

Remembering our female founder

A look back at the legacy of the woman pivotal to Ferris' founding: Helen Ferris

Jessica Oakes
News Reporter

While a statue of university founder Woodbridge Nathan Ferris stands proudly in front of FLITE library, Helen Ferris Hall was demolished in 2015.

Today, her name ornaments Helen's Garden in the northeastern corner of campus, which she would have adored. W.N. Ferris remembered his wife's love of natural beauty as "little less than a religion."

Still, Helen Francis Gillespie Ferris' story runs deeper than the roots of hydrangeas. She was much more than the founder's wife.

Students may know W.N. Ferris as the founder and first president of Ferris State University, as well as 28th Governor of Michigan and eventual senator. He did not, however, carry out this work on his own.

"For the best service I rendered Michigan, Mrs. Ferris deserves a large part of the merited commendation," W.N. Ferris wrote. "Her sense of justice, her purity of motive, her Christian democracy illumined my pathway. In solving the problems

that confront me, I shall ever ask, 'What would Mrs. Ferris suggest or advise, if she were at my side?' Her ideals were the ideals described in the Sermon on the Mount."

Helen Ferris served as vice president and contributed greatly to the founding of Ferris (then known as Big Rapids Industrial School) in 1884. W.N. Ferris himself often credited Helen Ferris' efforts in the building of the Industrial.

"[Helen and Woodbridge] were absolutely partners. She was actually better educated than he was. So, she was eminently qualified," History professor Dr. Tracey Busch said. "They were life partners, he respected her greatly. If we were talking about a different century, you know, I think she could have just as easily been the principal or the founder."

Helen Ferris was educated in her home state of New York at Mrs. Caldwell's private school for girls and Falley Seminary. She met W.N. Ferris while attending Oswego Normal and Training School. From the young age of 15, Helen Ferris was praised for her mathematical wit. She

first began teaching at age 16 and later taught at the Industrial from 1884-1901.

W.N. Ferris is known for being socially progressive and always showed great pride in his wife's success. During the school's early years, he wrote in a letter to his parents that Helen Ferris was teaching full time while fulfilling household duties such as raising their children.

"Mrs. Ferris furnished the sunshine for her husband and her two boys," W.N. Ferris stated in a tribute to Helen Ferris' life.

Helen Ferris' genius was, of course, not only impressive to her husband. Michigan's superintendent of public instruction H.R. Pattengill referred to her as the best geometry teacher in the entire state. Her expertise and degree were used to promote the university while recruiting new students.

An excerpt from the Ferris Industrial Advertiser published in May 1915 shared words of appreciation for Helen Ferris' work.

"As a teacher, she was thorough, inspiring, helpful. She was never too busy to give



Courtesy of the Ferris State University archive

Despite her enormous contributions to the university, Helen Ferris' story is seldom told.

Helen Ferris | see page 2

Ready For (college) Life

New program at Ferris will have eight students in fall of 2021



Photo by: Trenton Carlson | Freelance Reporter

(From left) Xavier Bailey, Kirk Daum and Cole Schepers attended orientation for the Ready For Life program that will start this fall at Ferris.

Trenton Carlson
Freelance Reporter

Ferris is now the first public university in Michigan to host Ready for Life, a nonprofit giving students with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to attend universities.

Ferris is known for its commitment to diversity and education for everyone. This symbolizes Ferris' next progressive step, welcoming students to a curriculum that aids in preparing them for life on their own as well as six college credits a semester outside of their Ready for Life curriculum.

Cole Schepers, Xavier Bailey, Kirk Daum and Evan Bomay are four of the expected eight students that will be enrolled in this program in the Fall of 2021. Three of the four future Bulldogs, excluding Bomay, who was absent from their

Ready For Life | see page 2

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NEWS

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READY FOR LIFE

Continued from front page

orientation, saw their classroom and their living quarters in North Hall, for the first time on Tuesday, March 23. Their eyes filled with excitement as they saw the multiple games and lounging areas on the main floor of North Hall.

Family members of the future students were also shocked at the university's newest hall, admitting times had changed since they attended college. A murmur from the crowd stated, "I feel like I'm in a five-star hotel."

Following a brief walk-through of North Hall, the orientation group went to their future classroom located on the first floor of the Arts and Science Commons in room 1015. There the group was greeted by Deedee Stakley, director of secondary school partnerships, Emily Perton, director of Ready for Life, and their instructor, Sandy Baker, a former special education teacher who also has a child with down syndrome.

The future students walked the room admiring the seating arrangements and made small talk with their instructor as family members, staff and future students were interviewed for the Miranda Show. In this room, students will meet regularly before departing to take their other college courses.

"It's perfect for us because it's going to allow Kirk to get the college atmosphere and way of life," Erich Daum, father of Kirk Daum,

said. "He watched his brother go away to college and this is his chance."

This opportunity gives Kirk a chance to get this college experience without being far from home since the Daum family is part of the Big Rapids community. Kirk is an alumnus of Big Rapids High School.

His father's hopes for him are shared among all parents whose children are enrolling in the university. The hope is for them to become as independent as possible and be active and productive members of the community.

What these students get out of the program is entirely up to the skillsets they bring to the table according to Stakley. They could earn certificates in skillsets or achieve a bachelor's degree, but the takeaway is for them to experience college life, gain living skills and educate themselves along the way.

One parent, Sarah Bailey, mother of Xavier, held back tears as she expressed that she hopes her son gains many opportunities through Ready for Life, even if it means working hard for them.

"It's a win-win," Baker states in reference to the future students as well as the students actively apart of the university. This is due to the fact that students will now get to share the campus with these new students, giving them opportunities to work alongside them and even aid in their education. Ready for Life is in search of volunteers to help these new students in the classroom with college-level courses



Photo by: Trenton Carlson | Freelance Reporter

Ready for Life will officially start in the fall of 2021 with an expected class of eight students.

es that they are enrolled in as well as socially, teaching them the way of college life.

"People with disabilities need to be integrated, fully integrated," Baker said. According to her Ferris has done this with open arms, putting their classroom precisely next to the disability's office. Her hope is that students will be willing to aid in these future students' education in the coming years, acting as mentors. Because Ready for Life believes people with disabilities should be fully integrated, they plan to work alongside university events, involving themselves, rather than hosting events of their own.

Perton stated a large setback is explaining to the university what

inclusion means and the difference between inclusion and belonging. Integrating into the university giving these future students equity while being apart of the Ferris community, is how they plan to execute it.

Baker spoke of her son, Eric Baker, stating that after graduating high school, he once asked her where the high school quarterback, a friend of his, was currently. She told him he, like many high school students, went away to college. His response, something Sandy stated she would never forget, "I want to go." Unfortunately for Eric, he is outside of the age qualifications of 18 to 26 for the Ready for Life program.

Ready for life was inspired by students according to Perton, launching out of Christian Learning Center, when students stopped asking the question, "can I go to college," and started asking "where am I going to college?"

"Everyone deserves an education, Perton said, "Diversity goes deeper than skin color and deeper than ethnicity, it includes disabilities. There is a huge push to increase diversity on every college campus, that should include disabilities."

For more information involving mentorship, or the Ready for Life organization, contact Sandy Baker at sandy.baker@rflnetwork.org or visit the Ready for Life website.

Hiring stalls this year worry graduates

Seniors gain help from resources in job hunting post pandemic

Jerry Gaytan
News Reporter

As college graduates venture off to start their careers the search for a job or internship might be tougher than expected.

As stated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of Feb. 2021 the number of unemployed was around 10.0 million. This compared to the 5.7 million unemployed in April 2020.

"My thoughts on finding a job are currently a little stressful," dental hygiene senior Maricruz Sekenske said. "Although there is a high demand for dental hygienists there is not a lot of demand in my current location which means I would have to relocate."

While the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world around us from being in quarantine to social-distancing. With millions of college students graduating around the world the job hunt continues to be a time of worry and uncertainty.

According to the Wall Street Journal in a study, they recently completed from a labor-market analytics firm called Burning Glass Technologies. They found that

since the start of the pandemic the hiring of new coming college graduates has fallen by 45%.

"COVID-19 has affected my job hunt in terms of interviews, as most of them want to be cautious and choose to do them virtually rather than in person," Sekenske said.

As stated by the National Associate of Colleges and Employers, employers are expecting to hire 7.2% more graduates of the Class of 2021 than they did for the Class of 2020

"There are over 14k employment opportunities listed daily in Handshake, specifically for Ferris students and alumni," said Michele Albright CLACS Coordinator of Career & Volunteer Centers. "In addition, employers are reaching out daily with hiring needs."

Sekenske stated that Ferris has supported her job search by providing advice on what to expect during a job interview. Along with instructors providing information on job openings which has allowed for less stress on job hunting.

"This has helped tremendously because we are receiving job ads without even having to do much searching, and

have direct contact info to send resumes to," Sekenske said.

Companies that aid in internship opportunities for the College of Business at Ferris State have been able to adjust and provide an engaging internship experience for students virtually

Internships are a great opportunity for employers to "orientate and train employees" while they are still attending school stated by Albright.

Megan Connaghan the internship director for the College of Business at Ferris said that companies are "actively recruiting" students for Summer 2021 and future semesters.

"Students are interviewing for internships virtually," Connaghan said. "Many internships are remote, but we do have students completing in-person internships."

Graduates are looking forward to being able to apply the skills they learned during college to real-world situations.



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THIS WEEK IN MICHIGAN NEWS

Catch up on news around the state

Noah Kurkjian & Brendan Sanders

News Editor, Sports Editor

Capitol Hill

A panel has been called to investigate to determine if Macomb County Prosecutor Peter Lucido can make an unbiased decision as to whether Governor Gretchen Whitmore should be held criminally responsible for nursing home deaths related to COVID-19.

His bias was brought into question in a complaint filed Monday citing his bevy of public criticisms of the governor according to the Detroit Free Press.

The complaint asks Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission to decide whether or not these claims made as a state senator and prosecutor violate state and local ethic

rules and should subsequently remove him from any investigations involving the governor in relation to nursing home deaths.

"As a legislator and candidate for county prosecutor, Mr. Lucido went on the record saying, without evidence, that Governor Whitmer had 'cold-blooded killed' nursing home residents and strenuously suggested he would prosecute her," the complaint states, referencing a June 19 interview Lucido did with journalist Charlie LeDuff.

This is an ongoing investigation, and the results may not end up being public unless it is decided that someone committed professional misconduct.

Sports

INDIANAPOLIS — The Michigan Wolverines have punched their ticket into the Elite Eight with a win over Florida State in the Sweet Sixteen.

Michigan beat Florida State 76 - 58 in a dominant win over the Seminoles. Michigan jumped out to an 11 point lead going into half time and pulled away in the second half.

Michigan's scoring was well spread out throughout the team, with four players scoring 12 or more points on the evening. Freshman center Hunter Dickinson and junior forward Brandon John Jr. Each scored 14 points on the evening.

Sophomore guard Franz Wagner scored a double-double, in which he scored 13 points to go along with 10 rebounds. He also led the team in assists with five on the evening. Senior guard Chaundee Brown scored 12 points.

