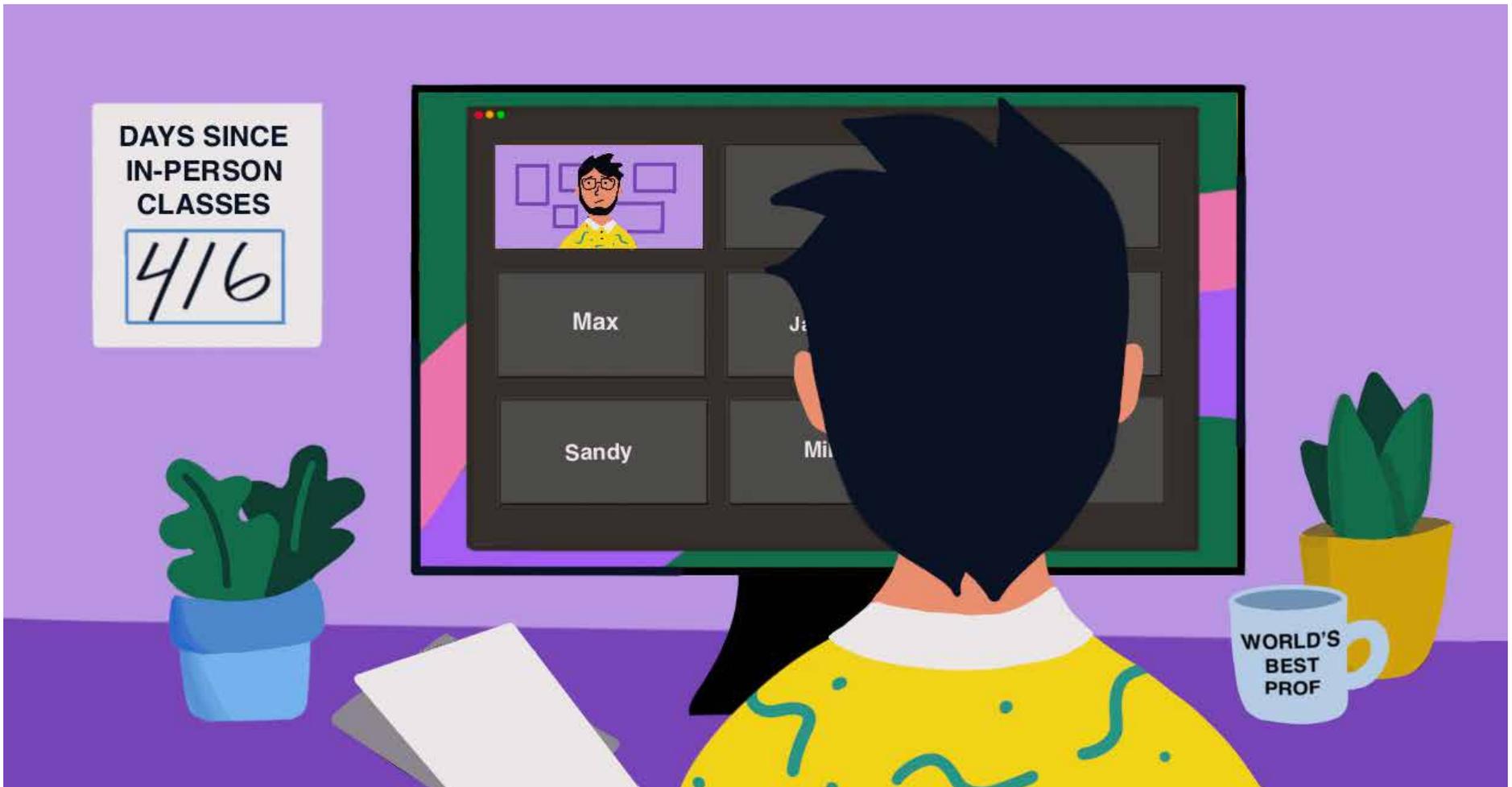


From the perspective of pandemic professors



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

Ferris staff members share their feelings on a year of remote living and learning

Jessica Oakes
News Reporter

Nearly fourteen months have passed since COVID-19 changed the lives of the Ferris community and beyond. While professors were advised to be considerate of their students, it is time they shared their own thoughts and experiences.

The healing of the outdoors

Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck has been teaching biology for nearly two decades. She is an avid member of the local watershed council, our state's natural resource agency, and the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education.

As a passionate naturalist, Fitzwilliams-Heck turned to the outdoors for help throughout the pandemic.

"I teach Nature Study, so I would kind of practice what I preached in my class... So, in a sense, I was doing what my students were doing," Fitzwilliams-Heck said.

Nature Study is a fully remote course that required students to draw connections between the many layers of the environment that surround them.

Because the effects of self-isolation can be so damaging, Fitzwilliams-Heck was happy to teach a class that encouraged people to heal through nature.

"All of my assignments were based on actual observations, making it real and relevant for the individual student, wherever they were. And so, I think that really made it meaningful and doable," Fitzwilliams-Heck said.

After braving the elements of the Michigan wilderness, Fitzwilliams-Heck ensures sure her empathy is not made a casualty.

"[It helps] knowing that everybody's trying to do the best that they can do. And sometimes just being accepting, which I think I am," Fitzwilliams-Heck said.

Even though she misses face-to-face interaction with her students immensely, Fitzwilliams-Heck is proud of how well she adapted to work in the era of COVID-19.

"I'm optimistic about just going forward, you know. I feel like I gained, a lot of skills over the pandemic in my classroom and in other aspects of my life, professionally and personally," Fitzwilliams-Heck said.

Fitzwilliams-Heck is keeping her head and hopes high for a brighter future.

Dr. Groves gets his groove back

With the pandemic came a harsh political climate. Humanities, philosophy and religions professor J. Randall Groves appreciated the diplomacy of his colleagues during this time.

"Philosophers are pretty low key; we're so committed to proper argumentation. We're used to disagreeing with each other amicably and just logic shopping. I mean, if you're trained as a philosopher, you know a fallacy from a mile away. So, we don't try to get away with those with each other," Groves said.

While he thoroughly enjoys his area of study, teaching is somewhat of a day job for Groves. Come summertime, he looks forward to playing live music for the people of Big Rapids once again.

Groves is planning several July gigs with his eight-piece blues ensemble called Key West Permafrost Blues Band. He is also a proud member of a quartet called Shannon and the Professors.

"It's kind of [an] all-purpose band that does classic rock, jazz, pop music and all kinds of stuff," Groves said.

When looking to the future of campus life, Groves is most excited for the little things, such as in person, mask-less lectures.

"That's the thing, getting back to all the normal rhythms of life. You know, going to talk to people, going to lunch with people, talking about ideas," Groves said.

Groves also acknowledged the hardships his students have faced and commended them for their achievements.

"I'm glad I wasn't a student during this time, you know, so my hat is off to the stu-

dents that have gone through this... You guys handled it pretty well. There could have been a lot of anger and lashing out and that sort of thing, but I didn't see that," Groves said.

Designing a new normal

When asked the loaded and nuanced question "how are you," design professor Alison Popp gave an honest "fine."

As an optimist and self-proclaimed techie, Popp stays focused on the advantages of working remotely in her field.

"I try to look at the bright side of things, I feel like there are things that I find beneficial because of the field I'm in," Popp said. "Design has been very innovative in the way that designers have been able to work from remote locations. I worked remotely decades ago with clients that were far away."

Some of Popp's home learning technology felt even more advanced than her classroom equipment. She has preferred showing students quick designs via Zoom with her iPad instead of the classroom projector.

This mastery of new teaching methods was useful for Popp, as she felt a disconnect between herself and her virtual students.

"It was unclear to me what the students' expectations were. So, I felt like I had to just

Professors | see page 2

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NEWS

Noah Kurkjian | News Editor | kurkjin@ferris.edu

No vaccine required



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Ferris will not be following other universities' lead in requiring COVID-19 vaccines to live on campus in the fall.

Ferris strongly encouraging vaccines, but will not mandate for return to in-person classes

Jerry Gaytan
News Reporter

With schools planning to return to in-person learning, two Michigan universities have announced that students living on campus will be required to have the COVID-19 vaccine.

Ferris is not one of these schools, even though the university plans to host 84% of its classes in person for the fall semester.

According to reentry committee members, the university "strongly encourages" all faculty, staff, and students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

"At this time, for our university community, the approach we are utilizing is to strongly encourage our students, incoming or returning, faculty and staff to get the vaccine without making it a requirement," Reentry committee member Jeremy Mishler said.

