

# The Ferris State Torch

NINETY YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of Feb. 17 - 23, 2021

www.fsutorch.com

## From students to financial coaches



Photo courtesy of Dylan Bowden

Finance senior Jared Prevost started his own financial coaching company after he realized there was very little financial education resources for students.

## Between student loans and retirement, senior aims to help students

**Madison Kettlewell**  
Freelance Reporter

With a lack of courses on handling personal finances, it's common for students to feel underprepared when entering the financial world after graduation.

Keeping these issues in mind, finance senior Jared Prevost set out to create a financial coaching application to help students and young professionals answer some of these questions.

After his sophomore year, Prevost decided to get serious about his own finances. But he realized along the way that there were very few resources for students.

"Most of my peers recognized that personal finance is important, but lacked the basic financial skills and education, and more importantly, didn't have a reliable place to get these skills and education," Prevost said. "I decided I wanted to create the solution, and that would be why I started Dime."

Dime Financial has the mission of helping students start building wealth and coaching them in the steps to do so.

"It's a focus on financial education and financial skill-building," Prevost said. "We really educate people on the important parts about finance, and direct them towards resources that can help them start investing."

Another aspect of Prevost's coaching is helping students understand and navigate student loan debt. At the end of 2020, Americans have amassed over \$1.7 trillion of student loan debt, according to research done by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

"The student loan crisis is a complicated issue, but I will say from a financial coach perspective, there are a variety of ways to minimize the loans you need to take out and avoid the 'bad' loans that have higher rates," Prevost said. "The biggest thing that scares me is very few people know who their loan servicer is—many people have not even made an account—and do not know how to make payments toward their loans or really understand what they are signing up for."

With the help of computer information systems senior Jacob Ernst and graphic design sophomore Sienna Parmelee, Prevost watched his vision become reality. The Dime Financial website, dimefinances.com, was launched on Dec. 28.

"It was a lot of research starting out and a lot of trial and error," Ernst said. "We're currently looking at ways and strategies that we can scale up preparing for the future. I definitely see it potentially growing into something where we hire more people onto our team and start to build up a growing company that really helps people reach their goals."

Dime Financial services offers two different price points. The services within the two price points are the same, but the company does provide a student discount. The price for students is one payment of \$149, or 12 monthly payments of \$14.99. For professionals, the price is one payment of \$249, or 12 monthly payments of \$24.99.

"The single best investment you can make into your future, right alongside with getting your college degree, is getting financial education," Prevost said. "Get started right now with investing and de-

veloping a strategy for how it is you're going to get to that life that you want to live."

Dime Financial services include one free preliminary consultation and three following sessions. The sessions are one-on-one consultations, currently being delivered over the phone. The sessions take place over 5 - 6 weeks and are anywhere from an hour to two hours each. Once the three sessions are finished, clients can schedule additional coaching sessions.

A handful of recent Ferris graduates have already started using the program.

"When I graduated, I had just started a new job. I had to figure out how I wanted to frame my benefits for that job. I'd never had a situation where I had to think about a 401k, so it was all new," marketing graduate Emily Charles said. "He called me and talked me through each thing."

"The biggest thing I've liked about the program so far is just how customized it is," Charles said. "It's not really general or a one-size-fits-all approach. He really listens to what I want to accomplish. He keeps that in mind with the resources that he shares with me and the advice that he gives me."

Business administration graduate Cody Peterson was the first Ferris student to complete the program.

"I learned about robo-advisors, mutual funds, and index funds. All things I wanted to get into but didn't know how - Jared gave me a good understanding of what all of those were and also pointed me in the direction of additional resources I could use to learn more," Peterson said. "The program has helped me a lot. I have started investing into assets that are going to work for me and build my wealth."

## Going back to normal

### University plans to go back to "pre-COVID" classes in fall semester

**Alyssa Hubbard**  
News Reporter

Ferris currently plans on returning to in-person classes as normal for the fall of 2021 semester.

According to the FSU Re-entry Committee, "the university is actively planning to return to pre-COVID level in-person operations next fall should pandemic conditions, vaccine rollout, and other factors allow. Along with these plans, the university will remain ready, flexible and nimble with variety of academic and operational options that will allow it to pivot in any direction necessary to continue safeguarding the health and safety of everyone at Ferris while allowing students to continue actively pursuing their education."

As the fall 2020 semester began, Ferris was undergoing Phase 3 of its re-entry Plan. The goal of Phase 3 was to return to full in-person university functions. Some responsibilities during Phase 3 included practicing good hand washing, wearing face coverings and completing the daily COVID-19 Symptom Checker.

Ferris announced the decision to have a normal return on Feb. 8, 2021, for the fall 2021 semester. This left many in the Ferris community feeling a mix of worry and relief.

Many students were excited by the news. Pre-pharmacy freshman Rebecca Bovee was one student who felt comfortable with the idea of having in-person classes again.

"As long as there isn't a health and safety threat, I feel that having in-person classes next fall is a good idea," Bovee said. "Hopefully by then most staff members will be vaccinated, and the university will do its best to protect everyone with the proper safety measures."

It's still unknown whether or not everyone on campus will be able to receive the vaccine before the semester starts. According to the latest schedule projected by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the last phase of people over the age of 16 who are not at risk won't begin until the middle or end of August.

Though, others remained hopeful for the upcoming semester, including Ferris employees.

"I have been looking at summer (and later fall) as the light at the end of a really long tumultuous tunnel," biology professor Karen Barkel said. "If we have learned anything this year, I would guess it is that we have to be prepared for anything. We now know we have the capacity to find solutions to problems quickly, the smallest of a silver lining for all of this."

There have been seemingly never-ending changes, adjustments and adapting this school year, but the university feels it's the right time for students, staff and faculty to slowly shift back to the every day life they were used to.

"If everyone does their part to stay safe and be smart, having classes in person will surely make the semester more fun and students will feel more connected than this past school year," Bovee said.

Got news? Let us know.

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# NEWS

Ry Rodriguez | News Editor | rodrir16@ferris.edu

## The ins and outs of Delta 8

One carbon bond away from governmental regulation

Noah Kurkjian  
News Reporter

In the last year, Delta 8 has taken off and most people don't even know what it is, if it's legal or what it can do.

It has taken off so much so that Tom Wasilewski, owner of E-Cig Outlet in Big Rapids who sells a variety of Delta 8 and CBD products, went from making 3,000 Delta 8 chews a week for his stores to 190,000 a week that he's selling throughout the world.

Delta 8 is a form of THC found in cannabis in very small amounts. The chemical difference is that Delta 8 has its double bond on the eighth carbon chain whereas Delta 9 has its double bond on the ninth carbon chain. Essentially, it's one double bond different from the commonly known marijuana that was legalized for recreational use in Michigan in 2018.

Delta 8 has similar effects to Delta 9 THC in the fact that it relaxes the user's body, however it only gives users about one third or one half the psychedelic effect, according to three sources who spoke to the Torch on conditions of anonymity.

It also stimulates the user's appetite, although the sources reported that it was not strong enough to make them feel hungry. However, users did report that it did help with nausea, insomnia, anxiety and mild aches and pains.

Delta 8 is legal in 38 states, including Michigan. It was legalized under the Farm Bill of 2018 which legalizes cannabis products that "contain less than .3% of Delta 9 THC." However, there is a minimum purchasing age of 18. This bill covers products like CBD, CBN, Delta 8 and other various forms of cannabis.

"When we found out it [Delta 8] was legal, it has such great properties that are stronger than CBD and give you more of an immediate effect than CBD does. So that's how we migrated to that," Wasilewski said.

Wasilewski still sells his CBD products but says that Delta 8 products have quickly surpassed it in sales.

"Delta 8 took a minute to take a foothold here because I think people had a lot of questions like 'what will it do to me?' 'how many should I take?', but now that they've taken a couple, we passed out samples, it's really picked up," Wasilewski said.