Advancing to the Elite Eight, the no. 1 seeded Michigan faces the surging under-

dog UCLA who already beat in state rival Michigan State in the Round of 68 play in game. The no. 11 seeded Bruins are coming off an overtime upset against no. 2 seed Alabama to reach the Elite Eight.

The Wolverines will take on UCLA on March 30, with Michigan being given an 80.2% chance of winning according to ESPN's matchup predictor.

EAST LANSING — Michigan State point guard Rocket Watts announced Monday that he will be entering the NCAA transfer portal. The announcement comes after a lackluster season from the Spartans, who barely made the NCAA tournament and lost in their first four play-in game against UCLA.

In Watts' tweeted statement, he expressed his gratitude to everyone at MSU and his coaches. Head coach Tom Izzo released a statement that said the decision was mutual between Watts and the team.

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HELEN FERRIS

Continued from front page

suggestions and encouragement to the plodder and many an F.I. student owes his successes to her painstaking work," it read.

This sentiment of grit and tenacity is echoed by Helen Ferris' own writings.

"One of the chief elements of success in any line of work is the power to take infinite pains with that work. No part of a task should be regarded as trifling, unworthy of attention," Helen Ferris wrote.

According to University archivist Melinda Isler, Helen Ferris was determined enough to perfect the art of teaching while W.N. Ferris pursued his political career.

"She remained focused as a teacher. Woodbridge went on to a lot of other things, but she remained dedicated to education in the end. And while she wasn't always the front-facing aspect of Ferris, she was critical in the Institute, and all of the things that it did," Isler said.

This passion for education pushed Helen Ferris to support her students outside of the classroom as well. Even into her later years of life, she would open her personal library to students who were struggling with coursework. She would often read stories aloud in her home to upwards of 16 boys during her son Phelp's childhood.

Possibly the most admirable gift Helen Ferris ever gave was her dwelling.

"When it was difficult to give housing, she boarded some students and gave them a job to help them pay their tuition. While helping her take care of the children, they would actually live in the Ferris house," Isler said.

Despite her enormous contributions to the university, Helen Ferris' story is seldom told. Busch credits this to the great man theo-

“*Submission to our mistakes is the climax of cowardice. Submission to the right is the height of nobility.*”

Helen Ferris

ry of history, in which society looks for heroic men to attribute vast innovation to. While W.N. Ferris' legacy deserves preservation, perhaps not in a way that overshadows his wife and partner's.

May Helen Ferris be remembered in the wonderful light W.N. Ferris always shone upon her in his words. May her own words live on as well.

"A steady purpose attended by increasing effort will accomplish more than we have yet dreamed of. If we form that habit of giving to small matters our best endeavor, then great things must receive it. I have come to feel that our possibilities and powers are almost unlimited if we will but listen to the voice of duty and hold ourselves responsive to the light."

"Submission to our mistakes is the climax of cowardice. Submission to the right is the height of nobility."

"The two factors most essential to culture, growth and achievement, are to see the right and then to do it, to have the courage and force to work this into the web of life and carry our intuitions and better impulses into action. We curb our ambitions and distrust our ideals. When ease, comfort or pleasure stand in the way of advancement, they must be swept away with a power as relentless as fate."

"Selfishness creeps in and whispers some other time will do as well. The convenient time never comes and to all eternity those impulses, which, carried into action, would have conveyed happiness and joy, remain unused."

This story was written as part of The Torch's Women's History Month edition. Check out the insert for more Women's History Month content!

- ON THE RECORD -

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

A Wal Mart shopping spree

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

Text troubles

March 20, 3:19 p.m., a man reported that a woman had been sending him harassing messages and once officers arrived, the pair made up. No arrests or citations were carried out.

A Wal Mart shopping spree

March 22, 8:17 a.m., a student reported a lost credit card to DPS which had been used for a shopping spree at Wal Mart. There were no suspects at the time of reporting.

You've got mail

March 23, 12:02 p.m., officers were dispatched to Ward Hall after a package arrived that was assumed to contain marijuana. No arrests were made, or citations

issued, after the confirmation was made, as it could not be determined if the package was requested or not.

Wrong time to use a fake ID

March 23, 11:02 p.m., a driver was stopped by DPS for careless driving and proceeded to present a fake ID to officers. The driver was arrested on one count of unlawful use of a driver's license and one count of misdemeanor careless driving.

Third time was not the charm

March 25, 8:52 a.m., officers were dispatched to the sports complex as the lock securing the athletics locker room was broken for the third time. The case was closed due to a lack of leads.

Polish, persistent and proud

Polish CEO is this year's Fulbright foreign lecturer

Jessica Oakes
News Reporter

On April 8, Ewa Rogozinska will deliver the address "In the Company of Women: The Art of Global Leadership" via Zoom.

Rogozinska is the founder and CEO of Corporate Diplomats & Translators, based in Warsaw, Poland. She also serves as the president of the Polish foundation Sport and Education Build a Good Nation and has established two foundations for women: In the Company of Business Women and The World Belongs to Women.

Her research and lecturing are centered around gender intelligence and effective workplace communication between men and women.

By telling her story, Rogozinska hopes she will inspire the women of Ferris to remain persistent and motivated in the face of adversity.

"My success is that I survived so many downs, and my success is that I still want to do more. I sort of invent in my head a new aim all the time and check just to find out if it's possible or not. This is the curiosity in life, you know, this is the success," Rogozinska said.

Born in the Cold War-era Polish People's Republic, Rogozinska learned how to carry herself through life's challenges independently.

"I remember I was four, and my mother was forced to send me to the nearest shop to do shopping for the family. I had to be very careful and very responsible. I had to go very close to the wall of the building not to get hit by anything," Rogozinska said. "Yes, I cannot really forget this moment, this first moment of my life that I had to be responsible and arrange something for the family."

This self-sufficiency combined with her enduring curiosity allowed Rogozinska to fulfill her passion for the English language.

"English was my obsession since I was 13, or something, because during communism, we couldn't really enjoy the Western culture so much. It was forbidden," Rogozinska said.

Despite this, she was able to discover the classic English literature of British Invasion rock music through illegal radio stations.

"The Beatles and all those groups of the 60s and 70s. And then, of course, I started searching for more and more and more," Rogozinska said. "I desperately wanted to know the lyrics. And at first, I started studying just the English language, the very elementary things on my own. I got a book, like a very primitive book, but it was enough to start it. And then in high

school, I started having regular classes. And that was it. I was just English obsessed,"

In 1994, Rogozinska graduated from a school of pedagogy now known as the University of Opole. She majored in English and American literature. Because the language was not valued by the Polish government, Rogozinska had limited access to academic resources.

"We didn't even have the proper books, or proper amount of books, for every student. So, in order to, you know, to pass the exam and be well prepared for the class, we actually had to rewrite the books," Rogozinska said.

Remaining persistent in her studies, Rogozinska went on to earn her master's degree. During this time, she was taught by Ferris English professor Dr. Christine Vonder Haar.

"[Rogozinska] was in a second-year master's program class that I was teaching. I taught rhetoric comp and linguistics, and I've been in touch with her ever since," Vonder Haar said.

Vonder Haar has admired Rogozinska's spirit for nearly 30 years, referring to her as "madcap" and a "dynamite person."

"When the Berlin Wall came down and the Soviets left Poland, and there was a new freedom for everyone. [Rogozinska] saw it and grabbed it," Vonder Haar said.

Vonder Haar was able to teach in Poland under the very program hosting this annual lecture, the Fulbright Scholar Program. According to Vonder Haar, the Ferris Fulbrighters aim to expand the international presence on campus with their stories.

Rogozinska also has Vonder Haar to thank for the origin of her successful translating company.

"She was so fascinated by the Macintosh desktop computer I brought with me," Vonder Haar said. "It had no internet connection, not in 1990 or 92, and she wanted it for translation, typing and printing purposes. She bought it from me. And that was her startup computer for their business."

Today, Rogozinska continues to broaden her horizons in her career while maintaining her passion for language. She is featured in the book "Never Give Up!" alongside 20 other outstanding businesswomen.

A version of the book has been translated from Polish to English by Rogozinska's own translation company and will be gifted to a few lucky viewers of her lecture.

To hear Rogozinska's full story, access the Zoom link located on Ferris' university web calendar at 11 a.m. on April 8.

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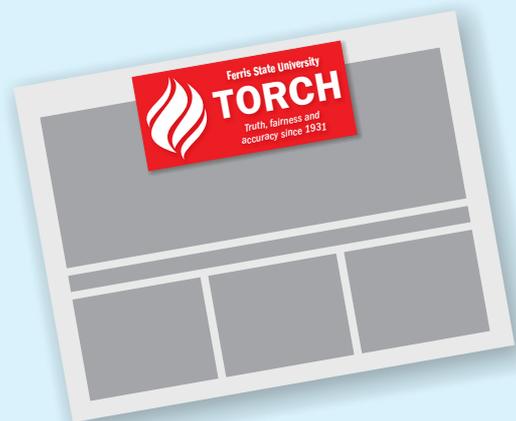


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EDITOR'S COLUMN: The peace and quiet of Big Rapids

By Cora Hall

On its face, there's really not much that's special about Big Rapids.

There isn't a lot to do, not a ton of people; really most of what exists here for students is on campus or right around it. I never thought that I would miss it.

But as the months turned into weeks and then into days that I have left here, I've realized there's one thing I will miss immensely: the quiet.

There are very few places I've been in my life where the early mornings are so peaceful you could hear a pin drop. Not every morning was like this, but those mornings are ones that I'll miss. I remember one specifically that lives in my mind.

There was about a half a foot of snow on the ground at the end of January and everywhere you looked it was pure white. It was one of the few moments I found the winter climate truly beautiful and enjoyed the snow in Michigan. A few clouds were scattered across the sky that was almost painfully bright blue and the sun bounced off the snow in a way that made them both almost unbearable to look directly at. But

at the same time, you can't look away from the pure white surrounding you.

It was cold enough that your breath became little clouds of vapor and I wasn't wearing a coat. But there wasn't any wind and I was unbothered by the cold for a few minutes. I'm not sure exactly why I went outside that morning, but I remember pausing and thinking that I would remember that moment for a long time. I even took a video, to try and immortalize the quiet. It was so peaceful it had an ethereal air about it.

My life feels like it moves a hundred miles an hour sometimes. Somedays I blink and it's already 7 p.m. I'm moving to Kansas City this summer and who knows where after that - probably another large city. These moments will become few and far between.

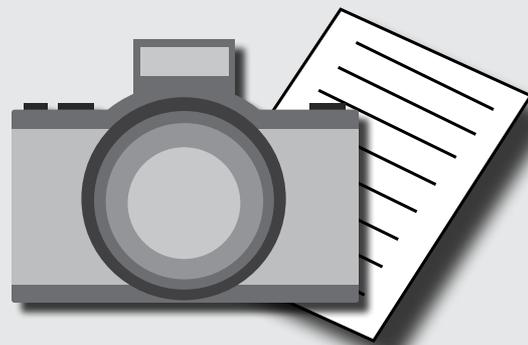
As someone who is typically someone who speaks their mind with their full chest, it might be surprising that I crave moments of silence sometimes. While I thrive in fast-paced situations, there are times I need to reset. There are times to hit pause in my brain and simply not think.