Kaiser Family Foundation, an organization focused on national health issues states that most colleges and universities have been "encouraging" but not "mandating" COVID-19 vaccines.

"I would not come back if the vaccine is required," heavy equipment junior Quincee Mahler said.

According to a reentry committee member, the primary reason for the vaccine not being required is because it was granted an "Emergency Use Authorization" by the FDA.

This authorization makes it so that the FDA ensures that recipients of the vaccine are informed of the known potential benefits and risks. As well as to the extent to which such benefits and risks are unknown and recipients have the option to accept or refuse the vaccine.

According to a MLive report, as of April 9, over 3,500 members of the Grand Valley State university population have been fully vaccinated. GVSU is encouraging all students, faculty and staff to receive the vaccine but does not require it.

Central Michigan's COVID-19 vaccine page states, the university has no plan to "require" students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated. However, they strongly recommend "every member" of CMU be vaccinated.

Oakland University is the first of Michigan's public universities to require the COVID-19 vaccine as reported by MLive. Oakland university's COVID-19 vaccine page states that their goal is for "every member" of the Oakland university community to receive vaccination by the end of their spring semester. They plan on every student, faculty and staff members to be completely immunized before the upcoming fall semester.

According to MLive, the University of Michigan has recently passed a resolution supporting mandatory vaccinations for all students, faculty, and staff for the upcoming fall semester. U of M will require all students who intend on living in Ann Arbor campus dorms to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Moreover, they expect all students living on campus for next fall to show proof of their vaccination by July 15, according to A4, a division of ClickOnDetroit.

For campus-related COVID-19 updates and news, keep an eye on your Ferris email inbox.

PROFESSORS

Continued from front page

tify how I was going to deliver the class, even though I was really confident in my skills and abilities," Popp said.

Having noticed strong pandemic fatigue from her students, Popp tries to keep those around her engaged whether she is teaching or parenting.

"I have young kids and I keep saying 'I know you're young, but let's talk about how this is going and how we're feeling because this is so historic. When you are a teenager, you're going to talk about this time in your life. I don't want us to forget about it.'" Popp said. "I think it's really important for my students to feel that way too. Let's not forget this, what are we going to learn from this?"

Being vaccinated herself, Popp encourages all students to contribute to herd immunity in preparation for the fall semester.

"I'm worried that we might have some students who aren't going to get vaccinated. So, I'm hoping that that becomes a clear goal for all of us," Popp said.

Popp feels she did a good job making the most of the pandemic. Still, she is more than ready to begin a safe, new academic year.

The Importance of Relationships

English professor David Marquard will remember this year as one of the longest in his life. To him, the most challenging aspect of the pandemic is maintaining relationships with his students.

"It's hard to meet your peers. That's what college is kind of for: building relations. And it's really hard to build relations," Marquard said.

Marquard appreciates the satisfaction of not only knowing his students but watching them succeed in their careers as well. Students know that he is always available for guidance.

"I have students from 10 years ago, 15 years ago that still email me, just asking how I'm doing. I always say at the end of the semester, 'if you need anything, my office door's always open, even after you graduate,'" Marquard said.

Marquard has been able to make these connections by focusing on the individuality of everyone he teaches.

"I treat my students like full human beings, for who they are, for their political viewpoints, their social viewpoint. They teach me, you know. I learn so much about life in general. And that's not happening, so it's difficult," Marquard said.

In order to push through these isolated times, Marquard reminds himself that every day is temporary.

"Even when I get really depressed or on the low, I know we're gonna get out of that, it's going to happen," Marquard said.

In hopes of a safe and vaccinated summer, Marquard is spending his days with his children and new cats.

"I have two kids, I have an 11 and an eight-year-old. What's the psychological effect on them? It's gonna be interesting to watch that play out. I think they'll be okay because kids tend to be very resilient," Marquard said.

Like many other Ferris staff members, Marquard is keeping a positive attitude as the semester ends and is exceptionally excited to meet new students in the fall.



THIS WEEK IN MICHIGAN NEWS

Catch up on news around the state

Noah Kurkjian & Brendan Sanders
News Editor, Sports Editor

Sports

DETROIT — The Detroit Tigers continued their slow start to the year by getting swept by the Kansas City Royals. They now have the AL

Central's worst record with seven wins and 15 losses to start the season.

Over the course of the weekend series, the Tigers scored a total of three runs in the three games played. Runs were scored by 24-year-old short stop Willi Castro,

27-year-old third baseman Jeimer Candelario, and 31-year-old outfielder Robbie Grossman. The Royals scored 12 runs in the same time period.

The Tigers are now 1 - 9 in their last ten games, with a single win coming against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

MT. PLEASANT — Central Michigan QB John Keller is in serious condition after being shot at a party Saturday morning, April 24.

According to the CM Life, an investigation determined that several subjects arrived at a party, and shortly after, a fight broke out. Sheriff's department officials said in a release that someone went to a vehicle during the fight, retrieved a weapon and then started firing at the party.

According to CMU president Dr. Bob Davies another CMU student who was shot, Tyler Bunting, was in stable condition.

Johnson & Johnson vaccine update

The one-shot Johnson and Johnson vaccine can be used again at immunization clinics around the state, health officials announced Friday evening.

This decision comes after the 11-day "pause" that was handed out after a few recipients of the vaccine developed a rare clotting disorder.

"We are glad to be able to begin administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine again in Michigan following the thorough review and recommendations," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, the state's chief medical executive and chief deputy for health, in a statement retrieved from the Detroit Free Press.

"This brief pause indicates there is a robust safety review process in place for these vaccines. ... We encourage everyone to continue making appointments to be vaccinated with the safe and effective Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. These vaccines are the way we

are going to end this pandemic as quickly as possible and move toward a sense of normalcy," said Khaldun.

Fifteen people have developed the condition out of nearly 8 million who received the vaccine, and three died. The FDA and CDC did not determine this to be severe enough to take the highly effective vaccine off the market.

The two agencies announced their approval to continue the distribution of the J&J vaccine at a joint news conference Friday.

Everyone who receives the shot is expected to receive an information sheet mentioning the rare clotting problem and the symptoms to watch for, officials said.

The rare condition includes a combination of blood clots, many in unusual locations such as the brain or abdomen, and low levels of platelets, which help wounds heal. It has been dubbed thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome, or TTS according to a Detroit Free Press article.

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- ON THE RECORD -

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

Slow down, speed racer

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

on Ferris Drive. DPS issued a citation.

Can I have your 16 digits?

April 20, 9:33 a.m., a student reached out to DPS to report credit card fraud. DPS closed the case as there were no leads.

Skipped out on summons

April 22, 10:30 p.m., Ionia police department pulled over a Ferris student and carried out a bench warrant for failure to appear in Mecosta County Court in response to a summons. This traffic stop resulted in arrest.

Slow down, speed racer

April 21, 1:01 p.m., a Ferris student was pulled over for speeding

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Released with a ticket

New law changes the penalty of some misdemeanors to appearance tickets in lieu of arrest

Becca Witkowski
Freelance Reporter

Ferris DPS is now handing out appearance tickets, rather than arrests, for certain misdemeanors and violations.

The change comes as a result of a 2020 bill passed by the State. Officers must hand out an appearance ticket instead of taking an individual into custody for certain violations and misdemeanors. While officers have been able to choose to hand out the tickets, the bill now mandates officers to do so. The change took effect on April 1, 2021.

“An appearance ticket is a way to order a person to court to answer an official charge without the custodial arrest,” Captain Gary Green, assistant director of the Ferris DPS, said. “The major difference is that now there is a mandate from the state which requires the officer to issue an appearance ticket when there is probable cause for certain misdemeanor or crimes and the perpetrator doesn’t pose a significant threat to the public.”

Certain misdemeanors are exempt from being issued appearance tickets. According to a legal update from the Michigan police department, individuals arrested for domestic violence, violation of a restraining order, and other assault charges are to be taken into custody and not released. Those who are suspected to be a flight risk or a danger to themselves or others are also exempt from being issued an appearance ticket.

The biggest change for Ferris students and DPS is going to be for how individuals found driving while impaired will be handled according to Green. Unless there is

the belief the individual is a harm to themselves or others, officers are required to issue an appearance ticket and release the individual from custody.

“This is difficult and goes against all the training and education officers are given because obviously that person’s judgement is impaired already otherwise [they] wouldn’t have behind the wheel in the first place,” Green explained.