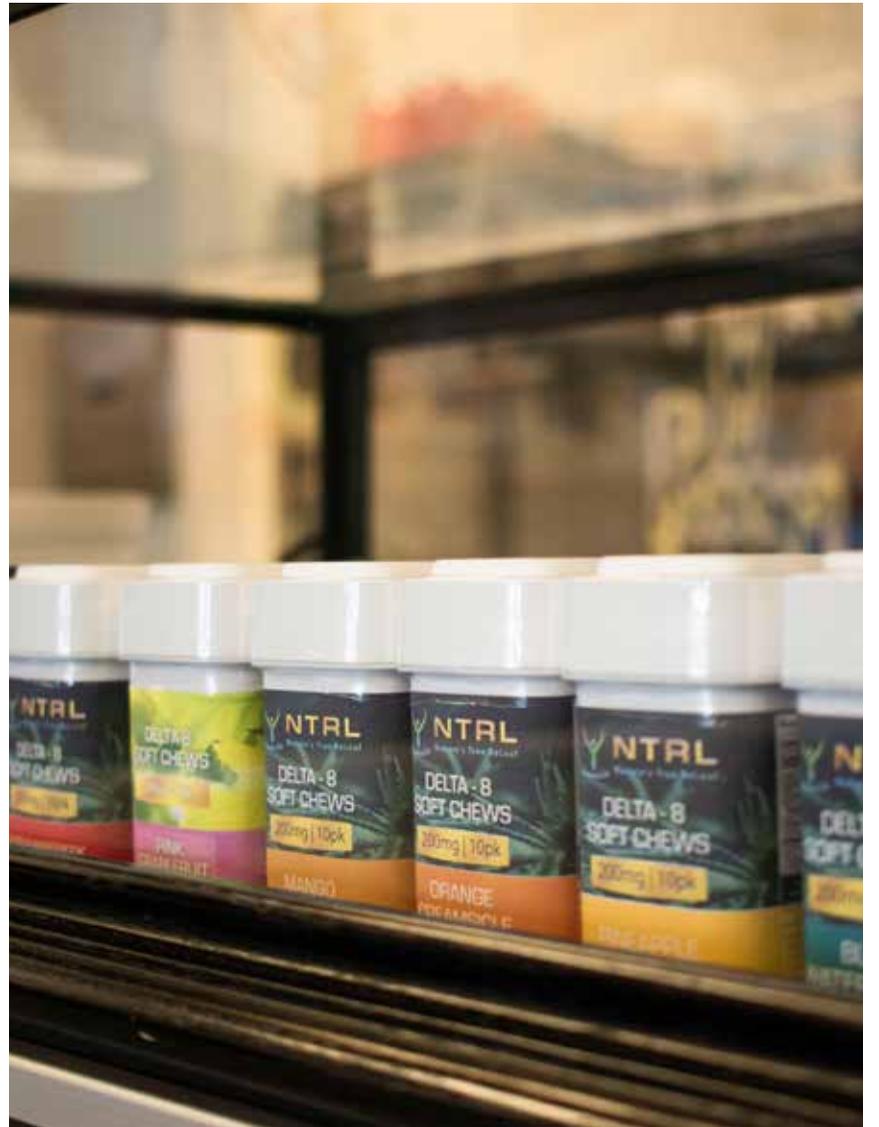
One of the concerns being raised since there is little legal regulations for Delta 8 products, what is preventing manufacturers from using the vitamin e additive in the cartridges that people were overdosing on in 2019?

"Well, the government is always behind on this kind of stuff. We need proper regulations like warning labels, dosage instructions and ingredients list. We need sensible regulations though, not draconian, overburdensome regulations," Wasilewski said.

Since Wasilewski manufactures his own product, he's able to control what goes in and for his product

"These are all-natural products. There's nothing synthetic, there's nothing added. It's not made in a lab, the worst thing they [Wasilewski's Delta 8 chews] have for you is the sugar," Wasilewski said.

Wasilewski finished by suggesting that if people were interested in trying any Delta 8 products that they should do their research and purchase them from a reputable retailer and to start with a small dose to test the waters.



Delta 8 gummies sold at E-Cig Outlet

Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

## Theater is back (kind of)

Ferris theatre finds ways to continue despite the pandemic

Rebecca Vanderkooi  
News Reporter

It's been a challenging year for Ferris theatre, but despite the unknowns, the cast and crew are working together to perform the play, 'Puffs,' this March.

'Puffs' was initially performance-ready in March of 2020. However, all production was halted due to the pandemic just a week before the show.

Prior to the shutdown, the production was, "pretty near perfect," Katherine LaPietra, the coordinator for directing and acting at Ferris said.

When the production for 'Puffs,' the Harry Potter parody, had to be shut down "It was heartbreaking" LaPietra said. She had been directing and preparing for production with the cast and crew for months.

This past fall Ferris theatre led by LaPietra decided to embark on the daunting journey of creating a musical via video recording. The

actors never met in person, rather all interaction, singing and filming were done online. The result is "The Theory of Relativity," a musical that is still available for streaming on the Ferris website.

"We ended up with a decent product considering what all of us had to go through (to make it)," LaPietra said.

AJ Arechiga is a sophomore at Ferris, he performed in the musical this fall and has been involved in other productions as well.

Looking ahead, there is a lot of unknown regarding college theatre. LaPietra plans to perform the play, 'Puffs,' that got shut down in the spring of 2020 this March. However, the cast is not yet sure what format the production will be in.

"I'm excited for the possibilities of what we can do with Puffs, and while I'm certainly hoping for, and looking forward to, in-person theatre returning in the fall, I think this show is still going to turn out amazing," junior Jared Ebels said.

The past couple of weeks all the rehearsals of 'Puffs' have been happening via zoom, LaPietra said. She and her cast and crew have been looking into various options regarding the delivery of this show to the audience. They have considered live streaming among other options; however, they have not fully decided on anything.

LaPietra explained that one thing she loves about Ferris theatre is that it draws people from all the programs the university offers.

"For the four main characters of the next show (Puffs) we have a math major, an English education major, a digital media major and a computer services major," LaPietra said.

With all the blessings of the community, there has also been loss. In her years at Ferris LaPietra said that a total of seven alumni involved with Ferris theatre have passed away including two former students who passed away from COVID-19.

Despite the challenging year it has been for LaPietra and Ferris theatre, they have found ways to continue telling stories. They eagerly anticipate the production of, 'Puffs,' in whatever format they can perform it and they eagerly

await the day that in-person theatre can resume.



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Manager

# THIS WEEK IN MICHIGAN NEWS

Catch up on news around the state



Ry Rodriguez  
News Editor

## Capital Update

LANSING, Mich. – Governor Whitmer released a plan to help generate more money for the state without raising taxes, but to raise fees instead. Some of these fees will be imposed on when a business needs to look up a driving records, \$11 now and if approved to \$15, crash reports to be upped five dollars. Some of the key changes would be fees for approval of operator training from the Department of Environmental, Great Lakes and Energy up 233%. The total revenue this proposal would make \$27.6 annually if approved. This would be added to the \$67 billion dollar budget, but state officials said most of these fees have not been increased in years and the extra money would go to the staff who help deliver these services.

The independent board of voters who are supposed to re-draw the congressional districts in the

state of Michigan by Sept. 17 – a deadline set by the state’s constitution – but not make it the deadline because the Census Bureau will be delivering the data the commission needs by Sept. 30. It has been suggested the commission can seek a deadline but would face push-back from the republican legislature.

## Sports

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – The Wolverines have kept their number three ranking in the nations top 25 teams after playing their first game back Sunday against Wisconsin. CBS has stated their gameplay was rusty with Michigan being down at half, but then bringing it back winning 67-59. The last time they played was back in Jan. against Purdue. The next time they play is Thursday against Rutgers.

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Michigan State have been struggling

to win games recently, losing to Iowa 88-58. Izzo has credited their struggle to Rocket Watts leaving the game early falling ill to the flu. The Spartans land 10th in the Big Ten conference.

DETROIT – The Pistons and Blake Griffon are expected to part ways either through a trade or a buyout. This comes after talks between the owner of the Pistons and Griffon’s reps, they have agreed to look for better opportunities for both parties.

An article released by USA Today ranks the Detroit Tigers to win only 61 games out of the 162-game season. The article ranks them the worst team in the AL Central, second worst in the AL overall, and third worst in the entire MLB. The prediction comes after the realization the Tigers have been rebuilding for five seasons and had a new change of management within the last season.

## COVID-19 Update

**\*CASES: 628,978**

**\*DEATHS: 16,108**

**\*\*RECOVERED: 517,991**

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

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

## Torch Corrections

Did we make a mistake?  
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Corrections can be submitted through email at [fsutorcheditor@gmail.com](mailto:fsutorcheditor@gmail.com) or by calling 231-591-5978

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## - ON THE RECORD -

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

### Burnt vegetation

Ry Rodriguez  
News Editor

#### Told on himself

Feb. 11, 11:15 p.m., officers from DPS were doing a safety check on a motorist on State Street that happened to be broken down. After talking to the driver, it was found out they did not have a valid license. The officer wrote the motorist a court appearance ticket for driving with a suspended license.

#### Burnt vegetation

Feb. 11, 11:59 p.m., officers were dispatched to Cramer Hall after a RA called them with the possibility of a student smoking marijuana in the hall. After pinpointing the room where the smell was coming from, the officers asked the two students if they were smoking in the hall. They responded with ‘it must be from our clothes.’ The officers had probable cause to

search the dorm room since the smell was abundant. After searching the dorm, the officers found multiple quart sized mason jars full of weed and a pipe that had some burnt vegetation in it. The two students were issued minor in possession tickets since they both were underage.

#### Update on “Pending Charges on Big Rapids racist stalker”

The ethnic intimidation charge is still being reviewed by the prosecutor. In the meantime, the student-victim of the stalker is thinking of dropping charges fear of the stalker escalating issues. Late last week the stalker went into a local business and started an altercation that is believed to be racially motivated.

