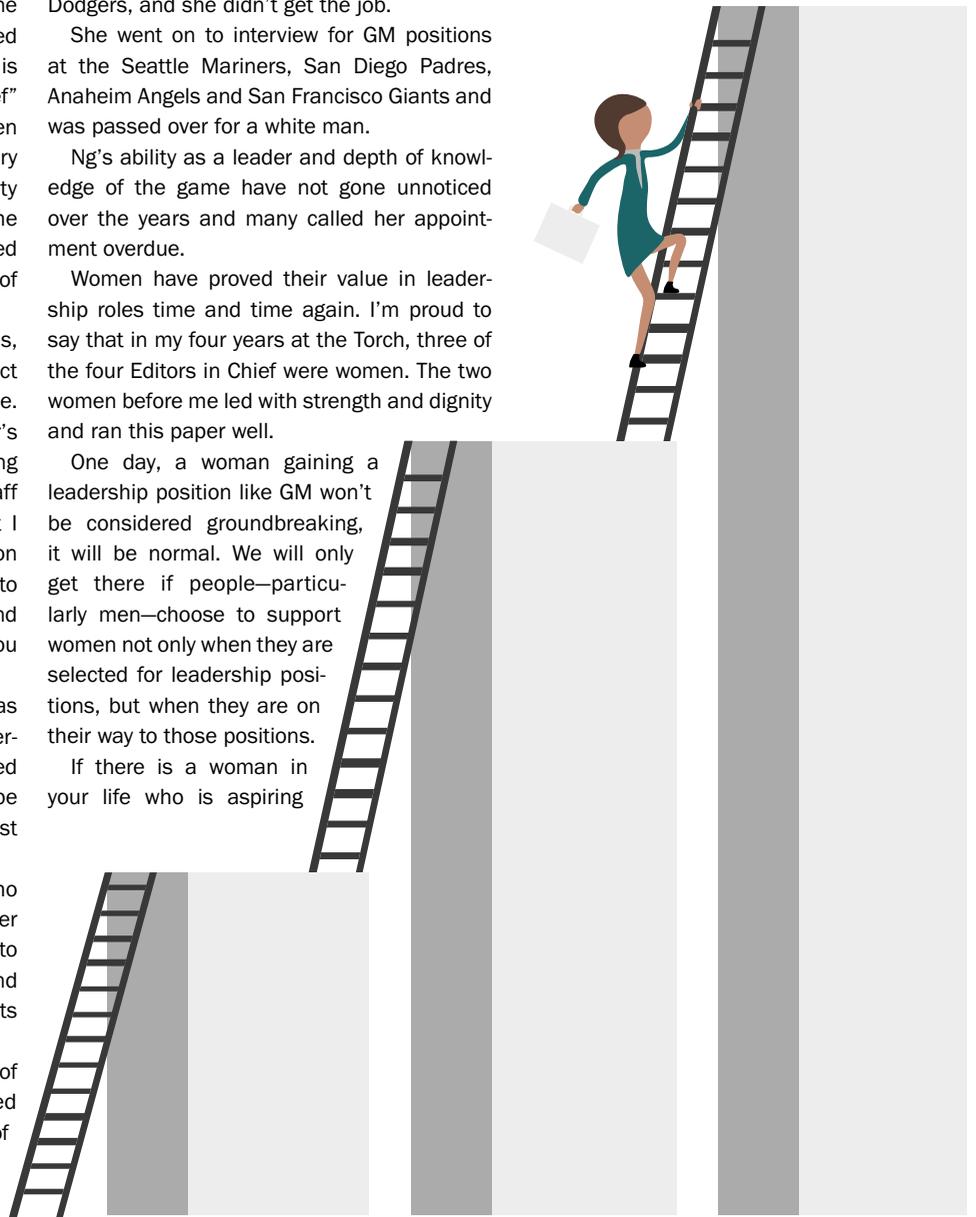
Ng's ability as a leader and depth of knowledge of the game have not gone unnoticed over the years and many called her appointment overdue.

Women have proved their value in leadership roles time and time again. I'm proud to say that in my four years at the Torch, three of the four Editors in Chief were women. The two women before me led with strength and dignity and ran this paper well.

One day, a woman gaining a leadership position like GM won't be considered groundbreaking, it will be normal. We will only get there if people—particularly men—choose to support women not only when they are selected for leadership positions, but when they are on their way to those positions.

If there is a woman in your life who is aspiring

for more, who is striving to be in a leadership position one day, support her. An easy way to do that is to stop assuming that if someone is a leader, they're a man.