As of April 21, there has only been one appearance ticket issued by Ferris DPS that would have been an arrest prior to the change. The ticket was issued for OWI to a student after they were returned to their residence hall.

The change aims to help lower the number of people entering local jails. While prison overpopulation has existed for years, COVID-19 has highlighted the issue further. The close quarters within prisons led to the fast spread of COVID-19.

However, some are concerned the change may be abused by those released with appearance tickets. While officers can arrest individuals they feel are dangers to themselves or others, there is a chance that those individuals can still be released.

“In the long run I think it’s going to have a few problems because of the limitations for what crimes it says you can arrest for,” criminal justice major Mitchell Musial said. “Some offenders are high flight risk and won’t show up unless they are arrested.”

As of now, it is too soon to tell if there will be individuals who abuse the changes and use their release to try to avoid court. Time will tell if the mandated releases will be abused.



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Most low-level misdemeanors that previously could have resulted in up to one year in jail have become appearance tickets.



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

The Torch is now accepting freelance articles!

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

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



OPINIONS

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

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: You'll never know if you never try

By Cora Hall

It's been four years since I saw our former Editor in Chief distributing papers to my dorm on welcome weekend. Last week, I helped do distribution, and it felt as though my journey had come full circle.

It had been over a year since I stepped foot in some of the campus buildings, but I still knew my way around like the back of my hand. It's funny, thinking back to freshman year when I walked around campus with a few friends to scope out campus buildings and find where our classes would be.

But a lot more has changed than my knowledge of campus locations.

When I started out in journalism, I didn't know what I wanted to do; the only thing I knew for sure was that I was never stepping in front of a camera. I went from a news reporter my freshman year to news editor my sophomore year and learned the basics of journalism, and, more importantly, I learned the value of student journalism.

The position we have as student journalists is so unique. We have such a vital role in our university communities and as the future of the industry, we get to push the bounds of tradition and discuss how to improve what we already know.

I love student journalism and the perspective we provide, and 241 articles later, I am hanging up my student journalist hat.

My time at Ferris ends how I thought it always would, as Editor in Chief, though for a time I avoided it. After my freshman year, I applied for Editor in Chief, being the overly ambitious rookie that I was. I wasn't given the position, which was all for the better, and got to cover a lot of breaking news as news editor, and eventually moved to sports, where I found my true passion.

After my sophomore year, everyone expected me to step into the role of Editor in Chief, and many told me so. With every mention of it, I wanted the position less. After having an editorial role and seeing firsthand what running the show looked like, I wasn't sure I wanted it. Would I ever get to write? And I had just found what I felt like was my calling in sports, how could I possibly give that up?

I had been talking about taking a semester to study abroad with my advisor that year, and for many reasons elected to do that the spring of my junior year. That semester fit the best with my academic schedule, and I didn't want to be abroad for half of my senior year. But one of those reasons was also because the Editor in Chief had to commit to being in the position for the entire school year, and my departure in January of 2020 eliminated me from the running.

Also, yes, you read that right. I moved to the Netherlands in January of 2020. But that's a story for another time.

I couldn't really articulate why I felt like I couldn't go for the job that year. I think it was mainly because everyone expected me to and the pressure I already felt was enough to crush my 20-year-old self. I hadn't even applied yet and it terrified me.

So, I "ran away" as I say now, which is something that doesn't feel great to say. But I had been planning to study abroad and it was something I had always wanted. I think calling it running away has been a subconscious



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor

The more I thought about it, the more I questioned: which would I regret more? Failing, or never even trying?

way of punishing myself for taking so long to step into a job that I felt like I was meant to do all along.

Summer of 2020 I was in the Netherlands and heard the position of Editor in Chief was up for grabs in the fall. There was a voice in my head saying, "This is your chance, don't run away, again." But there was also part of me that knew if I was going to do this, it was going to be my entire senior year. My life would revolve around this paper and our goals.

Looking back, I wouldn't have had it any other way.

After a long talk with a good friend, I decided to go for it. I emailed our advisor on June 11, 2020 and said "I am emailing you before I change my mind. I am interested in the EIC position for next year if you are looking for someone. This is only a 90% commitment and is not binding but also, I will probably regret it the rest of my life if I don't try."

The more I thought about it, the more I questioned: which would I regret more? Failing, or never even trying? I wouldn't be the journalist or person I was today if I hadn't given this a shot, if I had let my fear of failure win.

I can still feel the panic I felt when I sent that email. I was feeling all the same fears that I did

a year before. In addition to those, new pressures were unlocked with the pandemic, 2020 Presidential Election looming and a racial reckoning across the country last summer. These were all huge topics I knew we would have to navigate, but I knew that this time, I was ready.

I have no regrets, and it has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve our campus community the past four years. Thank you to the Ferris community for supporting us, reading our paper and trusting us to do important work in informing our students, faculty and staff.

We accomplished more than I ever imagined when we started the school year, and I am incredibly proud of our staff. This paper doesn't get published every week without each and every one of you, and I am so grateful for your dedication to the Torch.

I hope that student journalism is always supported in this community, and that we never forget the important role our student journalists have. We have been invaluable to illuminating the truth for the past ninety years here, and I hope to see that work continue for years to come.

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Accountability, for now

Officer charged with murder of George Floyd a step in the right direction, but nowhere near justice



Rebecca VanderKooi
News Reporter

On Tuesday, April 20 former police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter in the death of George Floyd.

The case received national attention last May after bystander video caught Chauvin with his knee on Floyd's neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds while Floyd said he couldn't breathe. After his passing on May 25, 2020 numerous Black Lives Matter protests throughout the country took place.

The Chauvin trial went on for 15 days, beginning on March 29, 2021. After over two weeks of testimony the jury deliberated for 10 hours before reaching the unanimous conclusion that he was guilty of all charges.

While this justice is certainly a step in the right direction, the fight for equality is far from over. Since the trial began at least 64 Americans have been killed at the hands of law enforcement, according to the New York Times. Over half of that number are people of color. One of those 64 deaths was a 13-year-old boy in Chicago who was shot with his hands in the air surrendering to the Police.

For this one guilty conviction numerous individuals have lost their lives and nobody has paid the price, no justice served. One such example is of Breonna Taylor,

an EMT from Louisville who was shot at least eight times by officers while she was in her home sleeping on March 13, 2020. No officer was charged in her death. In fact, the only charges were for shooting into her neighbors apartment, not for killing her.

The Chauvin trial has shown that nobody should be above the law by holding Chauvin accountable for his actions. However, being accountable for murder isn't the same prevention of the murder from happening. Change needs to take place so that these senseless deaths stop altogether.

"Thank you, George Floyd, for sacrificing your life for justice...Because of you and because of thousands, millions of people around the world who came out for justice, your name will always be synonymous for justice," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said.

While I understand Pelosi's sentiment, this is a very problematic and dangerous viewpoint. The reason being that George Floyd was murdered, he didn't choose that, he was not a willing participant in his own death. It's a dangerous narrative to imply that Floyd was some type of martyr when in reality he was simply going out to the store on that fateful day. Floyd is more than the way he was killed. He was a father, a boyfriend, an athlete, a hip hop artist, and a religious man, but not a martyr.

I hope the murder conviction in the Floyd case is just the beginning of systemic and long-term change but only time will tell. Justice was served in this instance, but if things were truly just, Mr. Floyd would still be here today, able to watch his daughter grow up.

GOT AN OPINION?

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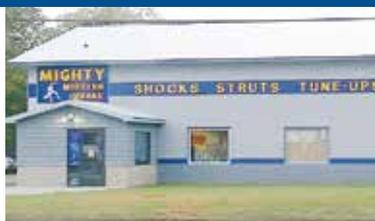
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Ferris State University Tire Fire



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Students begin to rebuild their lives while the pandemic hits its worst peak in Michigan

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Alcoholism among students rises even higher than we ever thought possible, study says for the seventh year in a row

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IDK who's going to tell you this, but

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Students riot over final exams during panorama

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NOT A DRILL: Shot girl summer IS a full send

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Media Minute: The Oscars named WHO best actor this year????????

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DoorDash sees huge success in first year in Big Rapids due to students' pure laziness

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How to ask for credit/no credit class results... we all in this bitch together

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We are experiencing some temporary **INCOHERENT RAGE** Please stand by

Pg. 666

EISLER ANNOUNCES PLANS TO CHANGE FERRIS' SCHOOL COLORS: 'THEY'RE JUST SO UGLY'

THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT PLANS TO ASSERT HIS DOMINANCE OVER THE SCHOOL BY REDECORATING

Garry Pile
Branding Genius

After announcing his impending evacuation, President David Eisler became determined to truly leave his mark on Ferris. With only one year left, he must get creative.

