

Atlanta shooting prompts concern of rising anti-Asian bias

Officials declining to declare shooting of six Asian women as racially motivated

Hyun Jung (Kim) Grant

Daoyou Feng

Suncha Kim

Paul Andre Michels

Soon Chung Park

Xiaojie Tan

Delaina Yaun

Yong Ae Yue

Cora Hall
Editor in Chief

There was no longer shock or horror for political sciences professor David Takitaki when he heard about the shootings at three Atlanta-area spas on Tuesday, March 16.

He felt a degree of sadness for the eight people who were shot and killed, for the six Asian women who were murdered and for the fact that shootings like this were not shocking anymore. "It's just sad; I just see the headline, and my heart drops," Takitaki said.

Hyun Jung (Kim) Grant, Daoyou Feng, Suncha Kim, Paul Andre Michels, Soon Chung Park, Xiaojie "Emily" Tan, Delaina Ashley Yaun and Yong Ae Yue were the eight people who were killed in Atlanta by a 21-year-old white man, Robert Long. Authorities called the killings a premeditated trail of terror, according to the Washington Post.

Long told the police he was addicted to sex and was on a mission to eliminate the spas that he saw as temptations. He was arrested Wednesday, March 17 and charged

in all eight killings – four counts of murder and one count of aggravated assault for the attacks in Cherokee County and four counts of homicide in Atlanta, according to the Washington Post.

Cherokee County Sheriff's Office Capt. Jay Baker said in a press conference last week that "[Long] was pretty much fed up and kind of at the end of his rope. Yesterday was a really bad day for him and this is what he did," which sparked backlash that led to Baker being removed as the spokesperson for the case.

"The fact that the excuses were made is ridiculous on its very basis," Takitaki said. "Anyone who has any vague sensation of what's been going on in this country between law enforcement and people of color across the board should look at something like that as a primer on how to not communicate with the public as a police captain who is spokesperson for their department."

Office of International Education director Piram Prakasam said when he heard of the shooting, he

believed it to be targeting the Asian American Pacific Islander community and women, and that it's being brushed aside as a deranged person's actions instead of a systemic racial issue.

"Giving an excuse, saying he had a bad day, it's offensive to the people who have died," Prakasam said. "It belittles [the victims] and the depth of the tragedy. Words matter and 'bad day' is a very inappropriate choice of words in that it comes across as an excuse."

Pharmaceutical sciences professor Qian Ding, who moved to the United States from China when completing her graduate degrees, said she does not agree with the officials who are declining to categorize the killings as racially motivated.

"It's terrible for their families, it's tragic. The families of those people are ruined," Ding said. "If you just look at the numbers, six of the eight were Asian woman and... there is a high possibility that it's targeting minorities and targeting these Asian women."

No one can speak to Long's motivation, but if sex addiction was fully to blame, Takitaki said anyone could drive 10 miles from their home and find something that could be considered temptations, but the places Long chose were ones owned or populated by Asian Americans. "I find it difficult to believe that there wasn't a strip bar somewhere near those massage parlors," Takitaki said. "But that's what he chose. The fetishization of Asian women goes back a long way."

While the sexualization of women in general is an issue, the sexualization of minority and especially Asian women has a different tone, according to Takitaki. The direction, content and victimization tends to be harsher when it comes to minority women, he said. If the sexual addiction was the driving factor in the killings, Takitaki said that it would not surprise him if inherent in that addiction was "a conception of Asian American women as being both sexualized and submissive or somehow less human,

and that made it easier for him to do what he did."

The killing of the six Asian women is the peak of a rise in anti-Asian racism in the past year. The Stop AAPI Hate National Report recorded nearly 3,800 incidents from March 19, 2020 to Feb. 28, 2021, with physical assault making up 11.1% of all incidents. Verbal harassment made up the largest category with 68.1% of all reports. The report states that the number of hate incidents reported represent only "a fraction of the number of hate incidents that actually occur, but it does show how vulnerable Asian Americans are to discrimination."

While more obvious forms of hate incidents have come to light recently, members of the AAPI community have faced more subtle forms of racism for years. Takitaki, whose father is from the Island of Tonga, was born and raised in Grand Haven, where his mother is from. He said it was easy to be welcoming of the diversity that existed there, because the diversity posed

Atlanta shooting | see page 3

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NEWS

Noah Kurkjian | News Editor | kurkjin@ferris.edu

A launch towards success



Photo by: Dylan Bowden | Torch Photographer

Ferris' new tuition program is launching just in time for Ferris' fall return to in-person instruction

Ferris now offering tuition-free education to low-income students

Jerry Gaytan
News Reporter

Ferris is now offering a program that provides free tuition to students with a higher expected need of financial aid.

The Ferris Launch program allows cost-free tuition to students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher who also have zero Expected Family Contribution as determined by the students Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The program also requires that this is the student's first time attending college, the student is attending 12 or more credit hours a semester and that they are taking these credits on the Big Rapids campus. The program will be available to incoming freshmen starting the fall semester of 2021.

This program will only be covering tuition. Other expenses such as housing, meal plans, books and other supplies are not covered under the Launch program.

Melanie Mulder, the university's financial aid coordinator is looking forward to the program.

"I think it's an opportunity for new students that maybe wouldn't have considered Ferris an option for them in the past... to at least take advantage or consider it now. So I think it's a good thing," Mulder said.

In terms of qualifying, Mulder said that anyone that meets the GPA and EFC requirements will receive the funding.

Ferris's tuition is \$443 per credit hour or \$13,160 for the school

year taking 14 credits. Room and board are around \$10,724 for a school year.

The program does not require students to fill out a separate application to be eligible for the funding. Once their FASFA is submitted, they will calculate the student's family income and their expected monetary contribution to the student's education. Once this process is complete and Ferris receives it, they will automatically determine if there is applicable aid.

Launch will be mainly funded by the discretionary dollars set aside by the university according to Mulder.

"Students that qualify for Ferris Launch are receiving a fund called Ferris Merit Grant," said Mulder. "Current students have been receiving various merit grants if they met the eligibility requirements each year."

There is a difference between the currently offered merit grants and the new Launch program though as current students receiving these grants were never promised fully subsidized tuition.

According to the Ferris Launch website, the program is renewable when the student reapplies for aid through FASFA. The student must also be eligible for the Pell Grant each year as well as meet the terms of Satisfactory Academic Progress.

For more information visit the Ferris Launch page on ferris.edu.

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THIS WEEK IN MICHIGAN NEWS

Catch up on news around the state



Noah Kurkjian & Brendan Sanders
News Editor, Sports Editor

STATE NEWS

Marquette's Presque Isle Park closes road for a month to provide a safe place for the blue spotted salamanders. They typically spend their winters underground in the UP but when spring rolls around, they all come out of their winter hiding spots "almost in unison". The move to close the road came after over 400 of these amphibious creatures were run over. That is between 10% and 20% of the parks total population of blue spotted salamanders. Eli Bieri, a biology student at nearby Northern Michigan University, studied the blue spotted salamanders as part of his research, going out nights with student volunteers in the spring to

count and tag the amphibians according to the Detroit Free Press. "We would see thousands and thousands of salamanders crossing the street in just one night," he said. "It was really amazing — until we see cars zip by and squish salamanders. That really troubled me — it kept me awake at night." There are only mild grumblings about this closure says Tyler Penrod, a program manager with Superior Watershed Partnership. There have also been talks about making "eco-passes" which are underground corridors that the salamanders can use to cross and not need the road closures, however, no formal plans have been announced yet.