# WANTED

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ferris State Torch

### 2021 - 2022 SCHOOL YEAR:

We are seeking an organized student (enrolled in at least six credit hours) for the Editor-in-Chief position during the 2021 - 22 school year. Candidates must write well, possess excellent leadership skills and be prepared to work the entire school year. Candidates should be familiar with basic journalistic principles, as well as printed and digital publishing techniques. Qualified students can receive competitive wages for up to 20 hours per week. Ability to work and train in April and August of 2021 is necessary. Prior journalism experience or training required.

The Torch offers a chance to work in a professional “real world” environment and adds excellent credentials to your resume

### APPLICANTS NEED TO SUBMIT:

- Resume
- One-page (typed) essay answering the following:
  - >> Why do I want to be Editor-in-Chief?
  - >> What should be the goals of a student-run newspaper?
  - >> How will I, as Editor-in-Chief, ensure that the newspaper reaches its goals?
- Copies of articles or other written work
- At least two references (recommendation letters not required)

### SEND RESUME, ESSAY AND CLIPPINGS TO:

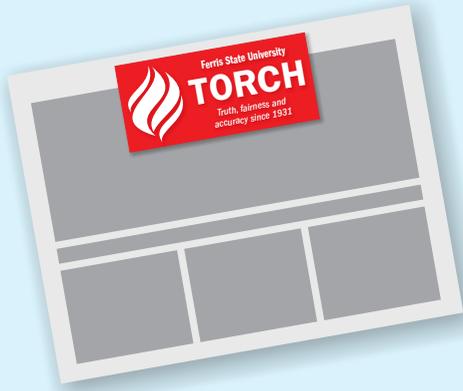
Garrett Stack at [garrettstack@ferris.edu](mailto:garrettstack@ferris.edu)

DEADLINE: Wednesday, March 10, 2021



# Want to write for the Torch but don't have the time every week?

*The Torch is now accepting freelance articles!*



Pitch your story idea to our Editor in Chief, Cora Hall. If we like your story, we'll send you out to report and write and if we publish it, you'll get paid.

Email [hallc36@ferris.edu](mailto:hallc36@ferris.edu) for more information or to pitch a story!



# Apple Fitness+: at home workouts reimagined

Apple's new \$10/month at home workout app takes pandemic fitness to a new level

**Noah Kurkjian**  
News Reporter

With the COVID-19 pandemic raging on, many gyms are either completely closed or are at limited function, so Apple has designed a way to get your workout in at home, safely.

Apple Fitness+ was released on Dec. 14 for iPhone 6s and later as well as the Apple Watch Series 3 or later with iOS 14.3. It cost \$10 per month, and I have been using it since the launch.

Apple Fitness+ is a part of the Apple Fitness app that delivers workout classes hosted by assorted specialist trainers. The app adds your Apple Watch sensory and activity data to the screen of your workout so you can see your stats and progression in real-time. This is great because you don't have to keep checking these stats on your watch mid-workout.

There are a variety of workouts available, high intensity interval training, yoga, core, strength, treadmill, cycling, rowing, dance and mindful cooldowns when you're done. I have tried every one of them and my favorites are HIIT, dance and yoga.

The HIIT workouts range from 10 to 30 minutes long, with just about every music genre paired with them. There are a variety of instructors to choose from as well with other instructors in the background giving a modified version of the workout.

The dance workouts are great because there is a variety of dance types to choose from again

with different genres to go along with them. I love these because it doesn't really feel like a workout, but I was actually burning a few hundred calories for only 30 minutes of dancing.

Finally, yoga. These are probably my favorite, At least three times a week I'd do these just after I woke up and it was honestly a very good way to wake up for the day. They are most paired with music considered "chill vibes." They range from 10 to 45 minutes and usually end with a bit of mindfulness training.

The app is well designed with all of the workout types at the top and then there are the recommendations below that. You can also sort by trainers if you like a specific one. They add new workouts every single week.

There are also nice competition and sharing aspects. If one of your friends that you share activity data with does the same workout, you'll be placed on a leaderboard and are able to compete for the best score.

Overall, I believe that Apple Fitness+ deserves the \$10 price it asks. You're able to do a variety of workouts on most of your devices anywhere you have an internet connection. It made me want to work out. I didn't have to wear a mask, didn't have to worry if other people were judging me and I could hop in my own shower when I was done.

If you have the space, this gets a 10/10 from me.

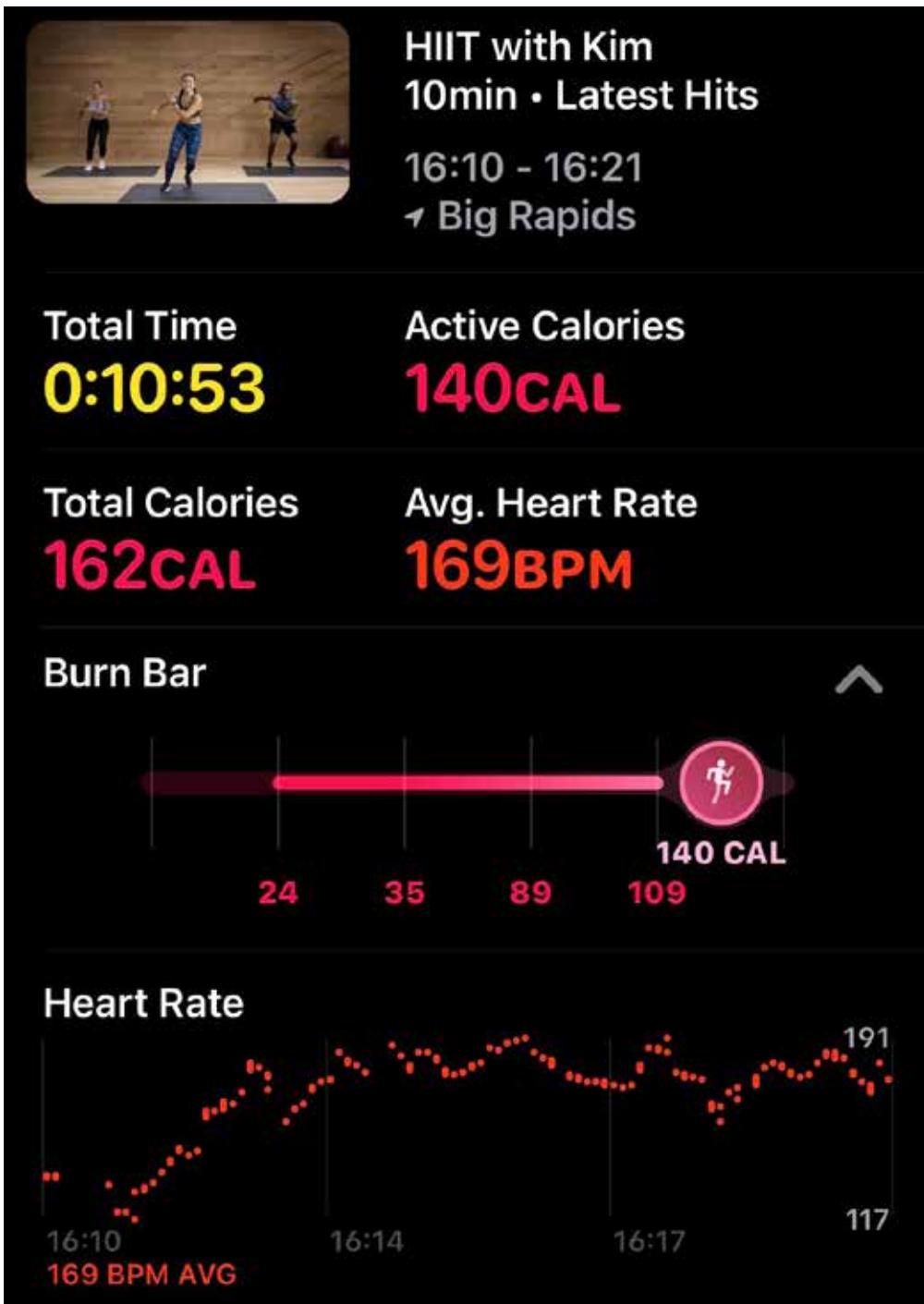
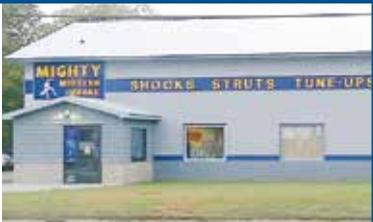


Photo by: Noah Kurkjian | News Reporter

After workout summary of an Apple Fitness+ high intensity interval training.

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# LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

## Finding love in a virtual place



Alyssa Jagoda and Zack Banaszack pose in front of their Christmas tree.

Photo courtesy of Alyssa Jagoda

### How one swipe right can change everything

**Alyssa Hubbard**  
Lifestyles Reporter



She waited on the park bench, worn combat boots tapping against the cracked sidewalk. They were meeting up for the first time around noon.

As she stared mindlessly at her phone, she heard footsteps approaching the bench. She looked up and a familiar face smiled at her.

"You look just like your profile picture, so that's a good start," he laughed.

Alyssa Jagoda, a 20-year-old college student from Macomb, wasn't expecting to begin a relationship any time soon. While messing around on popular dating app Tinder, she unknowingly swiped right on a man who would be her perfect match.

#### The decision

During the summer of 2020, Jagoda and her roommate were enjoying some drinks when they both agreed to go on Tinder and have some fun.

"My roommate and I had both been through some bad breakups in the beginning of

2020," Jagoda said. "I told her maybe it would make things easier if we talked to other people and I could practice my flirting, because everyone who knows me knows I cannot intentionally flirt."

So the swiping began. It didn't take long for Jagoda to spark a connection with someone.

"I met my boyfriend the first day I got Tinder," Jagoda said. "Funny thing is, it was actually the first hour of using it and he was one of the first people I swiped on."

According to the Pew Research Center, 30% of adults in the United States have used a dating app or website, but only 12% of adults said they had a long-term relation-

ship from online dating. About one-third of Tinder users are within the 18-24 age range.

#### The reaction

Jagoda felt comfortable telling her roommates and friends about her new relationship.

"I was surprised at first," roommate Corinne McPhail said. "We initially joined the app for fun and didn't plan on starting anything too serious with anyone. Regardless of my initial shock, I was happy she was happy and excited about it."

Finding a partner through dating apps is common now, but explaining how she met her partner to her parents worried Jagoda.

Pamela Jagoda, her mother, wasn't sure what to expect after hearing the news.

"I was nervous and unsure," Pamela said. "I didn't like it 100%, but when I met him and realized he was nice, I didn't care anymore."

Pamela commented that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, online dating is "one of the only ways to meet someone right now."

Pamela told her daughter that many of her friends met their significant other through dating apps and some have even gotten married. She said that the ways people meet are changing a lot now from when she was younger. Mrs. Jagoda was supportive of her daughter's relationship, regardless of how they met.

#### The contract

On Sept. 9, 2020, Jagoda and her two roommates decided to create and sign the "Dating App Rules for 1269A Gang."

They established 10 rules total to follow when using dating apps. There are both silly rules and serious ones. For example, rules #6 and #8 are "be safe" and "have fun".

However, rule number 3 states, "Never go on a date without letting all the roommates know where, when and who the date is with."

"Our other roommate wanted to make sure we were being safe, safe for ourselves and the other roommates," McPhail said. "Online you never know the kind of people you'll meet, so I liked the idea of rules. The rules applied to every guy we matched with and continued to apply until an official label of a relationship was established. I deleted the app soon after Alyssa did, but they're still something I'll follow because I think they're smart."

#### Looking forward

Although Jagoda found her current partner through Tinder, she wouldn't recommend others use it to find a "romantic stable connection."

Jagoda admitted that she got lucky finding her partner on Tinder. McPhail has been using the app for a longer time and met many people who wanted "sugar babies" or sent explicit photos and videos.

"My personal opinion would be to go on a different dating site or try to meet them in person," Jagoda said. "Because there were also individuals on there that did not want what they say they did and turned out to be horrible people, especially when they denied what they wanted."

Neither Jagoda, her roommate, nor her mother trust dating apps. However, they encourage anyone who wants to use dating apps or currently uses them to be safe about it. People can meet fun and interesting people, or



# The issue with gendered marketing

Skincare, cosmetics still focused on genders

**Justice Kobish**  
Freelance Reporter

In a recent Saturday Night Live skit, Schitt's Creek star Dan Levy is featured dragging the marketing behind men's makeup.

While the SNL parody commercial was cut from airing for time, it can still be found on their YouTube channel. More importantly, this parody commercial brings up an interesting conversation about how products are sold to people of different genders. The ad is for a brand of cosmetics called ManStain, which is explicitly for men and is "totally not makeup."

Even though a product can be used by any gender — skincare and cosmetics for example — they are often marketed towards one gender or another specifically. Gendered marketing is easy to spot if you look for it. Bold fonts with a black and grey color scheme for "masculine" products and bright colors or pastels for "feminine" items.

"Marketing to a person's gender not only risks alienating other consumers, but it also shows a failure by the company to mine for deeper insights about its audience," notes an article by the American Marketing Association.

According to the article, gender norms and expectations are becoming increasingly blurred. Our personal habits aren't the thing that's changing, but rather our perception of what is and is not for what gender. The article notes that what people buy has largely never depended on gender, but the personal interests and habits of individual people.

There is another reason to break out of the marketing binary too. Heavily gendered marketing reinforces negative stereotypes and outdated expectations.

History professor and director of the Museum of Sexist Objects Tracy Busch said that while it's "not the 1950s anymore" there are still traces of forced gender norms throughout society.

"It's just everywhere around you," Busch said. "There are people telling you how you should be."

In Busch's eyes, it puts pressure on women to perform femininity and assumes them to be either trying to attract men's attention, or homemakers and house-



Photo by: Becca Witkowski | Torch Photographer

Ferris student Jorell Turner enjoying a face masks while he relaxes at home.

wives. On the other side of the binary, it assumes that men are trying to attract attention of women and are either household breadwinners, or athletic bachelors.

Gendered marketing also does not address those who don't fit within the gender binary.

"I don't feel comfortable in a lot of sections in the store," nuclear medicine technology senior Asher VanWasshenova said.

Many people with non-binary or otherwise gender nonconforming identities are simply left out in these conversations, according to VanWasshenova.

"Everything is sold as for men or for women, but I don't really fit in with either, you know?" VanWasshenova said. "I just want to buy some soap, why it is so complicated?"

## Events calendar

### WEDNESDAY

Feb. 17

#### Spring 2021 Career & Internship Fair - All Majors

Contact: Dave McCall  
davidmccall@ferris.edu  
Location: Virtual  
Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

#### LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coffee House

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

#### Black Mental Health: Surviving to Thriving

Contact: Darnell Lewis  
darnellewis@ferris.edu  
Location: Virtual  
Time: 7 - 8 p.m.

#### Trivia Fun

Contact: CLACS  
clacs@ferris.edu  
Location: Virtual  
Time: 8:30 - 9:35 p.m.



### THURSDAY

Feb. 18

#### Leadership Academy Group Leadership: Goals Within an Organization

Contact: Sydney Starmer  
starmes@ferris.edu  
Location: Zoom  
Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

#### Tune in with Teresa featuring Dylan Tantalo

Location: FerrisCLACS Instagram Live  
Time: 1 - 1:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY

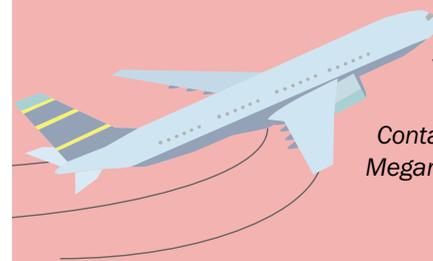
Feb. 19

#### Virtual Study Abroad Workshop

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

#### Black Panther

Contact: Darnell Lewis  
darnellewis@ferris.edu  
Location: Virtual  
Time: 7 - 9:30 p.m.



### MONDAY

Feb. 22

#### Mike Ellison, Black History Month Featured Artist/ "Legacy and Lexicon"

Contact: Darnell Lewis  
darnellewis@ferris.edu  
Location: Virtual  
Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

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

Graphics made by Production Manager Charlie Zitta

## TUNE IN TO OUR PODCAST: THE FIREPIT

HOSTED BY:

MARISSA RUSSELL, BRENDAN SANDERS & NOAH KURKJIAN

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# Switching up the spot

## Students use FLITE and University Center as escape from the house

**Kendall Rooks**  
Freelance Reporter

Ferris' transition to online learning has not only changed the way students learn, but the way students study and do homework. Though the amount of traffic has decreased, students are still using the University Center and FLITE to complete work and get out of the house.

Welding engineering technology senior Austin Coggins said it depends on the day whether he comes to campus or not.

"If I've been in my room doing my online classes, then I'd like to get out and study outside of my home."

Business administration freshman Elizabeth Ostoin and pre-pharmacy junior Sydney Vachon enjoy coming to the UC together to study and hangout. They both agree that studying at home is too distracting.

"I like studying in the UC better, I have a hard time focusing where I sleep. I just want to be doing other things," Vachon said.

A consistent downside to studying on campus is the issue of wearing a mask.

"Sometimes when I am trying to talk or [Sydney] is tutoring me, I feel like I just need to pull it off a little bit, just because it is hard to understand sometimes," Ostoin said.

Regardless, both Ostoin and Vachon said getting out and doing work with each other is a lot easier.

According to a University of Michigan study, students that change their studying locations before tests score 21% higher than students who did not, according to Easy Bay Tutoring Study article in Different Places To Get Better Test Scores. Mixing up your study environment allows your brain to collect more memory cues which are later used to recall information. The more of these memory cues your brain can



Photo by: Becca Witkowski | Torch Photographer

Students approach a table stationed in the University Center to learn about RSO's on campus.

collect, the higher chances you will have to recall information for a test, leading to a better score.