Sources close to Eisler have confirmed that the president will be changing Ferris' school colors and beloved mascot, Brutus the Bulldog.

"Ferris' colors, the bright crimson and gold, they were always too jarring for the president. He carries saline solution in his jacket for when his eyes can't take it anymore," said Eisler's personal assistant, Ferris Woodbridge.

Another source who will remain unnamed stated that Eisler feels great animosity and even fear toward Brutus the Bulldog.

"He becomes someone else when that dog is around, man. It's like President Eisler can sense when Brutus is nearby. The color in his face drains, his pupils dilate, and he locks all the doors and windows," they said. "The two of them ran into each other at the

WTF???



drinking fountain once, and all we could hear was screaming. It's really scary for him."

Woodbridge has since requested it be on record that this decision has absolutely nothing to do with the president finding Brutus to be "really scary."

Within the year, Woodbridge expects to see more neutral tones adorning campus.

"The president has been spending a lot of time on Pinterest and gained an appreciation for sage green and various shades of brown," said Woodbridge.

Eisler has refused to add any further comment. However, freshman hockey major Richard Johnson did overhear several choice words shouted from the president's office last Tuesday.

"I don't know, dude. There was a lot of 'it's too much!' and 'that bulldog wants me impeached!' It was really confusing for me, personally. I was just trying to find the bathroom," Johnson said.

For more information, scream out your dorm room window and see if anyone answers.

Legal Disclaimer:

The Ferris State University *Tire Fire* is a satirical newspaper featuring fabricated or exaggerated stories written by members of the Ferris State *Torch* staff. Pseudonyms and false job titles have been adopted for each of the *Torch* staff members whose work is included in the *Tire Fire*. The *Tire Fire* utilizes invented names and quotes in its stories unless public figures or notable university personas are being satirized or described for the sake of our personal enjoyment, and the enjoyment of our readers. All other use of real names is coincidental. While the *Tire Fire* is an extension of the *Torch*, it is meant to be satirical and does not necessarily reflect the views of the *Torch*, nor Ferris State University.

2021 SUPER SPREADER AWARD

RECORD BREAKING COVID-19 OUTBREAKS TRACED TO GREEKS

Jarrett Heap
Beta Beta Beta

Ferris decided to fall back on the shame game, since none of the strongly worded emails did much to stop super spreader parties this year.

There were too many

fraternities and sororities partying to narrow it down to one to recognize for the prestigious pandemic award, so all of Greek Life was honored with the 2021 Super Spreader Award.

According to the *Tire Fire* COVID-19 Dashboard, there were

a total of 20 separate COVID-19 outbreaks in Greek life, all of which were due to a lack of social distancing at parties every goddamn weekend.

"Honestly we had a good time and like, no one got that sick," Xi Phi Omegle sophomore

Daisy Duke said. "Seriously, I don't know why people are freaking out, every person in our sorority now has immunity forever and we weren't going to waste a year of college being responsible adults before we had to."

The MVP of this award **Super Spreaders** | see page 4

Tire Fire

Satirical insert laced with absurdity, hyperbole and going way too far

Pull out this section for the hardest-hitting fake news ever put to print

In memoriam

These grads here for a (sort of) good time, and definitely not a long time

Tire Fire Editor's note: these students are not actually deceased, just graduated. But what's the difference, eh?

Kaylin - Queen of the Red Pens
1999 - 2021

On Thursday, our Managing Copy Editor Kaylin was found dead in the Torch office with multiple stab wounds. The murder weapon was later identified as red pens.

Though a motive has not been confirmed, our sources claim that members of the Torch Advisory Committee have been brought in for questioning. At a recent meeting with the committee, a suspicious number of members criticized the copy editing of the latest editions. Staffers say Kaylin was later seen outside her apartment holding a bottle of red wine and crying while blasting "Despacito" on an old boom box.

Accusations from the Torch staff have brought up the possibility of an assassin hired by the Advisory Committee as perpetrator.

One anonymous Torch employee was quoted saying "Honestly, that bitch had it coming. She was always criticizing my grammar."

Kaylin has left her AP Stylebook to Alyssa and requested in her will that her obituary be looked over at least seven times before publication. If any error is published "I'll come back to haunt you bitches for life."

Kaylin is survived by her five fish Marvin, Todd, Stanley, George, and Lloyd; and her cat Prim. She is preceded in death by one fish, Earl, and too many plants to count.



Kendall - Tony Hawk of Stoned Longboarding
1999-2021

Ferris business senior Kendall was found dead in her apartment last night.

Toxicology reports found that there was a significant amount of 30xr Adderall and marijuana in her system at the time of death. Before her passing witnesses said they spotted her skateboarding on campus at roughly 3 a.m. with a Cayman Jack Moscow Mule in hand.

It is believed that the combination of substances caused her death. Kendall had previously mentioned that it is important macaroni and cheese is served at her funeral, specifically Stouffers.

She leaves behind her plant collection, her demon spawn cat Salem and her dirty ass bong.



Charlie - Graphic Designer Extraordinaire
1996 - 2021

Charlie, the creator of the recurring ostrich graphic in the Lifestyles section of the Torch, has disappeared. The authorities were stumped, as the only clues in his apartment were very large feathers. Rumor has it that his creations came alive and he was never seen again. The cartoon below is the only trace left of him.



Cora - Self-Proclaimed Professional Traveler
1998 - 2021

The Torch Editor in Chief went missing Tuesday, April 27, and has been presumed dead after all ledes were exhausted.

She was last seen in the Torch office, sending PDFs off to be printed for her last edition as Editor in Chief. The whole staff was caught off guard by her disappearance, as they had seen her just 24 hours before in the office for production.

The strongest indication that she is deceased is the large iced coffee she left behind, the ice barely melted when the DPS officers arrived on the scene. Staffers said she never left her coffee unfinished.

Officers assumed foul play was involved, as professors told them Cora had aspirations to graduate, so much so that she worked her way up from a failing grade this semester. However, no one can access the office without a keypad code and there were no signs of forced entry.

According to close friends, she was always a flight risk. After studying abroad during the 'rona last year and having all her travel plans thrown in the trash, she was never the same. She would be up all hours of the night planning trips for when it was safe to travel again, and according to her roommates she has referenced graduation as "freedom", which they assumed meant from school until now.

One friend said the journalism and technical communications senior "danced the line between genius and madness like it was her job" and faking her death to escape to Europe and start a new life is the exact kind of wild plan she would follow through on.

She was vaccinated two weeks ago, and upon further investigation, officers found her suitcases were gone from her house off-campus.

"I guess I should have seen the signs," her roommate said. "She never shut the f--- up about studying abroad and her entire for you page on TikTok was travel videos. I don't know why she would stage her death to escape, though. I really don't know what to think, but I hope she's OK."

Cora was known for her love for student journalism, alternative/indie music, red wine and her family. Also, her passion for dismantling the patriarchy and the university administration.



HORROR-SCOPES

THE MOST ACCURATE HOROSCOPE YOU'LL EVER READ

The stars are sick of lying to you. See how they really feel in this Tire Fire exclusive column!



Aquarius: Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Wear your fucking mask you asshole.



Pisces: Feb. 19-March 20
Don't worry about hot girl summer, no one thinks you're hot anyways.



Aries: March 21-April 19
I hope someone steals your wallet and emotional support waterbottle.



Taurus: April 20-May 20
If you are still basing your life off of your horoscope, you are what is wrong with the world.



Gemini: May 21-June 20
Learn to be happy alone. No one wants you now and they never will.



Cancer: June 21-July 22
IF. YALL. DONT. STOP. BITCHING. ABOUT. YOUR. HORORSCOPE. YALL. ARE. GONNA. GET. GOT.



Leo: July 23-Aug. 22
This is the sign to quit school.



Virgo: Aug. 23-Sept. 22
It's a good time for masks to be mandatory. I don't want to see any of y'all's ugly mugs.



Libra: Sept. 23-Oct.22
No notes here, you're doing amazing sweetie



Scorpio: Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Roses are red, alcohol is water, go get your mental health checked you absolute wreck.



Sagittarius: Nov. 22-Dec. 21
If you are still looking both ways before crossing the street you are a pussy. YOLO.



Capricorn: Dec. 22-Jan.19
No offense, but you smell bad and sitting next to you bunch makes me want to rip my nose off. Get rid of your weed shit.