SPORTS

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Michigan State saw their season end in overtime against UCLA in the Round of 68 play in games on Thursday, March 18. Michigan State lost 86 – 80 to the Bruins of UCLA after blowing an 11 point halftime lead. The end of the first half was punctuated by a tense verbal exchange between Coach Tom Izzo and junior forward Gabe Brown that saw Izzo grab the Brown's jersey as he ran to the locker room before the duo were seen screaming at each other. Michigan State proceeded to be outscored 44 – 33 in the second half before being outscored again 9 – 3 in overtime. Junior forward Aaron Henry led the team in scoring with 16 points on the night. He also led the team in assists with seven while also tallying five rebounds. Senior guard Joshua Langford was second in scoring with 12 points. UCLA then upset no. 6 seeded BYU 73 – 62 to advance to the Round of 32.

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Michigan got off to a hot start as the no. 1 seed when they beat Texas Southern 82 – 66 on Saturday, March 20. The Wolverines advanced to the Round of 32 after blowing out Texas Southern, who were looking to become the second team ever to upset a No. 1 seeded team. Senior guard Mike Smith scored 18 points on the evening, leading the team in a well balanced attack that saw four players score over 10 points. Freshman center Hunter Dickinson would be second on the team with 16 points. Sophomore guard Franz Wagner led the team in both rebounds and assists with nine rebounds and six assists. Michigan beat the No. 8 seeded LSU Tigers 86 – 78 on Monday, March 22 in the Round of 32. They will face the No. 4 Florida State in the Sweet Sixteen 5 p.m. Sunday, March 28.

ATLANTA SHOOTING

Continued from front page

no threat to the community's overall white hegemony (dominance of a certain social group over others). "The fact that a few people had interesting names and darker skin tones didn't seem to matter much, because everybody kind of fell into the same cultural ethos," Takitaki said. However, the racial microaggressions were still present, though they were more subtle. It meant getting included less frequently, or getting moved from a front-and-center position at a watch and jewelry repair shop in high school because "older white ladies who were frequently customers weren't quite comfortable walking up to the large brown kid to have these particular details attended to." "Over time you start to recognize patterns and I think it's just like anyone who is a victim of blatant racism, you can see a mile away," Takitaki said. "Anyone who is being kind of just quietly and conscientiously excluded starts to see the pattern, even if other people can't because it does happen over and over again." One of the factors Takitaki believes influenced the recent crescendo of anti-Asian sentiment is

the language used when speaking about the COVID-19 pandemic, especially by politicians and former president Donald Trump. Members of congress called out Trump specifically for his use of the terms "China virus," "Wuhan virus" and "kung flu." The accessibility Trump had to a national platform through Twitter and his "ability to dominate a media cycle by typing 160 words into [his] cell phone" had "undoubtedly" influence conversations and opinions, according to Takitaki. "President Trump knew that he could activate big portions of his base and simultaneously defray his own culpability for a failed response to the pandemic by pointing the finger elsewhere," Takitaki said. "He did so deliberately and repeatedly and without really realistically any kind of forethought or shame." "So yes, absolutely, when you have someone like that, who is deliberately trying to recategorize and frame a tragic global pandemic, as being something of Asian origin, you are going to see people in the United States reacting to that." Ding believes that the increase in reporting should catch the public's attention as a serious issue, because Asian Americans were victims of the COVID-19 pandemic, too. "These are women, these are seniors, and those people are also vic-

tims of COVID-19," Ding said. "The Asian American community, they are not the people who should take responsibility for this virus and they are victims." Takitaki feels that over the last several years there has been an existing grievance of the "white, angry hegemony" and the COVID-19 pandemic has directed towards the AAPI community. There has been a cultural shift away from white hegemony to something more inherently multicultural, and "it seems of vitriol and violence comes from the fact that that hegemony is not just threatened, it's losing," Takitaki said. President David Eisler sent out a message to campus on Wednesday, March 17 in support of the campus' AAPI community, calling on the Ferris community to "call out and act against all forms of racism." "Xenophobia and racism have no place in our communities, and we stand firm in rejecting anti-Asian sentiments, comments and actions," Eisler wrote. "Let us all play an active role in ensuring we have a safe, welcoming and inclusive community. To our Asian American and Pacific Islander students, faculty and staff, we stand in solidarity with you."

- ON THE RECORD -

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

Hug it out

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

High in the sky

March 17, 10:35 p.m., officers responded to a call from a Cramer RA reporting the smell of marijuana. Upon arrival, officers discovered two women under the influence and conducted a search. The women were issued MIP citations and referred to student conduct.

Hug it out

March 20, 3:19 p.m., officers responded to reports of a female student following a male student while shouting insults about the man's political beliefs. Officers arrived and deescalated the situation which was reported to have ended with a hug. No formal charges have been filed.

Torch Corrections

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Student being investigated for alleged assault

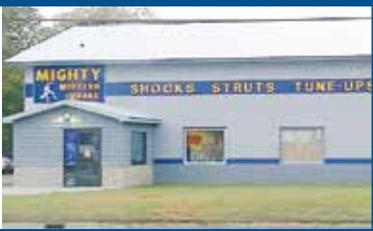
Brendan Sanders
Sports Editor

On Saturday, March 20, an alleged assault involving a Ferris student was reported to Big Rapids Department of Public Safety. The Torch submitted a FOIA request to Big Rapids DPS but it was denied due to the incident being an open investigation. However, Big Rapids DPS did state that an investigation had been launched and would give more details when the investigation is completed. FOX 17 reported police responded to Spectrum Health Big Rapids Hospital where a female individual reported that she had been assaulted in a vehicle by

another passenger earlier that morning. Several witnesses have been identified and are being interviewed. Ferris State News Services and Social Media Manager Sandy Gholston provided the following statement. "Ferris State University is aware of a Big Rapids Department of Public Safety investigation of an incident alleged to have occurred during the late-evening, early-morning hours of Friday, March 19, and Saturday, March 20." No charges had been filed and no arrests had been made as of Monday morning. This as a developing story and the The Torch will update it as details become available.

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Take care



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Students received \$750, almost double the last grants.

How the CARES Act helps students

Rebecca Vanderkooi
News Reporter

The pandemic has been financially challenging for many students, so Ferris is offering the CARES Act grant to provide extra assistance.

Between the fall and winter semesters of 2020 11,434 grants were given to students. The application for the spring 2021 grant opened Monday, March 15.

Joy Pulsifer, the dean of student life at Ferris, has been involved with the grant process each time it's available to students.

"During the two previous rounds of CARES grants, we had an average of under 6,000 students apply for funding each semester. Thus, we determined we could increase the awards to \$750 and still assist more than 6,000 students," Pulsifer said.

She explained that the grant has been funded through federal stimulus money, and per federal regulations they prioritize the money to students with the greatest need.

"We identified students based on data submitted through the FAFSA, giving priority to students with the greatest financial need, including those whose out-of-pocket costs are the greatest compared to their expected family contribution," Pulsifer said.

Sarah Sanocki is in her final year in the Master of Social Work program. She is one of thousands of students who have benefited from this grant.

"I live off campus and with the pandemic, I was off of work for quite some time, so I struggled paying rent and groceries," Sanocki said.

She has received the grant the past three times it was available. Sanocki explained that it's been a huge help because in addition to day-to-day expenses, Sanocki has also experienced car troubles since the pandemic began. She explained that being able to receive the CARES act has helped her to put money towards fixing her vehicle.

"It has helped me tremendously with meeting basic needs and taking care of essential fixes. I'm not sure how I'd be able to make it through without the assistance of the funds," Sanocki said.

Claire Belke is another student who has been the recipient of all three of the CARES act grants. She's a sophomore studying Spanish and operations and supply chains managements.

"I don't have a job, because of COVID since I have immunocompromised family members. The CARES Act has helped me pay for rent and textbooks," Belke said.

Belke further explained that many of her friends have received the grants as well and it's been a huge help for them in making ends meet and not having to worry as much about finances.

Pulsifer explained that some students automatically received the spring 2021 grant, but the application is still open for students who didn't automatically get the grant.

"We are excited to get these funds into the hands of our students to assist with their cost of attendance and/or emergency costs that have arisen due to COVID-19," Pulsifer said.

Saving an ecosystem

Biotechnology students hope to find source of contamination

Jessica Oakes
News Reporter

E. coli levels have been a consistent problem for Billings Lake in Manton of Wexford county over the years, causing multiple beach closures every summer.

After developments made in 2020 under the guidance of Assistant Professor of biological sciences Sky Pike, Ferris student researchers hope to "pin down" the source of E. coli within the next year.

"We're hoping we'll find the cause. We go step by step to figure out what's going on. We had a major step last year when we figured out that all the E. coli is not originating in the lake," Pike said. "It's actually originating upstream, somewhere in Manton Creek, and it's originating after we get a rain event of greater than one inch."

Because of this discovery, researchers will focus their data collection on Manton Creek rather than Billings Lake once the project starts back up this summer.

Students from Ferris, as well as several other Michigan universities, were invited to join this project in 2016 by both Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy and the District Health Department No. 10.

EGLE, DHD 10 and the Wexford County Drain Commission have provided the team of researchers with equipment for a quantitative polymerase chain reaction testing method.

"We were brought in because District Health Department No. 10 didn't have the expertise to be able to know how to use the [qPCR] equipment," Pike said.

Biotechnology senior Ethan Tippet has participated in this qPCR testing method and described what an average day of research looks like.

The team collects weekly water samples from five to 10 sites, depending on conditions. From there, the samples are kept on ice and brought to the lab for DNA extraction.

"We would filter the water to concentrate all of the bacteria, including E. coli that we're looking for. And then using filters we would extract the DNA from each of the samples," Tippet said. "After extracting the DNA, we would run qPCR, quantitative polymerase chain reaction, to determine the amount of E. coli."

Recent graduate of biotechnology and forensic biology Cassidy Vredevelde has worked with qPCR equipment on this project as well as in COVID research.

"Basically, qPCR is just measuring the amount of the DNA in a sample based on its amplification," Vredevelde said.

With this method, researchers are able to split E. coli DNA into two individual strands. From there, the sample is amplified and observed through exponential growth.

This process has prompted Pike to refer to the qPCR machine as a "copy machine for DNA."

The qPCR testing method is much more efficient than the traditional culture-based method, which takes about 24 hours to yield results.

"Some days we were able to run the entire process within the day and get results either later that day or the next morning, so that's pretty different," Tippet said.

Finding the source of this contamination involves microbial source tracking. While there is no difference between human E. coli and animal E. coli in terms of risk, the source will determine the solution.

"Let's say it is human, but what could be the causes of that? Well, maybe there's a leak in the sewer system. Or maybe there's an old septic system there somewhere that is not used, but it still has E coli growing in it, and when you get a big rain, it washes out," Pike said. "So that's a different situation than, for instance, if you have high levels of E. coli from deer or from birds or from cows."

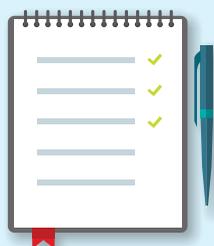
While microbial source tracking is the future of this project, one alternative, but ultimately unsatisfactory, method involved canine researchers.

"Two years ago, we actually had two students that went out in a canoe and got samples for dogs to sniff for human scent. They paddled back and actually got stuck in the mud and weeds on the far end of the lake for about an hour," Pike said.

Tippet feels proud of the work he has done on this project and would like to thank Pike for the opportunity.

"We're trying to make it safe for people to swim and take their dogs and take their kids out to the beach and just enjoy a day in the summer," Tippet said.

Research for the source of E. coli contamination in Manton Creek is set to resume in June and continue for 14 weeks.



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LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

A Young take on wine

From chemistry of pharmacy to the science of wine

Marissa Russell
Lifestyles Editor

There are two reasons why someone gets into being a winemaker, according to Mark Young. They are either a romantic, who does it for love, or a scientist, who does it for their passion in chemistry; Young is the latter.

Dr. Mark Young is an assistant pharmacy professor who built up The Winery @ Young Farms with his wife, Abby. Young is in charge of making and bottling the wine while Abby runs the business side of the Winery.

"It's truly a family business, so we do involve our kids," Young said. "Our daughter and son pick blueberries, they help us harvest grapes. You can see them cleaning up glasses and mopping floors, and that kind of stuff."

Young Farm didn't originally start out as a winery. In 2008 the Young family had bought property that they currently live on that they wanted to grow and sell corn on. But after having a soil test they got told it was unlikely it would grow sweet corn. But in good news, it was good for growing blueberries.

This started Young's idea to have a blueberry farm. After getting a good roll on having blueberry crop Young wanted to get into wine grapes after investigating into the University of Minnesota selective breeding that allowed the grapes to grow in the cold.

"I said let's plant a few grapevines and just see if they grow up," Young said. "And my wife said if you think you're opening a winery, just get it out of your head right now. I said okay. So, slowly she warmed up to the idea and eventually, once we started growing grapes, we had all these grapes, and we needed something to do with them. So in 2017 we opened up the tasting room, and we've been open since then."

Young's personal perspective comes from the scientific side of it. Even his techniques can be traced back to the science. An example of this is using French oak barrels because the amount of air that travels through the barrel into the wine, or micro oxygenation, gives 90% of red wine its taste. Young trusts this process even though there is a push in the industry to get away from them because he has science to prove that it makes the wine better.

Young originally came to Ferris as a student in the pharmacy program. Young graduated from the College of Pharmacy in 2003 and practiced for 12 years before he decided to come back and teach at Ferris.

Even during his early years at Ferris, Young can remember making wine.

"I could see the profession was changing and I wanted to be part of that change," Young said. "I wanted to be part of educating a new generation of pharmacists."

Wine and pharmacy share a lot of in Young's eyes. Young teaches sterile compounding in his classes. The aseptic technique is very similar when you're making food product, like wine, and intravenous compound, like medication. The idea of biochemistry and knowledge of biology and chemistry is similar in pharmacy as it is in winemaking. Young said there's a lot of science behind winemaking and a lot of art and lore surrounding it as well.

There are currently eight wines sold at Youngs Farm and all of them are from grapes grown by Young except for two, which they buy from local growers. Every year Young plants more grapes trying to find the perfect

amount to grow. At the moment they have about five and a half acres of blueberries and grapes. This is because they have been fortunate to sell out of their vintage except for in 2020.

Aside from wine, Young Farm sells bread, oils and cheese crackers along with blueberry jam. They also offer apparel for customers to buy.

The Winery @ Young Farm had limited capacity during the pandemic and that made their jobs harder Young said. They had to hire more staff to keep up with the cleaning and all of the compliance that was mandated. With that and the limited capacity it became tough because Friday nights and Saturdays are busy times, and they had to turn a lot of business away. But they were compliant and Young thinks their clientele and customers really appreciated that.

"We really hold true to this idea that the backstory is as important as the wine itself," Young said. "I don't sell our wine anywhere except right at our winery on purpose. If you buy a bottle of wine sitting on a shelf at Meijer, you judge it only on the wine. You know nothing about it really. You know nothing about the backstory whatever they put on the bottle, but I really want people to be closer to their food and closer to their drink so you have to come out, almost force you to interact with us so we can tell the story about the wine, about how it was made and the struggles."

Young is contacted at least once a week during the season by a restaurant or distributor that wants to sell their wine.

A couple years ago, Young struggled with his white crop. There was rain when they didn't need it, and no rain when they did. The wine was not to their normal standard. Young said that if he can't communicate that to the customer, then they think, "Oh, this guy just makes bad wine," but when the customers understand the struggle, then those tastes come through.

Staff has to work the tasting room as well as help during the bottling process and that's on purpose. While some wineries buy wine from other wineries Young doesn't participate in that. Everything sold is made on site, and with that they are able to tell their story.

"We want our staff to see the process so that when they're talking to customers, they really understand what that is," Young said. "After they actually put the hands on the bottle and help bottle they then they become part of it too. For the whole experience."

When it comes to balancing being a professor and owning a winery, Young makes sure to have boundaries. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the workweek, Young devotes his time to Ferris, although that doesn't mean there isn't times he has graded papers after 5. But typically he leaves nights and weekends for the winery.

"I've never had to worry about what I'm going to do tonight," Young said. "There's always a whole bunch of friends in my front yard hanging out ready to drink wine. That's probably the best part is seeing and interacting with people and talking about wine."

Because The Winery @ Youngs farm doesn't open until later in the year, Young doesn't see many of his students since many have already gone home for the summer. This year they open on May 19.

For more information you can go to their website <https://www.thewineryatyoungfarms.com>.



Photo by: Dylan Bowden | Torch Photographer

While most people like wine for the romantic side, Mark Young enjoys it for the scientific side.



Photo by: Dylan Bowden | Torch Photographer

Mark Young and his wife, Abby Young, work together to run their winery.

March Horoscopes

Marissa Russell
Lifestyles Editor



Aries: March 21 - April 19

March has been a chaotic time for this sign. Try and lay low to have a calmer end to the month.



Taurus: April 20 - May 20

There has recently been an increase in your financial situation. It would be best to start putting money away in your savings.



Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You have a constant battle going on inside yourself between wanting attention and needing your own space. Learn to manage this and you will be happier in your relationships.



Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Because you have the tendency of being loyal you will be burned by people you thought you could trust.



Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22

You are caught in a hard spot right now where you don't know if you should stay where its comfortable and safe or to leave and try something new. Start taking small steps towards something different and your path will become clear.



Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Keep your eye out. Group activities might be going around you. You will be surprised what will happen if you join in.



Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You are constantly trying to find balance in life and can't accept anything else. This will cause issues in different parts of your life.



Scorpio: Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

There is a tendency for you to lash out when you get stressed. Take a few minutes everyday to do something you enjoy and relax.



Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

There are a lot of secrets you are holding onto about yourself and others, and it will make you struggle this month.



Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

New relationships are going to come to you this month. Allow them in and see the promise they have for you.



Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Hardwork and dedication are the main aspects of your personality and you will be rewarded for that.



Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20

There has been a sudden expansion in your mind and new interests will be enticing you.



Events calendar

WEDNESDAY

March 24

Leadership Lessons from the Greatest Captains in Sports History

Contact: Lynn Miller
lynnmiller@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 1 - 2 p.m.

First-Gen Wednesday Workshops - Study Abroad Opportunities

Contact: Dave McCall
davidmccall@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 2 - 2:30 p.m.

LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coffee House

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

Career Opportunity and Financial Advising

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



THURSDAY

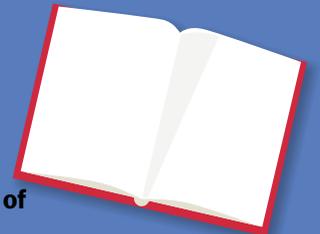
March 25

Organization and Time Management

Contact: Karen Royster-James
(231) 591-3771
Location: Virtual
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

March 26

Virtual Study Abroad Workshop

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



Saturday

March 27

Paper Airplane Flying Contest

Contact: CLACS@ferris.edu
Location: Rec Center
Time: 1 - 3 p.m.



Tuesday

March 30

FSU Student Government Association General Assembly Meeting

Contact: Allyson Faulkner
studentgovernment@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.



For more events, check out calendar.ferris.edu

Graphics made by Production Manager Charlie Zitta

Getting a degree for two

How Andrea Carpenter has managed to juggle college, work and a child

Kendall Rooks
Lifestyles Reporter

There's no question that going to college as a single parent can be challenging. Whether you are a single mom or a single dad, managing both your job and your kids is no easy task. When you add college to the mix it may seem downright impossible.

According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, nearly 2.1 million college students are single mothers. 19% of these single mothers are attending public or private four-year colleges.

Social work junior Andrea Carpenter is a part of the 19% of single moms attending a public university. In 2007, Carpenter found

out she was pregnant with her daughter Rileigh.

"I hid my pregnancy for six months afraid of what my family would think." She said. Fortunately, now Carpenter's family are some of her biggest supporters along with her boyfriend Mike, in helping her raise Rileigh.

Even with her family's support, paying for college, bills and essentials has been one of the hardest parts of being a single mom in school. "When I first started at Ferris, I worked at a drug rehab recovery center in Marne commuting to work from Big Rapids for three 12-hour shifts a week. Then I got a job at Grand Oaks Nursing Center in Baldwin working as a CNA," said Carpenter. "My income is not the best, but I survive, and my

bills get paid even if less things are for me and more are for my daughter."

Carpenter explained that living off campus has also saved her a large sum of money.

"At first, I was placed on a waiting list for my apartment, so I stayed with my parents for a few weeks until I got my apartment off campus. On campus living was too expensive and I was not going to be moving out after each year or semester."

As Carpenter's daughter has grown older and more self-sufficient it has become a lot easier for her to stay in school.

"In the beginning it was a struggle most days trying to get sleep, employment, and homework and I didn't really have any friends I associated with besides co-work-

ers." Now that Carpenter's daughter is also in school they share homework and study time together.

Being a single mom has caused Carpenter to miss out on normal teen and young adult activities, but she is overall grateful for what she has been able to do. One of these accomplishments being attending college.

"I want to be able to better our lives and create more job opportunities for myself. I want to show my daughter that no matter what you can always fulfill accomplishments."

Carpenter advises single moms to hang in there for the long, exhausting, and bumpy road. The walk across the stage in the end will be worth it all.

From pandemic seniors to pandemic freshmen

What is some important advice freshman would give to next year's class?

Meghan Hartley
Freelance Reporter

Graduating from high school and going into college is a right of passage for many, but when you enter during a pandemic, it makes for an interesting first year.

The class of 2024 has experienced an unprecedented time in the past year with school, from ending their senior year online to heading straight into college the same way, only partially attending classes in-person.

While it seemed as though there was not a lot for freshmen to look forward to, as everything was turning virtual, students were still able to create a good year for themselves and have learned a lot in just a few months.

One thing they learned is that college is a lot more intense than they thought it would be. Computer information technology freshman Brendan Bender said there was a big difference in the workload he got when coming in.

"I was used to the high school work load at first and didn't really know what to expect with college," Bender said. "In high school I got about an hour's worth of homework per week, now it's more like three hours per day."

Bender has even spent eight hours straight on an English paper, making him realize college was a lot more serious than expected and he wishes that he would have been warned about it sooner so that he could be a little more prepared.

His advice to incoming freshmen is to be prepared for what is ahead of them when they enter their first year in college as a lot can happen within a year.

"Be prepared for a change," Bender said. "Find ways to connect to people similar to you, because having friends is a big part of having fun in college and can make the change a lot better."

When moving into higher education there is a lot of change that can happen that one can try to be prepared for, such as dorm room essentials, school supplies and having the right technology on hand.

There are some things one just can't be prepared for such as the intensity of classes or having their entire first semester be virtual.

Journalism and technical communications major Devin Bearer said her freshman year has been anything but normal having fully online courses in the fall.

She said it was difficult at times to stay focused and motivated when everything was online and thought it took a lot out of the college experience many expect when they first arrive.

Bearer has learned to make the best of the situation as others around her have, even while socially distancing.



Photo by Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Computer information technology freshman Brendan Bender advises incoming freshman to be prepared for change, because a lot can happen in a year.

"Both my resident hall and professors were trying their best to make everyone still have that human connection during the spike of the pandemic."

Having built connections within her classes and residence hall Bearer said that the second half of her first year has 'definitely been a better experience'. Creating those friendships has helped her gain motivation and have fun making her own college experience.

Bearer also advises incoming freshmen to build connections with others around them, to make college more exciting to be at.

"Follow your passion, follow what motivates you," Bearer said. "If college is for you, then have fun with those around you, study hard and you'll do well."

There are many ups and downs that college can bring, especially now during a pandemic students are feeling the

weight of it all, from feeling stress and loneliness to anxiety and being unmotivated.

The University of Michigan Medicine released a few tips on how students going into college can make the best of their year under such strange times. They suggest maintaining a routine, taking breaks and most importantly keeping connected with others.

"I would've liked to have known that it's okay to have days when you don't want to do your homework or go to class," Bearer said "Even though you're in a pandemic, try to meet some of the people you live with. They can help you through it."

Of course all college experiences are different, but what has helped many students entering their first year has been the community they have been able to build with others, finding their niche and things to keep them going when things seem a bit dark.

OPINIONS

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

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

By Cora Hall

STOP ASIAN HATE

It's been a hard week in the Asian American Pacific Islander community.

Tuesday, March 16, the rise anti-Asian violence was tragically highlighted in Atlanta with the shooting and killing of 8 people, 6 of which were Asian women. The 21-year-old white man went to three Atlanta-area spas, all of them owned and run by Asian Americans. Yet the police are declining to say it was racially motivated, giving the excuses that he had a bad day – which is just laughable to say when you're talking about someone who murdered 8 people, regardless of context. Police are saying that he may have been motivated by sexual obsessions, and he saw the spas as “a temptation for him that he wanted to eliminate,” according to the Washington Post.

The fetishization and sexualization of Asian women is inherently racist. The hyper-sexualization of Asian women is nothing new. It's subtle, but it's always been present and I am no stranger to comments that fall into this category.

It's not flattering to me when men say they've “never been with an Asian girl before.” That's not an appealing way to hit on me, and it frankly just makes me uncomfortable, like I'm some prize for you to win. I'm not some exotic specimen for you to explore.

It's not funny in beer pong when people ask to have the cups set up in a horizontal diamond and call it “Asian p——.” I've always just laughed this off because, again, it's incredibly uncomfortable to have people indirectly make a sexual comment about me like that for no reason. This has been said countless times,

to my face, and I have always failed to see the humor in this joke.

The implications and roots of the hyper-sexualization of Asian women is part of the white sexual imperialism that traces back to colonization by European nations. If you have never heard of this before, I would encourage you to do some research on it and understand the context of the treatment of Asian women.

My ethnicity has always been a point of humor to my friends growing up in all contexts and I never had the guts to speak up about it. I didn't want to be that person, I wasn't being oppressed or harassed to an extreme. Everyone saw it as harmless jokes. Half the time the jokes were about me being smarter than others, or them assuming I'm good at math, even though it was always been my worst subject. Other jokes were about my eyes, ability to drive, mocking Asian languages and saying that all Asians look the same.

The stereotypes about me were typically positive, and I didn't understand why I disliked it until I heard the definition of the official term “model minority.” It's the myth or perception that a minority group always achieves a higher level of socioeconomic success than the average person, that Asian people are smarter or end up richer. This perception is not true across the board and it drives a wedge between minorities. It erases individuality and makes others view all Asian Americans as the same. It erases the racism against the AAPI community and makes us feel invisible.

Here are some facts to give a more accurate picture of the experiences of Asian Americans: according to a National Academy of Science's

analysis of census data, 12.3% of Asian-Americans fall below the poverty line; U.S. Census Bureau data from 2018 shows that only 53.9% of Asian Americans over the age of 25 had a bachelor's degree or any higher education; and there were only 555,262 Asian-owned businesses in the United States in 2016.

Not every Asian story is like “Crazy Rich Asians.” Not every Asian kid is a prodigy.

It's far past the time for us to speak up about this. In this past year alone there were nearly 3,800 anti-AAPI incidents reported to the Stop AAPI Hate Project. Elders and women in the Asian community have been attacked and killed.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been blamed on China and, consequently, most Asian Americans felt the brunt of this, due to the fact that most people don't distinguish between Asian ethnicities. We had a president calling it the “Chinese virus” and others calling it the “kung flu”, all of which contributes to anti-AAPI attitudes. This discrimination has been even been directed at some of the highest profile Asian Americans, such as NBA G League player Jeremy Lin, who said he was called “coronavirus” on the court.

Enough is enough. We are not invisible, our struggles are real and we are done standing by while our ethnicity is mocked or degraded. Because the little microaggressions breed division and “otherness,” which turns into hate, and hate eventually turns into violence.

We are not a virus. We are not invisible. It's time to stop Asian hate.

I shouldn't have to be afraid because of my gender

We need to teach others to be respectful; women shouldn't have to live in precaution



Meghan Hartley
Freelance Reporter

On March 3, Sarah Everard, a 33 year old marketing executive, visited a friend's home in Clapham, England. She reportedly left her friends home at 9 p.m. to walk 2.5 miles back to her own home in Kent.

The next morning her boyfriend called the police after not hearing from her to see if she got home alright, as they had talked on the phone the previous night as she walked home. He filed a missing persons report and a search party was conducted.

A week later, on March 10, Everard's body was found in the woodlands of Kent, England in a builders bag. Officials assume she was kidnapped then murdered by a policeman.

Since the revelation of her death and the details that followed, there has been a world wide response in how women shouldn't have to be afraid to walk home or simply be outside, in the daylight or at night. Frankly, I agree.

As a woman I have been told I need to protect myself when I am alone, and hence have adopted a few methods I'm sure every female can relate to. I carry pepper spray

with me at all times, I try to call a friend while walking somewhere or pretend I am on a call with someone and wear shoes that will allow me to be agile when needed.

There are even times when I have run through my mind escape routes or scenarios of how to get out of a situation when I am nervous out in public.

I shouldn't have to make escape routes in my head; I shouldn't have to be armed and ready to defend myself; I shouldn't have to be nervous walking back to my dorm in the dark after a night out.

Just last Friday, I was walking across campus from an RSO event at 10 p.m. It was dark, barely any of the light posts were lit and the university buildings were closed. As I walked, I kept my pepper spray in my hand, looking in every direction around me, thinking of ways someone might sneak up on me and how I could get away.

Granted I was on university property, and not that far away from where I was staying, but still it ran through my mind as I was the only one walking around. I shouldn't have been nervous, but to be honest, part of me was.

This isn't the first time I've thought about my safety while going anywhere, as I'm sure many other women have. That's

why I see so many of us carry pepper spray with us and sometimes a small weapon.

That's why I see my female friends' lanyards, all with some sort of defense weapon attached.

As women we have been raised in a society to be cautious and afraid when we are by ourselves because we could easily be attacked. That it is our duty to stay vigilant, wear bright colors, talk to someone on the phone (or pretend to) as we walk in the dark, but Everard did all of those things.

She walked home in a bright blue coat, called her boyfriend and even walked down very well lit streets. Yet, the young woman is gone.

It's beginning to make us think, is it really just the woman's responsibility to protect herself? From my viewpoint it should have never just been the woman's responsibility.

Growing up in the 21st century, as a young woman, I have been told to always be ready to protect myself or get out of a situation when need be. Why has that become our new normal? Why do we continue to teach women and young girls that is how we should be living? Why don't we teach young people to be different?

I believe in this day and age, if we are going to make the situation better, if we are going to help women feel more safe and

think less of ways they can defend themselves, it all begins with teaching. Teaching people how to properly respect each other.

Instead of teaching people to be a dominator, someone who uses their strength, we should be teaching them how to be respectful, that showing kindness and not being forceful isn't weak, instead it's a sign of equality.

I don't want to continue to feel nervous when walking anywhere, whether it be during the day or night, nor when walking into new situations. I shouldn't have to feel that way, or always come up with a plan ready to escape at a moment's notice.

I don't want to continue feeling that I have to leave some place early to get home or somewhere safe during the daytime because of the thought that someone might take advantage of me just because I am a woman.

I don't want to continue to have my anxiety high as I go to different places. I am a person who shouldn't always be looking behind their shoulder. I hope that we all learn from this, that it's not a good thing to always be nervous when out in public alone and it is something we need to do better to create safer environments.



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Cora Hall | Editor-in-Chief
Email: hallc36@ferris.edu

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

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Updated August 13, 2020

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS

Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor | sandeb16@ferris.edu

Getting one more chance

Senior Ferris athletes decide whether to take advantage of extra year of eligibility

Austin Arquette
Sports Reporter

With many different sports seasons being disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, seniors have received the opportunity to come back another season.

Athletes are beginning to rally around the new rules and protocols that have been placed for safety measures in order to continue to play. One of the new rules enacted by the NCAA was a competition waiver for fall and winter sports. Even athletes who competed this past fall will be eligible for an extra year under the ruling.

Ferris State Senior Associate Athletic Director, Internal Operations, & Senior Woman Administrator Sara Higley said this year is looked at as a redshirt year and no one was charged with a season of competition for the 2020 - 2021 seasons.

"All seniors will be able to return next year and use their last year of eligibility," Higley said. "Due to the financial implications this year, the NCAA is allowing those seniors to return and not be charged to the NCAA limits on financial aid and scholarships."

The NCAA stated that student-athletes who take advantage of this opportunity will not count against team scholarship limits for the 2021 - 2022 season. As members of both men's and women's basketball teams have taken hold of this chance.

For the men's side of options, Ferris senior wing Walt Kelser on the Ferris men's basketball team has chosen to come back to have another successful season with his team. Kelser said after he talked to the coaches and his family about his options, it just seemed like the clear choice.

"My family helped me a lot by saying that it would be a good idea to come back and have a more successful year," Kelser said. "They all told me that they would love for me to stay an extra year and that it will help both on and off the court."

This past season Kelser played in 18 games and started in all of them, where he averaged 20.6 points per game. Kelser landed on the All-GLIAC First Team for the second consecutive season after he had scored 30 points or more three times this season. Kelser said his option to come back was impacted by his teammates as well.

"Just being around the guys every day and competing with them for a couple of years now I have formed a bond that is hard to leave," Kelser said. "To be a part of the program I love, I love everyone that is a part of it and I'm ready to have another amazing year."

While Kelser is excited about his return, he will also look to use this year to grow and work on his craft. Kelser said he wants to come out next season and prove he can do more for the team by performing at his best level. A few of Kelser's fellow Bulldogs on the women's basketball team have also elected to return to Ferris.

The Ferris women's basketball senior guard duo of Shaniya Huggins and Adrienne

Anderson have both expressed their desires to return to Ferris.

Huggins has fought injuries the past two years and faced three surgeries in that time. "I did not want to end my career like this," Huggins said. It was vital to Huggins to end her career on a good note because she said that it means everything to her.

"Everyone does not get this opportunity and I did, so I am blessed for this opportunity," Huggins said.

While she weighed her options, Huggins said her mom was the ultimate supporter for her to return to Ferris. Huggins had the decision to make but her mom told Huggins that she had the full support and she wasn't alone as her coach and teammates had her back as well. Huggins said she is thankful she can continue finishing school on top of chasing her dream to play professionally one day.

Huggins teammate Anderson had also been through surgery that forced her out of action. Anderson tore her rotator cuff her junior year and was delayed returning due to the surgery as she chose to sit out the entire 2020 - 2021 season.

"I chose to come back for so many reasons. Academically, I'm a nursing student and I won't finish the program until spring 2022," Anderson said. "Also, because I had the option to come back to a program and a team that I'm just in love with, I couldn't pass that up. The combination of all that led me to decide to stay."

Anderson was also supported by her family, friends, teammates, and coaches as she claimed to have the best support anyone could ask for. As she talked to so many people in her life Anderson's parents have helped her every step of the way by offering her love, support and prayer. Anderson is also thankful for her untouchable friend and unmatched teammates support in this decision.

"The ways they have shown support is enough to make me cry, in a good way. They really do the small things that mean the world and they have the most perfect timing," Anderson said. "Girls that wear the Ferris jersey or have before play a huge part in my support. After explaining my situation and standpoint I got nothing but support and love."

Both Anderson and Huggins expressed how their coaches have helped in the process of return and are eager to step on the court. Of course, to have to senior's return is always helpful for a program that has missed them due to injuries.

Another Ferris athlete outside of basketball has decided to return next fall as well. Ferris senior outside hitter on the women's volleyball team, Katie O'Connell plans to return this fall. O'Connell said her main reason to return was the ability to compete with her team for another year and that she was fortunate to start a master's program this fall. O'Connell said everyone in her life all helped with her decision in one way or another.



Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

Senior wing Walt Kelser is one of several players coming back next season.

"No one really knows what next year will look like but they're supportive if people want to come back," O'Connell said. "They asked me questions about how I want to end my volleyball career and if it's feasible with my classes. And they all helped me figure that out for myself."

Teammates and coaches alike helped O'Connell with her choice as she said even if she did not talk with them the relationships and team atmosphere, they have would make her want to stay one more year to try and achieve something great. O'Connell said when she talked to her coach that all her coach wanted was whatever was best and made O'Connell the happiest.

"It means a lot to be able to end my volleyball career on my own terms instead of a COVID year, but I think it helps all returning players to gain another year of experience in the sport and enjoy another year of playing before entering the adult world," O'Connell said. "Next year is so uncertain but my coach was so reassuring that we would figure that out as it comes."

Due to the changes, COVID-19 placed on the 2020 - 2021 season for volleyball they are in their season during the spring. Ferris women's volleyball team will travel to Wisconsin-Parkside to face off against the Rangers on Friday, March 26, and Saturday, March 27 over the weekend.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Volleyball

March 19 - Ferris 1, Northwood 3
March 20 - Ferris 3, Northwood 0

Women's Soccer

March 19 - Ferris 1, Wisconsin-Parkside 0
March 21 - Ferris 4, Purdue Northwest 0

Men's Tennis

March 19 - Ferris 4, Wayne State 3
March 20 - Ferris 7, Ashland 0

Continuing to improve

Volleyball attempts to rally from recent slide

Brody Keiser
Sports Reporter

They might have a solid 6 - 4 record on the season, but Ferris volleyball wants to be even better.

Bulldog volleyball has found a way to continue their success from their 25 - 6 season a year ago despite moving through an unusual offseason. Because the offseason was atypical, head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm and her team are still working to improve their skill.

A big part of Ferris's success comes from their mentality. They always look for ways to improve.

"During the week, we're just focused on getting 1% better each day," senior outside hitter Katie O'Connell said. "We're focused on getting 1% better each day and working on executing our game plan. One of our mottos is 'adapt and conquer,' so we're going to grow and do what we need to do to be successful in the future."

Brandel-Wilhelm said her team uses that motto to overcome difficult situations that come their way, especially with COVID-19 this year.

"I see a lot of coaches and leaders from athletic teams at Ferris and around the country really working hard to keep their team focused and mindset strong," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "We're just doing what anyone would do in a situation like this-you just adapt to what happens and you can't control a lot of things, so you have to control the things you can. You do the best you can and get up the next day and do it again."

The Bulldogs started their season 5 - 1, and O'Connell's play was a big reason why. Following their sweep of Ashland March 5 and 6, O'Connell was named the American Volleyball Coaches Association player of the week. She became the fifth Bulldog in history to record that feat.

"To be the national player of the week is a pretty unique and cool honor," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "It is certainly really well deserved, yet the first thing Katie does when we tell her the honor is look at her teammates and tell them 'I don't do that without all of you.' That's what makes Katie really good is the fact that she plays for her team and does the best she can. She never tries to win any kind of honors. I think that's any incredible reflection of the kind of human being she is."

The two time All American recorded 41 kills, 49 digs and eight blocks in the weekend sweep of the Eagles March 5 and 6, earning her national recognition.

For the season, O'Connell leads the team with 114 kills and 132 points, and is second in digs with 137. She also has 22 blocks. Her play has been a big part of Ferris's success so far this season.

O'Connell agreed with her coach that she does not play for the accolades.

"It was an honor," O'Connell said. "It's a big thing, but I'm more focused on the success of the team and how we're doing in practice and competing on the weekends."

She added that her teammates are the reason for her success this year, saying she "wouldn't be here without them."

Following their 5 - 1 start to the season, the Bulldogs lost back-to-back games against Michigan Tech on March 12 and 13 to fall to 5 - 3. O'Connell compared those two losses to their early season wins.

"It was all about what we did on our side," O'Connell said. "We didn't come out as focused and didn't do what we were supposed to do in executing our game plan. We have to take care of our side."

Senior libero Nina Gorgijevska said that her team must put their losses in the past, learn from them and change their mindset going forward.

Gorgijevska has also been a key part of Ferris's success, leading the team in digs with 248. She credited her teammates with her success as well but acknowledged that she has to prepare herself too.

"I really want to see my hitters get a sweet kill or my setters get to the ball very easily, so I step in and make it easy on them," Gorgijevska said. "Obviously, I work on my skill every day in practice, but knowing the scout and watching film are things that get me ready too. My mental stae and physical preparedness are also very important, so I take care of those things as well."

On March 19, the Bulldogs lost to Northwood 3 - 1, but followed that up with a 3 - 0 win against Northwood on March 20 to move their record to 6-4. The Bulldogs will head to Wisconsin-Parkside March 26 and 27 before finishing up their regular season against Saginaw Valley State at home April 2 and 3.



Photo by: Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor

Senior outside hitter Katie O'Connell has been a leader in the team's strong start to the season.



THIS WEEKEND'S SPORTS FOR FERRIS

Wednesday, March 24

- Women's Softball vs Northwood at 1 p.m.

Friday, March 26:

- Men's Tennis at Northwood at 1 p.m.
- Women's Tennis at Northwood at 1 p.m.
- Women's Soccer vs. Saginaw Valley State at 4 p.m.
- Women's Volleyball at Wisconsin-Parkside at 8 p.m.

Saturday March 27:

- Women's Tennis at Saginaw Valley State at noon
- Women's Softball at Grand Valley State at 1 p.m.
- Women's Softball at Grand Valley State at 3 p.m.
- Women's Volleyball at Wisconsin-Parkside at 3 p.m.

Sunday, March 28

- Women's Soccer vs. Ashland at 1 p.m.



Top Dawg

Grace VerHage

Photo courtesy of Kevin McDermott

Brendan Sanders
Sports Editor

With wins this weekend against Wisconsin-Parkside and Purdue Northwest, women's soccer are off to a hot start to the season. Seeing a dominant 4 - 0 victory on Saturday, the team posted its best performance against Purdue Northwest.

Junior forward Grace VerHage led the team on Saturday with two goals and an assist in the shutout

victory. She totalled five points on the day and also totalled three shots on goal.

Two goals already equal the amount of goals scored throughout her 2019 - 2020 campaign, where she scored two goals and three assists, totalling seven points of the season.

VerHage and the rest of the soccer team will take on Saginaw Valley on Friday, March 26 at 4 p.m. Then, on Sunday, March 28 at 1 p.m. the Bulldogs will take on Ashland.

Bulldogs tee off for 2021

Bulldog golf teams begin new season with top five showing for both men and women



Photo courtesy of Ferris State Athletics

The men's golf team poses for a photo at the SVSU Invitational in Lexington, Kentucky.



Photo courtesy of Ferris State Athletics

The women's golf team finished fifth overall in the first competition of the year.

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

After 373 days since their seasons were cancelled, the Bulldog men's and women's golf teams took to the course for the first time in 2021.

The new season began slightly earlier for the men's team, as they travelled to Old Hickory, Tenn. for the Music City Invitational on Mar. 15 and 16.

Day one of the invitational went well for Ferris, scoring a 294 as a team to tie for fourth in the men's 17-team field. Thomas Hursey led the Bulldogs with a 71 (-1), followed by Trent Barth and Nathan Kraynyk both shooting a 74 (+2). Mitchell Gelk and Daniel Shattuck rounded out the team card with 75 (+3) and 78 (+6) round scores respectively.

"Getting back to competition felt great," Hursey said. "You can't simulate the feeling of pressure situations in tournaments, so getting that feeling was refreshing."

The men elevated on their strong start in round two on Saturday, posting a seven-stroke improvement (287) to place third overall behind host Trevecca Nazarene and fellow GLIAC competition Northwood. Dan Shattuck led Ferris in round two with a 70 (-2), followed by Hursey (71), Kraynyk (73), Barth (74), and Gelk (79).

"I was really happy with our team's performance," Hursey said. "We have a lot of solid players on our team that I know are capable of doing big things this year."

Four days later, the Bulldogs women's team joined the men's squad to attend the Saginaw Valley State Invitational in Lexington, Ky. last weekend.

Both teams came out firing in Saturday's opening round at Hermitage Golf Course, with the women landing in seventh place with 329 and the men placing third with a 292.

The Bulldogs women's team were powered by a four-over round from Alayna Eldred, which tied for fifth best individually in the field. Elaina Derose followed with an 11th ranked 78, with Abby Grevel (87), Mackenzie Dale (88), and Lauren Kempf (90) rounding out the +41 team total for day one.

"It was a feeling of pure joy and appreciation," Eldred said regarding returning to competition. "The whole tournament, I tried to take it all in and enjoy every moment."

For the men, Hursey continued his sizzling start with a 68 (-4) to lead the entire field individually after the opening 18 holes. Nathan Kraynyk followed suit with a season best 70 (-2), placing him tied for third in the individual standings. Adam Madzri (75), Shattuck (79), and Barth (86) rounded out the Bulldog card.

"I was just staying patient and taking each shot for what it was," Hursey said on his hot opening round. "The two PB and J's I ate during the round probably helped a few more putts go in."

Ferris finished strong day two, with the women moving up to finish tied for fifth overall after an improved 317 round and the men maintaining the third place finish following a 291 score.

Eldred turned in her card following another +4 round to finish tied for fourth, followed by Grevel with a +6, Derose with a +9, Dale with +10 and Kempf with a +11. The Bulldogs gained two spots in the final round, finishing only behind Tiffin, Wayne State, Northwood, and Saginaw Valley State in the 17-team field.

"There were a lot of positives to take away from this event," Eldred said. "Going from the simulator to playing on grass is quite an adjustment, especially the short game. The more days we spend on the grass, the better it will get."

For the men, Hursey finished third overall in the field following a one-over final round, with Kraynyk right behind tied for fifth following his 73 round score. Madzri fronted the Bulldogs with a team best 71 final round to finish at two over on the tournament, with Shattuck and Barth scoring +4 and +2 respectively in the final 18.

After reflecting on the first tournament adjustments with COVID-19 protocols, Hursey believes the team is focused beyond simply getting on the course.

"Our team has done a great job of blocking out the negativity towards the COVID-19 situation and focusing on the tournament at hand. We know that this year is different with the protocols but we're still out there to win no matter the situation. We're still not satisfied and we'll keep that mindset the rest of the year."

The Bulldogs will look to continue this great start in their upcoming contests at the Findlay Invitational for the women on March 22 and 23, and the Cav Classic on April 5 and 6 for the men.

FREEZING COLD TAKES: MARCH MADNESS



"CHAMPION: Ohio State

Call me biased, but Ohio States offense is explosive enough to win this championship, it's just a matter of if they are consistent enough. If they are, they can beat anyone in this tournament. Ohio State wins it all and I go home with a large grin on my face."

-Brendan Sanders, March 17, 2021

Brendan Sanders
Sports Editor

An article called "The Return of March Madness" was published on the final page of last week's edition.

In said article, I made the genius decision to pick Ohio State to win the NCAA men's basketball tournament. Little did I know at the time, but apparently I am terrible at making predictions. This was quickly proven to me on the first day of the tournament.

Ohio State would become just the ninth team to ever lose to a no. 15 seed, losing 75 - 72 in overtime. They would shoot just 21.7% from the field, and 50% from the free throw line.

I also picked Oklahoma State to make the Final Four. Who proceeded to lose to no. 12 seeded Oregon State in the second round of the tournament.

Now, I'm not the only one who has seen their championship pick going out early. Iowa fell to no. 7 seeded Oregon on Monday, thus also making Brody Keiser just only slightly smarter than me.

Brody would see his picks of Texas and Illinois also fall out of the tournament in the Round of 32, leaving only one of his picks still competing for the championship.

Austin Arquette and Brandon Wirth both have three teams still competing for the championship.

The lesson that we've learned here is that when it come's to



"CHAMPION: Iowa

In the Championship game, I have Iowa beating Baylor. Luka Garza will dominate this tournament and leave Iowa with his jersey hanging from Carver-Hawkeye arena next to a National Championship banner."

- Brody Keiser, March 17, 2021



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TO A FERRIS
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