Graphic by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

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!

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The internet's dark side

Think about what you say when interacting with others online



Cassidy Jessup
Torch Photographer

Online learning has its perks and disadvantages, and with more freedom on the internet, it is no wonder cyberbullying has grown among users.

With nothing else better to do, thousands have turned to online platforms to battle the sense of loneliness and isolation. COVID-19 may have pushed people physically farther apart, but our minds can remain connected thanks to modern technology.

The benefits of the internet and social media go beyond just individual connection, extending to learning and education in all age groups. Using sites like Canvas, Blackboard, and Zoom, we as college students continue to pursue our educational goals on digital platforms. In several less conventional classes, social media sites such as Discord are also used for communication and lectures. However, while there are numerous benefits to online platforms and few options given the circumstances, the potential for cyberbullying has become more relevant in this online world.

Have any of you ever been bullied online? Called bad names, ignored by "friends," held captive by blackmail, or out of context screenshots? Obviously, some of you have. It's 2020, and as college students, we have all grown up in a digital world. With the COVID-19 pandemic, there is even more opportunity for people to take advantage of the anonymity of the world wide web.

On another note, how many of you have been physically bullied? Hopefully none of you, and if so, school authorities and police have much stricter rules and the ability to bring those bullies to justice. Sadly, the same authority does not extend to online platforms.

Perhaps some may argue that cyberbullying does not cause physical harm in the way stereotypical schoolyard bullying does. This is entirely true, however, words hurt. And even when those words are coming from a stranger, or worse, a "friend" behind a screen, it is hard to forget.

"Toughen up."

"Grow a thicker skin."

"Just let it go, you know we didn't mean it."

You can only hear those words so many times before it falls on dead ears. Yes, maybe cyberbullying does not harm you physically, but the mental trauma and insecurities can haunt you for years.

Some of the more serious outcomes of cyberbullying include depression, anxiety, panic disorders, eating disorders, body dysmorphic disorder, and in extreme cases, suicide. While cyberbullying often centers around the victims' appearance, other fears target an individual's need for acceptance or their personal goals and dreams.

"You'll never be good enough."

"We were never really friends, we were just two people who hung out."

"College is stupid."

All these words add up, and in my mind, affect the victim the same way if not worse than



Graphic by: Brooke Martin | Production Assistant

physical bullying. The mental degradation of cyberbullying is enough to stay with you for months to years. All the quotes are words that have been said to me by friends and acquaintances, some not meaning any harm, but still remain in my mind to this day.

With the COVID-19 pandemic and all of us behind screens, it is important to think twice about what we say to others. Just because we are muted, cameras off, or hidden behind an internet name, doesn't mean we all aren't people. We hurt. And our words have more impact than you'd think. If any of you are experiencing cyberbullying in class, tell your professor. If it's on social media or another platform, use the resources available to block or report the user. You are not alone, and everyone deserves to be treated with respect.

Slow your roll with 5G | Don't get excited about the new phone feature just yet



Noah Kurkjian
Copy Editor

With the release of the new iPhone 12 series 5G will finally hit the mainstream. In my opinion, 5G is a poor marketing term used to get people excited for something that's not ready for prime time.

There are three different types of 5G: low-band (sometimes labeled as "nation-wide 5G"), mid-band (usually labeled as sub-6 5G) and high-band (better known as mmWave or ultra-wide band). While they are all forms of 5G, they are not all the same.

Low band 5G is designed to be the widest reaching. It is very good at penetrating walls and will be usable at the furthest distance from the cellular tower, but it is the slowest speed wise. It can go up to 250 mbps (megabits per second) for download speeds.

For reference, a movie on Netflix is about 3.75 GBs, so if you were to get the max speed on this form of 5G it would take about two minutes to download the full movie. This you'll see from Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile. If you're seeing a 5G emblem on your phone

right now, you're most likely using low-band. I have tested this version of 5G and while it wasn't a whole lot faster than LTE, it was a more stable connection.

Mid-band 5G is like if you were to set the sliders for range and speed to the same position. It loses a bit of range, but gains a decent bit of speed. This in terms of speed delivers between 300 and 1,000 mbps but typically trends towards the lower end. This one is most used by Sprint (now a T-Mobile company, but it's unclear if original T-Mobile customers have access to this network yet or not).

High-band or ultra-wide band 5G is the glitzy one that all of the carriers are most proud of. This version of 5G can deliver up to 3 gbps (gigabits per second). For reference, the Netflix movie I previously mentioned would take all of 10 seconds to download. While this is fast and obviously what everyone wants, there are several drawbacks.