*The stars are not liable for: headache, nausea, vomiting, death, vertigo, dysentery, mild heart explosions, darkened stool, darkened soul, lycanthropy, truncanthropy, more vomiting, hemorrhoids, virginity, mild discomfort, sugar high, even more vomiting, brown, your mom, and mild rash.

ASK WOODBRIDGE



Submit questions to fsutirefire@gmail.com for a chance to see Woodbridge N. Ferris give you personalized advice

“My girlfriend thinks I am cheating on her, but I’ve done nothing wrong. I love her and want to show her that I wouldn’t do anything to hurt her”

-Simp Sam

It sounds like you SHOULD be cheating on her just because of that. Give her something to actually bitch about if she’s looking this hard for something. Break up with her and start dating her hottest friend, that’ll give her something to REALLY cry about.

-Woodbridge

“I feel like I am in the wrong major. I want to be an artist, but I’m also really good at doing accounting. Should I just give up on my dreams of becoming a famous painter just because I’m good at my accounting major?”

-Nerd Nelson

Haven’t you ever heard the term ‘starving artist’? Don’t be an idiot. I bet you’re not even that great at painting. Just because your mom hangs up your shitty canvases in the living room doesn’t mean you can be the next Picasso. Anything but accounting though, you’re never going to get laid as an accounting major. I hate nerds.

-Woodbridge

“My boyfriend plays football at the University of Michigan. I’ve never been in a long-distance relationship before, and it is really hard”

-Concerned Connie

Don’t even bother. Your boyfriend is probably getting head from every single Zeta. You’re too dumb to go to UofM and apparently too dumb to have figured this out already. Unless you have some WAP or can fight a whole sorority, you’re out of luck, sorry.

-Woodbridge

“My roommates smoke dope a lot and have asked me to join in, but I’m scared. I’ve never smoked before because my mom hates dope”

-Sober Sarah

First of all, no one calls it dope. What are you a sixty-year-old man? And no one actually listens to their mom. I’m surprised they even asked you because you seem like a snitch. I’d never invite you to one of my hotboxes. Smoke the weed though just so you can save your social status among your friends.

-Woodbridge

EISLER SAYS:

“My last act as president will be to defund that damn student newspaper, mark my words.”



SUPER SPREADERS

Continued from front page



Kipe Pakka Alfa won the Ferris MVP award for Super Spreader Parties this school year.

went to Kipe Pakka Alfa, who started not one, but two separate COVID-19 outbreaks. The spread started three months apart in the school year after their antibodies lost their effectiveness, like motherfucking clockwork, just like Fauci told us. The entire fraternity proceeded to not report their cases to Ferris.

“I mean, the university never asked us if we got COVID-19 and there’s literally no rules about this shit,” Kipe Pakka Alfa President Chadley Harrington said. When Harrington was showed the university COVID-19 dashboard with its rules to report COVID-19 cases, he had no further comments.

Many fraternity members took advantage of the reputation they created throughout the year of always having COVID-19 outbreaks. With so many outbreaks, who’s to tell if you’re lying to your boss about being exposed to COVID-19 and not being able to show up

for your shift?

“I’m not going to lie, I haven’t been to work in like, two months,” an anonymous fraternity member said. “Sometimes I think my boss is catching on to the fact that I’m really just hungover, but they haven’t fired me yet.”

Ferris President David Eisler reportedly came up with the idea after hearing the report of the fourth outbreak two months into the semester. Sources close to him said this

was a contributing reason to his decision to retire, saying he was “too old for this bullshit.”

The Tire Fire is hearing reports now of loud music, incoherent yelling and a strong smell of marijuana coming from Sugma Pi. Sources say the fraternity is having their end of the year beer olympics.

“Look on the bright side, we all got this and survived, which clearly means we are built different like my guy Donnie Trump,” Sugma Pi senior Colin

McMacMack said. “That means we can save the vaccine for people who need it. Plus, how long can this pandemic really even last, it’s gotta stop spreading at some point, right?”

It’s been 418 days since students have been in regular college, but with plans to return to nearly all in-person classes in the fall, Greek life is already making plans for their back-to-school rager on Welcome Weekend.

- OFF THE RECORD -

Campus exploits that aren’t necessarily illegal or reported to DPS, but probably should be

Gee Ess

Avid police scanner listener

Vanderbaked pt. 420

April 20, 8 a.m., DPS was dispatched to the recently closed Vandercook Hall where they found hundreds of students who had broken in and commandeered rooms to “celebrate the holiday.” DPS couldn’t do much as each and every exterior door had a student chained to it in protest.

Cookie confusion

April 20, noon, DPS was dispatched to the Rock Café at the start of lunch service after several students called to report strange smelling and tasting cookies coming from the dessert bar. The cookies have been confiscated but over 100 had been taken by the time DPS had arrived. At this time, the butter swapper is still at large. Several students could be caught stroking



the carpet of the UC about an hour after the incident was reported.

Dabs on the quad

April 20, 4:20 p.m., DPS was dispatched to the North Quad after a miscommunication between an RSO and the university. This led to several students doing dabs

in the North Quad, which the university thought was a dance class centered around the popular dance move, the dab. Those caught were given the benefit of the doubt and no formal charges or citations were handed out.

World’s largest bong found

April 20, 6:14 p.m., DPS was dispatched to Brophy Hall after several reports came in of a student trying to use the recently stolen world’s largest bong from their second story window. The bong in question is the 27-foot-tall glass piece named “Bongzilla” that was swiped from outside the new Cannabition Cannabis Museum of Las Vegas last week. No charges were filed as technically the drug usage was not inside the building, the student in question was over 21 and the museum decided not to press charges as they thought the whole situation was “high-larious”.

**EXISTENCE IS PAIN. SLEEP IT AWAY.
ALTERNATIVELY: SMOKE TO FORGET.**

LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

Virtual classes: a year in review

Are students sick of online classes or is it not so bad?

Alyssa Hubbard

Lifestyles Reporter

After a whole year of having online classes, students learned some lessons through this unique circumstance.

The abrupt switch to virtual learning brought new challenges to college students everywhere. They needed to adapt to their new learning environments and possibly alter their studying methods. Trying to figure everything out in such a short time, especially when the pandemic first hit, caused a large amount of stress for students.

According to Educationdata.org, the COVID-19 pandemic affected nearly 1.6 billion students worldwide, which was the most disruptive event in history to majorly affect students and schools.

The past year has shown third year pharmacy student Chrystopher Hogg just how much he appreciated in-person learning. Being a part of a difficult program like pharmacy and learning virtually don't vibe too well together for him.

"It changed how I study very dramatically because the way we are tested changed," Hogg said. "[It] shifted to open note tests so I focused on organization rather than memorization. Overall, I feel like I'm putting in the same amount of effort, just in different ways."

Although Hogg was able to develop new studying routines in order to fit with the virtual curriculum, it did not necessarily improve his mental state.

"I'm certainly not under less stress, that component is still there," Hogg said. Many students can relate to that.

Another student who feels the same is Ferris education senior Riley Newfer, who not only had to handle his own virtual courses, but he also taught seventh graders virtually.

"I've certainly put in less effort," Newfer said. "It's hard to stay motivated when I'm not physically going to school."

42% of students said that motivation was a major problem for them to finish classwork, according to Educationdata.org.

As both a student and an educator, he saw how the long-term change to virtual



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

With classes coming back into in person students have to try and adjust from doing online classes for over a year.

learning affected his seventh graders. He was inspired by them.

"I've learned how adaptable students can be," Newfer said. "We've had to deal with a lot of change, but I've also realized how social students are. I've studied far less under a virtual setting but I don't think it's impacted how I'm doing in school."

Educationdata.org also provided statistics that showed in the United States, only 43% of students who took in-person classes had never taken an online course before. Only 59% of students taking online courses said they were satisfied with the course.

Because every school was affected by the shift to virtual learning, college students from all over the state of Michigan wanted to express what they have learned over the past year as well.

That 59% of students who enjoyed online courses applied to Northern Michigan University hospitality management student Christina Batsikoros.

"I learned that I learn much better being outside of a classroom setting because being in a room filled with people is anxiety-inducing and makes me focus less on the content and more on my anxiousness," Batsikoros said. "So Zoom has been a lot better for me."

Batsikoros' studying habits haven't changed much but she does feel like she's put in more effort for her classes.