Taking time to be alone is a way for me to avoid burnout. I had the house to myself when all my roommates went home one weekend and it was such a relief to sit in the house alone. Those moments to yourself are important, whether they're stolen here and there or all weekend.

Those moments can be found wherever you are if you look for them. Sitting in your car in the driveway for a minute after you get home; taking a minute to look at the stars at night; feeling the relief of finishing in an assignment late at night and breathing for the first time all night.

Don't underestimate the power of a few moments of peace in your life. They may be hard to find in a world that never sleeps, but they're worth seeking out.

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Finding yourself first

Growing on your own is more important than finding “the one”



Alyssa Hubbard
Lifestyles Reporter

Imagine breaking up with the person you’ve dated since high school and realizing that you wasted time focusing solely on the relationship and not yourself.

According to Brandon Gaille Marketing, in 2014, only 2% of marriages were “high school sweethearts.” It’s also been found the likelihood of divorce increases for these “sweethearts.”

I’ve heard stories about high school lovers that didn’t last long after they graduated because they grew apart. More importantly, they grew up.

In high school, teenagers are busy getting into relationships and falling in and out of love repeatedly. While that’s a natural part of growing up, I think they’re too invested in making sure they find “the one” as soon as possible. They forget the significance of being in high school and being young.

Scientists have discovered that people don’t fully mature until the age of 25; both the body and the brain are still developing before then. There is still much growing up to do after high school. Teenagers and young adults have opportunities to experience more of what life has to offer.

I spent all four years falling in love with boys and hoping they felt the same. I got into relationships and became obsessed with the idea of love, finding the one I thought I was going to marry. However, none of those relationships lasted more than a year because, after some time, we realized we weren’t the same people we originally fell in love with.

When I was in high school, I wasted my time and experience searching for my potential life partner. While I learned from those past relationships, I missed out on the chances to explore my identity.

High school is meant for experimentations. It’s the time when you slowly begin figuring out your interests, the type of people you like and if you’re even ready for a commitment. High school is about making mistakes, learning from them, and having fun while you do so.

If someone chooses to date in high school, go for it. Just remember that the first, second, or even the third person you date is not the “end-all, be-all.” One day, life will transition to the next round of personal developments someone will go through.

People are always changing, becoming a different version of themselves every day. The person you fell in love with back in high school is not the same person who walks around today. Neither are you.

Take the time to understand yourself and what you want. There’s no rush trying to meet “the one” when you have so much growing up to do yet.

How we tell women’s stories matters

A woman’s story on its own has value, not which men she knows

Professor Rachel Foulk has a PhD in art history from Emory University and has conducted a summer archeology program for American Academy in Rome, Italy. Foulk has been teaching at Ferris since 2011 and is the director of the Museum for Sexist Objects located in FLITE. She is also the faculty advisor for the women and gender studies minor.

Rachel Foulk
Guest Contributor

Our favorite places can sometimes disappoint us with sexism. I’m an art historian, so one of my favorite things to do when in a new city is to visit local museums. I was looking forward to my visit to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 2018 because I was planning to teach a class on “Women and Art” at Ferris and I wanted to take some photos of works by women artists for this class.

A painting of a still life caught my eye because it included a wreath of flowers that looked so real that I could almost smell them. I discovered that it was an 18th-century painting by the French artist Charlotte Eustace Sophie de Fuligny-Damas, the Marquise de Grollier. Wanting to learn more about this artist and her work, I read the museum label hanging next to the picture. But I was disappointed to see that the placard focused exclusively on Fuligny-Damas’ relationship with her teacher Gerard van Spaendonck. But

the situation got worse in the label’s last sentence, which reads, “Grollier attained considerable fame, befriending such artists as Hubert Robert.”

What did I actually learn about Fuligny-Damas from the label? I learned that she was “famous enough” to have a friendship with a male artist. But what about her own life? What more do we know about her art? To characterize a woman artist only by her relationships with the men in her life does not tell her story. This practice views a woman’s life and value through a patriarchal lens that privileges the significance of men’s lives. It is sexist, oppressive and degrading. Our relationships make us stronger, but we are all individuals with our own lives and identities.

Disappointed by the lack of information about the artist responsible for the painting, I did a little research. Among other things, I learned Fuligny-Damas lived at Versailles and catalogued some of the royal gardens there. She was also a founding member of the Society of Horticulture in France. Fuligny-Damas was an artist and a scientist. Certainly,

this helps to explain the attention to detail in her flower paintings. Didactic labels have limited space, but, for me, any of these details would have told a more compelling story about a woman who made a career as an artist at a time when few women had professional careers.

How we tell women’s history frames how we view women’s lives. This is especially true in institutions like museums that tell stories for public audiences. When I teach my “Women and Art” class, I encourage students to recover women’s achievements within a history of art often dominated by male narratives. Feminism can give greater agency to women and their accomplishments by writing women’s history on their own terms. Women’s History Month reminds us that we can choose to be more mindful of how we tell women’s history. Likewise, as we record our own histories, we can speak our own truths and advocate for women and other oppressed people.

Women are not the enemy

The effect of internalized misogyny on women and genders studies

Happy Bainbridge is a senior studying sociology, criminal justice with a women and gender studies minor. Bainbridge chose all those fields of study because she thinks they’re essential to accurately understanding all demographics of society. Her goal is to one day work for a nonprofit organization or to continue her education and become a professor.

Happy Bainbridge
Guest Contributor

As someone who grew up in a conservative town, feminism offered me an essential outlet into discovering my femininity and place in society. I was known for my feminist views, all of which I was certain of and proud to embrace in the public sphere.

When I came to Ferris State as a freshman, I had my heart set on obtaining a Women and Gender Studies minor to further my knowledge of issues that women face across the globe. As my education began, however, I noticed a pattern of internalized misogyny embedded, not only within my professors, but also within the female students surrounding me.

Internalized misogyny, also referred to as internalized sexism, is the ideology that women subconsciously embrace sexist ideals and ways of acting out of gender. This is most commonly seen in how women treat each other and how male validation still plays a crucial role in behavior and performance.

When I entered the Intro to Women’s Studies class, I was surrounded by women and a handful of men. What I gathered from my time in that class is that feminism has become intricately misconstrued with what it means to be a modern woman in today’s patriarchal society. A majority of the teaching

focused on women’s desire for overarching independence. Additionally, it was taught that the enemy was women who did not identify as feminists. Rarely were men addressed as a core issue in the fight for gender equality and instead they were safeguarded with the typical phrase of “feminism benefits men too.”

At its core, yes, feminism does benefit men, however, it can’t do so until it benefits all women. Most importantly, why are we still talking about men? Feminism is the advocacy of women’s rights on the basis of sex and therefore men should never be the focus of the conversation. Men are the reason women cannot walk alone at night or even during the day. Men are the reason that young girls grow up in a society that creates constant competition amongst one another. Men are the reason that those same young girls will grow up to be insecure and sexist adults.

While in the Intro to Women’s Studies class, many of my female peers boasted about never wearing pink and how they provide financial support to their boyfriends who don’t deserve it. These same young women claimed that they will never need or rely on a partner.

I am an ultra-feminine woman in a relationship with a heterosexual man who provides for me, so am I less of a feminist?

Internalized misogyny has taught my fellow classmates that because they rely on only themselves and reject societal expectations, that they are the face of feminism. Ironically, this is the same narrative that my professor was teaching and in return while many students fell deeper into their beliefs, others, such as myself, began to reject feminism.

It took me years to realize that my dismissal of high heels and dresses was actually my desire to “not be like other girls” and how deeply I had embraced the idea that women are lesser than men. I intensely aspired to be respected and listened to in the same way that men were and because of such I was repulsed by anything that would group me with other women. I do not blame myself for feeling this way and I do not blame the women around me who are still stuck in this vicious cycle.

What is most disappointing is Ferris State’s lack of investment in enlightened professors who are knowledgeable and willing to teach both men and women about how profoundly internalized misogyny affects our everyday lives and institutions. There’s no excuse for having educators who lack self-awareness and critical thinking skills in analyzing why they still hate themselves and other women while covering it up with what it means to be a “feminist”.

Our guest contributors were asked to submit columns as part of The Torch’s Women’s History Month edition. Read more content in our insert!

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Living in a world where the default perspective isn't yours

Torch (Female) Editorial Board

We live in a world that is dominated by the male perspective. From language itself to government legislation and everything in between, men are the default perspective.

It's ingrained in our society, and frankly, we're tired of it. There shouldn't be one perspective that is held as the standard. There shouldn't be one perspective that's seen as more valuable, simply because of gender.

It impacts us and the world we live in, in both simple and nuanced ways. Our everyday language at its very core is man-focused. Linguistics is one of the most obvious examples in the world as male-unless-otherwise-indicated. Think about the word "man" in English. Society uses this word to refer to all humanity. "All men are created equally" "mankind" "policeman" and even the action of "manning a ship."

Of course, if "man" had not gained its new connotations since its origins, this would not be the problem. Upon first use, *mann* meant simply "a person." The fact that the word was hijacked to focus only on the male perspective is one of the initial problems.

Even outside of English, languages tend to use the male format as gender neutral. Why? Why isn't there simply a gender-neutral term which does not alienate half of the population? While this isn't the most significant issue of living in a world made for men, it's one of the daily reminders that the status quo is male.

As we discussed this editorial as a group, we all realized that we somewhat hated being girls growing up. There was a desire to be a "tomboy" and reject all things perceived as "girly."

Generation Z is known for our disillusionment with traditional gender norms.

Advocate.com and them.us report that 50% of Gen Zers believe that the rigid gender binary is outdated and archaic.

This does not, however, foreshadow the destruction of gender as a whole. If anything, young people are aiming to deconstruct preconceived notions of the biological sexes while using gender expression as a creative outlet.

One small example of this larger concept is the evolution of the color pink. Many women recall having a deep hatred for pink as young girls. It was often extended to all feminine things such as dresses, or even other women.

As women get older, we see the sense of superiority connected to this hatred. So much of 2000s "tomboy" culture stemmed from the need to be different than other girls. With maturity comes an important question: what is wrong with other girls?

Of course, this is a dead-end question. The only thing wrong with other girls was the fact that they were girls. They adhered to all the things that the world deemed feminine. Tomboy culture was the result of girls realizing that their gender is all too often used as an insult.

We were told we played sports "like a girl" as a way to look down on us and make us feel weak. The word "girly" itself was an insult. These subtle, consistent attacks on our gender as children left a mark.

This need to not be like other girls or feminine came from internalized misogyny, which nearly everyone has to some degree. But as we grew up, each of us at some point all recognized how deeply it ran in us and attempted to unlearn these subconscious biases toward our own gender.

Unfortunately, this idea of internalized misogyny is novel to many, especially the men in our lives. Even the nicest,

well-meaning of the men in our lives often fail to truly examine issues from our perspective, unable to break out of the male lens society functions in.

This commonly arises as an issue when discussing more sensitive topics, such as sexual assault.

In the age of the Me Too movement, the prevalence of sexual assault and harassment has been brought to light.

The Rape, Abuse and Incest Network (RAINN) is the biggest anti-sexual violence organization in the United States. It has found that college students are at a three times higher risk of sexual violence than the general population. RAINN's data shows that 26.4% of female undergraduate college students are victims of rape or sexual assault through violence during their time in college.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 90% of sexual assaults on college campuses will not be reported.