Ultra-wide band 5G is currently a battery killer. Since the technology that allows for this signal to be used by our phones is so new, the chips that handle it are power hungry and produce quite a bit of heat. The second issue is that the frequencies that are used for this network have a very short

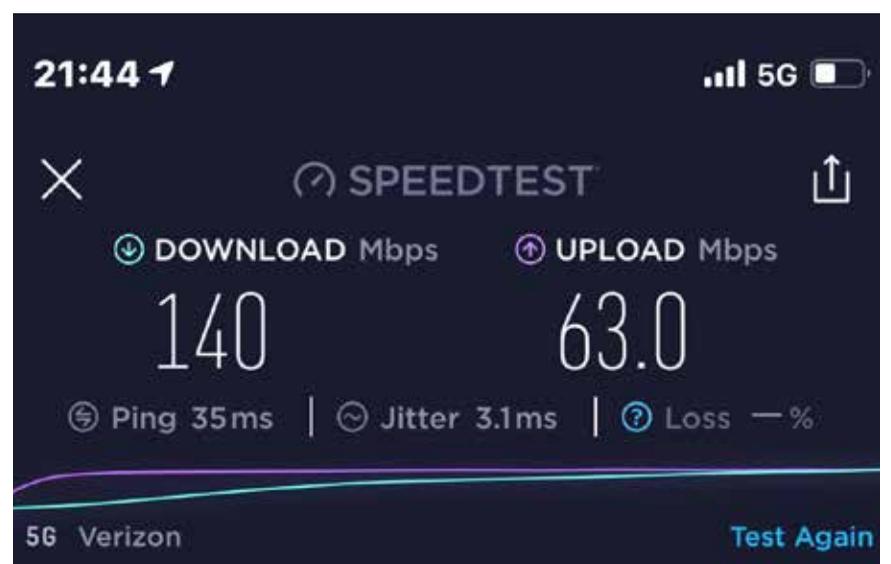


Photo by Noah Kurkjian

The above image shows a 5G speedtest taken on the iPhone 12.

range and they cannot penetrate buildings. This application of 5G is currently only being installed in dense urban areas and event spaces like stadiums.

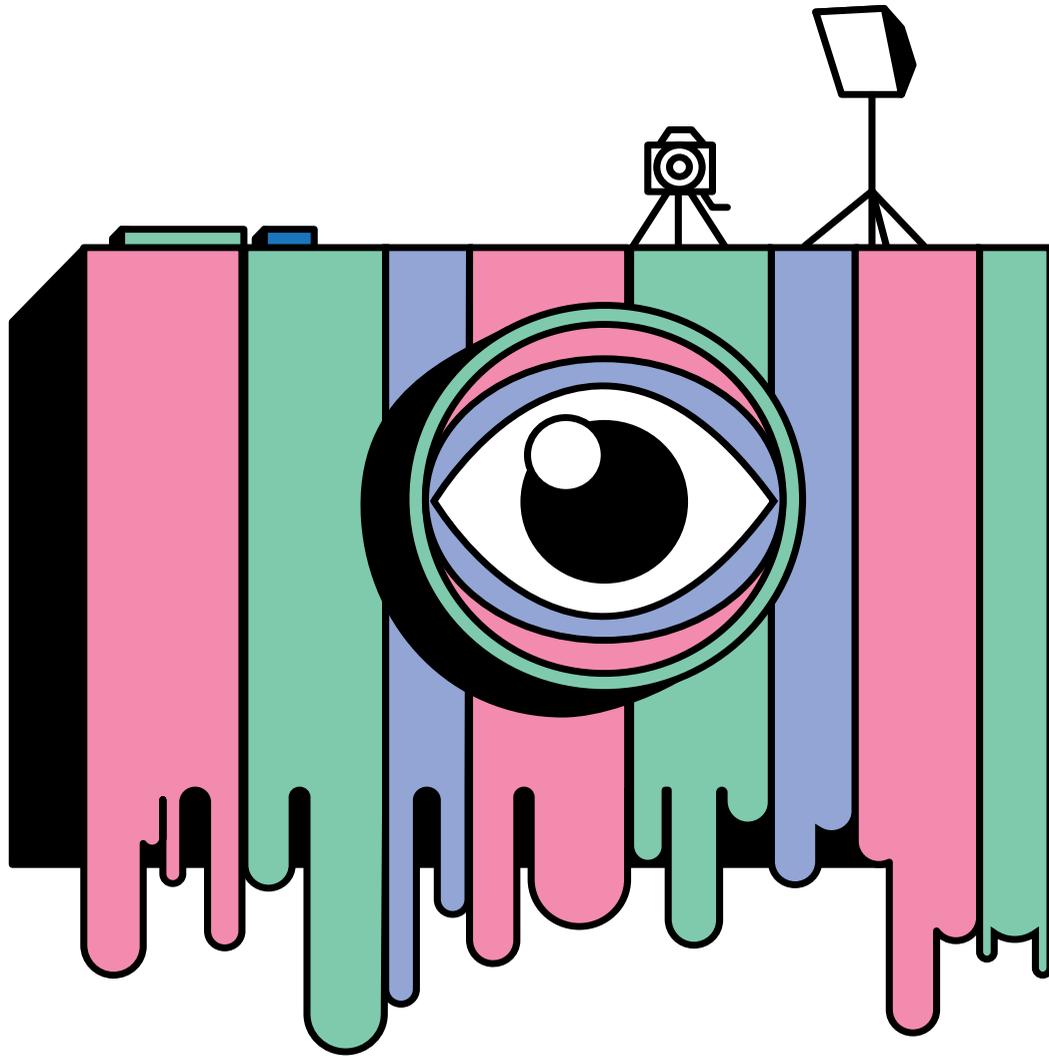
I had a chance to test out Ultra-wide band on a trip to Chicago on Verizons network and while it was blazing fast, I was switched back to LTE if I accidentally stepped out of

sight of the 5G node. It also took down the battery of the S20 Ultra I was testing it on by about 30% in the half hour I was able to try it out.

While this tech is awesome, and I cannot wait for it to be widely available, it's not really something to get excited about or be a selling feature of your next phone just yet.

Picture perfect

How to get the best photograph possible



Graphic by: Brooke Martin | Production Assistant



Benjamin Totten
Torch Photographer

As a photographer, I have come across a couple of different ways to get a good picture. The first, and my personal favorite, is that of working with a serious subject, aesthetic background, and soft lighting to make an appealing photo with minimal editing. The second, requires a subject, plain or simplistic background, mediocre lighting, and a computer to change almost everything. The first only needs a camera and the knowledge of the basics, whereas the second requires a camera and the knowledge and expertise to edit.

The first option is clearly the easier of the two, and with that, I firmly believe it creates better, more realistic photos. The second creates these overdone and frankly overproduced photos. Learning how to use a camera takes time and effort, but once you know your brand and model like the back of your hand, it's almost second nature. Flipping through the aperture or preset settings and knowing which works best per scenario. The best thing is, that model never changes. The manufacturer never updates pre-existing models in order to optimize them, so once you learn the button layout and how it works, it'll work like that until you get a new model. The time spent learning is an investment.

Photography was once about how well a person could find beauty in everyday life and capture it with a lens. That definition has changed as times have, but the sentiment stayed the same. That is, until these new-age photographers showed up with their fancy tech. Now the act of taking a photo isn't enough anymore, especially in professional settings. Becoming a professional photographer means knowing how to edit and take an extremely good photo and turn it into a 'perfect' photo. The little imperfections are what give a photograph character and taking those away robs what makes each photo special.

If you or someone you know has ever had photo commissions done, I can bet the final products were heavily edited to do away with pesky fly-aways or smooth out wrinkles. I run a small one-person photo business where I take professional-grade photos for cosplayers at conventions, and I do not edit my photos. I make sure to give my clients professional-grade photos without the unnecessary costs that are accompanied by computer hardware to run the expensive editing software. Trust me, convention lighting is horrid, but because I know how to work my camera I know how to make every photo pop.

I have taken multiple classes on photography and spent enough time with my camera to know what makes a good photo. I'm going to share some tips with you. Firstly, outdoor lighting is always better than those industrial bulbs, even if it's cloudy and overcast. Secondly, as a photographer you need to know how to pose subjects and what looks good, you can usually find basic poses online. Thirdly, have fun. Photography is subjective and as much as I might find unedited photos more visually appealing, that doesn't mean you might not love the journey of editing and making a photo 'perfect.'

I will give credit where it's due. Editing photos is difficult and takes a lot of skill. I could never sit in front of a computer screen for hours to get the perfect combination of warm and cool colors.

No matter how you take pictures, don't stop! Art and artists are what make the world turn and every photo taken is better than one not.



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