One student who feels the same way about putting in more effort is Detroit Mercy nursing student Alyssa Geer. She doesn't think she's put much effort in class, however, she feels she's had to compensate and

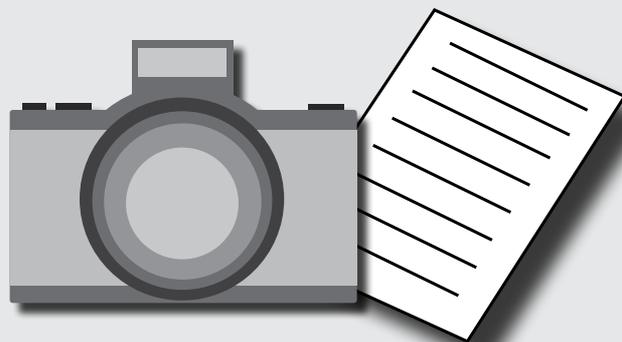
work harder on assignments to "make up for it."

"I feel like I have procrastinated my study so much," Geer said. "What I've learned is that I do so much better getting to interact and be with groups in person. I thrive much more in person than staring at the computer screen."

Geer mentioned that she gets distracted by her phone or household chores while on a class zoom session and "it takes a toll."

As much as the future is uncertain, so too is the lifeline of virtual learning. Ferris plans for a fully in-person return for the Fall 2021 semester, having as many normal classes as possible. Online classes will still be available for those who prefer taking them.

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HIRING FOR
THE FALL**



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Feeling the burn

How students combat feeling burned out from school work

Meghan Hartley
Freelance Reporter

According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, burnout is defined as a state of being in which a person feels exhausted and empty, stemming from a stressful lifestyle and being put under extreme pressure.

It's no surprise that there are a few students feeling burned out from all the work being tacked on to their schedule and having to stare at computer screens for hours on end for class lectures, then homework.

In the last month of the semester, a time to review everything you've forgotten over the past three months to prepare for finals is a time in which feeling burnout is most prevalent and the stress is at an all-time high.

There are ways, a few students have found, that help them when they are feeling the burn and need something to help them recharge in order to continue working hard.

For Alex Hart, who is majoring in pre-pharmacy, when she is feeling burned out from all the homework she tends to clean the space around her. Hart has OCD and ADHD and from time to time her cleaning 'just happens', but in the end, she realizes it has helped her unwind.

"Just the other day," Hart said. "I took apart the futon I have in my room and put it back together, just because of how much stress I had."

Physical activity of any kind, even a simple walk or working on a project non-academic wise, can help ease the strain school work creates. Another method of easing strain is through the use of animals.

It is known that animals can have a wondrous effect on the mind when individuals are stressed, under pressure or going through burnout. Animals have a playful manner that can help distract the mind for a while.

Devin Bearer, majoring in music and entertainment, has a cat as an emotional support animal and frequently puts off her work to find comfort in her furry friend when things are starting to become too much for her.

"My cat is a great help," Bearer said. "She's there to help calm me down when I get a little too emotional from all my homework and everything."

Not only does Bearer find some peace in playing with her cat but so does her suitemate Lucy. Lucy Arbannas, majoring in pre-optometry, enjoys having a cat wandering around their rooms as she is doing homework, it brings a calming presence.

"I also will listen to music sometimes," Arbannas said. "But watching a Disney or Marvel movie definitely helps the most and my go to."

There are multiple methods students use to ease their stress and help pull them back out of their burnout. However, a couple of students don't take breaks, deciding to stick with their work knowing they can finish what they started.

Nathan Hard, majoring in welding, is one student who doesn't rest when the going gets tough, instead, he pushes through his burnout to get to the end.

"I was just grown up with it," Hard said. "To push through the hard times and get the work done."

Hard is from a country lifestyle where there is hard work on the daily and if you give up or become distracted, the work doesn't get done in the right amount of time. Coming to Ferris he had the same mindset, it has worked for him ever since and only takes mental breaks when meeting up with friends.

No matter what method is used to help ease the burnout caused from school, it is always important to take time for yourself and recharge to come back to your workload better so better results can be attained. The better your mind is, the better your performance in all you do.

Ferris State University Scholarship Opportunity for Students

Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship

Applicant must be the child, sibling, grandchild, son or daughter of a Ferris alumna(us), have a 2.75 GPA and successfully completed a minimum of 24 earned credit hours at Ferris State University.

Please note the following: Students seeking an associate degree must have completed 24 credit hours at the end of spring semester and students seeking a bachelor's degree must have completed 56 credit hours at the end of spring semester. In addition, students must submit an application including an essay describing their personal career goals and role an FSU degree will play in achieving those goals, a letter from the FSU alumna(us) describing the effect their FSU career had on their professional career, and a recommendation by an FSU staff or faculty member.

For more information and to apply visit: ferris.academicworks.com

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Application deadline: MAY 14, 2021

*All submissions must be made on line using MyScholarships.

Visit <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/admission/financialaid/scholarship/incoming/myscholarships.htm> for more information.

Events calendar

WEDNESDAY

April 28

LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coffee House

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



Lavender Graduation (Virtual)

Contact: Sarah Doherty
SarahDoherty@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 5 - 6 p.m.

THURSDAY

April 29

Multicultural Graduate Recognition Program

Contact: Darnell Lewis
darnellewis@ferris.edu
Location: Zoom
Time: 3 - 4:30 p.m.



Saturday

April 30

Virtual Study Abroad Workshop

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



TUESDAY

April 20

Examination Week

Have a good summer Bulldogs



For more events, check out calendar.ferris.edu

Graphics made by Production Manager Charlie Zitta

2021 Torchbearer award winners

Meet the students who volunteered their way to the top

Kendall Rooks
Lifestyles Reporter

The Torchbearer Ceremony is held each year to recognize students who are leaders on campus, in the classroom and in the community. This year the ceremony was held virtually on April 22 to comply with COVID-19 restrictions. Multiple awards are handed out, however, each year ten graduating students are selected to win the prestigious Torchbearer Award.

Nominees must meet eligibility requirements which consist of having a 2.75 overall grade point average, have good standing with judicial services as well as completing 125 hours of volunteer service between May 1, 2020 and April 19, 2020. The ten recipients of the 2021 Torchbearer Award were Jay Janutol, Allyson Faulkner, Tea Caragao, Kelsey Ernst, Amanda Eslinger, Byron Brooks, Kyle White, Leonardo Almanza, Arianna Lozano and Trevor Roznowski.

Diagnostic medical sonography and health care system administration senior Tea Caragao won not only the Torchbearer Award but also the Rising Star Award. Caragao said she had never imagined winning such awards when she first enrolled at Ferris,

"I'm naturally a shy and quiet person and, as I've told others, I'd rather do manual labor than public speaking. Heck as a high school senior I didn't even know if college was going to be a thing for me, which is why it is crazy to look back at everything."

As a first-generation student Caragao found herself jumping into every opportunity brought to her.

"I was really lost and saw [getting involved] as the only way to get anywhere. If someone asked if I was interested in something, I asked for more info and went for it, which led me to become Director of Public Relations in RHA, as well as to one women's



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Byron Brooks received two awards, Initiative and Torchbearer award.

rugby practice and several ultimate frisbee games with guys a foot taller than me," said Caragao.

Caragao said that some of her favorite volunteering experiences came from her less 'official' roles on campus. For one semester Caragao was asked by her professor to hold tutoring sessions for her medical terminology course.

"A year or two later, I crossed one of the people I tutored," said Caragao, "She said she still remembered me and the sessions, and that they really helped her get through the class. That made all of those hours prepping for the sessions worth it."

Ferris music and entertainment business senior Byron Brooks was also the recipient of two awards.

"I am both honored and humbled to be the recipient of both the Initiative 125 Award and the Torchbearer Award," Brooks said. "I dedicate these awards to the African Proverb, Ubuntu, which means I am because we are."

When asked about the hard work put in to receive these awards Brooks said, "I don't look at my service experience as hard work, I believe that it is everyone's responsibility to incorporate the act of service in their everyday life. We should all ask ourselves; how

can I utilize my resources and knowledge to better my community."

Biology and pre-physician assistant senior Arianna Lozano also receive the Torchbearer and Initiative 125 awards as well as the Volunteer of the Year award.

"I am very astonished that I won the Torchbearer Award. I could not believe that I had won it as I know there were many other nominees that were well deserving of this award," Lozano said. "The emotions I had knowing that I had received this award were just flooding down my body. I was feeling overwhelmed with joy, and it led me to tearing up. I had no idea how much of an emotional impact this made for me."

As the President of the Ferris State Circle K International Lozano helped create the Haunted Hatchery fundraiser event along with Kiwanis of Cadillac. The event was a huge success and the group raised over \$7,500 which was used to purchase clothes and toys for those who could not afford them during Christmas time. Lozano said this will forever be one of her favorite volunteering events.

Lozano said that there were several people who helped her throughout her time at Ferris including her Student Alumni Gold Club advisor, Brandi Behrenwald, her honors advisor, Catherine Bordeau and her mom.

"My mom was always there for me throughout my entire time at Ferris State," Lozano said. "She encouraged and pushed me to do excellent in school, which led me to joining the honors program and getting involved in our community."

The next Torchbearer Awards Ceremony is not until April 2022, but the volunteering and community outreach starts now. For more information on these awards and their requirements, contact the CLACS office at 231-591-2685 or clacs@ferris.edu.

Coffee break and sun intake



Photo by: Dylan Bowden | Torch photographer

With the weather getting nicer students are starting to hangout more around campus.

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS

Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor | sandeb16@ferris.edu

Tennis double dips in the GLIAC



Photo courtesy of Bulldog Athletics

Both the men's and women's teams posed with the GLIAC Tournament Championship Trophies, something that the Bulldogs haven't done since 1999.

Ferris tennis program wins both men's and women's GLIAC championships

Brendan Sanders
Sports Editor

It has been a season to remember for the Ferris tennis program, and this past weekend added to the already historic season.

Coming into the weekend, the Bulldogs tennis men's and women's teams were celebrating regular season GLIAC championships after the men's team went undefeated at 12 - 0, while the women's team went 13 - 1 with their only loss coming against Division I school Valparaiso. But another celebration was in order with both teams capturing the GLIAC championship on Sunday, April 25. The tennis programs accomplished their first sweep in both the regular season and GLIAC tournament since 1999.

First and foremost, head coach Mark Doren was extremely proud of the teams' performance in the regular season, saying that the regular season championships are going to be something they are going to take the most pride. The team battled back from a long season, which was constantly being effected by COVID, playing all the conference teams atleast once, and the overall grind of the season.

"To be able to win the regular season championship was just was a huge honor and accomplishment, but then to go into the weekend. We knew we'd have a target on our back for being the top in the top teams in the conference. When probably before the season started, neither of our teams were probably looked at by the rest of the conference as being the top teams." Doren said.

The women's team had an intense match on the path to victory, taking on Grand Valley State and winning 4 - 3. This was the first time the women's team swept both the regular season and GLIAC championship since 2002. They won in dramatic fashion, going into the final match tied 3 - 3.

"It was it was unbelievably close," Doren said. "We were tied at three with one match remaining on the court, and we had a freshman out there who went to a third set. She had lost the first set, and for her to lose the first set as a freshman and come back and win the next two sets, with everybody in the crowd, both teams' fans, all watching one court was a tremendous achievement for her."

That freshman was GLIAC Freshman of the Year Sophie Daavettila who won via comeback after being down one set, winning 2 - 6, 6 - 3, 6 - 2 in three sets. She explained that she had never been in a situation such as this before

"I was definitely a little nervous but my coach and my assistant coach and the team they definitely helped a lot with my nerves and gave me tips," Daavettila said. "I would go back to the curtain and I would try to block out and any of the outside noises or anything that was going on, just try to focus on the match and ended up working out for me."

As Daavettila scored the final point, elation came from the women's team as they charged the court to celebrate with their teammate. Daavettila explained the euphoria she felt as she won the match.

"Leading up to that point, just looking at my teammates and seeing the expressions on their faces, and then running to me and giving me the biggest hug, I was just so happy." Daavettila said. "A lot of them were crying, which made me start to tear up and it was a great feeling just to know that I do this for the team, and together we're here for each other. None of us could have done it without the other ones so just knowing that I have them they're like my family it made me feel very proud to be a part of this team."

In the days leading up to that game, the women's team took on Northwood on Saturday, April 24, and Saginaw Valley State on Friday, April 23. They would win both matches 4 - 0.

The men's team also brought home a GLIAC championship after a relatively dominant victory over Grand Valley State, winning 4 - 2. Senior Mathis Guerre sat out the singles matches after a minor injury, still competing in the team's double's matches.

"I felt comfortable going into the match, comfortable and excited. I played well and we fought well as a team," Freshman No. 2 singles player Jan Koupil said. "Mathis (Guerre) was sitting out from singles due to an injury, but everyone we could hear him on all six courts being extremely loud and Andrew to and coach and the girls team also came and supported us and we heard every voice that cheered for us. And it was really exciting and we're very grateful for that support."

The final point game down to freshman Benjamin Lortie, who won his match 7 - 6,

6 - 3. Koupil explained the reaction as the team realized they had won the championship.

"We were keeping score and then we knew there was magic point for Ben," Koupil said. "We saw him hit that volley away, and it was surreal. It was, it's difficult to describe it was gratifying to finally be over. We're winning because we we're very good."

After the trophy celebration, awards for the GLIAC Player of the Year, Freshman of the Year, and Coach of the Year were all announced, with Ferris seeing players picking up awards in each category.

Guerre won GLIAC player of the year after putting together a strong season that saw him score a singles record of 8 - 4 on the season. Guerre only lost one match in double play.

Sophomore Morgan Waller won the GLIAC player of the year on the Women's side, after she went 11 - 5 in individuals on the year.

Sophie Daavettila won GLIAC freshman of the year for the women's team. Including her win on Sunday, her record sits at 11 - 4 individually on the season.

Coach Doren won GLIAC coach of the year for both men's and women's, after the two teams combined for a 31 - 1 regular season and both GLIAC championships.

Next up for the Ferris tennis program will be the NCAA Midwest Regionals, which will take place May 7 - 9 in Midland.

A change of scenery

Mason Pline makes move from the court to the gridiron

Austin Arquette
Sports Reporter

While many athletes experience transfers in an athletic program, one Ferris athlete has transferred his talents from the basketball court to the football field.

Former Ferris State men's basketball junior post, Mason Pline has chosen to leave the basketball team to pursue his dream of playing on the Ferris football team. Pline will always love basketball but he wants to take his opportunity to chase his dream. Whenever someone would ask Pline which sport he preferred his answer would be, whatever is in season.

"I grew up playing every sport I could and have grown to appreciate and love them all in different ways," Pline said. "I'd always thought about playing football ever since going to my first game and watching Ferris state play and I knew that one day I'd want to be a part of that."

Pline has had the thought to join the football team since his freshman year and finally understood this would be something he'd miss out on if he didn't go after it. Pline said the football coaches reassured him that his ability to be a good player could help make a difference on the team.

"Coach Annese would always joke with me and kind of hint to me ever since I got on campus my freshman year about coming and playing tight end and what initially started out as a joke has now turned into a reality," Pline said.

The wonder of "what if I didn't play" stayed in the back of Pline's mind. By playing both sports under two long-time coaches at Ferris, Pline has learned much from both coaches that he will take with himself for the rest of his life.

"Ferris state athletics are highly respected not only in the region but across the country

and to be able to be a part of the basketball team and play under coach Bronkema and now play for Coach Annese he has just been a blessing," Pline said. "The coaching staff on the football team has been great at helping me make this transition and understanding of the new role and situation I'm coming into and have made the transition for me quite easy."

Pline said that everyone from the start of this transition has been supportive and just wants what is best for him which speaks volumes about the football coaches and his new teammates. A former teammate on the men's basketball team with Pline, senior wing Michael Peterson is happy that Pline is able to chase his dreams because not many get to do so.

"I just like how he wants to succeed. He's always looking to get better and selfishly that's just a good person to have around so I'll definitely miss being around him," Peterson said. "He showed he's not afraid of taking a risk."

While old teammates have been supportive to Pline, his new teammates have been unbelievable in his eyes. Whether it was being helpful, encouraging, or patient Pline said his teammates have made the transition that much smoother. Ferris football QB, Evan Cummins said that Pline has transitioned smoothly as far as he can tell but that Pline has done a great job.

"Mason's a guy that brings good energy to the team, he's always positive and you can tell he's a competitor," Cummins said. "Mason's a great kid and a big target to throw the ball too, it'll be interesting to see how we can utilize him this fall."

Pline stands at 6'8 and weighs around 250 pounds as he looks to create numerous mismatches for the opposing team. The plan is to have Pline play tight end on offense but with his speed and agility shown



Photo by: Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor

Pline celebrates with teammates after catching a touchdown in Ferris' spring game

in the previous spring game, we will see many big blocks in Ferris football's strong run game from Pline. There is uncertainty about playing time as the team gets back into the swing of things due to the gap year per COVID. Pline remains focused however by learning the entire offense and relearning football traits from when he played junior high football in 2016-2017.

Pline said the learning curve from not playing for almost four years is just like anything else, the more practices and repetitions you receive the better you become. The biggest thing for Pline is relearning techniques.

"It's easy to get down sometimes when you make a mistake but as long as you can look back at the day before and tell yourself 'I'm better today than I was yesterday' then it makes me that much more driven to keep moving forward," Pline said.

With such a big frame under the pads, Pline gives his new QB a big guy to throw to which Cummins finds nice to have, especially an athletic one not afraid to go up and make plays. Pline impressed Cummins with his focus as he knocked the rust off from not playing so long. Even Peterson said that Pline will translate easily.

"Mason is honestly a freak show so his athleticism will translate easy," Peterson said. "There isn't very many 6'8" 250 guys with that kind of vertical talent so he should be a weapon."

With the spring football game over for Ferris football the next time Pline will suit up is when Findlay comes to Top Taggart Field on Sept. 2, so look for number 81 to make his debut in five short months.

Paige Kortz talks about success on and off the diamond



Photo courtesy of Bulldog Athletics

Paige Kortz is batting a .394 batting average with four home runs on the year.

Brody Keiser
Sports Reporter

Record-setting success is nothing new for Paige Kortz.

The junior outfielder for Ferris softball started setting records in high school. A native of Napoleon, Michigan, Kortz attended Brooklyn High School and played three sports: bowling, volleyball and softball. Not only did she set school records in softball for single-season batting average (.611), slugging (.984), on base percentage (.622), hits (95) and runs (69), but she also was a first-team all-state bowler.

The high school accolades did not end there. Kortz was an all-state first team honoree, a four-time all-region, district and conference selection and three-time team MVP for Brooklyn softball.

Kortz played softball for head coach Doug Richardson at Brooklyn. He credited Kortz with being a hard worker and doing the right thing, not only for herself, but for others as well.

"She was always a competitor and an elite player who wanted to do the best she could do," Richardson said. "She wanted to be better than the other players and always worked harder than them. She pushed herself to be an elite athlete and she accomplished that. She's done a lot of great things throughout her high school and college career."

Her high school success certainly translated to her time at Ferris. Kortz is a four-year starter for the Bulldogs, with a career batting average of .316 and 65 RBIs. She was named GLIAC Player of the Week for the week of April 4 - 11, but took more pride in being named to the First Team All-GLIAC team for the 2018 - 2019 season.

"Earning accolades is a good feeling," Kortz said. "It not only reflects my actions, but also the coaching staff and the teams' actions. It always feels nice to be noticed

Kortz | see page 12

Sports Speculation: The end of the beginning

Pistons start rebuild with expected losing season, but young core that shows promise

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

Sitting at 28th in the NBA standings entering the final stretch of the 2020-2021 season, the season has been rough for the Detroit Pistons.

While this adds onto the shame for Detroit sports fans, let's face it: They are used to it. The Pistons have not been true championship contenders since the 2007-2008. Since then, they have only made the playoffs three times and have accrued 10 losing seasons.

Having been considered a mediocre team for the last few decades, many people wondered if the franchise would ever consider starting over from scratch. This idea has now become a reality with the hiring of new front office leadership and a seeming philosophy change around the town.

NEW 'GM'

The man in charge of the Motown remodel is former Oklahoma City General Manager, Troy Weaver. During his time with the Thunder, the former "GM" was a key part in building up a team considered to be one of the best of the decade. As the assistant general manager for over 10 seasons, Weaver was part of the

scouting and player personnel department during the team's magical post-season stretch from 2009-2014.

Weaver helped draft and assemble one of the best starting lineups in the 21st century by drafting future league MVP Russell Westbrook, future NBA champion Serge Ibaka, sixth man of the year James Harden, trading for All-Defensive honoree Thabo Sefolosha as well as experienced veteran Kendrick Perkins, and not trading future 11-time All Star Kevin Durant.

While Weaver had not been in the driver's seat as "GM" until his time with Detroit, he wasted no time in plastering his vision to Detroit fans.

By using aggressive approaches in free agency, the draft, and the trade deadline, the fan-nicknamed "Grim Weaver" has the Pistons now look completely different than they did a year ago.

NEW YOUNG TEAM

The doors opened for new free agents and trade targets looking for a fresh start. One of those was former Nuggets forward Jerami Grant, who turned down a similar contract from playoff bound Denver for the opportunity to improve and play for black leaders, like Weaver and head coach Dwayne Casey.

Grant was not the only one to leave the mountains for Motown as his teammate, center Mason Plumlee, also signed a three-year contract with Detroit.

Many other players decided to follow suit to the Motor City, like hometown hero Josh Jackson, former Pelican Jahliil Okafor, and 2018 Piston Wayne Ellington. While these free agents improved the team, they did not seem to make Pistons fans as excited as the drafted rookies.

Thanks to trade maneuvers, Weaver found himself with three first-round picks and a second-round pick in the 2020 NBA Draft. These selections brought in French point guard Killian Hayes, rebounding machine Isaiah Stewart, shooting specialist Saddiq Bey, and two-way flyer Saben Lee. During this season, all four rookies found themselves in the starting five throughout parts of the season.

Although these fan-favorites rookies are making the Pistons more fun to watch, it has not quite resulted in wins. The Pistons are currently on pace for the worst single season record since 1994. While this can be rough on Detroit fans, there are some things to expect going into the final stretch of this season and the offseason.

THREE THINGS TO EXPECT

1. Starters "sitting"

With the end of the season approaching, the organization is looking at the future. This will bring more opportunity for management and coaches to evaluate the younger and less experienced players. Players like Grant and Plumlee will likely have a decrease in minutes for second and third string players like Hamidou Diallo, Frank Jackson, and Tyler Cook.

2. A plethora of transactions

If the first offseason is a sign of Weaver's aggressiveness, the upcoming offseason can become even more "wild." This means more trades, signings, and emphasis on the player market than ever before. With many of Weaver's transactions, players that are acquired from a trade are not excluded from being packaged in another. This along with the Pistons having a chance for obtaining one of the top picks in the draft will make have the trade possibilities endless this offseason.

3. A vision for the future

This season has been tough on fans, but there is reason to have hope. Weaver has been in this situation. In his first season in "OKC" in 2009, the Thunder accrued a similar record of 23-59. The next season with Weaver in the front office? 50 wins and a playoff berth. He knows the formula and is ready to execute it in Detroit.

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KORTZ

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and recognized for playing the game that I love."

This far into her junior season, Kortz is batting a career and team best .388, has knocked in a team-high 16 runs and leads the team with four home runs.

Kortz attributes part of the reason for her success to her competitive nature. Growing up with a twin brother, who is also a collegiate athlete at Olivet College, helped her find her competitive side. Her competitiveness helped her to be successful, but it is not the most important part of her success.

"I believe the key reason to my success overall is my time management skills," Kortz said. "Being a college-athlete requires me to jump back and forth between classes and practices on a daily schedule. In softball, I've been able to find success by reflecting on games and practices to determine what my current weaknesses are. If I'm struggling with a specific thing, I reach out to the coaching staff to figure out how to fix it quickly."

Through all the success on the softball field, Kortz said she has always put her education before athletics. That focus on education rewarded her with a cumulative 3.96 GPA as a dual major in accountancy and finance, while minoring in Leadership and Project Management.

"If I had to describe myself as a person, it would simply be

as a Type A person," Kortz said. "I'm very driven and have taken on many roles during my college career. I had to develop strong multi-tasking abilities to accomplish numerous tasks."

On top of her educational and athletic commitments to Ferris, Kortz is also a member of the NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and an employee at Tenneco Automotive.

When she came in as a freshman, Kortz was undecided for her major and worried about being away from her friends and family. Since then, she has nearly completed her dual major and balanced everything else in her life.

Despite the busy schedule, Kortz finds time for the important people in her life. Outside of school and softball, Kortz spends her minimal free time with family, friends and teammates; something she wishes to continue.

"During the rest of my time at Ferris State University, I look forward to creating life-long friends and memories," Kortz said. "I'm hopeful that our daily lives will return to normal next year, but no matter what I will always be able to cherish the true friendships I've created."

Kortz's time as a Bulldog has rewarded her academically, athletically and interpersonally. She will look to continue finding success at Ferris as she wraps up her education and the Bulldogs push towards the GLIAC tournament scheduled for the week of May 10.