There is often a culture of victim blaming surrounding assault. Women are often asked what they were wearing or what they did to get assaulted, implying that it's their fault rather than that of the perpetrator. This was recently highlighted in a Minnesota Supreme Court decision, which set an incredibly dangerous precedent for rape trials in the future.

In a decision just this week, the court ruled that the man would not be charged with felony rape because the woman had voluntarily drunk beforehand. The court decided that the language in the law determined a person should only be considered "mentally incapacitated" and incapable of consenting to sex if they were intoxicated with substances "without the person's agreement."

In simple words, if you chose to get drunk to the point where you are mentally incapable of giving consent and are sexu-

ally assaulted, the person who assaulted you will not receive a felony charge. The precedent this sets at the State Supreme Court level is terrifying. And it's just another example of victim blaming.

It feels like in situations like this, women's perspectives are not taken into account. In a court of law, all perspectives involved should be taken into account. Yet this is clearly not the case.

We challenge our readers to think about these issues from women's perspective. Rather than blowing us off as over reactionary, think about what it's like to be reminded by your everyday language that the world does not see things from your point of view, and in most cases, it's an afterthought.

Rather than telling us that the "you play like a girl" insults were jokes, try to understand the way that planted seeds of misogyny in us from a young age and led us to hate anything feminine. Rather than telling us that sexual assault is a gray situation and you see both sides, consider the fear we live in, in a world where one in five of us will be sexually assaulted at some point in our lives.

And don't think of these things from our perspective because you have a mother, sister or daughter. Think of these things because women are people and we have inherent value as human beings.

The Torch (Female) Editorial Board, which was created specifically for the Women's History Month issue, is made of up Editor in Chief Cora Hall, Managing Copy Editor Kaylin Johnson, Lifestyles Editor Marissa Russell, News Reporter Rebecca Vander-Kooi and News Reporter Jessica Oakes.

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Dana King sculpts history



Photo courtesy of Dana King

Alumna Dana King has taken many different turns in her career and they eventually led her to her love for art. She received her MFA in fine art painting when she was 48 years old.

A Ferris alumna's journey through journalism to finding her passion in art

Rebecca VanderKooi
News Reporter

At 61 years old Dana King exudes unbridled joy as she talks with passion about her third career. King, whose love for life is contagious, has an infectious smile and a head full of long grey hair that dances everywhere as she talks about her hopes, dreams and accomplishments.

"This is my third career. I'm going to retire again when I'm 80 or so and maybe I'll do something else," King said.

Disaster Queen

King graduated in 1982 from Ferris with a degree in marketing. She worked for five years at LA KNBC and KABC as a marketer.

When her boss fired the only black reporter at KABC LA, there was panic as to who would replace her. The office secretary recommended hiring King and they did, even though she did not have any intention of working in journalism.

"You might hire me because I'm black, but you won't keep me because I'm black. You'll keep me because I'm good," King said with a chuckle, as she notes that she was terrible at first.

This was the humble beginning to a 25-year storied career in broadcast journalism. She covered disasters all across the globe and her kids nicknamed her the 'disaster queen'.

Her first international coverage was in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch decimated the country. In fact, she won a local Emmy award for her reporting from 1998-2020 covering the effects of the hurricane.

"Everybody lost so much, but they banded together and helped one another and that was so eye opening to me," King said. "I saw that again in New York City when I was the first television reporter from the west coast to make it to New York City three days after 9/11."

King explained that although she reported on many devastating disasters, covering 9/11 was one of the hardest stories of her entire journalism career.

"In my career I went places where people needed help from the United States and here I was in my own country watching it receive the same assistance that I had seen around the world," King said.

King always knew that she didn't want to work in television after age 50 because

she always worked for men and she did not want them to tell her she had to change her appearance. So at the age of 52 she left the business to pursue different dreams.

Taking up space

King received her MFA in fine art painting at age 48. However, a weekend sculpture course with a friend a few years later is what changed the trajectory of her life. She was immediately hooked.

She is now represented by The Thelma Harris Art Gallery and since 2012 she has been a full-time artist. She specializes in creating sculptures of black bodies out of bronze.

"Sculpture inhabits space and space is power and it's really important for African descendants to see their memories, their stories out in the world," King said. "It's especially important for children to see sculptures of people who remind them of their grandparents, or their parents, or uncles and aunts. That they actually see themselves in the world and know that their history is important to the building of America."

King detailed that creating a sculpture is a multiphase process which starts with making a clay piece in her art studio, which typically takes 4-6 months. Through various phases in the foundry and making molds, the final product is created by pouring molten liquid bronze into the mold and then chipping it out.

King has stayed remarkably busy with commissioned pieces that have been installed across the United States, from Connecticut, to Alabama, to California.

Most recently, she finished a sculpture of Dr. Huey P Newton, who was the cofounder of the Black Panther party, per his widow Frederika Newton's request.

The statue is going to be dedicated and installed in West Oakland on Oct. 24. Huey was born and died in West Oakland, so, in a sense, this sculpture is bringing him home, King explained.

Another piece that King created was installed in New Haven, Connecticut in Sept. 2020. The sculpture tells the story of an African descendant who helped build the city's infrastructure.

"His history wasn't known and his history was so important to New Haven and now the history is being told," King said.

Behind every sculpture there is an immense amount of research that King con-

ducts. She aims to tell history truthfully and accurately through her art.

"When you tell stories on tv they last for two minutes and then they're gone. But these stories that I tell in bronze will last as long as the material lasts and bronze lasts hundreds, even thousands of years," King said.

King eagerly anticipates the new projects that are in store for the coming years.

One such project is creating a sculpture to honor the first cohort of black deaf students at Gallaudet University from 1952.

Recently, she has been commissioned by the San Francisco Giants to create a sculpture honoring Toni Jones, an African American woman who was the first woman to ever play major league baseball in the United States.

"(I'm creating this) for all the little girls and little boys who play baseball, but really for the little girls so that they know that if they desire to do it, that it has been done and it can be done again," King said.

Looking Back

Looking back over her beginnings at Ferris decades ago and her career to date King explained that everything she has done in her life informs what she does today. She is grateful for each career she has been able to have and is especially grateful for where she is right now.

"I love history and research and I get to do that with my art and I don't have to put on a nice suit or high heels or makeup to do it. I can be a bum in my studio," laughed King.

Even though she now lives and works in California, she still fondly remembers Ferris State University and is grateful for the start to a unique professional career.

"I grew up in Big Rapids. I went to high school there, went to college and I can always come back. I've never forgotten that and I never worry that there won't be a place for me in the world. I'm very proud that I went to Ferris," King said.

Even though King lives on the other side of the country, she has been able to use her connections on the West Coast, especially with the Oakland Museum, to be a cabinet member for the new Jim Crow museum that is set to be built on the Ferris campus. She noted that all these years later she is grateful to be at a place in her life where she can give back to the school and the Ferris community.

From marketing, to journalism, to art, King's career has had many twists and turns. However, her dedication to telling important stories and sharing the truth with the public has not wavered. As she assists in the development of the new Jim Crow Museum she desires to teach the community about the horrors of racism and to encourage museum goers to think deeply.



Photo courtesy of Dana King

Dana King poses with one of her life-size sculptures.

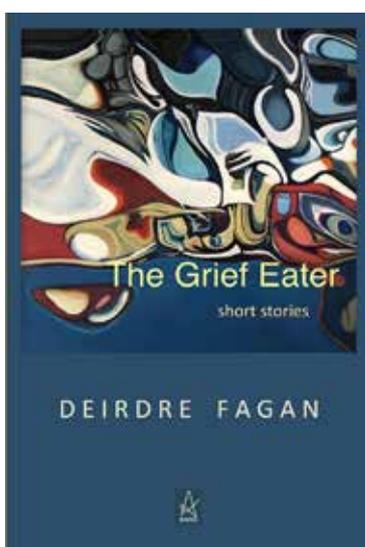
Books to read by our female faculty

March is also National Reading Month and in honor of that, we wanted to highlight a few books written by our female faculty members.

Dr. Deirdre Fagan is a professor in languages and literature as well as the coordinator for the creative writing program at Ferris. Her first book was published in 2007, called "Critical Companion to Robert Frost." Her latest works include a chapterbook of poetry called "Have Love," which was published in 2019. Her most recent work was a short story collection published in the fall of 2020, called "The Grief Eater."

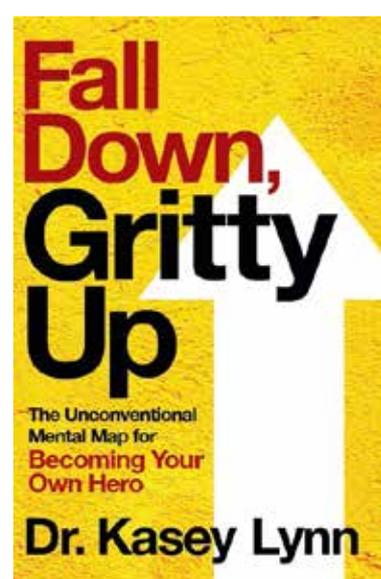
Dr. Kasey Thompson is a professor in Ferris' College of Business. Her career path took her all the way to the position of Director of Menu Innovation at McDonald's, in which she oversaw 35,000 restaurants around the world. She wrote *Fall Down, Gritty Up* in the hopes of sharing the lessons and experiences she has had with the next generation. It is currently scheduled for release in April.

The Grief Eater by Dr. Deirdre Fagan –out now



"My first year of college, I lost a brother to suicide, and the May I graduated with my bachelor's, my mother was diagnosed with cancer," Fagan said. "She passed three months later. Through these early losses, I discovered a great deal about people's responses to grief and my own. At 36, I lost my father and remaining brother two weeks apart, and then I lost my husband and the father of my children to ALS six years later. They say write what you know, but it was not a conscious decision as much as an emotional one.

"The Grief Eater collection is driven by perspectives I gained through my own experiences with grief, but it is largely an opportunity to open a discussion about how grieving people respond to loss, what is considered socially acceptable, and also raise questions about what should be. Grief is a universal experience, but our experiences with grief are individual. The collection is also an opportunity for readers to develop empathy for themselves and others when confronted with what appears unbearable."



Fall Down, Gritty Up by Dr. Kasey Thompson—coming soon 2021

"Fall Down, Gritty Up celebrates where we are. Right here. Right now," Thompson said. "It draws on us to accept and rejoice in the reality of our current state—today's location on the path to achieving our desires.

The book serves as a personal challenge to embrace the energy of all life experiences—from the most painful to the most joyous—and to learn how to harness that energy and convert it into a fuel that propels you toward fulfillment.

My ultimate hope is that after reading my book, you will be inspired to "gritty up" in the areas of your life that require strengthening so that you, too, will always find a way to overcome whatever obstacles life presents—and then, ultimately, continue on your path to becoming your own hero.

By 'gritty up' I mean, let's get the hell up from whatever has knocked you down—and get going toward your goals."

Equality for all

There's space for everyone in the feminist movement today



Kendall Rooks Lifestyles Reporter

The very first wave of feminism in the United States began at the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention in Seneca Falls, New York at the Wesleyan Chapel. According to a History.com article, Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott proclaimed, "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal," and that therefore, women deserved the right to vote.

