

## College and COVID-19: a new normal



Scan the QR within the photo to sign up for your on-campus vaccination

Photo by: Davis Fosgitt | Photographer

### What to know for the upcoming semester on COVID-19 regulations on campus

**Jerry Gaytan**  
News Reporter

Ferris is taking precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19 this upcoming school year.

#### Vaccine

According to Joy Pulsifer, the dean of student life, students will not be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine, though the goal is for everyone on campus to be vaccinated. In a message to students, Pulsifer stated that Ferris “strongly recommends” all on campus to become immunized.

Jeremy Mishler, associate vice president for external relations, stated that Ferris is developing soon to be announced incentives that will be offered to students to raise vaccination numbers. Ferris will also be implementing pop-up clinics during move-in dates, and students can also schedule vaccination appointments with Birkham Health Clinic.

Faculty, students and staff are all encouraged to share their vaccination status through the Healthy Dog Portal.

#### Classes

Classes will be returning to normal sizes this fall, and more than 80% of them are scheduled to be in person. All faculty, staff and students must complete the symptom checker each day when on campus.

#### Masks

The CDC’s COVID-19 Data Tracker moved Mecosta County from a “moderate” setting of COVID-19 transmission to a “substantial” level. In response to this, Ferris has mandated that all students, faculty, staff and visitors will be required to wear a mask in all campus buildings. Masks will be required regardless of vaccination status.

These regulations also goes for KCAD, GRCC Applied Technology Center and the College of Pharmacy. For requests on mask accommodation, students must contact Educational Counseling and Disabilities Services.

#### Dining & Housing

Touchless card swiping and plastic glove and hand sanitizer stations are just a few of

the precautions that will be present in the dining areas, according to Mishler.

The dining areas will also be using “SafeSpace” to proctor the number of individuals in the dining areas, so they don’t exceed occupancy. All dining locations on campus are scheduled to be open with full service. Additional flexibility will also be given to students and others when it comes to dining plans for this upcoming academic year.

Housing will continue to offer a mix of housing options. Housing has also returned to its “pre-COVID-19 rate structure” and will no longer offer incentives for students living in a single room, per Mishler. There is also no set limit on the number of guests a student may allow into their dorm or living space.

Ferris housing’s FAQ page states that all students living on-campus are required to take part in free COVID-19 testing. This also goes for all students who lived on campus during summer break, as well as those in apartments and suites.

#### Pandemic Recovery

When it comes to recovering from the

pandemic, Ferris has recently offered students extra relief funds to assist with expenses related to COVID-19. Ferris’ page on Distribution of HEERF III Funding – American Rescue Plan (ARP) also offers in-depth information regarding the availability of these funds.

The page states the American Rescue Plan, which was once known as CARES, set up federal grant dollars “that must go directly to students in the form of emergency financial aid grants.” These grants are for the students’ use in the cost of attendance or for any emergency cost which may arise due to COVID-19.

According to NCSL, the CARES Act provided \$14.25 billion for emergency relief for higher education institutes.

Ferris has also launched an inclusive Welcome Back webpage with information covering everything for college, such as getting your MyBulldog ID card, parking permits, student employment and ordering textbooks.

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# NEWS

Noah Kurkjian | News Editor | kurkjin@ferris.edu

## The rise of the delta variant

What you need to know about the highly transmissible COVID strain

**Rebecca Vanderkooi**  
Opinions Editor

As case numbers and hospitalizations skyrocket again, it's time to look at the highly contagious delta variant is becoming the most dominant COVID-19 strain worldwide.

According to the CDC, the delta variant is more than two times as contagious as previous variants. Forbes reported that in just a weeks time there was a 1/3 increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations throughout the entire United States.

Ferris pharmacy professor Michael Klepser specializes in infectious diseases and point of care diagnostics. He has been staying up to date on the latest pandemic related information and research since COVID-19 first became a national and worldwide issue.

"The delta variant seems to have muta-

tions that allow it to be more transmissible because it has more spike proteins on the surface, so it attaches to the receptor better. It also has a mutation that allows it to replicate faster and to higher levels," Klepser said.

Klepser explained that the vaccines still protect individuals against the delta variant, however, vaccinated people can still get COVID-19. This is called a breakthrough infection and it's extremely rare. There is not a considerable risk of hospitalization or death from such infections. New information from the CDC shared that vaccinated people with breakthrough COVID-19 infections are at still risk of spreading the infection to others, which could potentially be fatal for unvaccinated individuals.

A federal report stated that among college aged individuals only about 1/3 are vaccinated. Additionally, according to the

Michigan vaccine tracker, in Mecosta County only 36% of people are fully vaccinated.

"I'm especially worried about the residence halls. If we have 60-70% of the people not vaccinated and we get one of these delta cases in there, things could go south very quickly," Klepser said. "I think that the first month back is going to be very important, and I would strongly encourage students, faculty and staff to be very vigilant in protecting themselves and others during this time."

Klepser explained that as long as there are unvaccinated, susceptible populations, such as developing countries with less than 10% of their population vaccinated or young children who cannot get vaccinated, these variants will keep appearing.

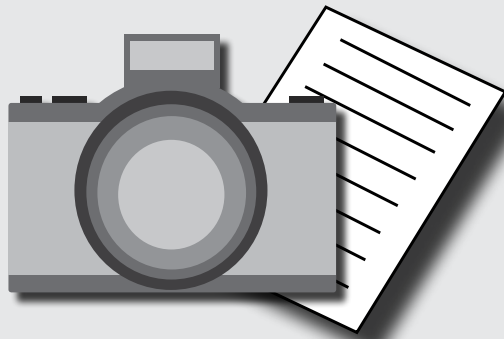
"There's going to be more (variants) unfortunately," Klepser said. "One that's of concern is something called the lambda

variant. It originated in Peru and it shares a lot of characteristics of delta in terms of transmissibility and viral replication, but it also may evade the immune system. That's really the concern. If you couple some of the delta characteristics with a virus that's going to be not as targeted by vaccine or natural immunity."

According to the CDC and Professor Klepser, the key to avoiding contracting delta, lambda or any other variant is getting vaccinated and continuing to wear masks.

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## Getting around campus just got easier

Updates to the local Bird map allow students to ride throughout campus



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

In the city scooters can be left anywhere but on campus riders must use the in-app parking zones.

**Noah Kurkjian**  
News Editor

Bird just updated their Big Rapids map to include Ferris' campus as the semester begins. With more than 80% of classes projected to be in-person and this new mode of transportation, campus will be alive again.

On April 5, Big Rapids city commissioners gave a memorandum of understanding to Bird Rides, Inc. to operate a fleet of about 50-75 electric scooters throughout the city, according to the Big Rapids Pioneer.

Ferris' social media manager Sandy Gholston provided some context to the campus update.

"The University gave Bird permission to open its geofencing to our main roads for its users. This permission includes roads around the West Campus Apartments," Gholston said. "We want to remind people to understand and comply with the rules and regulations outlined in the agreement between the users and Bird. Further, we want people to understand that Bird electric scooters are to be used on streets and not on sidewalks."

### FAQ's

#### How do you start them?

Download the Bird app from your preferred app store, create an account and then scan the QR code or type in the short code on the

handlebars.

#### How do you ride them?

Once the scooter has been activated through the app, the rider should place their dominant foot on the footboard, push off with their other foot and hit the accelerator on the right grip. To brake, just squeeze the brake on the left grip. Depending on the generation of the Bird scooter available, they have a top speed of between 15 and 18 mph.

There is also a beginner mode that includes a gentle acceleration feature and a lower top speed for those who just want to cruise.

#### How much do they cost?

Bird charges the rider a \$1 fee to start their scooter, and then between 30 and 50 cents per minute after that. A 15-20-minute ride is suggested to cost \$5-7. However, Bird offers what they call Community Pricing. This provides a 50% discount to low-income riders, students, Pell grant recipients, select local nonprofit and community organizations, veterans and senior citizens.

To sign up for the Community Pricing Program download the Bird app, create an account and email proof of eligibility (TIP forms and your government issued ID or your current student ID) to access@bird.co.

#### Where can they go?

This question has two answers. In the city,



# MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

**Noah Kurkjian**  
News Editor

**LANSING** - The 2020 Census results are in and they revealed that Michigan became more diverse. The white majority of Michigan dwindled by four percentage points while the overall population increased by two percentage points.

Populations that increased since 2010 included hispanic and latino which increased 1.2% for a total of 5.6% and the Asian population grew .9% for a total of 3.3%.

An even bigger growth occurred in the two or more race identifying group which rose 2.3%.

The data also revealed that Michigan is seeing a lowered youth population as well. In fact the lowest in any of the Great Lakes states. Just 21.5% of Michigan residents were under the age of 18 in 2020 down 2.2% from 2010.

**MICHIGAN** - From September 1-30, Michigan residents can harvest their red pine cones and turn them into the

Michigan Department of Natural Resources' reforestation department and be paid \$75 for each bushel turned in.

The DNR is hoping to grow their supply of red pine seeds so that they can plant more trees, specifically within Michigan's state forests.

The DNR wants pine cones that are in good condition, freshly picked from the tree.

To identify these trees, look out for their craggy red bark, their needles that grow in pairs to between four and six inches, or their cones that when on the tree may appear green or purple tinted.

The DNR also asks that those participating store their cones in mesh bags as opposed to plastic or burlap as they can hold too much moisture when stored improperly.

During the month, residents can take their cones to one of six locations, three in the Upper Peninsula and three in the Lower Peninsula located in Cadillac, Gaylord, and Roscommon.

Those wanting to participate should register ahead online on the DNR website.



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

## BIRD SCOOTERS

Continued from page 2

riders are encouraged to use roads with speed limits below 35 mph, trails and, when absolutely necessary, sidewalks. On campus, riders are asked to keep to the road and off sidewalks.

These scooters are also fitted with GPS and cellular technology, so if a rider proceeds outside of the permitted zone the scooter will beep and will no longer accelerate until the rider returns to the ride zone. (See photo for map of the zone)

### Where can they be parked?

In the city, Bird scooters can be parked anywhere within the ride zone, however, it is asked of the rider to park them near bike racks and out of the way of foot and vehicle traffic. On campus, there are designated parking zones shown within the app and riders are asked to leave their scooters in these zones if possible.

### How far can they go on a charge?

Bird suggests their e-scooters have a 30-mile range, however, real-world testing reveals a range of about 15 miles.

### How do they get charged up?

Local fleet managers go around the city and pick up discharged scooters and replace them with fully charged units at designated locations. It has yet to be confirmed as to how the scooters will be laid out within campus.

### What if the scooter doesn't start?

If the scooter does not unlock on the first attempt, do not give up, there are a few trouble shooting steps. First, force close the Bird app and relaunch it. Second, make sure that your phone is not weakly connected to a nearby wifi network. Finally, if scanning the code does not work, try manually typing it in.

### It started but it won't move?

Make sure that your scooter is within the rideable zone and that you are pushing off when you try to start. If that fails, report it within the app using the caution triangle in the bottom left.



**CRIMES ON CAMPUS CAN BE REPORTED TO DPS AT - 231-591-5000 -**

## Summer crime on campus

A brief look at the crime that's happened in the past few months

**Rebecca Witkowski**  
News Reporter

Ferris' Big Rapids campus experienced little crime over summer break.

The crime that did occur consisted mainly of misdemeanor traffic violations, burglaries, civil disputes and assaults. According to the Clery crime log, most of the cases are closed, with some resulting in citations or arrests.

"We only had one significant case of interest," captain Green of the Department of Public Safety said. "We had a student get into her car, back several hundred feet and drive directly into one of her enemy's (another student's) car."

The incident occurred on May 26 near Finch court. After the crash, the two then got into a verbal argument before the police arrived. The suspect then got back into her vehicle and tried to run over the student as she was arguing with another student. Police were able to stop the suspect.

According to Green, the suspect was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon and malicious destruction of property.

A separate incident involving domestic violence occurred on Aug. 16 near Robin court. The case is currently open and under prosecutor review. In accordance with the Michigan Penal Code, if the suspect is found guilty they may face misdemeanor charges resulting in 93 days imprisonment, a fine of \$500 or both.

Overall, the summer months had less crime than the fall or spring semesters. From May through August there were only 11 incidents reported. In comparison, January through April had 37 incidents reported. Incidents are reported to the Clery crime log and can be found on the Ferris Department of Public Safety website.

Regularly scheduled "On The Record" will return in the next edition



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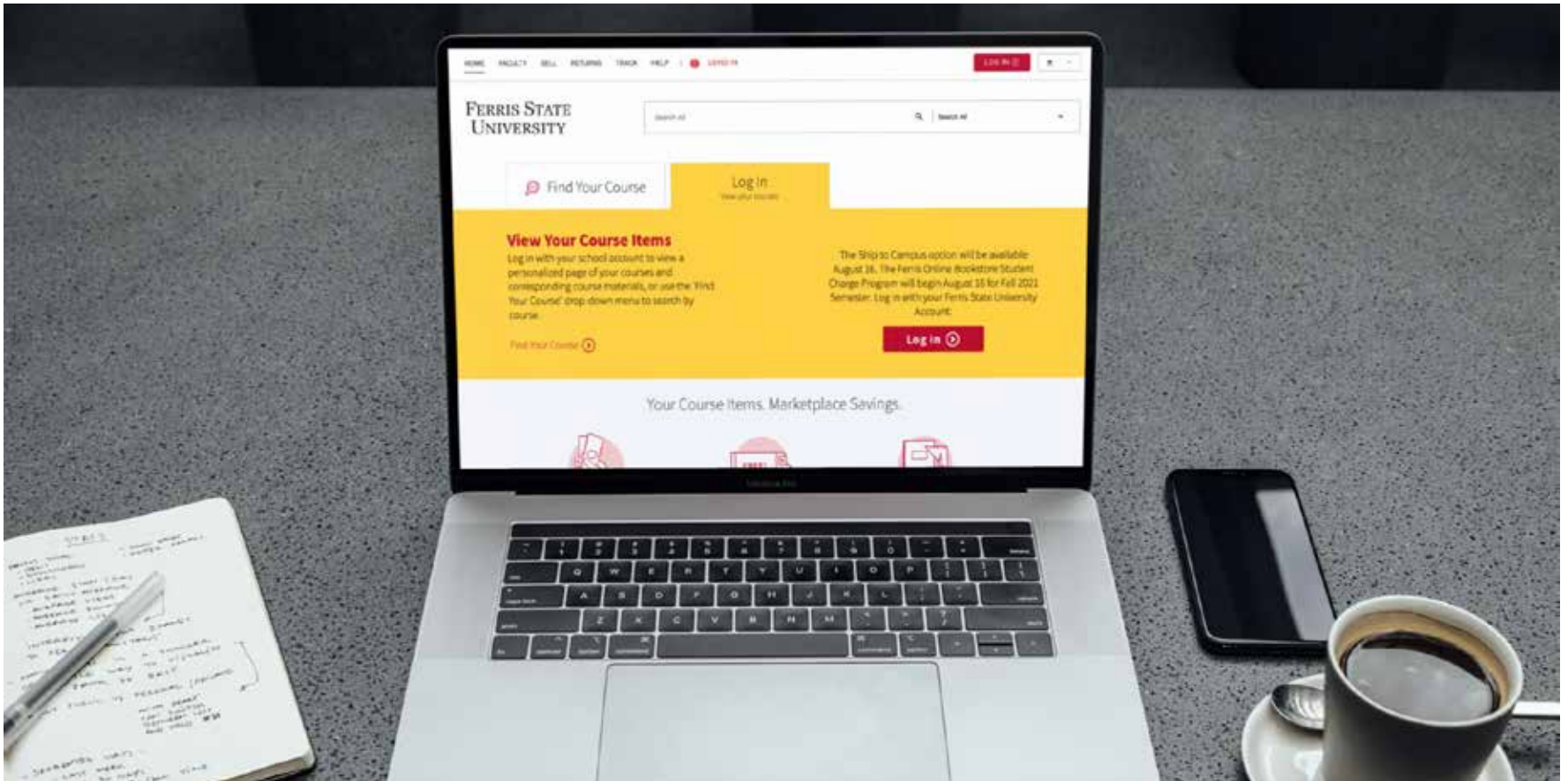
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# Navigating the new online bookstore



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

Users can log into the new site through the student tab of MyFSU and it will automatically population.

## All textbook orders will be done virtually as Ferris teams up with Akademos

**Jessica Oakes**  
Special Editions Editor

As of June 30, 2021, Ferris' contract with book retailer Barnes and Noble has expired. In its place, the online bookseller Akademos will handle present and future textbook sales. The former University Center bookstore location has been remodeled and renamed Ferris Outfitters.

Presiding over this transition as project specialist, Ali Molnar explained that the physical location of Ferris Outfitters will still sell Ferris apparel, gifts and home décor, as well as snacks, office supplies and household items.

Chris Boyster, vice president of sales and marketing at Akademos, believes that there are three main benefits to a fully online bookstore: easy access, a wider selection, and reduced cost.

"Students do not have to come to campus and wait in line to buy their books - they can easily shop online at any time, day or night, and use financial aid to pay. This has become even more important during the pandemic when every physical store had to shut down and students were unable to come to campus," Boyster said.

To order required course materials, students must first locate the online store through MyFSU. After logging in with their ID and password and selecting the "Student" tab, the next step is to select "MyRegistration." This will give students the option to lookup their materials under "Course Textbook Information."

Students will then be taken to the Ferris State University Online Bookstore. Once logged in, they may browse course materials and school supplies. To find a personalized list of required textbooks, students can se-

lect "View your course list."

At this stage, all textbooks are presented and organized by course. Students have the option to order new, used, eBook, rental and marketplace materials. The Marketplace guarantees low prices for students by ordering from trusted third-party sellers, making prices more competitive.

Students may also use marketplace to buy and sell their textbooks at any point throughout the year. A feature that Barnes and Noble's previous online bookstore lacked.

Once all desired materials have been added to the cart, students may ship their books to their house, apartment, or directly to campus. Free shipping is available for students on purchases over \$49, excluding marketplace materials.

To finalize the purchase, students may pay with a credit or debit card, or utilize the

Student Charge Program. Until Sept. 9, students can charge up to \$500 worth of materials from the online bookstore.

Bookstore expenses will then be added to the student's university tuition e-bill. If a student has enough excess financial aid to cover the purchase, the charges will be paid before a refund is issued. If financial aid is not being used, students will pay the balance on or before the due dates of their respective payment plans.

Boyster explained that a virtual store is less expensive to operate than a physical location, which translates into more savings for students.

"Akademos was founded by a professor who saw the negative effects the rising cost of books had on students," Boyster said.

For over 20 years, Akademos has aimed to reduce costs and increase student preparedness.

## New year, new tech

### How to get online on campus

**Noah Kurkjian**  
News Editor

The internet is longer optional in this day and age, however, getting online outside of a standard home network isn't always the easiest task.

Thankfully when students are at their on-campus dorms, getting connected is as easy as retying the network name FSUatHome for the password.

There is also an ethernet port located in each dorm room on the same box as the COAX port.

When it comes to class buildings, dining halls, the University Center, FLITE and others, it get's somewhat more complicated.

Getting connected to the router is the same as getting connected within a dorm building, just retype FerrisWiFi for the password and you'll be attached.

To actually use the FerrisWiFi network, users will need to open their browser of choice and try

and navigate to a website. This will then redirect the user to a page where they select whether they are a student, faculty or a guest. For students, follow the instructions pictured on the right.

There are a few outlier situations that need to be handled by IT in the University Center though.

For example, if you are trying to connect an iPad to FerrisWiFi, due to the way that iPadOS handles websites, Ferris' registration portal is tricked into thinking it's trying to be accessed from a Mac.

This will not allow the user to connect themselves as their Wi-Fi address has to be manually added at the IT office.

Other issues that might be ran into consist of trying to use a very old device on the network like an Xbox 360 or PlayStation 3. Those older systems typically need to be manually registered with IT or used via a wired internet connection.

#### Windows

##### All Users

1. Enter your MyFSU ID and password below. Then click **Login**.
2. You are prompted to save the agent. Save the agent to a place on your computer that is easy to locate.
3. Browse to the location on your computer where you saved the agent.
4. Double-click the **Persistent Agent.exe**.
5. You may be asked for approval to run the agent, click **Yes**.
6. The setup Welcome Page displays. Click **Next**.
7. The setup displays a Progress Bar while it installs.
8. A **Login Box** is displayed. Enter the same credentials you used to download the agent.
9. A progress bar displays as your computer is scanned. Further instructions display upon completion of the agent scan.

#### Mac OS X

##### Bradford Network Agent

1. Enter your MyFSU ID and password below. Then click **Login**.
2. You are prompted to save the agent. Save the agent to a place on your computer that is easy to locate.
3. Browse to the location on your computer where you saved the agent.
4. Double-click the **Persistent Agent.dmg** file to launch the installer.
5. This opens new screen with a **Persistent Agent.pkg** file and an **Uninstall** file. Double-click the **Persistent Agent.pkg** file.
6. The setup Introduction page displays. Click **Continue**.
7. If you are asked to **Select a Destination**, choose **Macintosh HD** and click **Continue**.
8. Next, click **Install** to install the agent.
9. A progress bar is displayed as the agent is installed.
10. A **Login Box** is displayed. Enter the same credentials you used to download the agent.
11. A progress bar displays as your computer is scanned. Further instructions display upon completion of the agent scan.

#### Mobile Device (iPhone, iPad, Android, etc.)

##### Bradford Network Agent

1. Enter your MyFSU ID and password below. Then click **Login**.
2. You will be taken to a Success page with a progress bar. Please wait for the bar to finish before continuing.
3. Once the progress bar has completed you should be successfully registered and able to browse to your webpage of choice.

Photo via Ferris State University Website

Follow the steps listed above to register your device on FerrisWiFi

# LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

## Transitional stress

### Students prepare for the adjustment of going back to class

**Charles Buckle**  
Lifestyles Reporter

Bulldogs are flocking back to campus for a new academic year, and this year, after most classes were virtual for the 2020-21 academic year, students will once again be filling up classes in person.

Moving back to in person learning means that students must once again transition the way that they learn. For some students this mean simply going back to what is familiar, but for others having to get used to a change in learning can be stressful. Especially while still having to be cautious of potentially catching a virus.

"I'm a little anxious because I haven't been in a true classroom setting in a long time," