

The Ferris State Torch

NINETY YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of Feb. 24 - March 2, 2021

www.fsutorch.com

Examining Ferris' Black history

The story of the riots of 1969 and racism that led up to them

Editor's Note: The Ferris State University archives were searched for photos from the riots on campus in 1969. There are no official photos, according to University Archivist Melinda Isler, who speculated none were allowed to be taken by the administration at the time, for fear of bad press.

Jerry Gaytan
Freelance Reporter

During the spring of 1969, Ferris State University was not exempt from the racial tensions that raged nationwide.

White students carried signs that read "White Power" while shouting, "We shall overcome." This was the boiling point on campus, and riots broke out soon after. It was believed they started right outside of Miller Hall during a fire drill, when about 75 policemen from four organizations swarmed campus. At the time Ferris had an enrollment of 8,200 students, including 300 students identifying as people of color.

These actions were a cry for help and to show there was change needed, and according to history professor Gary Huey the riot made national news.

Racial tensions were rising much before that, though.

Two weeks prior to the riot, a group of 70 Black students set up a sit-in at the student center, which rose tensions on campus. This sit-in was to protest the administration handling of a situation involving a Black student and a resident advisor in a dorm.

Former Ferris student John Matlock recounted one of the sit-ins that took place on campus. He said that they took over Starr auditorium with "all of the Black students from

campus except a couple" and at 9 p.m., the protestors were met by state police who arrested all of them on the charge of trespassing, loaded them onto a Ferris bus and took them to the local Armory.

According to Matlock, University of Michigan professor and head of the Michigan NAACP Albert Wheeler contacted the then President of Ferris the next morning and convinced him of how bad this would look for the university. The protesters were then released.

"This was a major sense of empowerment for students, it was recognition that there were some problems and it put them on the table," Matlock said.

Huey is currently conducting research on the racial unrest at Ferris in 1969 with history professor Christian Peterson and English professor Sarah Rescoe — though this has been stalled due to COVID-19

In their research thus far, they have detailed many instances of racism on campus leading up to the riots.

"My thoughts are I am surprised it didn't happen sooner, I am," Huey said. "All three of us were shocked by the level of racism, I guess maybe we shouldn't have been. I think what was maybe most disturbing, was the level of racism among some of the administration at Ferris. And those I think, are very troubling aspects. Then just the harassment, that the Black students were forced to put up with on a daily basis, both men and women."

Huey said in their research they found the racism on campus was "obvious" in both verbal and physical harassment. One English class had a required reading of an article that was "blatantly racist" and made

claims about "the inferiority of African Americans," according to Huey.

The overall curriculum at the time lacked Black culture, which was another reason for tension between the students of color and the administration.

The physical abuse was "standard practice" according to Huey. In one instance, a Black couple was coming back to the dorms, which were separated by men and women at that time. After dropping his date off, the man was sprayed with an early version of mace, for no reason "other than that the young man was Black," Huey stated.

"They would push black students off sidewalks, they would follow young women down the hall and they would raise their skirts with a broomstick handle just again, just things such as that, which ultimately led to a great deal of violence," Huey said. "I think the main takeaway was the students finally stood up, I think the Black students finally stood up and took the stance, and that they just simply were not going to be willing to take this kind of treatment anymore.

"They were putting pressure on the administration to do something about the racism that existed."

Part of the escalation was due to a reactionary administration at the time, according to Huey. He believes that some of the violence could have been avoided, had the administration been more proactive about addressing the racism on campus.

When Huey was hired at Ferris in 1986, he said there were still very few Black students. This is something he has seen change over his years, and part of that was due to

Ferris' increased effort to enroll more Black students.

"I think where we need to see more change is continuing to look to the minority students to bring them into campus here," Huey said. "And you know, it's a tough sell sometimes when you come to a predominantly white, rural area in the state of Michigan. But I think what we can do to make things better, is [hire] more Black faculty and more Black administrators."

As a Black faculty member, business professor Kasey Thompson said in order to be sensitive to issues of race, Ferris has to be intentional.

"It's something that not just Ferris State University, but all of us, bringing this acknowledgment that racial injustices still occur," Thompson said. "So, from my perspective, I think it's first having a universal acceptance and acknowledgment of the fact that, you know, there are racial injustices that occur in this country.

"And from that acceptance, also taking accountability, and what we can do personally to address it, what Ferris can do to overtly put forth effort in saying that there is an intolerance of racial injustices and setting forth an intentional effort in ensuring that all of the staff, all of the faculty, all of the students feel safe, they feel welcomed, and they feel as if they're an equal part of the Ferris State University community."

Cora Hall contributed to the reporting of this story.

For a profile on John Matlock, check out our Black History Month insert in this edition.

Ferris approves \$29.5 million virtual learning center

Ferris State University's Center for Virtual Learning is another major step closer to reality. At its regular meeting on Friday, Feb. 19, the university's Board of Trustees approved proceeding with the construction of the \$29.5 million main campus building.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, on Dec. 29, signed into law Public Act 257 of 2020 to grant full authorization to proceed with Ferris' state of Michigan capital outlay project. The future Center for Virtual Learning will serve as a centralized location to host the Information Security and Intelligence program, the School of Digital Media, the School of Education and eLearning at Ferris. The CVL will stand next to the FLITE library, at the current site of Vandercook Hall, which will be razed.

Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2021 and continuing through

December 2022. The Center for Virtual Learning is expected to be ready for occupancy in January 2023.

Board members also approved a new Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence in the College of Business. Ferris envisions itself as being at the front of artificial intelligence degree-granting, where job growth has been 74 percent annually, ranking it first among the top 15 emerging jobs in the U.S., according to a LinkedIn report. Primary areas of focus for the new Artificial Intelligence degree will be cybersecurity, the Internet of Things, health care, business and educational applications. Industry experts see AI as a necessary complement to cybersecurity, thanks to automation and general efforts to address the increasing sophistication and high volume of cyber-attacks.



Photo courtesy of Ferris State University

Got news? Let us know.

Email: fsutorcheditor@gmail.com
Phone: 231.591.5978



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
FERRIS STATE TORCH



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
@FSUTORCH



ADD US ON INSTAGRAM
FSUTORCH



FOLLOW US ON TIKTOK
FSUTORCH

Connect with us on social media - Read articles online at www.fsutorch.com

NEWS

Noah Kurkjian | News Editor | kurkjin@ferris.edu

Expressing our deepest sympathies



Photo courtesy of Will Holden

Alisha Jaynes was on the Ferris State cheer team.



Photo courtesy of Phi Sigma Kappa

Malik Kingsby was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa on campus.

Cora Hall, Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief, News Editor

The Ferris community is hurting right now, and the staff of the Torch would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of Alisha Jaynes and Malik Kingsby.

As student journalists, we hope we never need to write about the death of fellow students. However, as we find our

selves at this very moment, we want to handle this in a way that honors these students and their memory. Current and former Torch staff members knew these students, and we grieve their passing.

In the interest of remembering these students and preserving their dignity, we did not think it appropriate to rush to write stories about Alisha and Malik. Instead, we will commit time and care to speaking with their friends to listen to

cherished memories and find the best way to remember them as students, people and friends.

The Personal Counseling Center is offering an informal grieving session for students on Thursday Feb. 26 at 11 a.m. via zoom and personal appointments by request. Students who would like a personal appointment can reach out to the Personal Counseling Center at ThePCC@ferris.edu or by phone (231) 591-5968.

THIS WEEK IN MICHIGAN NEWS

Catch up on news around the state

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor



Capitol Update

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Whitmore is set to appear before the U.S. Senate committee hearing on infrastructure. The topic for the hearing is “Building Back Better: Investing in Transportation while Addressing Climate Change, Improving Equity, and Fostering Economic Growth and Innovation.” This comes as Biden is expected to unveil a large plan for infrastructure in the coming weeks.

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – A woman died after she received a double lung transplant at University of Michigan Medical School in Ann

Arbor. Shortly after her transplant, it was discovered that the lungs she received were infected with COVID-19. The surgeon also tested positive after the procedure.

Mich. – Michigan’s secretary of state will begin offering easier license and state ID renew services starting in March. They plan to expand their online self-service portal and allow for renewals at their 135 Meijer and Kroger registration renewal kiosks. The original renewal by mail service is still available, however, a spokesperson for SOS advised that those renewing by mail should expect delays.

Sports

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – The No. 3 ranked Michigan Wolverines basketball team took on archrival No. 4 Ohio State in arguably the game of the year. The Wolverines were successful in their arena take over against the Buckeyes, beating Ohio State 92 - 87.

Freshman center Hunter Dickinson led the Wolverines in scoring with 22 points. He also led the team in rebounds with nine. Senior guard Eli Brooks was second in scoring with 17 points off of nine shots, hitting three out of four three pointers. Senior guard Chaundee Brown was the lead scorer off the bench with 15 points off of 23 minutes played.

The Wolverines were efficient scoring, notching a field goal percentage of 53%, hitting 31/58

shots. The Wolverines were able to keep up with the Buckeye high powered three-point attack, shooting 48% on the night.

Grand Rapids native Duane Washington led both teams in scoring, putting up 30 points on 12/18 shooting for Ohio State. E.J. Liddell was second in scoring with 23 points on 7 - 15 shooting.

This win practically solidifies the No. 1 seed for the Wolverines as they close the season against Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, and two games against Michigan State.

EAST LANSING, Mich. – The Spartans tried to make their case for postseason play with a win against Indiana, beating the Hoosiers in Indiana 78 - 71.

On the outside looking in for the NCAA Tournament in March, the Spartans needed a win to

help propel their case in both the Big Ten and National standings. They were able to achieve this with a big game from junior forward Aaron Henry, who scored 27 points in the contest.

At multiple points in the game the Hoosiers were able to go up by as much as nine points, earning an 88.9% win probability with 12:59 left in the second half after taking a 48 - 39 lead on Michigan State.

Sophomore guard Joshua Langford was the second leading scorer for the Spartans, putting up 14 points off of 5 - 6 shooting. Junior forward Gabe Brown also scored 14 points, shooting 5 - 11 from the field.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE FOR EXCLUSIVE ARTICLES AND PHOTO GALLERIES AT WWW.FSUTORCH.COM

Torch Corrections

Did we make a mistake?
Let us know!

Corrections can be submitted through email at fsutorcheditor@gmail.com or by calling 231-591-5978

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

DEADLINE: Wednesday, March 10, 2021

- ON THE RECORD -

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

Identity theft is not a joke, Jim

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

Identity theft

Feb. 18, 9:22 a.m., a suspect was caught stealing the personal information of two Ferris employees in an attempt to submit unemployment claims in their names. This case was handed off to the

fraud department of the Unemployment Insurance Agency’s fraud department for further investigation.

Update on “Pending Charges on Big Rapids racist stalker”

According to Ferris DPS, warrants have been issued for the arrest of the suspect in the investigation.

HONEST & AFFORDABLE CAR CARE

Mufflers • Brakes
Struts • Shocks
Undercarriage Specialist
**FOREIGN
AND DOMESTIC**



North End of Town
1204 N. State St.
Big Rapids, MI



FREE ESTIMATES
592-1204

A failover fail

What happened with the campus-wide network outage?

Jessica Oakes
News Reporter

Ferris' main campus experienced a network blackout from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm on Feb. 2. To prevent future outages, the IT department is working with technology vendor Merit Network on future fail-safes.

Merit Network is an Ann Arbor based nonprofit organization that provides Ferris with fiber pipelines. High speed network connection known as broadband is carried through these pipelines all over the university.

Bhavani Koneru, Chief Technology Officer of Ferris' IT department, has explained that the incident can be attributed to a router error.

"There was a problem with one of the pipelines that the vendor was fixing. But, at that critical point, the main campus was supposed to be failed over to a different pipeline," Koneru said.

In computing, a router is used to failover the network connection to a secondary one in case of primary connection fails. When the primary connection fails for any reason, the network is to be automatically failed over, or toggled, to a backup connection.

Despite thorough testing, the failover did not take place automatically on Feb. 2. Engineers from Merit Network and IT had to work together to identify and solve the issue while they manually routed the connection.

"The router was corrupted during the outage, so [IT worked with] the vendor in solving and fixing the issue with the router," Koneru said. Because the outage affected the network across the entire

campus, it was difficult for members inside the network to send updates, and members outside to receive them.

"We monitor our networks and systems. We received text messages that the main campus network was down, and this helped us start work on the issue immediately," Koneru said. "Students, faculty and staff working from home didn't see that we were down immediately."

Even in intense situations such as this one, Koneru ensures that there is no "panic mode." All the workers of IT remain calm and follow specific protocol.

"When IT gets this kind of critical stuff, we know exactly who should be getting it," Koneru said.

She received reports from Merit every ten minutes within the span of four hours and provided regular updates.

To Koneru, the most important thing to maintain in an emergency is communication with the university. IT provided recurring messages to the Ferris community through Ferris IT Alerts during the outage. One of the IT employees responsible for the network sent hourly university updates from his cell phone hot spot.

By 1:30 pm, the system had successfully failed over from the primary to the secondary line.

After the system had been fixed, engineers performed several more tests. Koneru stated that plans for further testing are in the works, as well as a joint effort with Merit to ensure a stable connection.

"As a contingency plan, I have asked my engineers to put in periodic testing and toggling of the signal," Koneru said.

Pharmacy students give back



Photo Spectrum Health Big Rapids

Spectrum Health RN Tina Malcolm administers a vaccine to Sandy May at Spectrum's COVID-19 vaccine clinic.

Students volunteer to help administer the 27,335 vaccines given in Mecosta County

Rebecca Vanderkooi
News Reporter

Ferris pharmacy students have been volunteering at the District Health Department's COVID-19 vaccine clinics.

Bethanie Dean is the immunization coordinator with District Health Department No. 10, which includes the Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana and Wexford counties. She explained that Ferris houses the vaccines for these 10 counties, and 27,335 vaccines have been administered to date.

"Students and volunteers have been a huge help and a wonderful addition to our clinics. We appreciate having them work with us and be a part of this historical time," Dean said.

One of the students who has been involved with vaccine distribution is Veronica Mills, who is in her second year of pharmacy school. She explained that it's mandatory to get certified to administer vaccines when enrolled in the pharmacy program.

"There's like 6 hours of pre-work, then an 8-hour live session and, at the end, you have to show the preceptors 3 intramuscular and 1 subcutaneous injection," Mills said.

Because she was already certified, it made sense for her to give back to the community by volunteering at the vaccine clinics.

"I've worked both a first dose and a second dose clinic and used the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine. Both of the clinics went very smoothly, and all the patients were very thankful," Mills said.

Sarah Aljajawi is another second-year pharmacy student who has been volunteering her time on weekends

at vaccine clinics. She has worked in both a first and second dose clinic.

After the first dose she observed that some patients had arm soreness, which is common with all intramuscular injections including the flu shot.

"With second doses [the reaction is] like 50/50. Some people will have mild headache, tiredness, fatigue a little bit of soreness, maybe a sore throat," Aljajawi said.

Despite a few mild adverse effects, Aljajawi explained that overall, most patients getting the vaccines were incredibly appreciative.

Aljajawi was also quick to point out that often the effects she's witnessed are signs that the vaccine is doing its job.

"It's just your immune response, so your body is saying, 'I've seen this before, and I'm going to get it this time,' so really it tells us that the vaccine [is] working," Aljajawi said. "Even if you don't have that reaction, it doesn't mean the vaccine isn't working. It just means that your body didn't have that immune response."

Aljajawi emphasized the importance of continued mask and social distancing protocols even as more people get vaccinated. One reason for this is because scientists don't yet know if the virus can be carried by people who have been vaccinated.

"If we get everyone vaccinated faster, then we can slowly move back to normal life, which I think everyone wants to get back to," Aljajawi said.

Both Aljajawi and Mills intend to continue volunteering at vaccine clinics. According to the Health Department, the clinics will continue at least through the summer.

"Based on the state's prediction, the general population could expect to start getting vaccinated towards the end of summer. This all depends on... how fast the state can vaccinate other priority groups," Dean said.

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 or call (231) 591-3803.



**LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK AT
FERRIS STATE
TORCH**

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/

The Ferris State Torch welcomes comments on topics of interest to the general readership. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and The Torch reserves the right to edit for length. Letters will not be edited for grammar, punctuation or spelling. The Torch will not print letters deemed to be libelous or obscene. All letters must be signed by their authors and include his or her phone number.

Unsigned editorials appearing on this page are the opinion of The Torch and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the university's administration, faculty or staff. Signed columns represent the opinion of the writer. Inquiries regarding editorial content should be directed to the Editor in Chief at (231) 591-5978.

To advertise with the Torch, contact Danette Doyle at the Pioneer Group: (231) 592-8391. didoyle@pioneergroup.com

Student media retain the same rights, responsibilities, privileges and protections afforded by the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and under applicable state laws.

The Torch and fsutorch.com, the student newspaper and its accompanying online version focused on Ferris State University, are public forums for student expression. Student editors have the authority and responsibility to make all content decisions without censorship or advanced approval for both the print and online editions of the student newspapers.

- TORCH STAFF -

- | | |
|--|--|
| Editor in Chief
Cora Hall
(231) 591-5978 | Reporters
Austin Arquette
Brody Keiser
Alyssa Hubbard
Jessica Oakes
Rebecca Vanderkooi |
| Production Manager
Charlie Zitta | Freelance Reporters
Bailey Sergott
Brandon Wirth
Jeremias Gaytan
Kendall Rooks
Matthew Miller
Meghan Hartley
Trenton Carlson
Melina Talentino |
| Production Assistant
- | Managing Copy Editor
Kaylin Johnson |
| News Editor
Noah Kurkjian | Copy Editors
Alyssa Myers
Brandon Newman
Hannah Kinlaw |
| Lifestyles Editor
Marissa Russell | Distributor
Rebecca Vanderkooi |
| Sports Editor
Brendan Sanders | Adviser
Garrett Stack
(231) 591 - 5869 |
| Multimedia Editor
Cassidy Jessup | |
| Social Media Manager
Veronica Mascorro | |
| Podcast Manager
Marissa Russell | |
| Visual Content
Dylan Bowden
Becca Witkowski | |
| Special Editions Editor
Noah Kurkjian | |

EDITOR'S COLUMN: Taking a hard look at ourselves

By Cora Hall

Ever since I took over as Editor in Chief, increasing the diversity in our coverage has been at the forefront of my mind.

I've been working for this newspaper since I was a freshman in the fall of 2017. When I joined, there was only two other students of color besides myself, and neither of them were in editorial positions. One of them went on to eventually be our multimedia editor and is still one of my good friends.

But, while I didn't notice it then, there was very little intentional effort made towards increasing diversity in our coverage. We had the practice of taking headshots of the people we interviewed back then, and let me tell you, a lot of them were white.

And I get it, the Ferris community is predominantly white, no matter how much the university pushes for greater diversity.

But as a student newspaper, we have to examine our intentions and how our coverage impacts our audience, especially those in marginalized communities. We have to take a hard look at who we hire and promote and how diversity in the newsroom impacts our coverage.

I think some of the important questions we could ask ourselves are: whose voices are we giving a platform to and should we be giving a platform to who we are? Who are we choosing to interview for certain stories and why? Are there efforts being made to meaningfully tell the stories and uplift the voices of our students of color?

I think that's an area we have fallen short in, in the past, asking ourselves these questions and making a conscious effort as a result of our answers. And it's not as though the intention was the opposite, or we had racist staff members. But I don't think there was a concerted effort towards diversity and it just perpetuated the same coverage of white students and mainly white student voices in the newspaper.

That's part of the reason why I pushed for us to dedicate our monthly insert to Black History Month and delegate four full pages to Ferris' Black history and students. It's why I focused on stories to elevate our Black athletes' voices whenever I contribute to our sports section.

To me, this is not an option — it's a standard, and one I put every effort into holding

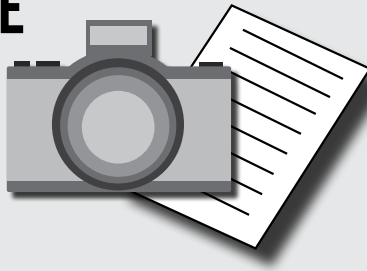
my staff to. I am not saying we are perfect, but I am saying that this is an expectation I hold for our paper and this is something we think about now.

The other part of this is making sure we are not tokenizing people of color in our coverage. We shouldn't just be interviewing people of color for stories we think pertain to them—we should be interviewing them in all different kinds of contexts. We cannot only interview our Black students about the Black Lives Matter movement. We should be interviewing them about their thoughts on politics, university news and lifestyle pieces. Do you see the difference?

Representation matters so deeply, and if all of our students cannot see themselves in our paper, are we really a student newspaper that represents the student body? I don't think we are.

If there is one lasting impression I can leave on my staff, it is the importance of making conscious efforts towards increasing representation in our staff and our coverage as a whole.

JOIN US AT THE TORCH! WE ARE HIRING



LOOKING FOR: PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

COME AND VISIT US AND FILL OUT AN APPLICATION! OR CONTACT OUR EIC: CORA HALL

GOT AN OPINION?

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

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!

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

Ferris State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, veteran or military status, height, weight, protected disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by applicable State or federal laws or regulations in education, employment, housing, public services, or other University operations, including, but not limited to, admissions, programs, activities, hiring, promotion, discharge, compensation, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, or retention. Retaliation against any person making a charge, filing a legitimate complaint, testifying, or participating in any discrimination investigation or proceeding is prohibited.

Students with disabilities requiring assistance or accommodation may contact Educational Counseling & Disabilities Services at (231) 591-3057 ecds@ferris.edu in Big Rapids (including statewide students) or the Director of Counseling and Disability Services for Kendall College of Art and Design (KCAD) at (616) 451-2787 ext. 1136 MarieYowitz@ferris.edu in Grand Rapids. Employees and other members of the University community with disabilities requiring assistance or accommodation may contact the Human Resources Department, 420 Oak St., Big Rapids, MI 49307 or call (231) 591- 2150 Humanresources@ferris.edu.

Inquiries and complaints of disability discrimination may be addressed to the Director of Accessibility, Arts and Sciences Commons 1017, 820 Campus Dr., Big Rapids, MI 49307 or by telephone/email at (231) 591-3057 JulieAlexander@ferris.edu or to the Director of Equal Opportunity, 120 East Cedar St., Big Rapids, MI 49307 or by telephone/email at (231) 591- 2152 EqualOpportunity@ferris.edu.

Individuals with complaints of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, may address those complaints to the Title IX Coordinator, 805 Campus Dr., Big Rapids, MI 49307 or by telephone/email at (231) 591-2088 KaitlinZies@ferris.edu or to a Deputy Title IX Coordinator, including the Director of Equal Opportunity, as above; the Extended and International Operations Director of Student Services, 151 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or by telephone/email at (616) 643-5741 JocelynGoheen@ferris.edu; and the KCAD Dean of Student Success, 17 Fountain St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or by telephone/email at (616) 259-1113 SandyBritton@ferris.edu.

Other inquiries or complaints of discrimination may be addressed to the Director of Equal Opportunity, as above.

Updated August 13, 2020

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

He loves me, he loves me not

Is it better to have loved and lost, or to have not loved at all?



Melina Talentino
Freelance Reporter

I think most people have been there, sobbing into their Ben & Jerry's, watching "Pride and Prejudice" after getting dumped for the third time in your twenties (not that it's happened to me). You can't help but wonder when you will find your Mr. Darcy while you continue to get your heart broken by men you lowered your standards for then fell in love with anyway.

Is the well-known quote from Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all" just something people say to make the broken-hearted feel better?

My instinct used to call bullshit on this. How could romantic sorrow possibly be better than a blissfully ignorant heart? But with time and understanding, I've come to

realize that Tennyson raises a good point: failed relationships improve us more than we'd like to admit.

According to a study published by Sage Journals in 2011, the biggest regret on most Americans' minds is actually romantic. This study was conducted by University of Illinois' Mike Morrison and Northwestern University's Neal Roesse. They surveyed 370 adults who were asked to detail their biggest regret. Almost 20 percent of those surveyed cited romantic regret as their primary regret, the largest of all categories. The most interesting aspect of this study is that most said their romantic regret had something to do with what they didn't do as opposed to what they did.

We must ask ourselves, was the heartbreak worth the momentary happiness? Although amorous despair is difficult to get past, it's important when moving onto future relationships. Whether you've endured trau-

matic love, puppy love, or true love, all are versions of life-shaping epiphanies.

What happens when you really get to know someone and you begin to see all their flaws? Are these flaws things you can accept, like not closing the cap on the toothpaste? Or are they more serious, like being told you can't talk to the opposite sex without your partner getting really jealous? I believe that devastations are the preliminary experience to contentment. You must endure what you don't want in order to discover what you do.

In doing this, you are given the opportunity to decide what you accept and expect from the people in your life. No failed relationship is a failure because we learn from them what we are willing to compromise on and when something strays too far from our own core values. Time will bring clarity on this, as it may be impossible to recognize this in the moment.

You mustn't expect to find lasting love the first time around – it takes practice. Losing a love may feel like losing a piece of yourself, when in reality, you will gain undiscovered fragments of your personality and expectations that you didn't even realize were there. Once you grasp the idea that settling is unnecessary on a planet with nearly 8 billion people, the world is your oyster. You cannot expect the wrong people to love you the right way. Do not give up on love, even if the love you thought was forever is over. Be vulnerable. Give your heart the chance to try again.

So, is it better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all? Yes, that I am absolutely certain of. Healthy love exists. The pain of loss does not overshadow the gratification of love, it instead makes it all the more valuable.

He was not your Darcy, he was just another Wickham.

We can be upset about cultural appropriation

Find something to love within your own culture



Alyssa Myers
Copy Editor

Black culture is beautiful and it has slowly evolved into what it is today. Some parts developed out of necessity and some out of sheer creativity. It is something that I am proud of. Which makes it all the more upsetting when I see non-Black people take it, manipulate it and try to pass it off as their own. I'm not saying that you can't be interested in Black culture or see it as beautiful. You can appreciate a culture without appropriating it. I do it all the time.

One of the things I find most frustrating about the appropriation of Black culture is the fact that non-Black people will embrace certain parts of the Black experience, while there are Black people who hate themselves because of

those same parts. Self hatred is prevalent in the Black community.

Don't you wonder why that is? It's because American society conditions people into believing that there is one way to be and if you don't fit inside that mold then you're defective, unattractive and unwanted. Not everyone is secure with themselves and their differences, so they fall victim to this flawed ideology.

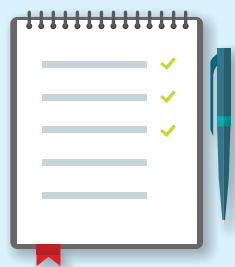
That is why you cannot appropriate someone else's culture. If you don't belong to that group than it's a costume that you can put on and take off whenever you please. But to the people in that group it can be both a source of pride and a liability. You don't get to pick and choose because we don't.

Take African American Vernacular English (AAVE) for example. There are arguments over whether it's a dialect or a language, but many agree that AAVE cannot be classified as a form of broken standard English because it isn't standard English at all. Contrary to what many on the internet

believe, AAVE is not a form of internet slang. AAVE goes back to the Atlantic slave trade. A popular theory is that AAVE is the result of the contact between enslaved Africans, indentured servants and slave owners. A common misconception is that AAVE speakers are uneducated.

What I'm trying to say is that today many non-Black people on the internet adopt and integrate AAVE words and phrases into their vocabulary and think nothing of it. It's "trendy" now. While there is a whole group of Black people who speak AAVE because that's natural for them and they get labeled as "ghetto" or "unintelligent". In fact, it is very common for AAVE users to switch to standard English, or code switch, when speaking to someone outside of their minority group in order to avoid these judgements and have equal opportunities.

The line between appreciation and appropriation can be hard to discern at times, but that doesn't excuse your ignorance when you engage in behaviors that are blatantly disrespectful.

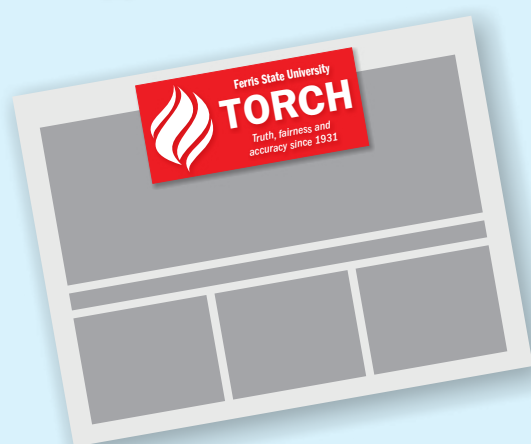


Want to write for the Torch but don't have the time every week?

The Torch is now accepting freelance articles!

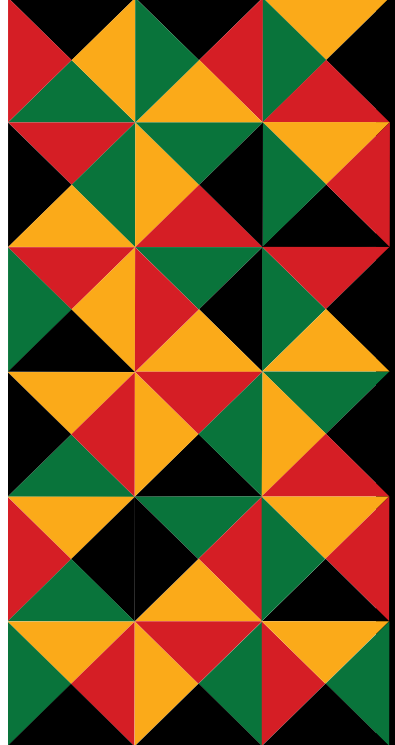
Pitch your story idea to our Editor in Chief, Cora Hall. If we like your story we'll send you out to report and write, and if we publish it, you'll get paid.

Email hallc36@ferris.edu for more information or to pitch at story!



CELEBRATING

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



A lifelong commitment

John Matlock speaks on social justice, his time at Ferris & working with Rosa Parks

Alyssa Myers
Copy Editor

Detroit native John Matlock boasts an expansive repertoire of knowledge, work and life experiences, but it didn't always look like he was going to live the life he has.

When Matlock was 16 years old, he dropped out of high school and found himself working in a Detroit auto factory for four years. While he was there, he connected with laborers who had been there for decades. They called him "young blood" and encouraged him to go to college so that he didn't follow their path.

This got Matlock thinking, and he decided that he wanted to do something better. In response, he got his GED, applied to Ferris State University and was accepted and enrolled in the spring of 1968. When he stepped off the bus at Brophy Hall, all he had with him was a footlocker that carried his life's possessions.

Leading up to this moment, Matlock had grown up and come of age under the civil rights movement, and it would continue to impact him for the rest of his life.

"Another reason why I left Detroit — it was after the riots. And I said, 'Man I got to get out of here.' Because I knew that if I hung around there, I would probably get in a lot of trouble," Matlock said.

One of the first activities Matlock got active in at Ferris was the Torch. He started out in the sports section, and one of his first assignments was to cover a football game.

"I didn't know how to type or anything; I just wrote everything out longhand. [I] violated every principle of journalism, because I had never had a journalism course or anything. And lo and behold, after they published the story, they asked me if I wanted to become sports editor," Matlock said.

1968 was the year Martin Luther King Jr. was killed. Around that time, there were a few protests taking place at the University of Michigan, so the students at Ferris decided to have their own. They took over Starr auditorium.

Once the building closed at 9 p.m., they were officially labeled as trespassers, and they were arrested. The entire Black student population of around 230 at Ferris — with the exception of a few — were still there. The

state police came in, loaded them onto a Ferris State University bus and took them to the Lake Guard armory. The next day, Albert Wheeler, the state president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, came and cautioned that suspending all the Black students would be a bad look. The charges against them were soon dropped.

"I remember [John] McNamara saying, 'You guys think you accomplished something, but now what do you do?' And that remained with me," Matlock said, regarding the advisor for the Torch at the time.

Matlock notes that the civil rights movement empowered Black students on campus. There was a proliferation of student organizations. He himself went on to become president of Alpha Phi Alpha and the first Black Editor-In-Chief of the Ferris State Torch. It also opened their eyes to the reality that there were problems at the university.

After Matlock graduated with his Bachelor's in business administration from Ferris, he secured an internship with the Detroit Free Press. He then completed a Master's degree in journalism and a PhD in higher education administration from the University of Michigan.

He spent a decade serving as chief of staff for U.S. Representative John Conyers Sr. of Detroit and U.S. Representative Harold Ford Sr. of Tennessee. He started out working for Ford, but a desire to get back and connect with Detroit brought him to Conyers.

While he ran Conyers' office, he worked with civil rights activist Rosa Parks.

"I was so fascinated with Ms. Parks. Ms. Parks would ask me, 'Is it okay if I don't come into work tomorrow, because I have something to do?' And I'd sit there and say, 'Why is Ms. Parks asking me? Ms. Parks could do whatever she wanted,'" Matlock said.

He remembers that everyone in the office had a deep respect and admiration for Parks and describes her as a soft-spoken person who could speak no words and still make an impact.

During their time together, Parks taught Matlock valuable lessons. She had a lifelong commitment to social change, and she always found a way to be involved.



Photo courtesy of John Matlock

John Matlock started his journey at Ferris in 1968 and participated in the sit-ins on campus.

"I think one of the things COVID-19 has demonstrated is that there are still vast differences in terms of economic ratio, racial inequality, health and education," Matlock said. "It's a never ending story. I always used to tell students, 'You're actually in this for life. You may do things differently, but you still have to have a commitment to social justice and social change.' All those accumulate ... Starting at Ferris, with us getting

arrested and being loaded on the bus. All of that accumulates, and it's something you have to be fully committed to at all times."

Though he has now retired, Matlock is still devoted to this duty.

Matlock will be hosting a conversation on over zoom through the Office of Multicultural Student Services 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 25. See our online version for the zoom link.

What's inside

Delta Sigma Theta becomes active on campus again

pg. 2

'Still we climb': comparing Amanda Gorman and Maya Angelou's poetry

pg. 3

Biden makes promises for racial equity in executive order

pg. 3

Black excellence in Ferris athletics' history

pg. 4

Delta's return to campus after seven years



Photo courtesy of Kalisa Williams

Pre-pharmacy senior Kalisa Williams is the president of Delta Sigma Theta.



Photo courtesy of Adrienne Anderson

Adrienne Anderson poses with her father, who is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, another Divine Nine organization.



Photo courtesy of Ellyse Ghoston

Delta Sigma Theta vice president Ellyse Ghoston joined because of her family ties to Divine Nine organizations.

Women of Delta Sigma Theta reflect on family ties, sorority history

Cora Hall
Editor in Chief

When Adrienne Anderson walked onto Ferris' campus in 2017, Delta Sigma Theta had been inactive since 2013.

It was a reality that scared her, not having a Divine Nine sorority active on campus for her to join. It's a part of her family history, according to the nursing senior. Growing up, Anderson had seen her father continue to be a part of and make impacts through his fraternity, and it was something she knew she wanted to be a part of.

"When I heard the first whiff of wind that Delta Sigma Theta was coming back — and that's the sorority I knew I wanted to do — I was so excited and I jumped right on it and did what I had to do and here I am," Anderson said.

Anderson's line, named "Waiting to excel," has eight members and reactivated the sorority on campus for the first time in seven years. The process of picking members for new lines of sisters, while Anderson could not go into detail, involves picking women who are representative of the values of Delta Sigma Theta and carry on the traditions the founders envisioned.

For Anderson, joining Delta Sigma Theta has given her a deeper bond with her father, who is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi.

"I'm finally in a position where I can truly understand what it's like, because now I have the experience. I mean, granted not as many years as he does," Anderson said. "But now, I can see firsthand what he has experienced and what he goes through and it's an amazing experience. It brings us — I mean, that's my father, so we're already close — but definitely closer because we can have those conversations about what our history was, or how our organization or fraternity started, or anything along those lines is definitely giving me an inside look as to what like greek life brings."

The values of sisterhood, scholarship and service were ones that were modeled for elementary education senior and vice president Ellyse Ghoston by her aunts, who were in Delta Sigma Theta as well.

"I kind of grew up, just watching my aunts all that they did through Delta, and I just

knew that that was something that I wanted to be part of," Ghoston said.

For pre-pharmacy senior Kalisa Williams, the sorority has given her sisters that she never had growing up. Williams, whose family didn't grow up going to college, didn't know anything about Greek life until Anderson approached her about joining Delta Sigma Theta.

"Going into

this, I did not know anybody, only person that I knew was Adrienne because we had played basketball together," Williams said. "So it was just literally me and her in the beginning and from then on, once we first met each other, everybody kind of connected on a level that I was like 'alright, we got this, this my sister.' And from then on, it's been great, all the relationships that I have in my sisters is amazing."

Williams, now the president of the sorority, was unsure of taking on the responsibility at first. She credits her sisters and prophytes for their support as she learned her new position. Prophytes, the Delta alumni, act as mentors to many current Deltas. Mentorship is an important function for the sorority, according to Ghoston and Williams.

"I think it's good for us to see how our mentors, what they did and how they mentor us for when it's time for us to do it again," Ghoston said. "I definitely think that all of us want to have that impact on someone. Even if it's a person who's older than us, or someone who's younger than us. To just have that impact, that positive impact for them, even if they decide

will always be a part of it and our history stands on it."

Delta Sigma Theta was founded on Jan. 13, 1913 at Howard University by 22 women. According to the official Delta Sigma Theta website, these women aimed to "use their collective strength to promote academic excellence and to provide assistance to those in need."

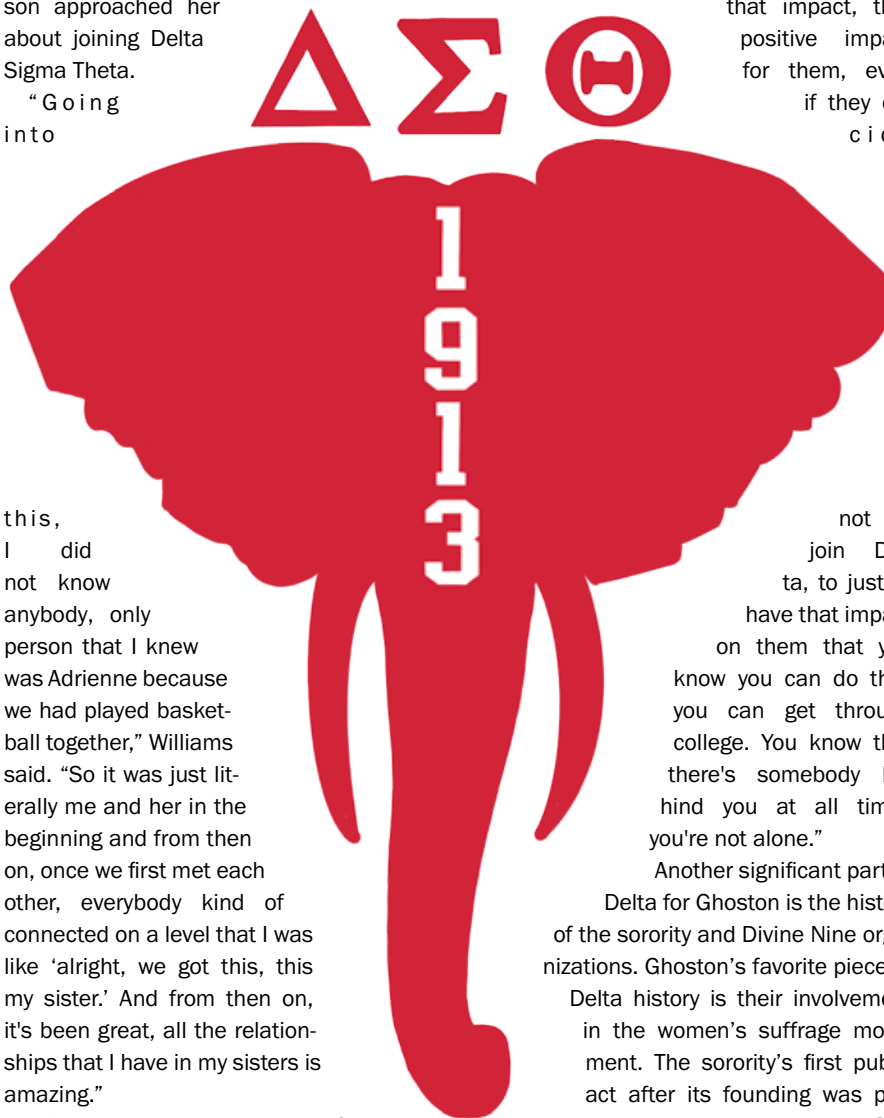
Delta is one of the Black Greek Letter Organizations in the Divine Nine, several of which were founded at Howard University. BLGO's were founded "due to the trials and tribulations that many Black people were facing," according to the NAACP Connect website. Black students were often banned from joining social organizations, and so throughout the beginning of the 1900s, the Divine Nine were founded.

Williams, Ghoston and Anderson all feel a sense of pride being associated with a Divine Nine organization and its famous alumni, such as poet Maya Angelou, Vice President Kamala Harris and the late actress Cicely Tyson.

"Even though I'm not an AKA, seeing how far Kamala (Harris) went and her goals, because she's (Divine Nine), we're all proud," Anderson said. "It is a very much so a sense of pride, because we all share pretty much the same history ... So, to see somebody go through different struggles that African Americans typically go through, be able to reach office, a high level of office, and then be the first African American woman to do that? Oh, I can do that too and she's a mentor to me, even though she's not Delta."

Anderson said Black History Month is always a time of reflection, and now it's a time for her to dive into her sorority's history.

"We're about to do this event where all my sorority sisters that are on campus are going to pretend to be a famous delta," Anderson said. "So that gives us an opportunity to learn about somebody we typically haven't known or seen in the history books or there's a movie on, but that gives us a chance to enhance our knowledge on people that have come before us. I think that it really gives us an opportunity to just dive deeper into our history."



not to join Delta, to just to have that impact on them that you know you can do this, you can get through college. You know that there's somebody behind you at all times you're not alone."

Another significant part of Delta for Ghoston is the history of the sorority and Divine Nine organizations. Ghoston's favorite piece of Delta history is their involvement in the women's suffrage movement. The sorority's first public act after its founding was participating in the Women's Suffrage March in Washington D.C. in March of 1913.

"I think our history is a main part of who we are and will always be a part of who we are as an organization," Ghoston said. "We stand on sisterhood, scholarship and service. Those are some of our main things and that is something that we will always do, we

Still we climb



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Manager

The poetic excellence of Amanda Gorman and Maya Angelou



Jessica Oakes
News Reporter

“We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the west.
We will rise from the windswept northeast,
where our forefathers first realized revolution.
We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the midwestern
states.
We will rise from the sunbaked south.
We will rebuild, reconcile and recover.”

“The Hill We Climb” by Amanda Gorman

The sentiment of 22-year-old poet Amanda Gorman echoed through both the streets of the United States Capitol, and the hearts of listeners. On Jan. 20, Gorman performed “The Hill We Climb” as the inaugural poet for President Joe Biden.

Inspired by a desire for peace and unity following the 2021 storming of the United States Capitol, Gorman wrote this poem in only one week. Themes of hope, endurance, and, most importantly, rising saturated every line.

“I think a lot of times in cultures, we think of the ways in which we can cleanse ourselves with water. I think of the ways that we can cleanse ourselves with words,” Gorman said to Daily Show host Trevor Noah.

As great artists do, Gorman offers respite from the harshness of life in her work. This practice did not come easy, however. While it may be hard to believe, Gorman was born with a speech disorder and related auditory processing issues. This made it difficult for her to pronounce certain sounds, such as the letter ‘R.’ To overcome this, Gorman would recite the song “Aaron Burr, Sir,” a piece filled with the sound, from the musical Hamilton.

Gorman’s passionate, colorful, and melodic recitation of “The Hill We Climb” was reminiscent of another poetic work of art: “Still I Rise” by Maya Angelou.

“Leaving behind nights of terror and fear,
I rise.
Into a daybreak that’s wondrously clear,
I rise.
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.”

“Still I Rise” by Maya Angelou

Published in the 1978 book *And Still I Rise*, this poem details a different sort of rising. Independence. While Gorman wrote to rally the masses in the name of harmony towards a bright future, Angelou puts this power into walking alone towards a future so uncertain.

“Still I Rise” is about being personally resilient against all odds. Angelou embodied this all throughout her life, using literature as a vehicle through hardship.

According to respectability.org, Angelou was selectively mute for five years of her childhood following a traumatic sexual assault, and subsequent murder of the assailant. She believed her voice was a weapon and refused to use it. During this time, Angelou absorbed and memorized literature.

Both Angelou and Gorman show exceptional artistry in their words, and they both have addressed the nation as inaugural poets. For President Bill Clinton’s 1993 inauguration, Angelou recited “On the Pulse of Morning.” She was not only the first Black person to do the honors, but the first woman as well. This type of representation is important to young artists.

“Seeing Angelou’s star in the sky made my faraway dreams seem all the less remote,” Gorman said to NBC News.

As a writer and a woman myself, I admire both of these poets. Their commitment to language, and ability to inspire others is remarkable. I believe Black History Month is a wonderful time to direct the spotlight to these women, among many other influential figures. As a white person, I believe there is importance in cementing their voices into the conversation year-round.

After a year of potent suffering felt around the world, may Gorman and Angelou’s words be a reminder of strength and light to us all.

Looking forward federally

President Joe Biden signs executive orders for racial equity

Rebecca VanderKooi
News Reporter

On Jan. 20, Joe Biden was inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States. Since taking office he’s signed dozens of executive orders, including some dealing with racial equity.

“Equal opportunity is the fundamental promise of America. But systemic racism and discrimination in our economy, laws and institutions have put the promise of America out of reach for too many families of color,” the White House website said before listing four of the orders Biden signed.

1. The first of these orders is for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to advance fair housing. In the order Biden explained that the goal of this order is to stop discrimination for any reason regarding housing and “to take steps necessary to redress racially discriminatory federal housing policies.”

2. Another order is for the Department of Justice to end its use of private prisons. This is a step towards police reform after the killing of George Floyd in May of 2020 and the subsequent protests to end police brutality and systemic racism.

“To decrease incarceration levels, we must reduce profit-based incentives to incarcerate by phasing out the federal government’s reliance on privately operated criminal detention facilities,” Biden wrote.

3. The third order is to reaffirm the federal government’s “commitment to tribal sovereignty and consultation.” In this order, Biden plans for the Federal Government to communicate with tribal leaders in communities such as American Indian and Alaskan Native Tribes. The goal of this order is “empowering self-determination, and advancing racial justice for Native communities,” wrote Biden.

4. The fourth order is to “combat Xenophobia Against Asian American and Pacific Islanders.” The intent of this order is to combat anti-Asian discrimination, bullying and harassment that has increased in this past year due to the pandemic.

“It also directs the Department of Justice to partner with AAPI communities to prevent hate crimes and harassment against AAPIs,” the White House website said.

Black excellence in Ferris athletics

Read about five of Ferris' most decorated Black athletes in the Hall of Fame

Brendan Sanders Sports Editor

Some of Ferris States' greatest athletes are Black, with 19 players listed in the Bulldog Hall of Fame being Black. It is great to look back and appreciate some of these amazing accomplishments these players were able to make while spending their collegiate careers as Bulldogs. Here is a comprehensive list of five of the greatest Black Ferris athletes of all time.

Data from this article was collected from Ferris State's sports Hall of Fame page, with other data coming from NCAA record books and other historical outlets.

Corey Bouyer

Corey Bouyer may not be a name that many students may know but playing for Ferris from 1968 to 1970, but he is considered to be the greatest athlete of all time for the Bulldogs. He is the only NAIA champion in school history. The Georgia native set an NAIA record with a time of 50.74 in the 440-yard intermediate hurdles in 1970 and was a three-time NAIA track All-American. He was a two-time (1969-70) NAIA runner-up in the 120-yard high hurdles as the Bulldogs placed 11th nationally in the 1970 Championship on his 18 points alone. He once set a school record by scoring 34.5 points at the 1970 Ferris Invitational.

Bouyer held 10 indoor and outdoor Ferris hurdles records and won 28 of 30 indoor individual events in 1969. He set an indoor 440 record of 50.2 seconds the only time he competed in that event. Bouyer, who earned 10 varsity letters, was a defensive back for Ferris' first undefeated football team in 1968.

Dennis Johnson

Dennis Johnson is another athlete that many current students may not know about, playing for Ferris from 1969 through 1973. He continues to rank as the school's all-time leading scorer after compiling 2,312 career points. Standing at six feet six inches, he also holds FSU's career rebounding mark with 1,156 boards and set the school's all-time record by converting 892 career field goals.

Johnson led the Bulldogs to their first-ever GLIAC championship as a senior in 1972-73. In his four-year career, Ferris registered an 80-28 (.741) overall record, highlighted by its 26-4 mark in his final season under head coach Jim Wink.

An All-GLIAC honoree, Johnson posted team season-bests in both scoring and rebounding each of his final three campaigns. His 698 points and 279 field goals as a junior (1971-72) presently rank first among the school's single-season leaders. The Detroit Redford High School product holds three of FSU's top five individual single-season scoring performances as well as Ferris' career made free throw

mark (528). A three-time NAIA All-District 23 pick, Johnson was a three-time Bulldog Most Valuable Player.

Johnson was drafted by the NBA's Detroit Pistons and the ABA's Utah Stars upon concluding his collegiate career.

Sherri Jones

A three-time NCAA Division II Track and Field All-American, Sherri Jones ranks among the school's premier women's track and field athletes of all-time. She attained NCAA-II Indoor All-America kudos with a sixth-place finish in the 4 x 400-meter relay in 1987. The versatile Jones also attained NCAA-II Outdoor All-America accolades in both 1987 and 1988 by placing seventh and sixth, respectively, at the national meet.

Jones, who continues to hold the school's all-time outdoor 400-meter hurdle record with a time of 1:00.15, is listed among FSU's top five all-time leaders to date in two indoor and four outdoor events. She also ranks tied for first among the Bulldogs' all-time 600-yard run performers after clocking a finish of 1:28.04 in 1986. The Muskegon West Shore Christian Academy standout earned the 1986 outdoor track and field Most Valuable Player honor at Ferris and was a two-time recipient of the Bulldogs' indoor MVP award. Her eight individual GLIAC championships currently are listed tied for fourth on the school's all-time list.

Jones, is also known to have held more school records following her career than any other previous FSU performer with ten records to her name by the time her career here at Ferris ended.

Monty Brown

Monty Brown, a linebacker for the Bulldogs in the early 1990s, was the first Bulldog athlete in school history to be named both a first-team All-American and a first-team Academic All-American. The linebacker went on to play for five years in the NFL and was a member of two different Super Bowl teams before beginning a career in professional wrestling.

Brown placed fifth as a national finalist for the Harlon Hill Trophy awarded to the NCAA Division II Player of the Year in 1992 after twice receiving first-team all-conference accolades. The three-time first-team league all-academic team pick was the conference co-player of the year in 1992 and the school's MVP as a senior.

Brown continues to hold the school record for fumble recoveries in his career and ranks second with 584 total tackles and 12th in sacks (17.5). In addition, his 16 career interceptions are also second in Bulldog history and he led Ferris in tackles three consecutive seasons (1990-92).

Brown played football professionally for five years, competing in Super Bowl XXVIII for the Buffalo

Bills in 1994. He also started as an inside linebacker for the New England Patriots in 1996.

After his career in the NFL ended, Brown became known for his time with both WWE ECW brand, where he wrestled under the ring name Marcus Cor Von and, prior to that, Total Nonstop Action Wrestling, where he wrestled under his given name. In both arenas, he utilized the nickname "The Alpha Male." Brown also has wrestled for a number of independent promotions, including Blood, Sweat and Ears, Juggalo Championship Wrestling, and the Universal Wrestling Alliance. He even had his own action figure.

Clarence Coleman

Clarence Coleman often goes unnoticed when talking about the greatest Bulldog football players of all-time, especially with the recent successes on the field by the like of Jayru Campbell, who very nearly made this list after his massive 2018 season. But Clarence Coleman had a career that still lives on in both Ferris State's and NCAA's record books.

Coleman was a three-time (1999-01) All-American and in 2001 finished fifth as a national finalist for the Harlon Hill Trophy. Coleman completed his four-year career that spanned from 1998-2001 ranking second all-time in all NCAA divisions with 323 receptions and tops in NCAA Division II, a record that still stands today.

In his 2001 senior season, Coleman received first-team All-America honors from the American Football Coaches Association, Associated Press, Daktronics, Football Gazette and D2Football.com, along with being tabbed as the Football Gazette's Receiver of the Year for the second season in a row. He was named to the Football Gazette's All-America Honorable Mention Team as a sophomore in 1999 before attaining first-team laurels in 2000. Coleman earned All-America plaudits in 2000 from the Associated Press, D2Football.com and Daktronics.

A two-time team Most Valuable Player, Coleman is the Bulldogs' current career record holder in receptions (323), receiving yards (4,983), touchdown catches (42), all-purpose yards (8,009), consecutive games with a reception (42), punt returns (103) and punt return yards (1,494). He holds school single-season marks for receptions (97 in 2000), receiving yardage (1,519 in 2000), touchdown receptions (15 in 2000), all-purpose yards (2,618 in 2001) and receiving yards by a freshman (994 in 1998).

Coleman went on to play professionally for the NFL's Buffalo Bills (2003-04), along with the Grand Rapids Rampage (2007) and the British Columbia Lions (2008-09) of the Arena Football League and the Canadian Football League.



Photo courtesy of Ferris State Hall of Fame

Corey Bouyer



Photo courtesy of Ferris State Hall of Fame

Sherri Jones

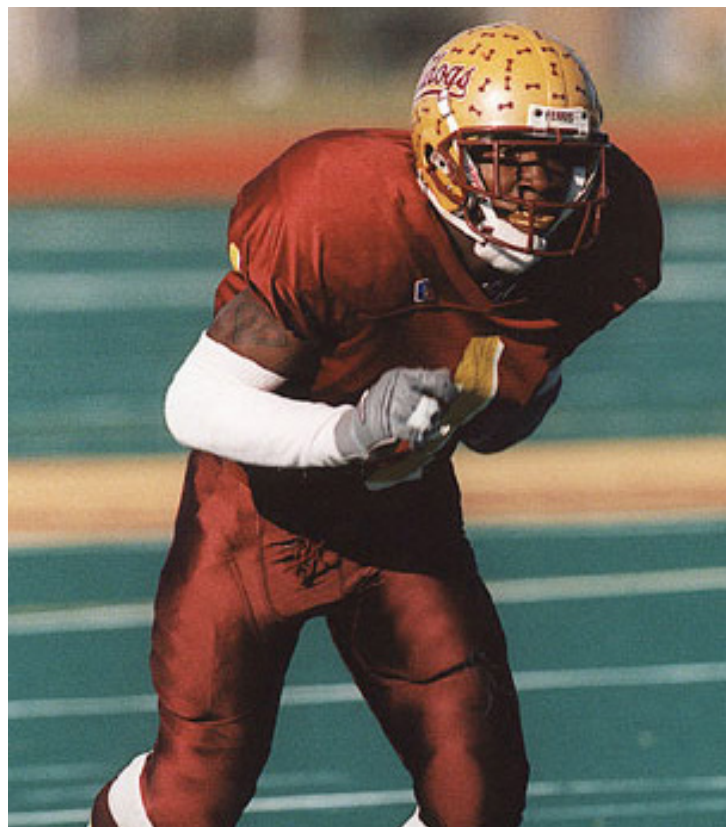


Photo courtesy of Bulldog Athletics

Clarence Coleman

LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

The power of imagination

How Dungeons & Dragons creates a fun escape from reality

Alyssa Hubbard

Lifestyles Reporter

The popular roleplaying game Dungeons & Dragons has been a source of entertainment for decades and has especially helped some people forget about their troubles right now.

The year was 1972 in the town of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin when D&D was created in a basement by Gary Gygax and Dave Anderson. In order to get this newly created game published, Gygax developed his own company called Tactical Rules Studies Inc. D&D quickly rose to popularity and became the adventurous ever-evolving game people know it as today.

According to the official D&D website, "the core of D&D is storytelling. You and your friends tell a story together, guiding your heroes through quests for treasure, battles with deadly foes, daring rescues, courtly intrigue, and much more."

Players create their own characters to use throughout the game, each with varying strength, intelligence, dexterity, wisdom and constitution. Game Masters or Dungeon Masters build and lead the story lines for the players' quests. People can play D&D in small or large groups and the game can last as long as the group wants.

Technical and professional communication professor Zoe Wendler was introduced to D&D in 1997 when she was 12 years old at Tomahawk Boy Scout Camp in Wisconsin. Wendler has been enjoying playing D&D for the past 24 years and says she grows more in love with it every time she plays.

"What I love about the game is that, fundamentally, it's about social cooperative storytelling," Wendler said. "You can have a roleplaying game for everything, but it's all about sitting down with people and telling a story together that's fun and gives everybody a chance for self-expression, to contribute equally to the creation of something that is much greater than the sum of any of the parts. That's the thing I love most, by far, about D&D."

An important quality of D&D that sets it apart from other games is the amount of creative freedom people have when planning and while playing the game. In a sense, players can be or do anything they'd like to, given the Game or Dungeon Master allows it.

"I love the fact that you can do whatever you want," manufactory engineering technology senior Jacob Webster said. "Like if you want to have a dwarf who plays a whistle that makes a cat dance, you can do that. The world is open to what ever you can think of and I really like that. I additionally like to play with my buddies because seeing them deal with the problems that we face is really fun."

Webster pointed out that players can choose to have themed adventures based in existing worlds like Star Wars. Conversely, players can even go on average, non-magic adventures like searching for a missing person or treasure.



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Dungeons & Dragons is a popular storytelling game that allows players to create their own characters to use throughout the game.

For many players, D&D is a chance to step away from reality and all its hardships for a few hours.

Biochemistry junior Keegan Zender started playing D&D in 2015. Zender began to appreciate it more recently because of the personal stresses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It gives me an outlet to do something that I actually enjoy, especially after being cooped up inside all the time now," Zender said. "It lets you forget all the stuff going on right now like politics, the pandemic and everything. It just lets you jump into a different mind set and you can have fun."

After playing D&D for a few years now, Zender realized something about himself that he never noticed before.

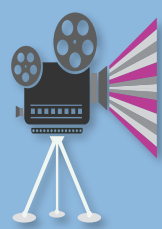
"I truly aspire to be chaotic," Zender said. "There are a lot of really chaotic things that I wish I could do but don't because I know they'll have repercussions."

Zender, Webster, and Wendler get together with their respective D&D groups on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to continue their characters' journeys or begin new ones. It's a tradition they've found a lot of joy in doing with their friends.

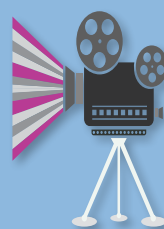
They also said that the D&D fanbase is a dedicated and passionate group. Wendler

and her father hand built a custom-made gaming table, which folds up into a dinner table or opens into little desks where people can set up their areas for a D&D session. Wendler said this is her "pride and joy piece of furniture right now."

Some devoted D&D fans have even traveled to creator Gary Gygax's memorial in Geneva, Wisconsin. Fans place their game dice onto the memorial's stone to be "blessed" by Gary Gygax.



Media Minute



Kendall Rooks
Freelance Reporter

In honor of Black History Month, I would like to shine a light on not only my favorite movie but a movie that aided in the breakthrough of Black filmmaking. "Moonlight" directed by Barry Jenkins is a remarkable 2017 Oscar-winning coming-of-age drama. In my personal opinion, this film deserves all the hype.

"Moonlight" is an adaptation of Tarell McCraney's unproduced play, "In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue". The movie has a three-act structure and takes place in the 1980s. Each act is titled for what the main character, Chiron, is called at the time the act takes place: Little, Chiron and Black. In each act, Chiron is in vastly different stages of life. There are three separate actors playing Chiron in each of these stages. Interestingly enough, the three actors never met during "Moonlight's" production. Somehow still, their characters flow and grow so seamlessly. This seamless acting can be traced to the skill and sensibility of Jenkins.

The film follows Chiron's fight to simply become himself. According to a SPIN article, "Moonlight is a film conscious of how failing institutions destroy the Black community: Institutionalized Black men replace drug dealers, and a surrogate father (Juan, played compassionately by Mahershala Ali) can only do so much good if he's also making a living by selling crack to a mother...But these cycles are mentioned in passing as checkpoints in a brutal reality. What makes this film a frontrunner for film of the year [2017] is its central, the process of establishing identity-that queerness and race are not biological traits, but rather sociological ideas." The film shows how as we grow and interact with society, our identity evolves along with us and we will be forced to fight the perceptions and burdens.

There is a high expectation of masculinity in society, specifically for Black men. "Moonlight" is an examination of the fragility of Black masculinity. According to a One Room with a View article, "as Chiron grows older, he recognizes the need to conform to this heteronormative idea of Black masculinity. He has two choices: embrace his sexuality in the knowledge it will open him up to abuse and hatred or perform the identity of a straight Black male and live a quieter life." Jenkins includes scenes where the characters 'break the third wall' and look directly into the camera. He makes the audience responsible for examining the body language of the character.

The film is very subtle, it is not made to be showy. You have to look for the beauty inside the film on your own. The movie is told almost through color and I find that very beautiful. For example, in the movie red indicates evil and bad things to come. Often in the film antagonists will appear wearing red or in front of red doors. Yellow indicates cowardice and fear, white indicates friendship and trust and black indicates toughness. These colors are not even the end of the color symbolism used in the movie. Jenkins is masterful in his use of colors to set mood and tone and tell a story. It is very clear why the film was awarded Best Picture at the Oscars.

The film has racked up a ridiculous number of awards from multiple different organizations. Some of the most notable include Best Picture and Best Supporting Actor, Mahershala Ali, at the Oscars. \$1.5 million was spent to make the film and it unsurprisingly achieved significant financial success earning \$75 million opening in the US alone. The success of the film demonstrates the vitality of having people of color behind and in front of the camera telling their stories. Moonlight can be streamed on Netflix.

Events calendar

WEDNESDAY Feb. 24

Leadership Academy RSO Essentials: Risk Management and Event Planning

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

LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coffee House

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

Prevent, Treat, Recover: An Inter- professional Approach to Substance Use Disorder

Contact: Cassandra Falk
kolkac@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Virtual Games

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

THURSDAY Feb. 25

Leadership Academy Group Leadership: Equitable Leadership

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

Spring Book Club: Wisdom of the Animals

Contact: Christine Labby
labbyc@ferris.edu
Location: Zoom
Time: 12 - 1 p.m.



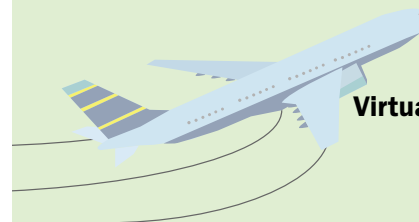
FRIDAY Feb. 26

Virtual Study Abroad Workshop

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

Virtual Concert - John Rush, The Human iPod

Contact: Lane Steffke
steffkl@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 7 - 8 p.m.



For more events, check out 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

SCAN THE SPOTIFY LINK TO
LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST



Proper mask etiquette

A few things to keep in mind when wearing your mask in public



Photo by: Becca Witkowski | Torch Photographer

DoorDash's mask policy states that Dashers and customers should wear masks when deliveries are handed off.

Meghan Harley
Freelance Reporter

Similar to how we have etiquette for dinner and online, it's become a new normal to understand etiquette with your mask.

At this point, it is generally understood that people need to wear a mask when out in public, indoors and in spaces with a large group of people, but there are still differing ideas on whether people should be wearing their masks outside of the generally expected places.

Etiquette is defined as "the customary code of polite behavior in society or among members of a particular profession or group."

It is also defined as something used to create personal security. Knowing expectations can make you feel comfortable in new situations.

Many people have opinions on what good practices of mask etiquette entails. Ferris junior Zay Gentry, who works at Jimmy Johns, said a good practice is to just put your mask on any time you leave the house.

"When you are about to walk into a building just throw your mask on above your nose and below your chin," Gentry said. "This mask is literally here to protect you. Just sneeze into your mask, cough into your mask. Just for your own safety,

honestly, it doesn't get much deeper than that."

Gentry also mentioned how interesting it is that some people coming into Jimmy Johns simply refuse to wear a mask and will throw a fit when asked to do so.

For some people, it is believed that being asked to wear a mask has taken away their right as a person. One man even went as far as yelling at Gentry's manager that he would not wear a mask and that they needed to serve him anyways.

While some people think that it is not necessary

According to DoorDash's Mask Policy on their website, "In order to protect the safety of all users of the DoorDash platform, as of August 31, all Dashers, Merchants, and Consumers who use the DoorDash platform must wear a face cover or mask while they are interacting with other platform users. This includes while deliveries are handed off from Merchants to Dashers or to Customers, and while deliveries are handed off from Dashers to Customers."

Many workers say they are simply trying to do their job and don't wish to cause any trouble with the customer for trying their best to keep everyone in the building as safe as possible.

When it comes to entering a place it takes only seconds to put on a

mask so that you can be considerate of others and have a sense of good etiquette with your facial covering.

Another important aspect of mask etiquette is to keep in mind to not touch your mask once it is on and to keep it over your nose and mouth.

After having your mask on out in public touching it could be spreading germs onto your hands and then onto anything you touch.

If you do decide to touch your mask make sure that your hands are clean before and after touching anything. This method also goes along with when you take your mask off for the day.

Another method of good mask etiquette can be in the form of communication.

"Being patient to those you are talking to," Lucy Arbanas, a freshman working at the Optometry center as a secretary said. "The mask may cause misunderstandings and prevent the other person from hearing you. This also means you should be doing your part by speaking loudly, clearly, and using diction to make your point across."

It's important to be able to still have clear communication with others around you even if there is a slight boundary between reading each other's expressions.

Let's talk about leadership – in animals

Professor releases book, "Wisdom of Animals," sparking book club on campus

Melina Talentino
Freelance Reporter

In 2012 after wrapping up his keynote speech on animals and leadership for the Ferris Honors RSO, he had an epiphany. "This could be a book," he thought to himself, and so the 10-year process of research and digging through the heart of adversity had begun.

Patrick Bishop is a professor in the College of Business and has been at Ferris for 14 years. He is currently the program champion and a professor for public relations, he is also the advisor for the on-campus RSO, PRSSA. On Sept. 18, 2020, Bishop released his first ever book, "Wisdom of the Animals": a nature-led journey into the heart of transformational leadership. In his book, he discusses over 21 animals from all over the world, intertwining their characteristics with those of all-encompassing leadership ideologies.

"I was finishing up my doctorate, which is in leadership, and I was also doing a lot of soul-searching at the time too and going through a little bit of a rough period," Bishop admitted when referring to the root of his inspiration for writing "Wisdom of the Animals." "I was trying to bring together leadership, psychology, and spirituality." He gained a lot of muse from a structure by Richard Rohr which is a progression of order, disorder, and reorder. "It's kind of a growth of leadership, like a maturation of people as they get older and as they get wiser they go through these stages of growth of order, disorder, and reorder," Bishop explained. He

got permission from Rohr himself to use this structure, he even attained a positive quote of review from Rohr that is now displayed on the back of his book.

It's not every day that a Ferris professor publishes a book, so the Center for Leadership, Activities, and Career Services (CLACS) decided to start a book club displaying Bishop's work and offer a free copy to any students who choose to join.

Public relations senior, Zach Schildhouse, is among one of those who grew curious to experience the message of the book. Having known Bishop for a few years now through the public relations program, Schildhouse stated "I would expect the book to be well written/thought out. As well as opening the reader up to new ways for self-examination. It'd quite honestly be like having a condensed version of one of his classes to take with you anywhere."

If someone were to ask you for an example of a good leader, who would you say? But Bishop believes that there is a huge misunderstanding of what leadership is. Bishop explained in reference to those few who would choose Hitler. His goal was to write a book displaying a new framework for leadership and how we look at it, measure it, and what we strive to be.

"A leader should be holistic in what they do. It is about the metrics of succeeding, but it's also about compassion and respect, service and sacrifice. We've really forgotten the humanity side of the equation in my opinion."

By being a public relations student, Bishop's pupils know the basis of his values and



Photo courtesy of Patrick Bishop

Public relations professor Patrick Bishop released his book last fall called "Wisdom of Animals."

respect the philosophies that he presents. That's why public relations senior Katie Gilligan decided to join the book club.

"When I think of Dr. B, I instantly think of leadership and creativity," said Gilligan.

He also offers extra credit to students who post blogs regarding his book, so that's an added advantage.

He's already received numerous encouraging reviews from readers.

"It's framed as a book of tools you can use to become a better leader, but the facts Dr. Patrick Bishop presents also apply to being a better person in general," Natalie B. wrote in a review from Amazon.

Bishop's book is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Walmart, and Schuler.

SPORTS

Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor | sandeb16@ferris.edu

Greatness in her DNA

Assistant coach Jasmyn Walker product of historic Ferris basketball family

Cora Hall
Editor in Chief

Swish.

The sound of a basketball falling seamlessly through the net of the Walker family's driveway hoop was a familiar sound for Jasmyn and her younger siblings, Jordan (Jordy) and Jarvis II (Jay). Especially when they played with their parents—Ferris Hall of Famers Jarvis and Danielle (Smith) Walker.

Whether it was early mornings spent getting shots up or a casual game of 21 — well, as casual as it gets with a family full of hoopers — the driveway at the Walker's home in Muskegon holds a wealth of memories for Jasmyn.

"It's funny, because even still, to this day, we go out when all of us are home — which is extremely rare now — but when all of us are home together, we'll go outside, play around the world or whatever," Jasmyn said. "And my dad comes and plays and he [asks] 'what's the motto?' and we're like 'daddy doesn't miss,' and he's just bottom of the net, always — really, he doesn't miss."

Now, the Walker family history at Ferris has come full circle with Jasmyn stepping into the assistant coaching position for the women's basketball team. In one sense, all the pieces fell into place for her to coach at her parents' alma mater, but in another, her whole life had been leading up to this.

Jasmyn was a standout on Mona Shores' varsity basketball team from the time she was a freshman. It was there she made a future Ferris connection in head coach Brad Kurth, who would go on to serve as assistant coach to former head coach Kendra Faustin for three years. Walker was four-time All-State and MLive's player of the year her senior year, when she averaged 18.6 points and 8.6 rebounds per game.

She then went on to Valparaiso University, where she played under Kurt Westendorp, who is the current women's basketball head coach — Ferris connection number two. As a 5-foot-10 forward, Jasmyn was named to the All-Freshman team as a true freshman, setting the rebounding record for freshman with 250 boards. After her sophomore year, she decided to transfer to Western Michigan University, where she played under Shane Clipfell. She surpassed 1,000 career points while playing for the Broncos.

But her connections to Ferris have been there her whole life — they're in her blood.

A family of hoopers

Having one parent in their university's Hall of Fame is one thing, but having both parents' names on plaques on the wall? It's nearly unheard of. Jarvis and Danielle were inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2004 and 2007, respectively. Those ceremonies are moments Jasmyn remembers vividly, though she wouldn't fully realize the significance of the honor until her own collegiate career.

"You know, I laugh with my mom and dad and my siblings, we didn't understand how

big of a deal it was until the we got older," Jasmyn said. "Because it's not an everyday thing and it's not a common thing. Growing up with two Hall of Famers in the home, I'm like OK, yeah, all right... But it's such a big deal. Because I go everywhere, and I see their names, or I see pictures of them."

In a family full of basketball players, casual trash talking is the norm and Jasmyn said the kids would often joke with their parents about who the best hoopers are in the family: "Hey, you guys, you thought you were hooping, but you're not hoopin' like we were," Jasmyn said. "When in reality, they were drastically better than we were."

That competitive spirit was inherited from their parents, no doubt. In a zoom call with Jarvis and Danielle, when the timing of their Hall of Fame inductions was brought up, there was immediate banter about who was first.

"He was first," Danielle said begrudgingly. "Even though I don't want to admit it, but he was first."

According to both parents, Jasmyn and Jay talk the most trash in games of HORSE or 1-on-1 in the driveway—though they were sure to mention in serious settings, their kids weren't really trash talkers. After a minute or two of deliberation, however, Danielle rescinded her votes for biggest trash talker in favor of Jarvis Sr., who didn't deny the statement, just laughing at the claim. "He talks the most trash," Danielle said. "But, then he wins, and so there's nothing else to say, right?"

When it comes down to talent, though, the younger Walker siblings certainly did not miss out. Jordy, who was Michigan Miss Basketball in 2017, graduated from Western Michigan in three years and is a graduate transfer at Tennessee. Jay graduated from Muskegon High School in 2020 and is at Division I Purdue-Fort Wayne to play basketball.

One of the game day traditions was the pregame meal—and if any of the kids were with their dad, they knew what to expect: a gordita crunch from Taco Bell. Don't ask him why, though, because he's not quite sure himself.

"They just brought it up a couple weeks ago," Jarvis said, chuckling. "It was just like a ritual...nine times out of 10, it was Taco Bell, I don't know why, I was just going to get a gordita for them and they get a pop and that was their pregame meal, but they will go out and play and have good games, and then they brought it up last weekend, 'why what would you get us that for [pregame]?'"

There was never pressure from their parents to even play at all, but there was a natural love of the game in all three kids. The only condition was, "if there's something you want to do, be committed to it, and once we start something, we don't quit," Jasmyn said.

Jarvis explained another part of the no quitting policy was, more importantly, never quitting on themselves. And as parents, they made it clear that if the kids wanted to play, they would do everything they could to help them, on one condition.



Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

Jasmyn Walker poses with her mother, Danielle (Smith) Walker's plaque in Ferris' Hall of Fame in Wink Arena.

"The biggest thing we had was, don't waste our time," Jarvis said. "If you're not going to give 110% when you go out there, don't waste our time, let's not do this. Because we don't have the time, you know. Money, we can make—but time, we cannot make, so that was the biggest thing."

Along with the high level of competition and commitment, though, there were still relaxed, more playful moments of basketball, too. Countless pickup games in the driveway, queen of the court and around the world are fond memories in her mind. Naturally, the trash talk is still present.

Despite the days in the driveway "beating up on each other," there's an understanding between the siblings of wanting the best for each other and playing a part in each other's success, like when Jordy won Miss Basketball.

"Those days where we're getting up early in the morning to go shoot before school, and then shooting after school and before practice and after practice, or putting in the work where I'm like, that's where she earned that," Jasmyn said. "That's the time that she put in and you know, Jay and I, we know we helped on that. So it was never pressure to do anything, but it was always like, I want them to be proud of me."

From player to coach

It was that very work ethic that stood out to all of Jasmyn's former coaches. Westendorp had known the Walker family since Jasmyn was young and knew when recruiting her that he was getting a "really hard worker" and "really high character player." The opportunities she got right away at Valpo she made the most of, a quality that was already ingrained in her from high school.

Kurth said the same of her when she was a freshman four years prior.

"She won an opportunity to play varsity as a freshman, and we really didn't know where, what level she would compete, how many minutes or anything like that," Kurth said. "But she just kept making a difference on the floor and we had a hard time keeping her off the floor."

There was no question who the hardest worker on the team was in Kurth's eyes after Jasmyn's freshman year, and it was her work ethic that set the tone for the whole team. Western Michigan head coach Shane Clipfell called Jasmyn a blue collar player who was not only consistent, but resilient during her junior and senior year.

"She just put her work clothes on and came to work every day," Clipfell said. "She was a good leader, both by example and verbally. So she had it working on both sides of that. I think that's when you have some of your best, capable leaders, is when they walk it and talk it, and she did."

In the end of January of 2018, Jasmyn tore her ACL in a fluke injury. She felt herself pulling away from her team, stuck in her frustrations about an injury that should have been preventable. Jasmyn always prided herself in her consistent lifting, yet she still suffered one of the most brutal injuries in sports. One of her coaches noticed her distance from the team and challenged her: her season was over, but the team's wasn't.

"What can you do for the team, besides sitting on the sideline, kind of pouting?" Jasmyn said she was asked. "And I was like, you know, okay, you're 100%, right. That's selfish of me to feel like that."

Walker | see page 12

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Volleyball

Feb. 19 - Ferris 3, Northern Michigan 2
Feb. 20 - Ferris 1, Northern Michigan 3

Men's Basketball

Feb. 19 - Ferris 89, Purdue Northwest 75
Feb. 20 - Ferris 77, Purdue Northwest 80

Women's Basketball

Feb. 19 - Ferris 60, Purdue Northwest 63
Feb. 20 - Ferris 84, Purdue Northwest 49

New Rules

COVID-19 policies have Ferris track athletes 'scratching their heads'

Brody Keiser
Sports Reporter

Members of the Ferris track team are upset about the impact COVID-19 rules and regulations have on their season.

The GLIAC is allowing spring athletics to take place in 2021, but the rules regarding COVID-19 and how players must handle the situation with the virus have multiple of Ferris's track runners frustrated. Junior runner Travis Feldpaush has a different mentality this year than in his previous seasons.

"I don't have much motivation to get out and do something," Feldpaush said. "For so long, they took away the team aspect of training and we had to do it on our own. We weren't able to connect with each other, and I really did not want to train by myself. I'm not doing the things I should be doing."

That mentality bled into Feldpaush's first two meets this year, as he acknowledged that those meets did not go as well as he had hoped.

For Feldpaush and his teammates to even compete in meets, they must test negative for COVID-19 a minimum of three times a week to be eligible to compete. According to Feldpaush, Ferris athletes are tested three times a week; however, if they could test negative six times in a week, they could race in meets without a mask on.

"For right now, I don't think Ferris can afford to test us six times a week, so we're just doing the three times a week, so we have to wear masks while racing," sophomore runner Ethan Hamilton said. "We also have to fill out the symptom checker every day. It's pretty crazy stuff."

Ferris athletics did not respond to an email inquiring about COVID-19 testing funds and policies.



Photo by: Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor

Brendan Cairney, Casey Bouman, Weston Rackley and Donis Harris train early in the morning after their latest indoor meet.

While the Bulldogs must race in meets with their masks on, other schools like Grand Valley State University have raced without their masks. Feldpaush said this is because Grand Valley has the funds to test their athletes six times a week. Both he and freshman runner Claudia Wilkinson believe the Lakers who were not wearing masks had a competitive advantage over runners with masks during races.

"You look at them and see they don't have a mask and just think 'oh my God,'" Feldpaush said. "You're already digging yourself a hole when you see that, and it just feels like a lot of mental games."

In terms of the difference between three and six negative COVID-19 tests in a week and how the three additional negative tests allow athletes to compete without masks, Feldpaush said everyone is "scratching their heads about that one."

Feldpaush said officials will not stop the race if a competitor's mask falls down while racing. However, the officials tell the runners immediately after the race to put the mask back on.

"When we get done, they tell us we have to put it back on," Feldpaush said. "It's kind of a pain in the ass, I mean, who's going to be able to keep their mask up while racing?"

Outside of the mask falling off during a race, Hamilton said the most severe consequence for voluntarily taking the mask off at a meet is disqualification. He added that the precautions taken at meets are "pretty insane."

Despite being tested multiple times a week, the Bulldogs are required to wear masks while training on campus as well.

"I get tested three times a week and all those tests are negative, but I still have to wear a mask,"

Feldpaush said. "We are supposed to wear the masks when we're doing anything. If we're at the meets by ourselves, we have to wear it. If we're at practice by ourselves, we have to wear it. It's definitely not my favorite thing in the world."

Hamilton echoed similar frustrations regarding mask wearing during training.

"We have to wear masks running around campus, during workouts, and pretty much everything," Hamilton said. "It's mandatory. We had a few complaints early in fall semester with people telling us to wear our masks while training, so we're pretty strict on that. It makes running a little bit more difficult, especially with thicker masks and when it [was] hot out. It's really not a fun time."

Wilkinson views training in the mask differently than Hamilton and Feldpaush. She has become

accustomed to running with her mask on.

"I've gotten used to it, so it really hasn't been that big of a deal," Wilkinson said. "Since we run outside, it's actually been nice because my face stays warm. I have had opportunities, like when I'm at home running by myself, to run without a mask and I almost get too much oxygen, so it kind of throws me off."

Right now, Hamilton is not racing because of a heart condition caused by his COVID-19 diagnosis last summer, preventing him from joining his teammates. However, he is frustrated that he cannot even attend meets to support his teammates.

"If you're not racing, you're not allowed to go to the meets," Hamilton said. "They don't allow spectators or fill-ins. It's bad for us guys that don't race because we want to be there for our team to cheer them on. We usually have to watch the meet by paying a \$3 stream fee and watch from our houses."

Feldpaush is racing this season, and he looks forward to seeing people at a sporting contest again. COVID-19 has disrupted sports for nearly a year now, and a track meet feels like a small sense of normalcy for Feldpaush.

Without any national championships this season, Wilkinson is focused on making conference and preparing for the outdoor season.

COVID-19 makes this season different from past seasons and has frustrated runners, but the season will go on. As Feldpaush said, he must focus on the small victories he can get this season, and one of those small victories for him is simply that track is back.

The arrival of aces

Bulldogs officially begin 2021 volleyball campaign

Brandon Wirth
Freelance Reporter

After over a year since their last match, Ferris volleyball finally took the court this weekend with a season-opening split against Northern Michigan.

Friday's opening contest was a very close call, with the Bulldogs needing five sets to pull off the victory, 25 - 8, 32 - 34, 25 - 23, 23 - 25, 17 - 15.

"We are super excited to win against a good team like (Northern)," head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm said in her post-game press conference.

The Bulldogs came out red hot in the opening set, scoring 12 of the first 14 points. This came with help of three service aces from junior Samantha Hermann.

"Serving is one of our main things we practice," Hermann said. "I definitely couldn't do it without the help of everyone."

The Bulldogs' intensity was unmatched by the Wildcats, leading to the first set win for Ferris since December of 2019.

The next set was much more evenly matched. Despite having 11 errors, the Wildcats outlasted the Bulldogs in an extended second set needing 66 points to be settled.

"We knew that Northern is really aggressive and have been working hard this last

year," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "We knew they would be this good."

After trading wins in the third and fourth sets, the match came down to a fifth set. The Bulldogs took multiple commanding leads, but the Wildcats fought back to tie the set twice, including at 15 - 15. With a kill by Kira Merkle and a service ace by Katie O'Connell, the Bulldogs prevailed to their first win of the season.

When asked on how the Bulldogs came out with the win, Brandel-Wilhelm said they were able to make the runs at the right time.

"We knew it would be a little bit jerky, not necessarily clean volleyball," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "I thought we kept our heads about ourselves and we worked to make the changes we needed to make."

Senior Katie O'Connell led the Bulldogs with 19 kills, followed by sophomore Kira Merkle with 12 and junior Samantha Hermann with 10. Freshman setter Kaylee Maat compiled 48 assists for the Bulldogs. Hermann also had four of the Ferris' nine service aces. O'Connell, junior Morgan Ross, and senior Nina Gorgijevska each compiled 17 digs for the Bulldogs in the back row. O'Connell also tallied seven of the 14 Bulldog blocks in the contest.

Saturday's match continued the tough back-and-forth battle. In the end, the Wildcats were able to get revenge with a 3 - 1 win.

In the opening set, both teams came out firing with a combined 28 kills. Northern Michigan's finesse tactic of soft kills gave the Wildcats a 25 - 16 opening set advantage.

"We started off pretty slow," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "We just weren't doing things we normally do."

Northern continued their strong start, winning 11 of the first 16 points in set number two. The Wildcats went on to take the set 25 - 18. The Bulldogs then came back with a vengeance, winning three of the final four points to come back and take set three 25 - 23.

"We started to do some of the things we were trying to do offensively and defensively," Brandel-Wilhelm said regarding set three. "We forced Northern to do different things."

Although both teams traded hot streaks in set four, it was Northern Michigan's turn to "get hot" at right time. After trailing 16 - 13, the Wildcats went on a 12 - 6 run to win set four and the match.

"Northern took advantage of the things we gave them," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "Northern is a really good volleyball team and played great."

Merkle led the Bulldogs with 13 kills in game two, followed by O'Connell (11) and Hermann (9). O'Connell also had 29 digs in the contest, with Gorgijevski and Maat adding 20

and 15 digs respectfully. Maat also had two service aces to go with her 43 assists.

When asked about the differences in game 2, Hermann felt they had an "off day" compared to Friday's opener.

"(Friday) we got the nervous 'jitters' out of the way," Hermann said. "(Saturday) was kind of 'one of those days.' It was a learning experience for sure."

Despite the 1 - 1 start, Brandel-Wilhelm and Hermann were glad to be able to finally take the floor again.

"I'm, more than anything, excited to be playing volleyball," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "(We're) seeing the ways we can get better and seeing the ways we are getting better."

"It was a surreal experience," Hermann said. "It felt really good to be back on the court again."

With their seventh-straight GLIAC title in sight, Hermann said this match brought the realization of what they need to do moving forward.

"Now, we know that we have a target on our back," Hermann said. "We have to go into every match with having a chip on our shoulder."

The Bulldogs will be back in action on Feb. 26 and 27, where they will travel to Lake Superior State.

Sports Speculation: Who is the greatest athlete of all time?

Austin Arquette
Sports Reporter

Throughout sports history, there is one question that continues to draw debate across every category: Who is the greatest athlete ever?

In their own respects, there are multiple “Greatest Of All Time” (G.O.A.T.) athletes, but only in their respective sports. When you look at the NFL you are thinking of players such as Tom Brady or Jerry Rice or even Joe Montana. Then you look at the NBA and the argument for the G.O.A.T. is either Michael Jordan or LeBron James. Tennis claims Serena Williams as their G.O.A.T. Finally, we have baseball, and nobody other than Babe Ruth is the face of the MLB.

Here is where this conversation gets interesting. Let’s first start with the NFL.

Seven championships, five super bowl and three league MVPs, two-time offensive player of the year and 14-time pro bowl player, Thomas Edward Patrick Brady Jr. is the G.O.A.T of the NFL. From the year Brady joined the league in the 2000 NFL Draft with the 199th pick in the sixth round by the New England Patriots, Brady began his climb to be labeled the greatest of all time in the NFL. Brady has become the only quarterback to win the Super Bowl in three different decades since he began his career

and continues to win at the age of 43. Brady has 34 playoff wins to add to his championship wins and has 230 regular-season wins. Brady has thrown for 91,653 yards in the regular season and postseason. With the most passing touchdowns in the regular season and postseason combined at 664, he also has won 17 division titles. Brady has won two unanimous awards: Sports News NFL Athlete of the Decade for the 2010s and the NFL 100th Anniversary All-Time Team. Brady also won the Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year in 2007 and Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year in 2005. Brady also won the Bert Bell award in 2007. Brady has won the Best NFL Player ESPY Award in 2008 and 2018. There is no debate of who the G.O.A.T. in the NFL is anymore.

Moving to the NBA, LeBron James’ biggest argument for labeling him as the G.O.A.T. is his all-around dominance of the sport. However, Michael Jordan has been the idol of the NBA for decades. The G.O.A.T. debate of the NBA boils down to Jordan and James. Jordan played a 15-year long career and won six NBA championships and was named the finals most valuable player in all six championship games. Jordan also added five total MVP awards and was a 10-time scoring champion with 14 all-star appearances. While Jordan is impressive and hard to beat,

James continues to chase Jordan as the G.O.A.T. in the basketball realm. James continues his 17-year career as he adds more NBA championships to his four rings. James has won the finals MVP award each of the four times he won the championship, but has appeared in ten NBA finals. James so far is a four-time MVP and was the scoring champion of the 2007-2008 season. James has been a 16-time all-star, but continues to play today and add to his career accolades.

“He’s still breaking records and adding so much more in his basketball resume and has changed the game for my generation,” Ferris State men’s basketball wing Deng Reng said. “He’s exceeded everyone’s expectations and can be the runner up as the all-time leading scorer of all time with a chance to win another ring. I don’t think anyone will ever get to the level LeBron is at.”

With these three athletes in the biggest conversations when it comes to who is the G.O.A.T of their sport, we cannot leave out tennis and the mention of Serena Williams. Ferris State women’s basketball sophomore guard Mallory McCartney said Williams is the true G.O.A.T in all sports. For any athlete to win an overabundance of titles is insane and Williams has won 23 grand slams. Her 23 Grand Slam titles are the most by any player, man, or woman, in the Open era, and the second-most all-time behind Margaret

Court, who has 24. Serena is the only player to hold all four Grand Slam singles titles on multiple occasions. Williams adds 73 Women’s Tennis Association titles and four Olympic gold medals.

“She is the most decorated athlete of them all, being able to step away and have a kid then come back to the sport and still be the best in the world speaks to her ability and her constant fight,” McCartney said. “She to me is the great athlete in all sports.”

Every sport has an established athlete that claims the G.O.A.T. status. However, the one athlete that stands out above everyone else is none other than Tom Brady. Brady threw for 4,633 yards and 40 touchdowns in 2020 while he led Tampa to a Super Bowl victory. Brady is one of just two quarterbacks to lead two different teams to Super Bowl titles. Jordan is the closest in the ranks to be crowned the G.O.A.T. of G.O.A.T.s but what puts Brady over the top is his legacy of championships and accolades, which continue to grow. Brady has stated he wishes to play until at least 45 but admitted he would play longer if he continues to perform like last season. When his time is up, Brady will have a legacy that will be untouchable and the sports world will miss this great legend.

Hockey drops another weekend series



Photo by: Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor

Junior goalie Roni Salmenkangas sits in the defensive position as he prepares to make one of his 36 saves on Friday, Feb. 19. Salmenkangas would allow five goals on 41 shot attempts by the No.3 ranked team in the country, Minnesota State. Ferris made a surprise upset bid on the national championship contenders, scoring four goals on 11 shots in the 5 - 4 overtime loss. The Bulldogs would fall to 1 - 19 - 1 after the pair of weekend losses.

WALKER

Continued from page 10

Soon she found herself giving her teammates feedback on post moves, how to play a tough defender in a game and coaching players on defensive reads. She started seeing the game from a different perspective and found her stride analyzing the game in a new way.

Danielle had always seen this in her daughter, though. She recalls Jasmyn in high school, a star player, still sitting at the end of the bench whenever she came out of the game with a clipboard, drawing up plays and talking other players through it.

“For me, it’s a cool thing because she’s not only my daughter, but now she’s coaching at the university I went to,” Danielle said. “But then also, she understands the game and so we can talk to her about it and I did a brief stint a couple of years at a Division I school coaching. I was a (graduate assistant) and so it’s interesting to talk to her about that... and she understands and so it’s been really fun, to be honest, it has been very fun.”

Jasmyn approached Clipfell after her senior year at WMU about the ‘So You Want To Be A Coach’ program run by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association. She was a member of their 2019 class, sponsored by WMU, and it was a pivotal experience for her to kick off her coaching career. Besides the seminars and networking, she ran into her old Valpo coach, which was Westendorp’s first sign that she should be on his radar for future positions.

When Westendorp was named Ferris’ head coach last summer, Kurth gave him the second sign. Kurth, who had known Westendorp from his time at Ferris and recruiting, gave him a call.

“When he got the job I called him up and I said, ‘you’ve got to hire Jasmyn Walker. She’s what you’re looking for,’” Kurth said. “I was super happy when that hire was made, and I thought it was a perfect fit.”

Representation matters

While she is not the first, Jasmyn is currently the only Black woman on any of Ferris’ paid coaching staffs. She is one of just four Black coaches among all 13 teams.

Growing up in the suburbs and attending first Mona Shores in high school, a product of white flight, and then Valparaiso, Jasmyn is familiar with being one of the few Black people in her community.

“Growing up in places where it wasn’t always people that look like me, and I didn’t have any Black teachers or anything like that,” Jasmyn said. “Then to go to Valpo, where it was fewer people who looked like me, and if they did look like me, we’re all athletes. None of us were coaching staff.”

It wasn’t until she got to Western that Jasmyn found a larger Black community, and even had a Black woman as an assistant coach. Now, she can be the coach for her Black players to identify with. During her mother’s career, Danielle said there were no people of color in the women’s program, something that would have meant a lot to her.

“If you have the opportunity to have someone of color on the staff, I think it is huge for young ladies playing, I really do, and I want to see it. I think it matters and you know I’m glad for the young ladies that are on the team,” Danielle said. “I’m proud of her for that and I think she’s built for it, she is built for the challenge. I think that her experiences are going to help her as she navigates that water, because it is tough. In women’s athletics in general, it’s good to see more women in it and certainly women of color.”

While Jasmyn calls it an amazing time to be in coaching with the efforts now to increase diversity on coaching staffs, she clarified that she never wants to be the token Black woman. She points out the increase of diversity initiatives were created due to the current social climate, “when maybe these conversations were needed all along the way.”

“This time that we’re in, there’s a lot of diversity councils and diversity staff and things like that, and not that I don’t want to be a part of that stuff, I absolutely do,” Jasmyn said. “I think it’s important to have a different perspective at the table to have a conversation, and first off, for the table to include me and my perspective. But also making sure that you know, we’re not doing things for the sake of [doing them].”

“It’s kind of a double edged sword, I’m excited to be a part of the table, excited to be part of the conversation, but also frustrated because these are things that minorities and people have been saying for so long.”

She admits she doesn’t know if Big Rapids is exactly the place for her and her husband, Asantay Brown. But for minority coaches trying to get a seat at the table and increase diversity on coaching staffs, sometimes you have to go out on a limb. At the end of the day, though, she hopes she can be a different perspective in the community and someone for her players to identify with.