Fortunately, the feminist movement has aided in substantial progress for the rights of women. In the 2010s, feminists brought to light prominent cases of sexual assault, focused on combatting misogyny and ensuring women have equal rights. As the movement progresses, the agenda for the movement evolves as well. Women also think about feminism in different ways.

"Feminism [to me] is an ideology and range of social movements that advocate for equality and equity of genders," humanities professor Rachel Foulk said. "There are many different waves and many different approaches, but I think at its core feminism is about equality of genders."

The 'wave' metaphor confirms Foulk's idea that gender activism in the United States has for the most part been unified around one set of ideas, known as feminism, which focuses on equality for all people.

"There are certainly many branches of feminism, and they have evolved," humanities professor Ann Byars said. "How I view feminism is much like how I would view something like religion or your political leanings: it's a value to me more than a belief. Sure, everyone has a definition. But, as I get up there in years, it changes for me, and now I see myself more as an active facilitator of crusades and a support system because I have gained wisdom over the years."

Feminism has been widely welcomed on college campuses as wide ranges of new ideas and concepts are introduced to college students. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 11.3 million college students are women compared with 8.7 million men, and 63 percent of these women identify as feminists.

"As a whole, academia is where people are given creative freedoms and openness

for their mind to work and be a visionary. So, I like the idea that universities take a leading role in inspiring change in the feminist movement, however they see it," Byars said. "I think academia overall is the leader in the feminist movement because that is where young people can be introduced to these ideas, accept them as their own and adopt them."

It is easier to find like-minded women who stand alongside one another in the movement when there is a female majority in higher educations. According to University Stats, there were 7,130 female students and 6,120 male students at Ferris during the 2018 - 2019 academic year. There is a deep recognition for personal worth among women on college campuses today.

Foulk explained that feminism present on the Ferris campus will only work to better everyone else's lives, no matter what gender you are. She added, "Young people are going to college to become educated and start their careers. You are the leaders of our country and our world. I think that it is important we recognize we still have work to do and that you can make an impact."

There are multiple ways to make an impact and be an active feminist. Byars expressed that there is a space for everyone to support the feminist movement; feminists do not have to be an only-female movement. She said that everyone can consciously make the effort to support, whether it be financially or through attending events and volunteering. Foulk feels everyone needs to be more mindful of their biases. Each person has been subject to bias societal systems, and examining these can be helpful to the movement as well.

"In our everyday life we need to make sure we are advocating for others," Foulk said. "Let's say you're hosting a group discussion online. Make sure that women, men and non-gender binary people are included. We also need to where we can safely-call out injustices when we witness them."

Being a feminist means fighting for the equality of all people. Feminism allows people to look at the world not as it is, but how it could be. Byars said, "In the last five years I have seen the most active, politically passionate, driven people in my classrooms. It is outstanding what I am seeing, and you're ready."

Women building a career

Ferris women talk about navigating male-dominated field of work boots and hard hats

Cora Hall, Marissa Russell
Editor in Chief, Lifestyles Editor

Imagine trying to complete some of the simplest tasks of your job and being met with laughter. This isn't a hypothetical for building construction technology senior Hannah Price, it was her reality as an intern.

Price was in charge of a project on her building site, which meant she was tasked with everything from ordering supplies to scheduling. With the flooring scheduled soon, she went to the electricians to tell them the wiring needed to be finished because the flooring was going in soon. Instead of listening, they laughed in her face, not believing she knew when the flooring was getting done.

Once she got them in a room with her superiors, the mood changed and the electricians were on site shortly after. "I was trying to get these guys to do something for three weeks, and it took five minutes for these guys to do it," Price said. "I know it's not just a woman thing, it's an 'I was only in the field for seven months so I don't have as much experience' thing, but still, I told you word-for-word to do the exact same thing, and you're gonna laugh at me, but he's gonna tell you when you'll go do it."

Women only make up 9.9% of the construction industry in the United States according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The number is mirrored in Ferris' construction management program, with 26 of 285 students being women. Suzanne Miller, the program's coordinator since 2013, said that number has doubled since she came to Ferris.

Part of the problem with recruiting women in the field is the fact that most people do not know what construction management entails, the complexity of the process and the coordination skills required.

While Miller said she didn't face obstacles necessarily due to being a woman, she experienced ageism, which she said is all too common of an attitude towards new graduates.

Price feels like she has to fight a little more for respect and acceptance often being the only woman on site.

"It's hard, because if you try too hard, then they kind of back away from you, but if you don't try hard enough, then you'll never get included, you'll never get respected," Price said.

For construction management senior Sadie Pettinger, being the only woman in the room doesn't bother her. In her eyes, respect is earned, regardless of gender, but there are still times when being a woman in a male-dominated field means she gets treated differently.

"There are people that aren't going to respect you because you're a woman," Pettinger said. "I've encountered men that don't want to respect me because I'm a woman, but at the end of the day, in order for all of us to get our jobs done, we all have to work together."

At five-foot-two, most people give her funny looks when Pettinger tells people she's in construction. They'll ask her if she's the one out there swinging the hammer when in reality her career goal is to be a project manager.

Price wants to be a superintendent for commercial construction, a position she grew up watching her father in, who is a Ferris alum.

"I always loved the idea of construction," Price said. "I thought it was really cool to see how things happen, like to get to see the inside people how buildings built and everything so I went to the job sites with my dad."

Construction management is a career that was traditionally promoted towards the boys in high school due to the idea that it was manual labor. Neither Price or Pettinger dreamed of going into this field as kids. Price was dead set on being a cashier and Pettinger a teacher. Pettinger believes with the management side of construc-

tion, the field will continue to see more women involved.

As of right now, though, Price often is still the only woman on site and will get the kind of attention she doesn't always know how to respond to. The flirting and getting asked out while at work is something that doesn't necessarily get to her, but it's difficult to find the balance of responding in the right way.

"You want to joke back, but then you can't, because then you can give them the wrong impression," Price said. "But then it's also, I don't want to come off as, I don't want to be totally like closed off because I wanted to gain that relationship with them."

She began to learn who to joke around with and who to be serious with and eventually found other men on site who became good friends and advocates for her if someone else was really bugging her. But she still struggles with speaking out at times, not wanting to "pull the girl card" and having others think she can't look out for herself.

"I didn't want them to think that I was like, 'Oh, I'm the girl on site and everybody needs to help me, look out for me, this and that,'" Price said. "I wanted to be able to [handle] everything myself and not have to involve other people."

Pettinger has worked as an intern for two years for a company working with power plant projects. She said that while there are a good amount of women in director positions at her company, that's not always the case.

Career advancement for women in construction is not always easy.

With the lack of women in the field in the first place, it's typical for managers to circle back to the men when thinking of promotions. Part of this is the personal relationships outside of work. Pettinger said she's not getting a beer with the men after work or going on hunting trips with coworkers.

"With being such a male-dominated environment, there's a lot of conversations that happen outside the workplace that most women aren't involved with," Pettinger said. "At the end of the day, it doesn't really bother me because if I want to do what I want to do, I'm going to work my butt off to get there and it might take a little bit longer for me because I'm a woman ... but I think that in a lot of environments, you have to work to get where you want and it's no different for me."

Price feels that women are often seen as the ones to do the simple tasks, and when she's on the job people would come to her for copies, even though her male peers that are just a year or two ahead of her never touch office work.

She has seen women in the field struggle to advance and get promoted, even when they're qualified.

"The women in the field that I know moved up a lot slower than the other guys did and that's kind of disappointing to see," Price said. "Even pay is different, they're not in the same position they should be."

Gaining respect from her coworkers is one of the ways Price has succeeded in her field. Asking questions when she didn't know something and letting her male coworkers work through their personal process allows them to feel valued in Price's opinion and helps her work her way up.

Regardless of the issue faced, both women are proud to be in the field and of the experience they've earned already in school. For Pettinger, any challenge, whether it's because of her gender or not, is one she is ready to take on in her career.

"I think that the biggest thing that I am proud of is the fact that I have continued to take these challenges," Pettinger said. "Whether it's a female-related challenge or just normal challenges everyone's facing, and take it as a challenge and not take it personally, not let it like bother me, but just take it head-on and do what I can to better myself and to face this challenge."



Photo courtesy of Hannah Price

Hannah Price often feels like she has to work harder to be accepted as the only woman on most work sites.



Photo courtesy of Sadie Pettinger

At five-foot-two, Sadie Pettinger often gets looks of surprise when she tells people her major is construction management.

LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

Representing first-gen

The rollercoaster experience for Ferris first-gen students

Alyssa Hubbard
Lifestyles Reporter

These students are doing something their parents didn't do, couldn't do, or weren't able to finish doing: they're going to college and getting their degrees.

The name for these kinds of students is first-generation college students. This is because the students' parents didn't go to a college or university for higher education or they weren't able to get a degree. So, these students are the first generation in the family to accomplish that.

Automotive engineering technology sophomore Logan Bury is one of the many first-gen students at Ferris.

Bury's parents couldn't afford to attend college because they didn't have the time or money. Between raising two kids and having jobs to support them, it wasn't really an option for them.

Around the time Bury was about to graduate from high school his parents told him that he'd either have to go to college or join the military.

So he chose both.

Not only is Bury a full-time college student, he is also involved with the United States Army.

Bury decided to go to Ferris and pursue a degree in automotive engineering technology because "it is very difficult to find a good paying job that someone can comfortably live off of without some form of higher education."

And he likes cars. A lot.

Hospitality and event management junior Emma Franklin is another Ferris first-gen student who wanted to give herself more opportunities.

"Ultimately, I decided to pursue a higher education because I wanted to pursue a wider variety of jobs," Franklin said. "I wanted to be able to open more doors for myself professionally and to not settle for a life that I didn't dream of."

Franklin's parents grew up in a small rural town and they got married right after high school. Her father followed his dreams of becoming a well driller and other trades work, while her mother wanted to become a wonderful caretaker when Franklin and her brothers were born. Franklin added that "neither of them felt like college was their calling" and they chose other directions in life.

Her parents were constantly encouraging Franklin and her brothers to attend college when they were old enough, though it would always be their children's final decisions. They told Franklin to work hard and follow her dreams, which may require a degree from higher education.

"Although they were always loving and kind, they had high expectations for us in high school and pushed us to do our best to find scholarships, grants, unique opportunities and more," Franklin said. "Ultimately, they supported us in all of our decisions, but

made sure that we knew how college would benefit us in the long run."

Life for a first-generation student is by no means easy. In fact, it tends to supply many more obstacles while trying to get that degree.

Typically, first-gen students come from low-income families. So affording college expenses for one or more students in a low-income household is a difficult task.

According to the First Generation Foundation, nationally, 89% of low-income first-gen students don't make it to graduation. More than 25% of these students leave after their first years in college. These are odds that Bury, Franklin and Ferris State University are determined to beat.

Additionally, in 2019 Ferris was one of 80 institutions in the United States and one of only two in Michigan to be awarded for being a First-Gen Forward institution through the Center for First-Generation Student Success.

Ferris offers first-gen students various opportunities to help them succeed in school and graduate. These include designated RSOs, helpful workshops and scholarships.