"I would say the room reservations have been something that has stayed somewhat constant. There are less rooms now, so it may seem like less people are using them, but this semester specifically there has been an increase in reservations," FLITE library service desk worker Christine Carlen said.

However, Carlen says there has been a significant drop in traffic throughout the library.

The Ferris COVID-19 policies on campus remain the same. If you are on campus or planning to come to campus complete the COVID-19 Symptom Checker, if you are sick, stay home and wear a face mask inside all university buildings or when social distancing is not possible. The FLITE and UC hours are listed on the Ferris State website.

# Lunar New Year festivites

## Learn about the traditions and origin of the Lunar New Year

**Meghan Hartley**  
Freelance Reporter

Festive lights, bright red and booming music is how Lunar New Year is celebrated within Asian cultures around the world.

Feb. 12 marks the beginning of the Lunar New Year. The observance of this holiday dates back thousands of years and it is celebrated by millions of people around the globe.

The story of Lunar New Year begins with a Chinese legend, according to Ancient Origins. Thousands of years ago, there was a village that was terrorized by a monster on the darkest night. In order to protect their home, the townspeople found out three things that would scare the monster away: light, music and the color red.

This legend evolved into an annual celebration, meant to welcome the new year and scare away the past year and the negativity that had come with it. The revelry lasts for 15 days and is filled with lanterns, traditional food and the spread of luck, health and togetherness, according to Nations Online.

Though the official start date is Feb. 12, preparations begin at the start of the month. Many households will prepare for the new year by cleaning out their homes; symbolizing the removal of negative energy from the past year and make way for good fortune in the coming year.

Children will usually prepare by making paper lanterns, paper fans, flowers and by writing signs of good will to be hung all around the home. These crafts are all in the colors of gold and red.

When the special day does arrive, it is the highlight of the festival, as it includes fireworks, special performances and the family dinner, which includes traditional dishes, such as dumplings and sweet rice balls, according to Nations Online.

A popular family tradition is the gifting of red envelopes from the older generation to the younger generation. These envelopes contain money and are used as a sign of good luck and good fortune for the remaining of the new year, according to an article by ABC.

While many of these activities are done worldwide, each country celebrates the holiday just a little different, with classic dishes and activities that relate to their home.



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Manager

This Lunar New Year marks the beginning of the year of the Ox. It is tradition that each year is symbolized by an animal with special meaning from the Chinese zodiac. The Ox is a hardworking zodiac that represents being hardworking and honest, according to chinesenewyear.net,

With the new year officially upon us, we can all look towards the future, hopefully with high spirits and good fortune.

# OPINIONS

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

The Ferris State Torch is published on 27 Wednesdays throughout the academic year. This student-run newspaper is printed by The Pioneer Group.

**OUR LOCATION**  
Alumni Building 013  
410 Oak Street  
Ferris State University  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
fsutorch.com/letter-to-the-editor/

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN: Creating my own traditions

By Cora Hall



I am very proudly Korean American. But I am, admittedly, more American than Korean when it comes to culture and my everyday life. This is because my father and his two siblings were adopted as children and raised by white parents. Disclaimer: I love my grandparents endlessly and this is not anything against them at all.

What that resulted in, however, was my dad, aunt and uncle growing up without cultural or family traditions or knowing the language. I remember my parents sent me and my brother to a Korean camp one time, where we learned about Korean culture and traditions with a bunch of other Korean American kids—but we were kids, and not a lot of that stuck. When I was young, probably five or six, my brother, dad and I took Korean lessons for a time. But that didn't really stick either.

As time went on, there was less effort to connect with my dad's heritage. I don't think we even noticed as kids. Really, the only part of our identity that was Korean was our appearance and eating kimchi and rice with most meals.

That all changed in 2015, when my uncle took a trip to South Korea with a program for adults who were adopted from South Korea as children. In a long, wild story he found their birth mom. It's too long to explain here, but maybe one day you'll see a documentary on it.

The following year, my dad, aunt and uncle flew back to South Korea together to meet their birth mom. They spent almost a month there, and I think it was one of the most impactful trips of their lives. They met cousins, aunts and uncles they didn't know existed. They got to see their home country through the eyes of their mother, and I hope to do the same one day soon.

In 2019, my grandmother—Misong—came to visit us in the states for about a month. She switched between staying with my aunt and uncle, who had room to host her. This was, again, a transformative experience for my dad and his siblings. She taught them how to make Korean dishes and got to know her 14 grandchildren. Our family made up for a lot of lost time, but it still never feels enough. As soon as it's humanly possible, you can bet the house that I'll be booking a flight to South Korea.

Over the past six years, there was a reconnection to Korean culture for my dad and, consequently, the rest of us. And to be honest, I have loved every part of it. I beg my dad to make bulgogi and japchae every time I come home and helping him make it is one of my favorite things to do. I've actually grown to love kimchi

and I have an endless number of recipes I want to try.

This past weekend it was the Lunar New Year, one of the biggest celebrations of the year in Korean culture. I saw some of my friends post about it, or meals they were having in

honor of it. Each post I saw, I felt a twinge of sadness that I did not have traditions to fall back on for the holiday.

But I came to the realization that traditions were all created by someone, at some point. Their meaning is not connected to their longevity, either. Why not create my own? I cannot change the fact that I didn't grow up celebrating the Lunar New Year, but I can certainly start.

So I've decided to do my research and create my own traditions, whatever they may look like. And I will pass them on to my kids, and hopefully, they'll continue to pass them onto theirs. Feeling connected to or belonging to a culture is a powerful feeling and I hope everyone can find that in their lives. It's called going back to your roots for a reason—it keeps you grounded and gives you a foundation for finding your place in the world.

Graphic by: Charlie Zitta, Cora Hall

## 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!

# Dear Non-Black people: stop using the n-word

*There is no context that would justify you using the n-word if you aren't Black*



Kendall Rooks  
Freelance Reporter

In 2021 the ability to withhold from being racist, insensitive, and plain ignorant should be self-explanatory but unfortunately, it is still an ever-prevalent issue. The n-word (whether ends in an -er or not) continues to be used by non-Black people, which is unacceptable. There are people who use the n-word in a malicious way, which is terrible, but this is for the people who use it casually and do not realize every context is bad. The use of the word has never been encouraged but a refresher course seems necessary after recent events.

The n-word is derived from the Latin word for the color black, niger. It did not originate as a slur, but overtime took on a derogatory connotation. White slave owners would use the n-word to demean and oppress Black people. The n-word is tied to the idea that Black people are not human beings. Therefore, the use of the word carries a huge historical weight of racism. It will continue to carry this weight due to the fact that

the context surrounding the word has not changed – there is not a non-racist way for a white person to use it.

Although some may claim that this reaction to the n-word is too sensitive, the reality is it creates an uncomfortable disturbance when used by a person who is not Black, for example, Morgan Wallen a rising country singer. Wallen was captured on video leaked by TMZ calling one of his friends the n-word while walking home in Nashville on Feb. 2. No matter the circumstance, it's unacceptable and I think the casualness of the exchange is disturbing. It led me to believe he had likely been using it for a while and I was proved correct when I read, "Wallen has a history of having used the n-word on social media, quoting rap lyrics. Back in 2012, when he would have been 18, the then-unknown sent out a tweet that is a lyric by rapper Meek Mill: 'I burn bread I ain't talking toast n—.'" The tweet was deleted on Feb. 3 after the recent incident according to an article by Variety.

Wallen issued an apology the same night and I hope he has learned and educated himself from his mistake. As a result of the incident, his music has been dropped from many radio chains and from visual spots

on streaming networks Spotify and Apple Music. He was also suspended indefinitely from his record label, Big Loud. On Feb. 10, Jason Isbell, the writer of Wallen's song 'Cover Me Up', announced he would be donating everything he has made so far from the album to the Nashville chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The next day Wallen released a second apology video. During the 5 minute video, Wallen said he has been accepting invitations to meet with Black organizations and have honest conversations. He also stressed in the video to his fans not to defend him, saying, "Please don't. I was wrong. It's on me to take ownership for this and I fully accept any penalties I'm facing. The time of my return is solely on me and the work I put in."

I went to a high school where the percentage of white students at the school was 89% and the percentage of Black students was 1%. Disturbingly enough, this is where I heard the usage of the n-word the most, likely because nobody was stopping them. It would be impossible for the four Black students in each grade to inform each white student on why it is offensive. But more importantly, Black people are not responsi-

ble for educating every single white person of their history. Therefore, as white people, we need to start educating each other on the hurtful meaning of the word.

Even in instances when the word is not used to inflict verbal abuse I still think it is important as white people to call out your non-Black friends that use the n-word. White people should not be rapping or tweeting the n-word. Use it as a teachable moment and explain to them that it is in fact, a racial slur, no matter how it is used. In some instances, privilege can keep people from seeing how their unintentionally hurtful statements minimize and silence Black experiences. Regardless, I still wonder how some are so clueless on the prohibited usage of the word from non-Black people.

Nonetheless, being a non-Black person does not justify casually using the n-word. White people having a Black friend does not allow usage of the n-word by association. Receiving "permission" or not being told verbally to stop, does not warrant the use of this blatantly disrespectful word. If you are still wondering why you cannot say the n-word, ask yourself why you care so much about it and why do you even feel the need to say the word in the first place.

## Look past the exterior

Why are piercings, colored hair and tattoos still considered unprofessional?



Marissa Russell  
Lifestyles Editor

I remember growing up my mom always fussing over if my hair was combed or my clothes being wrinkle free. Now as a somewhat adult with jobs I am constantly told the dos and don'ts of my appearance at the workplace. Why does it matter if my tattoos aren't covered 24/7 or my hair is colored abnormal colors if I get my job done? What I look like should not be how people base their opinion about me.

Working at a gas station we are told that we can not have any unnatural colored hair, facial piercings other than a single nose stud and "tasteful" tattoos. When I applied I thought this was going to be a place I could easily express myself, I mean it's a gas station—if I couldn't have blue hair here, where could I have it?

I was always someone growing up that didn't want to look like the rest of the kids in my school. From dying my hair bright red to wearing knee high socks with shorts I didn't care what the other kids thought. But now it is starting to feel like a penalty for not caring. Every time someone notices something "off" about me I lose points in some invisible game.

I've gotten told by family members that if I get certain piercings they would just about disown me. My ex-boyfriend didn't like taking me to the bar because I couldn't fit in with his friends.

Over and over people have judged me for what is on the outside but very few have spent the time to learn about what is on the inside of me. All the nice things I do and all the hard work I have done is just pushed to the side when it comes to the choice of wearing the same Ugg boots every girl has or my beat up combat boots that look like they actually went to war.

Who decided what professional was? Why is black pants more accepted in a work place than my beat up jeans? I want to be able to wear clothes I feel myself in at work and not be judged for it.

We should normalize telling our kids "don't judge a book by its cover" and actually meaning it. We can only make a change if we actually set an example. Instead of sitting in your car laughing about the couple going into Walmart wearing their pajamas tell your kids to be kind because not everyone has money for "real" clothes or a way to wash them. There is more to everyone inside their heart and that is what should matter, not if they have bright green hair and an eyebrow piercing.

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## SPORTS

Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor | sandeb16@ferris.edu

# Hamilton's heart

Cross country runner experiencing side effects of COVID-19 months later

**Brody Keiser**  
Sports Reporter

When Ethan Hamilton contracted COVID-19 in the summer of 2020, he did not think he would be feeling its effects in several months later.

The sophomore cross country runner was diagnosed with COVID-19 in July 2020. He spent the month of July recovering from the virus, only to develop a heart condition months later.

"I hadn't really felt anything until October when my heart would start hurting a little bit out of nowhere," Hamilton said. "Sometimes it would start palpitating out of nowhere even if I was resting. Usually after hard workouts, my heart would start palpitating and burning a bit."



Ethan Hamilton

Doctors at Spectrum Health in Big Rapids took x-rays of Hamilton's chest, drew blood, and took an ECG. They had Hamilton wear a heart monitor for two weeks and found that COVID-19 caused permanent damage to his heart.

Hamilton has heart arrhythmia, a condition that causes the electrical

impulses that coordinate heartbeats to not work properly. This causes issues with the opening and closing of his bicuspid valve, which is responsible for regulating blood flow in the heart and keeping blood from flowing backward through the heart.

According to Ferris's Assistant Professor at the College of Health Professions Dr. Emmanuel Jadhav, heart palpitations are a long-term effect of COVID-19.

"There are several kinds of cardiac concerns related to COVID-19," Jadhav said. "These unknown long-term effects contribute to what make COVID-19 a concern not to be taken lightly."

Much about the long-term effects of COVID-19 remains unknown, especially when considering the effects of the virus on the heart. For instance, a study published in the British Journal of Medicine titled "Resurgence of sport in the wake of COVID-19: cardiac considerations in competitive athletes" found that COVID-19 could directly infect heart cells. However, the long-term effects of the condition, especially on athletes when resuming training, is unknown.

As for Hamilton, his doctors told him he could resume training if he could deal with the pain.

"They told me I was fine to run if

I didn't have any issues outside of the pain, and I haven't really had any outside of just exhaustion," Hamilton said. "It's just something you have to grind through and not really worry about the pain."

"There's still instances of pain, especially after hard workouts, but it's just a matter of ignoring the pain and pushing through it. Otherwise, I haven't had anything too concerning."

Hamilton's mindset allowed him to resume training, but he still experiences exhaustion. He said he is "kind of just tired all the time."

When he visited his cardiologist, Hamilton was told that multiple patients had the same electrical arrhythmia that he does. The cardiologist told Hamilton and the prior patients that their condition was caused by COVID-19, but anything else about their condition was unknown.

An article in the journal Sports Medicine titled "COVID-19 and Review of Current Recommendations for Return to Athletic Play" discussed athletes returning to training after having COVID-19.

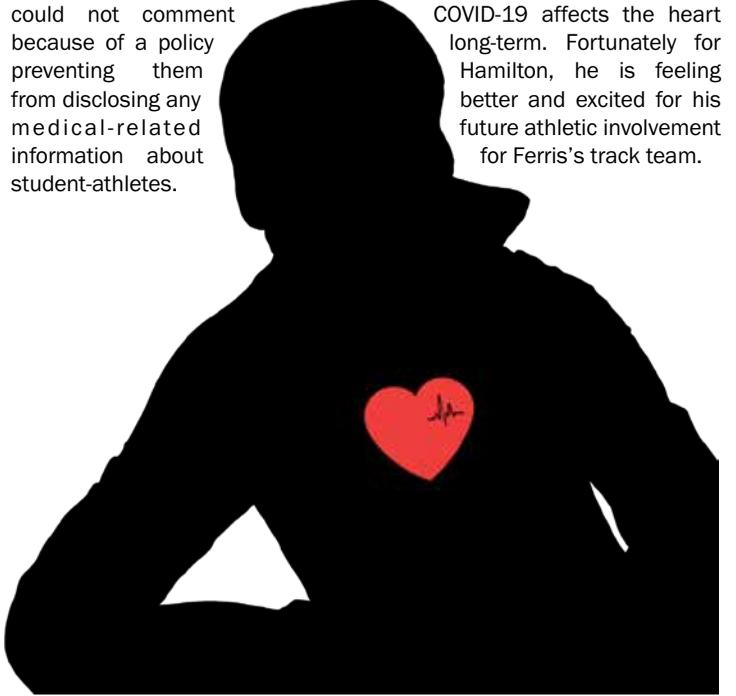
"In regards to the athlete, physicians must be comprehensive in their evaluation for those that are infected and are looking to return to play following resolution of their infection," the article said. "Specifically, athletes should have a

thorough cardiovascular exam as patients with COVID-19 infection have shown increased troponin levels above the 99th percentile, suggestive of significant myocardial damage. The effects of having athletes return to play without proper cardiac clearance would be devastating."

Regarding heart issues caused from COVID-19 and Hamilton's condition, Ferris Athletics could not comment because of a policy preventing them from disclosing any medical-related information about student-athletes.

As of now, Hamilton said his training is going "pretty darn well" and he is feeling better. He is not sure what, if any, future implications his heart condition will have on his ability to run track, but he is confident he will be ready for outdoor season.

Hamilton is currently unable to join his team in meets as he progresses through his recovery. So much is unknown about the way COVID-19 affects the heart long-term. Fortunately for Hamilton, he is feeling better and excited for his future athletic involvement for Ferris's track team.



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Multimedia Editor

## Bulldogs snap four game skid

Ferris victory over Saginaw Valley ends losing streak

**Brody Keiser**  
Sports Reporter

When the Ferris women's basketball came into their matchup with Saginaw Valley State University, the season looked to be on the brink, luckily the team turned it around on Friday.

Strong play defensively helped the Bulldogs end their losing streak, as the Cardinals' 58 points represented the fewest allowed by the Bulldogs all season. It was also the first time the Bulldogs held their opponent under 60 points in a game this season. Ferris also forced 20 turnovers, the second most they have forced all season. The team would win 65 - 58.

"Our defense was consistent throughout

all four quarters," head coach Kurt Westendorp said. "Our defense forced them into 20 turnovers and we really tried to take them away from their guard game. Our kids came out and competed and I'm really proud of all 40 minutes of this game."

Ferris trailed the Cardinals 20 - 12 after the first quarter of play. Freshman guard Kadyn Blanchard led the Bulldogs with four points in the quarter. Saginaw Valley hit 3-of-7 three pointers compared to 0-of-7 for Ferris.

Ferris's 12 points in the first quarter against the Cardinals marked the fifth consecutive game they scored 13 points or fewer in the first 10 minutes of game action. The Bulldogs are 0 - 4 in their four games preceding their matchup with Saginaw Val-

ley.

Three pointers started to fall for Ferris in the second quarter as they went 4-of-7 from deep in the quarter. Junior forward Zoe Anderson hit two of those and provided seven points in the quarter to help her team take a 29 - 28 lead heading into halftime.

"We did a nice job in the second quarter sticking with our patience and getting the ball downhill and moving the basketball," Westendorp said. "The shots we missed in the first quarter we knocked down in the second quarter. We shot the ball with our feet ready to go, and that gave us some momentum heading into halftime."

The Bulldogs led throughout the entirety of the third quarter and were up 44 - 41 heading into the final quarter of play. An-

derson and freshman guard DeShonna Day each had 10 points for Ferris through three quarters.

Saginaw Valley kept the game within seven points throughout the fourth quarter, but Ferris ultimately held their lead and emerged victorious. The win snapped a four-game losing streak for Ferris and improved their record to 4 - 8.

Day led the Bulldogs with 14 points. Sophomore guard Mallory McCartney and Anderson pitched in 10 points and the latter hit three three-pointers. No other Bulldog scored in double figures, but every Bulldog that played recorded at least two points.

Ferris will take on the Cardinals again Saturday, Feb. 13 inside Jim Wink Arena at 4 p.m.

### WEEKEND SCORECARD

#### Women's Basketball

Feb. 12 - Ferris 65, SVSU 58  
Feb. 13 - Ferris 52, SVSU 67

#### Tennis

Men's  
Feb. 12 - Ferris 5, Tiffin 2  
Women's  
Feb. 12 - Ferris 5, Tiffin 2

#### Hockey

Feb. 12 - Ferris 0, Michigan Tech 3  
Feb. 13 - Ferris 1, Michigan Tech 5

# The building blocks for greatness

True freshman Jimmy Scholler already making impact for the Bulldogs

**Austin Arquette**  
Sports Reporter

Basketball has been running in the family for freshman phenom guard Jimmy Scholler for decades.

Freshman wing on the Ferris State men's basketball team, Jimmy Scholler follows his dad's advice of getting to play at the next level. Basketball is in Jimmy's blood, it started for him in middle school when his father saw the expression and passion Jimmy had for the game. All Steve Scholler, Jimmy's dad, wanted to do was give his son the opportunities and provide resources to help chase Jimmy's dreams. There are many positions you go through as you're raised and grow up but for athletes, it starts with their family. From his father's time at Calvin college in 1990 - 1994 as a point guard.

"It has been a dream of mine to play college basketball since I was a little kid," Jimmy said. "Even though I do miss football I am very happy with my decision to play basketball here at Ferris."

Jimmy focused on three key aspects when he chose Ferris, those were the tradition of a winning program, the coaching staff, and how close the players are which makes the team feel like family. After the Ferris men's basketball team won the national championship in 2018, when head coach Andy Bronkema began to recruit Scholler to join the Bulldogs.

"He was always kind of on his own, he loved to be in the gym and work out," Steve said. "Football to me was kind of a surprise, he always was focused on basketball from a young age."

Both Bronkema and assistant coach Raymoan McAfee came to a lot of Jimmy's games which helped forge that relationship with Jimmy and reassured him of their commitment to him as a player. Steve Scholler said that Bronkema supported Jimmy playing football in his senior year of high school.

Scholler has played football since the



Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor In Chief

Scholler attempts a layup against Northern Michigan

sixth grade; however, basketball took priority throughout the years as basketball was Jimmy's, first love. Scholler started under center for the football team in high school at Forest Hills Central in Grand Rapids, MI where he grew up. As he spent more time focused solely on basketball, he knew that was the sport he wanted to play at the next level.

"He loved basketball but felt football was a good compliment to being tough and more well-rounded," Steve said. "The coaches were good enough to help him bridge the gap of playing both sports."

Scholler was the third-ranked wing in his class according to Prep Hoops, while he said this is a nice accomplishment, the rankings don't always matter.

While being a part of the Bulldog nation

has been a great honor to Scholler, he understands he will need to continue to work hard every day and as the new guy he wants to play as hard as he can while bringing high energy levels.

"Playing at the college level is much different than high school because everyone here was the best player on their high school team," Jimmy said. "I love to get everyone involved and I am surrounded by great players who can help me achieve this goal."

Sophomore teammate wing Ben Davidson said that it's always nice to welcome new faces to the team and he loves what Jimmy has brought into Ferris. Along with the way Jimmy carries himself with his maturity and ability to play beyond his freshman status is something Davidson loves. Davidson and Jimmy hang out off the court

as they have gone golfing together this past summer along with teammate senior wing Michael Peterson.

"He doesn't really need much guiding with his maturity and love for the game," Davidson said. "Jimmy earned his starting spot by being a great team player, and a menace on defense. He's a great shooter and I'm very happy for him earning that starting spot. His only problem is that he's not very good at euchre."

Outside of sports Jimmy enjoys playing video games such as Madden and NBA 2K. As school comes first, Jimmy strives to graduate with honors and maintain above a 3.6 grade point average. Two basketball related goals in Jimmy's mind are to make it onto the all-time career assist list and play professional basketball overseas as many other Ferris alums have accomplished.

Steve Scholler believes Jimmy will use his communications degree to mesh sports into his life even when basketball is over in some way. Jimmy said when he is not able to compete at a high level is when he will call it a career. Jimmy would like to get into coaching and his biggest goal is to coach at the college level as he has a passion for sports and to help others within sports.

"Take what you learned from sports such as being a good teammate, handling ups and downs, be positive because all those things apply universally to whatever else you want to do in life," Steve said. "As parents, we are just happy to see him go to a school where we feel like the culture, atmosphere, athletics program, and school, in general, have been so welcoming and that we are just proud he is taking it in and just doing his best to make the best opportunity he can out of it and whatever that is and whatever form that takes we are excited for him."

The Bulldogs will be back in action over the weekend as they take on Purdue Northwest first on Friday, Feb. 19 and then again Saturday, Feb. 20 with both games scheduled for a 4 p.m. tip-off.

## Breaking through

Tennis gets first win of the season against Tiffin

**Brendan Sanders**  
Sports Editor

Tennis was able to put that first W in the win column this weekend with both men and women's teams beating Tiffin University.

With dominant victories on Friday, confidence is growing among Bulldogs tennis that the team will see a successful season. Both the men's and women's team saw 5 - 2 victories over the Dragons of Tiffin University. This put the men's team at 1 - 2 on the season while the women's team is 1 - 3.

All of the losses were to Division I opponents such as Western Michigan and Valparaiso. Coach Mark Doren thought those early-season contests provided great preparation for the rest of the season.

"To go down there and compete and earn the respect of these bigger schools with these bigger budgets, bigger players, you know, just more experience. I think it really just showed us what we could do." Doren said. "We've said we probably won't play another team as good as those teams. And we competed with them. And so if we can do that, you know, that's what, that's why we do it at the beginning of the year. That's why we scheduled like that just to give us the opportunity."

The strong competition made the battle against Tiffin that much easier. The men's team suited up first on Friday, starting at noon with the doubles matches. The team won the doubles point after all three doubles teams won, 6 - 3, 6 - 3, 6 - 4.

The team went on to win four out of the six singles matches, with Jan Koupil, Yannic Mader, Benjamin Lortie, and Josh McDermott all getting victories on the day.

At 4:30, the women's team took to the court for an evening bout against the Dragons. They also were dominant in the doubles matches, winning all three of their matches 6 - 4, 6 - 4, 6 - 3.

The singles match saw a similar result as the men's match, with the team seeing four victories and two losses on the evening. Isabela Paixao, Agata Klak, Patricia Gomez, and Brittany Lavenant.

The final match was won by Lavenant, who won in a ten-point tie break after splitting the first two sets. She would win 7 - 6, 5 - 7, 12 - 10 against Tiffin's Emily Sim. She described the battle against the left-handed player.

"Oh, it was tough. Don't play a lot of left-handed players." Lavenant said. "So that's always an adjustment, especially with our services just because they know how to kick it into your body. So that was difficult. And then also, for her being lucky, she knew how to have like opened up the court hitting a ball inside out."

The Bulldogs will be battling once again against on Friday, Feb. 19 against Walsh. The women's team will be playing at 10:30 a.m. while the men's team will be taking to the courts at 2:30 p.m.

For photo's of the matchup check out the photo gallery on at fsutorch.com.

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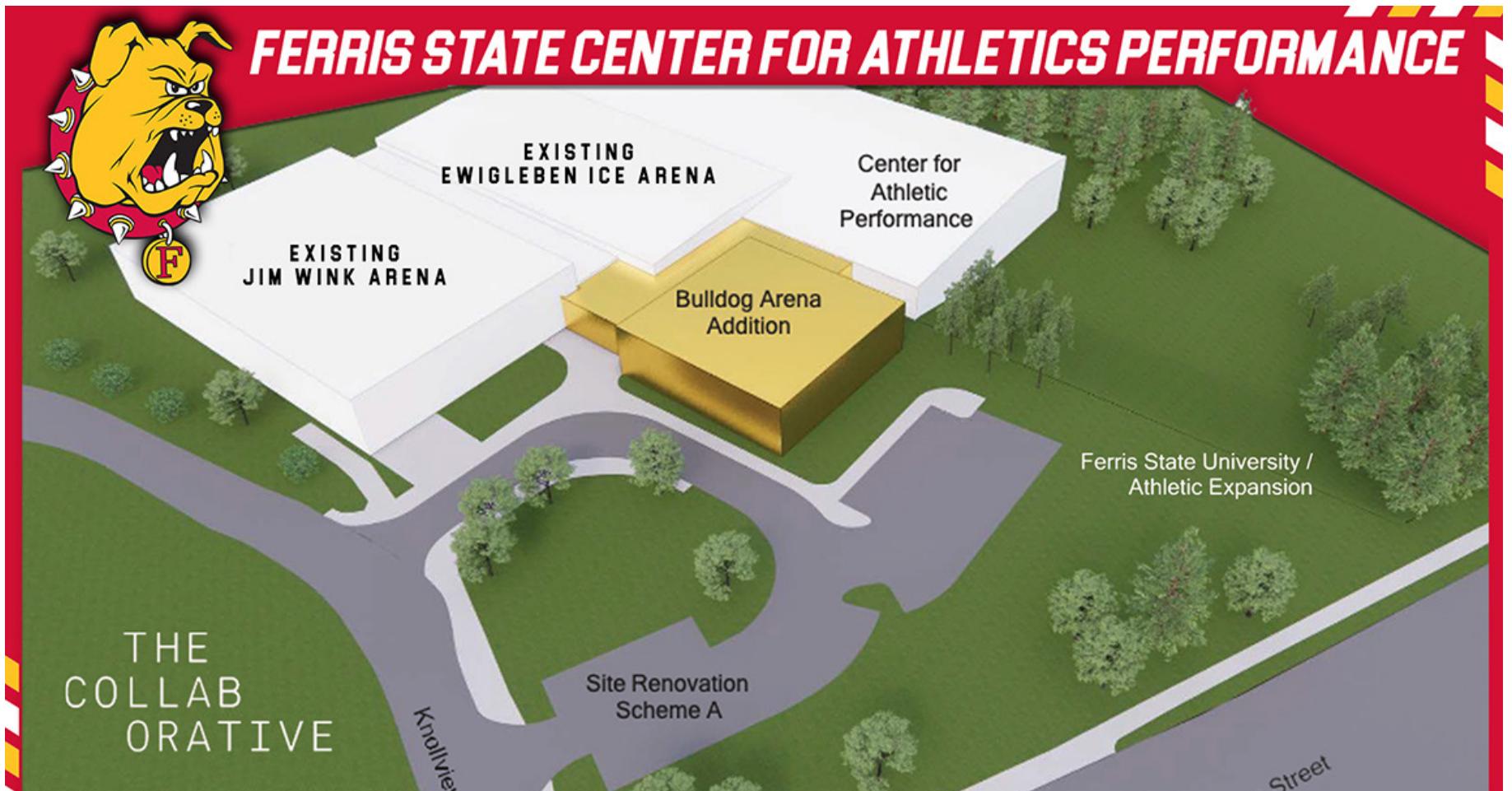
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Updated August 13, 2020

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

# Finally time for an upgrade



Graphic via Bulldog Athletics

Ferris provided a visual depiction of the planned addition to the sports complex.

## Bulldog athletics announce plan for renovating and expanding athletic facilities

**Brandon Wirth**  
Freelance Reporter

The University Board of Trustees and Athletic Department officially approved a plan for a 15.3-million-dollar upgrade to the current athletic facilities on Friday.

"It is a great day for Bulldog athletics," Ferris Athletic Director, Perk Weisenburger said in an interview with Athletics Communication Assistant, Harrison Watt. "It's going to be a wonderful project."

The Ewigleben Sports Complex, which is currently used by student-athletes, was originally built in 1974. Since then, there have been three main additions and renovations to the complex. The last upgrade was made in 2007.

"It's long overdue," Weisenburger said. "We've been lagging in that area. It still hasn't stopped our teams from doing very well but to be able to be long-term and sustaining, we needed to get this project approved."

With the help of The Collaborative and Granger Construction Company, the future "Center of Athletic Performance" is project-

ed to be fully completed by December of 2022. Some areas, such as the Strength and Conditioning area, are expected to be finished a few months earlier in June 2022.

"To be able to build that strength and conditioning space, teams don't have to lift in shifts," Weisenburger said. "(We) will be able to get more student-athletes in there."

For the volleyball program, this new expansion includes the addition of "Bulldog Arena," a new competition space for Bulldog matches. This will be the newest home for the Bulldogs since 1981 when the current Ewigleben Arena was first constructed.

"It's going to be fabulous," Head Coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm said. "We're just so excited to have this beautiful facility."

Ewigleben Arena has been known to hold some of the largest attendance numbers in NCAA volleyball history during the 1990s. These incredible numbers occurred despite one notable conflict that will be addressed with the new volleyball addition: making fan access much easier.

"It's going to be very nice to have access to our games for anybody," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "If we are fortunate enough to be strong

enough to host the NCAA tournament, it will be fantastic to host it in our home facility."

This new addition will be around 15,607 square feet, including a public entrance to access volleyball games, new conference rooms, entrances to athletic offices, and public restrooms. The former volleyball facility will be renovated into the new strength and conditioning area. This includes a new cardio area, nutrition center, and offices for strength and conditioning staff.

"I think all the athletes are really excited," Brandel-Wilhelm said on the team's perception of the news. "They are looking forward to the ground being broken so they can really see that it's coming."

The lower level of the complex will also be receiving upgrades, including new locker and team rooms for the track and field, soccer, and softball teams.

"Some of our locker rooms are very outdated, small, and cramped. Some teams even shared locker rooms," Weisenburger said. "This (facility) will provide our 380 plus student-athletes with a bigger, better, and safer place to be able to train and develop."

Not only will athletes get an upgrade in

space, but athletic staff will too. This includes new offices, additional locker rooms, and conference areas for faculty.

"It will make it a little different for us," Ferris State Sports Information Director, Rob Bentley, said. "Having (our offices) so close to basketball and hockey will be a big addition on game days."

When asked about the most valued additions with this upgrade, Bentley mentioned having space will help bring more opportunities to capture Bulldog sports.

"Especially with volleyball, having a new facility will make it easier for us to do things like streaming, running the video board, and keeping statistics. A lot of that (space) is cramped in our current arena."

Despite the wait for the idea to become a reality, the athletic department is excited the project is finally happening.

"I'm excited for it," Bentley said. "It's something that's been needed for a long time. It's a game-changer for our student-athletes."

More information on the project can be found on Ferris State's Athletics website, [www.ferrisstatebulldogs.com](http://www.ferrisstatebulldogs.com).

## 2021 MAY COMMENCEMENT

**Saturday, May 1, 2021**

Virtual Commencement

College	Contact	Phone #	Location
Health Professions	Richelle Williams	(231) 591-2263	VFS 210
Arts, Sciences & Education	Gayle Driggers	(231) 591-3666	ASC 3052
Business (Undergrad Students)	Carri Griffis	(231) 591-2493	BUS 200
Business (Graduate Students)	Shannon Yost	(231) 591-2168	BUS 200E
Engineering Technology	Joyce Mudel	(231) 591-3983	JHN 200
General Studies Graduates	Shelly VandePanne	(231) 591-2360	ASC 1017
Optometry	Michelle Balliet	(231) 591-3700	MCO 231
Pharmacy	Karen Ottobre	(231) 591-2252	PHR 201
DCCL	Megan Biller	(231) 591-2710	ALU 113

**Note:** You must satisfy all of your degree requirements before you officially graduate and receive your diploma. **Caps 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.shopoakhalli.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 April 16th.

**Commencement Electronic Program** - Graduates must complete their online graduation application by **Friday, February 19, 2021 for their names to appear in the Spring 2021 Commencement Program** or their name will not appear in the Commencement Program.

**Virtual Commencement Slide** - To personalize your slide please visit Virtual Commencement at <https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/current/Commencement/virtualcommencement.htm>. An Online Graduation Application must be completed in order for your name to appear in the virtual ceremony. Information for personalizing your slide must be submitted by the end of the day on **Wednesday, March 10th**.

### Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 9:00am

Ceremony 1	Michigan College of Optometry College of Health Professions
Ceremony 2	College of Pharmacy Doctorate in Community College Leadership College of Arts, Sciences and Education University College
Ceremony 3	College of Business
Ceremony 4	College of Engineering Technology

**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.

3/2	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	3/9	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
3/4	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	3/11	10:00 am - 4:00 pm

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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