Michelle Kelenske has been working as the advisor for the First Generation RSO on campus since before it was reinstated in Oct. 2019. This group strives to "provide re-

sources, camaraderie [and] self-mentoring with the students who are farther in their program and have been on campus longer." The overall goal is to ensure first-gen students are comfortable in the college environment, they have necessary information to help them and that they feel proud to be first-gen students.

Kelenske can relate to these students because she was also a first-gen student when she attended college. She said that she "understands the lost feeling" many students face while navigating their unique college life.

One aspect of the First Generation RSO that Kelenske loves is the student members' energy.

"This particular group of students are some of the most resourceful people I have ever met," Kelenske said. "They amaze me often. This is the true reason I feel honored to get to know as many individuals as possible."

Kelenske believes that it is very important to help and supply resources to first-gen college students whenever possible.

"The first-generation college students struggle is real," Kelenske said. "If we have the ability to assist [them], why not? Whether they are hungry, need more money for books, do not know how to fill out their FAF-

SA, or are homeless because they cannot get along with their suitemate and do not know the protocol, it is our sense of duty to provide for them."

Another way Ferris provides resources for first-gen is through hosting workshop events.

Associate professor of developmental curriculum Dave McCall assists in creating helpful 30 minute workshops every Wednesday via Zoom.

"The aim of the First-Gen initiative is to support and celebrate our first-generation students," McCall said. "The Wednesday Workshops are just another opportunity for us to help support our students. While they are promoted to First-Gen students, they are really open to all students."

McCall was also a first-gen student when he attended and graduated from Ferris. His empathy drives his passion for this initiative to help current and future first-gen students.

The workshops have many goals when reaching out to students.

Most importantly, McCall and everyone else involved wants to help students "learn valuable skills and strategies" for success. The workshops also connect students in similar situations and can then build relationships. These events also show students how to navigate topics that they might not know how to do on their own like class scheduling, study abroad, or financial aid.

Students can also depend on First-Gen Allies around campus. These are faculty, staff and administrative members who agreed to be contacts for students when they need guidance or have questions.

McCall added that not only do first-gen students benefit from these resources, but any students.

"What is great about the First-Gen initiative is that if we do what is best for First-Gen students, we are really doing what is best for all students," McCall said. "There are many students who may not technically be a First-Gen student by definition, but they will still benefit if we create and develop things from the perspective of a First-Gen student."

These campus resources, among others, are steps to lead first-gen students in the right direction so that they may achieve their professional and personal goals.

For Bury, he'd like to test drive cars for a while after he graduates and hopefully design a vehicle of his own to "make [a] mark on the automotive industry." Above all, Bury wants to do his best and make his family proud.

For Franklin, she hopes to get involved with wedding and event management after she graduates. She would also like to do something in digital media, maybe social media marketing.

"Wherever I end up, as long as I am passionate about my work, I will be happy," Franklin said.

Students are able to find more information regarding resources and opportunities through the Ferris First-Gen webpage at <https://www.ferris.edu/RSS/firstgen/>.



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Manager

A place to be yourself



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Social work senior Alyssa Caron is interning at the LGBTQ+ Resource Center on campus, a place she says you can walk in and “drop any and all baggage” and be yourself.

LGBTQ+ center provides safe space for all students of community

Kendall Rooks
Lifestyles Reporter

Many universities are working to make their campuses more inclusive for students. The LGBTQ+ Resource Center exists on campus at Ferris to ensure there is a welcoming and inclusive environment for students in the LGBTQ+ community, while also offering support services, resources, programs, training and counseling.

In 2018 Ferris opened its first LGBTQ+ Resource Center. According to the LGBTQ+ Resource Center homepage, the goal is to, “foster a supportive environment that is open, safe and inclusive for students of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.”

LGBTQ+ Resource Center coordinator Sarah Doherty explained that the founding of the center was a part of the diversity plan for the university to address issues with

the climate at Ferris and in Big Rapids for LGBTQ+ people.

“The students who use the Resource Center include LGBTQIA+ students who can find community, support, space to vent, space to dream of a queerly fabulous future and also straight and cisgender students. Any and all students who are interested in improving their cultural competency or accountability, their professional practices,

LGBTQ+ | see page 9

TUNE IN TO OUR PODCAST: THE FIREPIT

HOSTED BY:

MARISSA RUSSELL, BRENDAN SANDERS &
NOAH KURKJIAN

SCAN THE SPOTIFY LINK TO
LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST



Events calendar

WEDNESDAY

March 31

First-Gen Wednesday Workshops - Internships

Contact: Dave McCall
davidmccall@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 11 - 11:30 a.m.

Exit Rich: How to Build a Sustainable, Scalable, and Sellable Business - Webinar

Contact: Lynn Miller
lynnmiller@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 12 - 1 p.m.

LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coffee House

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

THURSDAY

April 1

Mid-Semester Recess



FRIDAY

April 2

Mid-Semester Recess



TUESDAY

April 6

How Seemingly Small Things Have Big Impacts on Our Motivation and Behavior

Contact: Karen Royster-James
(231) 591-3771
Location: Zoom
Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Finance Division Meetings

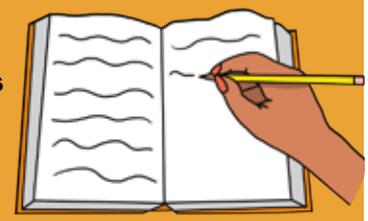
Contact: Elizabeht Huerta
Huetae3@Ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 5 - 6 p.m.

FSU Student Government Association General Assembly Meeting

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

National Poetry Month Literature in Person: Poet Kai Coggin

Contact: Dr. Deirdre Fagan
DeirdreFagan@ferris.edu
Location: Zoom
Time: 7 - 8 p.m.



For more events, check out calendar.ferris.edu

Graphics made by Production Manager Charlie Zitta

LGBTQ+

Continued from page 8

their understanding of the breadth and depth of human diversity."

Social work senior Alyssa Caron is the Senior BSN Intern at the center and believes the center should have been developed on campus a long time ago, but she is happy that it is available now.

"As a freshman I got involved with one of the LGBTQ+ RSOs. The resource center wasn't here when I got here so we were all really excited and so happy to have it. We even started to have our meetings there," Caron said.

Caron believes the center provides a sense of community and is a space where anyone can be themselves.

"You can walk in the door and drop any and all baggage that you have and one hundred percent be yourself," Caron said. "It goes without saying that, even though it is a tiny space, it is really amazing to feel so accepted. As a student it was frustrating when I was looking at schools to come to, knowing that there wasn't [a resource center] already [at Ferris] and not knowing if we would ever get one. Now that there is one, there is a problem with sustainability. The physical space is essentially a closet and if that's not ironic I don't know what is."

The center provides a wide range of services, including gender identity specific group meetings for students, LGBTQ+ sensitivity training and a gender affirming closet. One of the reoccurring events provided by the LGBTQ+ resource center is their Wednesday afternoon Coffee Houses. Each Wednesday the resource center hosts a discord chill session from 4-6p.m. Students are invited to hangout online in an open space while doing homework and meeting friends.

According to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, LGBTQ+ young people are more than twice as likely to feel suicidal and more than four times as likely to attempt suicide compared to heterosexual youth. Which is why it is so important that safe spaces are created and maintained on campus for LGBTQ+ students.

Doherty said that the resources provided by the center are crucial for many students.

"It is important Ferris invests in the well-being of the LGBTQ+, Two-Spirit and same gender loving students and to invest in meeting the specific needs of traditionally underrepresented and underserved students," Doherty said.

Doherty said that if just one conversation helps a student to be more open and respectful, or helps a member of the LGBTQ+ become more comfortable, it helps



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

When Alyssa Caron first came to Ferris, the LGBTQ+ Resource Center didn't exist on campus.

everyone focus on what they need to succeed.

At the end of the semester the LGBTQ+ Resource Center will be celebrating their LGBTQ+ and ally graduates. Lavender Graduation, taking place via zoom on April 28 at 5 p.m., honors members of the community who are graduating and those who were leaders in the LGBTQ+ community. Due to COVID-19, this year Lavender

Graduation will be opened up to students who graduated in winter of 2019 and 2020, as well as students who graduate in spring and summer of 2021.

Students who want their accomplishments celebrated can fill out some basic information in the Bulldog Connect link and email Doherty a picture or short video of themselves explaining what graduating as a member or ally of

the LGBTQ+ community means to them.

If you are interested in getting involved in any of the activities offered by the LGBTQ+ Resource Center you can access links to the discord on the Ferris homepage or contact Sarah Doherty at SarahDoherty@ferris.edu. The center is located in the University Center, but is currently closed due to COVID-19.

Senior Spotlight

Derek Doublestein reflects on his time at Ferris



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Derek Doublestein enjoyed the community he built from his time at Ferris.

Meghan Hartley
Freelance Reporter

Rolling into spring, graduating seniors are beginning to pull out their caps and gowns and are saying goodbye to their school days with an eagerness to finally be done with classes and enter the real world.

Derek Doublestein is a senior graduating this May, earning his bachelor's degree in computer information technology after three years of being on the Big Rapids campus. In his second year of college he transferred from Grand Rapids Community College.

Throughout his time here Doublestein has learned more than he imagined he would when first coming here, such as the connections that can be made through simply being in class.

"I'm in a small major," Doublestein said. "Usually 8 to 10 kids [will be] in a class and it was just a good way to get connected and have a good relationship with the professors. I've had professors help me write recommendation letters to get internships [and to get] into a masters program."

Professors were able to guide Doublestein in more ways than one, from academic support, to understanding how to go through an interview with the proper resume to landing a job within his field.

"One of the best things a professor has ever told me was that the job is never yours to begin with, so if you get turned down it's not a big deal."

Doublestein was also surprised at how much community he could feel when meeting others in his classes and his two RSOs: the Bulldog Computer Professionalism group and campus ministry Wesley House.

BCP is a group of computer major students who focus on creating the next steps, from academics to industry. Members meet with industry professionals and understand what current students need

to know in the technology world. Wesley House is a campus ministry that allows students to expand their faith, whichever it may be, engage with it and develop leadership skills to become a better human being.

Doublestein has been president of both groups. This position has made him communicate healthily, plan events and manage time, which has allowed him to "hone in on his leadership skills".

He said he will miss the people he met within those two RSOs the most as they helped build a Ferris family, long lasting friendships and memories he will always remember. His fondest was going down to Panama City, Florida on a mission trip and working on hurricane cleanup.

When asked if he would go back and change anything Doublestein said he didn't regret anything except for not coming to Ferris sooner to begin building that community and really diving into his major.

For underclassmen Doublestein advised them to dive into campus life through RSOs, campus events, or even a campus job. Something that can allow you "to step away and take a minute to put your mind on something else before returning to homework."

"Take the initiative to meet other people as soon as possible," Doublestein said. "Academics are important, but you can't put 100% focus into academics or else you'll become a zombie. I mean you'll stay up late doing homework every night. You just need to get a social life. You can't just focus on academics. [Having a social life] definitely helps."

Doublestein plans to return to his hometown of Grandville, Michigan in hopes of finding a technical position while earning a masters degree. He is hopeful for what is to come next and is glad he decided to come to Ferris and be a bulldog.

SPORTS

Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor | sandeb16@ferris.edu

Enough is enough

Ferris women's athletes speak out on inequalities in NCAA tournament

Austin Arquette
Sports Reporter

Social media is a powerful weapon for change.

It spreads so quickly and abruptly; inciting change should never be so dire that social media needs to be the driving force for action.

On Thursday, March 27, Oregon University basketball player Sedona Prince took to TikTok and Twitter in order to show the differences in equipment the NCAA provided for the women's and men's teams. In Prince's video, she shows the women's training area that was provided which included only six pairs of dumbbells of varying weights, while the men's area was furnished with numerous training racks, bars, plates, dumbbells and benches.

Ferris women's basketball freshman guard Kaydn Blanchard said she believes that the difference seen between what the men received as facilities and what the women did was "very uncalled for." She believes that a set of dumbbells and some yoga mats weren't enough.

"I was just wondering what they think we do in the weight rooms at our schools, because, at least here, we do a lot more than that," Blanchard said. "I do understand that there is a difference in money being brought into the NCAA from the men and women's side, but that doesn't mean that the women don't work as hard as the men do, and all of the teams who made it there deserved better than what they got."

The NCAA is a nonprofit organization, therefore it must abide by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which is federal law. The concern of the NCAA following Title IX regulations is now brought back to attention.

On the NCAA website, they clearly define Title IX as: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

And even into Title IX benefits on the NCAA website, Title IX claims, "...the equal treatment of female and male student-athletes in the provisions of (a) equipment and supplies; (b) scheduling of games and practice times; (c) travel and daily allowance/per diem; (d) access to tutoring; (e) coaching, (f) locker rooms, practice, and competitive facilities; (g) medical and training facilities and services; (h) housing and dining facilities and services; (i) publicity and promotions; (j) support services; and (k) recruitment of student-athletes."



Molly Hensley-Clancy @mollyhc · Mar 18

The NCAA isn't arguing with the accuracy of photos showing disparities between the weight facilities for men and women at March Madness.

A rep told me the women's convention center is smaller and initially thought not to have space. Officials have now apparently found the space.



Screenshot taken from Twitter

Reporter Molly Hensley-Clancy showed the contrast in weight areas for men's and women's teams.

Other Ferris women's basketball players rose to this conversation such as senior guards Shaniya Huggins and Adrienne Anderson, along with sophomore guard Mallo-ry McCartney. All three Bulldogs expressed that the NCAA needs to take drastic action to make sure this never happens again.

Shaniya Huggins was angered by the fact the the NCAA only reacted after they received backlash for the event, stating that if they wouldn't have received backlash, the NCAA wouldn't have even acknowledged that issue.

"I do not feel that the NCAA cares for their athletes, because if they did this would not have been an issue. They need to be better all the way around, no exceptions," McCartney said.

Adrienne Anderson explained that athletes of both genders need the same supplies to be successful with both men's and women's teams deserving equal support from the NCAA.

"They need proper food, facilities to practice and lift, the big dance gifts, etc. However, women do as well. There is no difference when it comes to that," Anderson said. "Both men and women made it to the tournament, so they both should get the proper resources and support from the NCAA."

With Prince's posts quickly gaining over 17 million views, it caught the attention of multiple companies that took off to help the women athletes. Dick's Sporting Goods and Planet Fitness both commented and created posts of their own as they claimed they had equipment ready for the NCAA to give to the women's teams for a better weight room.

The NCAA didn't respond to either company. Instead, according to PEOPLE.com, a spokesperson said that the NCAA informed the companies they appreciated the offers but already had new equipment covered.

The four Bulldogs expressed their thoughts and feelings on this change.

Huggins said the change meant everything for her to see, but that it was a shame it got so far out of hand. Anderson expressed that she wasn't all that surprised, as it's not a new problem, but it does need to be resolved. Blanchard stated that while it was nice to see attention brought up and something changed, the fight will continue.

McCartney said that the change developed was fine to see but still not acceptable that a change even was needed. Just like their male counterparts, women athletes deserve the very best at the biggest tournament of the year, nothing less, and McCartney made this point very clear.

ment of the year, nothing less, and McCartney made this point very clear.

"I would've hoped by now that women's athletics would have the same respect as men's, but women are going to continue to fight for as long as they must. I wish we didn't have to, but if this is what it takes, I think all women athletes are up for it," McCartney said. "It's sickening seeing the difference between the men and the women's, but how the women were able to realize they deserve better and used their platform to show it was very powerful and influential."

The number of inequalities between the men's and women's teams are seen and exposed now more than ever. Ferris Bulldogs are feeling the trickle-down effect, as they feel that the NCAA cares but has more work to do. Blanchard said the NCAA has people who will fight for equal rights between men and women athletes, but she also feels there are some people who have one way of thinking that just won't change.

While the world continues to grow in fighting for equality across genders, it goes to show that the world has come a long way. However, we still have a lot more work to do in order to ensure equality for all athletes, regardless of gender.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Volleyball

March 26 - Ferris 3, Wisconsin-Parkside 0
March 27 - Ferris 3, Wisconsin-Parkside 0

Women's Soccer

March 26 - Ferris 1, Saginaw Valley State 0
March 28 - Ferris 2, Ashland 0

Men's Tennis

March 26 - Ferris 5, Northwood 2

Vander Laan starting new chapter

Former Bulldog and Harlon Hill Winner named new Rockford High School Offensive Coordinator

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

After four years in the NFL, Jason Vander Laan officially decided on March 10 that he would be trading in his cleats for a headset.

After opting out of the 2020 NFL season like many other players, Vander Laan took the year to prepare for his future.

“COVID gave me an extra year to finish up school. From this spring, I knew I was going to go after coaching adventures.”

“I’m excited to be a Ram,” Vander Laan said in the official press release. “Rockford has a tremendous history of excellence, both on and off the football field. I cannot wait to be a part of this program.”

During his time as a Bulldog, Vander Laan became one of the best Division II players in the country. While he not only won back-to-back Harlon Hill trophies as the NCAA Division II Player of the Year in 2014 and 2015, he was also tabbed as the “Nation’s Top Dual Threat Quarterback.”

Ferris State Football play-by-play broadcaster Rob Bentley talked about the Vander Laan’s tenure here at Ferris.

“Jason devoted time to make himself the biggest, fastest and strongest player he could be.” Bentley said. “He was also highly intelligent and the winner of the National Scholar-Athlete of the Year award as the top student-athlete in the country twice. All of that translated to the field where his toughness and durability was also unmatched.”

After watching Vander Laan firsthand for his four seasons, Bentley saw his impact go past the yards and touchdowns.

“He was an outstanding leader and teammate,” Bentley said. “He was first to thank his offensive lineman and fellow teammates for all the recognition he received. It was awesome to be able to promote and work with him throughout his time at Ferris State.”

Vander Laan’s outstanding career as a Bulldog included 14,193 yards

of total offense, 166 touchdowns, and a 37-9 record in his four seasons as starting quarterback. He was signed as an undrafted free agent in 2016 by the New York Jets, but he was not to take snaps under center.

“I didn’t have many options in the NFL as a quarterback,” Vander Laan said. “29 of the 31 teams at my pro day looked at me as an athlete and wanted me to play tight end.”

Despite the change in position, Vander Laan embraced the opportunity to play on football’s greatest stage.

“It was a struggle, but I like challenges. It drives me to this day... going after something that’s going to be difficult and approaching it head first.”

Following other stints with the Panthers, Patriots and Colts, Vander Laan found his way to New Orleans in 2019. He appeared in two games in the 2019 season before being placed on the Injured Reserve list after suffering a concussion. During his recovery, the former Bulldog knew his career was going to change.

“[With] the way my head was feeling during working out, I wasn’t necessarily comfortable going back on the field,” Vander Laan said. “We knew it was the right decision for me to retire.”

In his search for offensive coaching opportunities, Vander Laan was not initially looking to return to the mitten state.

“I’m from [Frankfort], Illinois and was in Northwest Indiana. I was originally looking at schools around there.”

After not receiving any preferred offers, Vander Laan opened his search to “where his name goes a little bit farther” in Grand Rapids. Despite other high school and college teams giving him legitimate offers, the former quarterback found the perfect fit with Rockford.

“Rockford has a great culture and great community support. The offer they had for me to be the ‘head coach of the offense’ was a perfect situation. My family and I like Rock-

ford and are looking forward to settling down there for several years.”

When asked what the thought process was to Vander Laan as the choice as offensive coordinator, Rockford Athletic Director Cole Andrews said his intelligence and communication were key reasons.

“Jason has an incredibly high football IQ and outstanding communication skills,” Andrews said via email. “Even though he doesn’t have any coaching experience, we believed he was a diamond in the rough.”

Along with his high intelligence, Vander Laan believes the relationships he can build with the players will be important.

“I want to be a guy that’s going to be there for the kids, build relationships with them and help them succeed on and off the field. I also believe I’m a fun guy to be around.”

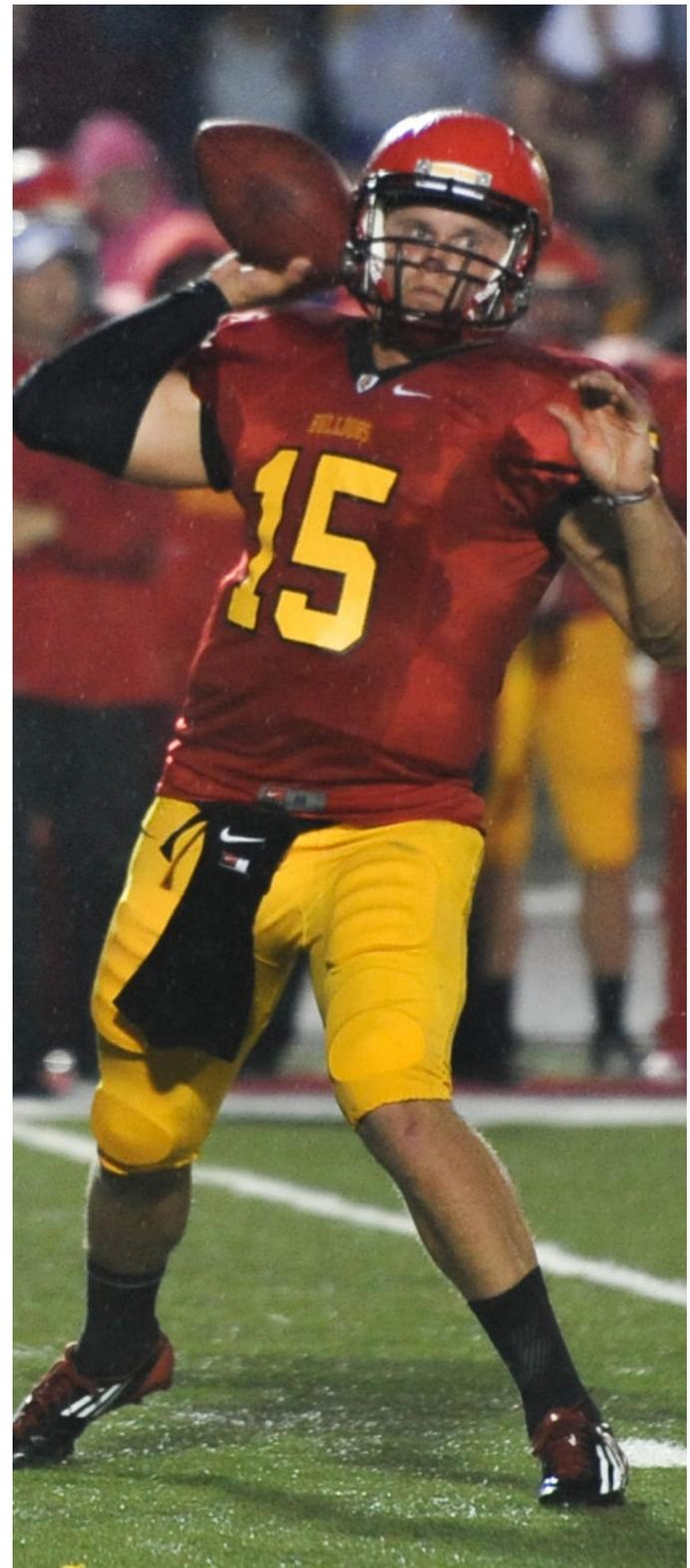
Despite moving around each year during his four NFL seasons, Vander Laan was able to experience and learn from many different team cultures and coaches. This included six-time Super Bowl champion Bill Belichick and two-time Coach of the Year Ron Rivera.

“Belichick and Rivera have completely different coaching styles,” Vander Laan said. “I’ve been able to see how the players respond to that comfortability and the relationships they build. At the end of the day, I can say what I agree with and don’t agree [with].”

As Vander Laan ‘fine tunes’ his coaching tools and skills for the upcoming season, there is one thing he can count on: support from the Bulldog faithful.

“I’m excited for his success and know he will do well,” Bentley said. “It has been a ton of fun watching him pursue a career in the National Football League, but now that he’s moving away from competing at such a high level, I know he wants to get into coaching and believe he’ll be great at working with student-athletes for years to come.”

Vander Laan’s coaching career will begin Aug. 26 when the Rockford Rams host Sterling-Heights Stevenson.



Torch File Photo

Jason Vander Laan is widely regarded as the best quarterback in Ferris State Football history.

Top Dawg

Katie O’Connell



Brendan Sanders
Sports Editor

Senior outside hitter Katie O’Connell continued her dominance on the court over the last week.

In game one of the weekend, O’Connell finished second on the team with 10.5 points. She registered seven kills in the 3 - 0 victory over Wisconsin-Parkside.

In game two, O’Connell totalled 16 points, scoring seven more points over the next closest teammate. Ferris would also win 3 - 0 over Wisconsin - Parkside in the contest.

O’Connell currently leads the team in kills with 137, forty more kills than the next closest player.

O’Connell and the rest of the Bulldog volleyball team will wrap up the regular season against Saginaw Valley State on Friday, April 2 at 7 P.M. and Saturday, April 3 at 4 P.M.



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Back to their winning ways

Bulldog soccer 4-0 after 2-1 win over Ashland on Sunday

Brody Keiser
Sports Reporter

The last time Ferris women's soccer took the field, they lost to Grand Valley State University in the GLIAC Semifinals.

That was Nov. 15, 2019.

Fast forward 16 months, and the Bulldogs are back.

The Bulldogs finished their 2019 season 13 - 5 - 2. Due to COVID-19, their usual fall season was pushed back to the spring. To start their spring 2021 season, Ferris got right back in the 'win' column with back-to-back victories. On Friday, March 19, they beat Wisconsin-Parkside 1 - 0. They followed that shutout with another shutout 4 - 0 Sunday, March 21 against Purdue Northwest.

Head coach Greg Henson appreciated having the opportunity to play soccer again.

"It's great; it's been a long time coming," Henson said. "We've put a lot of hard work and time into a very unusual year, and I'm just really happy to see the girls back on the field competing. Obviously, we got off to a great start, and we're looking forward to the rest of the season and the opportunity we have in front of us."

Henson noted that his team has two main goals for this season: to compete for the GLIAC championship and to host the first round of the tournament playoffs. Two wins to start the season put them on a good track to achieve those goals.

In their matchup with Parkside, the Bulldogs started junior goalkeeper Taryn Meiste in goal. The Rangers recorded no shots on goal, and Meiste got the shutout.

"I wasn't tested too much," Meiste said. "It was really important for me to keep my back line organized and [to] stay calm when the ball was on our half."

Against Purdue-Northwest, sophomore goalkeeper Nora Potter got the start and also recorded a shutout. She recorded one save.

Going forward, Henson said he will continue to evaluate on a game-by-game basis to determine which goalkeeper will draw the start. He acknowledged that both Meiste and Potter performed well in their respective starts.

Henson emphasized that his team wants to continue to be strong defensively.

"It's an old cliché that I like to use... if they don't score, we can't lose," Henson said. "That's where we want our focus on... playing strong defensively. I thought we did that well in both games and limited our opponent's opportunities."

Offensively, Ferris got their lone goal against the Rangers of Wisconsin-Parkside from junior forward Emily Mergener.

Junior forward Grace VerHage scored two goals and recorded an assist in Ferris's 4 - 0 win over the Pride of Purdue Northwest.

"I think for me it was more of just a confidence thing," VerHage said, regarding her strong performance against Purdue-Northwest. "In practice I've been feeling a lot better. Any athlete will always say that when they're playing confidently, they're playing better, so it felt good for sure."

The Bulldogs faced Saginaw Valley on Friday, March 26 for their home opener. The GLIAC announced that up to 375 fans would be allowed at outdoor spring sport games. Before the game, Henson talked about getting to play at home in front of fans.

"It's just nice to be back on campus and playing," Henson said. "It's always nice to play where you train. I'm really excited about the GLIAC's announcement to allow fans. I know it's really important for our players to get to play in front of family and friends. I'm just excited for them to get to have a little sense of normalcy playing at home in front of loved ones."

Ferris won against the Cardinals 1 - 0, moving their record to 3 - 0. They also played on Sunday, March 28 against Ashland, winning 2 - 1 and improving to 4 - 0.

The Bulldogs will continue pushing towards their goal of competing for the GLIAC championship in their next contest on Thursday, April 1 against Davenport.



Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

Mackenzie Dawes found the back of the net first in Ferris's 2 - 1 win over Ashland

Finding their roar in 2021

Detroit Tigers looking for improvement after years of disappointment

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

Despite the lackluster 358 - 507 record since their last playoff appearance in 2014, there are many reasons to be excited about wearing "Ole English D" ballcaps in this upcoming 2021 season.

After a sudden retirement from former manager Ron Gardenhire, the Tigers made the decision on Oct. 31 to hire former Astros skipper A.J. Hinch. A 2017, World Series champion for the Houston Astros before serving a one-year ban from baseball due to a "sign-stealing" scandal during his time with the Astros.

YOUNG & UPBEAT TEAM

The Tigers new coaches will be tasked in turning a former 47 - 114 record ball club two years ago into the playoff powerhouse it was from 2011 - 2014. While the team may not have as much start-studded firepower as the previous teams, there is plenty of promising talent to lead this team from "rock bottom."

Many of the Tigers' hottest prospects made debuts late in the 2020 season, including MLB.com's third highest overall pitcher Casey Mize, number two left-handed pitcher Tarik Skubal, and tenth ranked third baseman Isaac Paredes. While the rookies had their share of bumps in the road, the month of action certainly will help them coming into the 2021 campaign.

There are also many other prospects that have not seen the field on the big stage. Outfielder Riley Green, who was drafted fifth overall in 2019, has made noise by climbing up three levels to Class A's West Michigan Whitecaps in his first season. Starting pitcher Matt Manning has progressed his way farther up the chain to the Double-A level with his improving pitch control. Last year's number one overall pick Spencer Torkelson has shown his patience and power in instructional league and spring training games over the past six months.

"We're going to keeping rolling him out there and getting him some experience," Hinch said to MLB.com on Torkelson attending spring training.

To go along with these young prospects are the seasoned veterans and newly acquired free agents. While the starting rotation lost Jordan Zimmerman, Fetter gained former

Marlins opening day starter Jose Urena to join Spencer Turnbull and Matthew Boyd in the starting rotation. Former silver-sluggger catcher Wilson Ramos also signed a one year, two-million-dollar contract to rejuvenate his career behind the plate. The Tigers also bolstered their outfield depth by adding eight-year veteran Robbie Grossman from Oakland and former rookie sensation Nomar Mazara from the rival White Sox.

"I'm looking for a fresh start," Mazara said to the media. "I've come to really appreciate coming to Detroit as a visiting player and can't wait to join their baseball community this season."

Rounding out the roster are the notable names who have solidified their spots in the starting lineup. This includes versatile upcoming star Niko Goodrum, who batted .321 and fielded perfectly at seven different positions in 2019. Upstart shortstop Willi Castro joins veterans Jeimer Candelario and Jonathan Schoop manning the infield. The outfield will also remain very young, including farm-system developmental players like Victor Reyes and Jacoby Jones. Rounding out Detroit's roster is the fan-favorite, future hall of famer Miguel Cabrera, who will begin his 14th season with the Tigers likely as a designated hitter.

THREE THINGS TO EXPECT

After a COVID-impacted 2020 season, lots of fans are wondering what Detroit will be like in their first full season back since 2019. Here are three things that will likely change or be expected of the 2021 Tigers:

1. More media and television coverage

With the nature of Hinch's past actions, many people will be interested in seeing him succeed or fail. Many fans and analysts will now be forced to stay up to date with Detroit Baseball to see the narrative play out. The Tigers have also reported that they will allow only 1,000 fans into Comerica Park to start the season in cooperation with statewide COVID-19 mandates and protocols. This means over 42,000 potential attendees will be forced to watch Detroit take the field from their living rooms this April instead of watching in person.

2. More emphasis on young player experience

One of the big reasons Hinch has been successful as an MLB manager is his ability to build young talent. When he originally started in Houston, Hinch was given a young team

that seemed to have big potential. The problem was former manager, Bo Porter, did not really give many young guys a shot in the majors. Hinch changed this by calling up and constructing notable prospects to give the team a spark. Who were these prospects? Future 2017 World Series MVP George Springer, Former 2011 #1 overall pick and Rookie of the Year Carlos Correa, and upcoming 21-year-old All-Star Lance McCullers. With the load of talent on the Tigers roster, don't be surprised to see major prospects like Matt Manning and Spencer Torkelson get their shot during 2021.

3. An urgency to win

It has been almost a decade since the Tigers' juggernaut stretch with Jim Leyland. Since then, with former managers Brad Ausmus and Ron Gardenhire, the team has certainly inadvertently fell to inferiority. However, there is still hope. Owner Chris Ilitch and Al Avila knew there was a guy that once built a team from "rock bottom" to World Series Champions in two years: A.J. Hinch. With the recent team success of newly hired coaches like Fetter and Lombard, there will certainly be an urgency to turn the tables around. Could this mean more spending in the off-season? Fans will have to wait and find out.

DETROIT TIGERS SCHEDULE

Date	Against	Home/Away
4/1	Cleveland Indians	Home
4/3	Cleveland Indians	Home
4/4	Cleveland Indians	Home
4/5	Minnesota Twins	Home
4/6	Minnesota Twins	Home
4/7	Minnesota Twins	Home
4/9	Cleveland Indians	Away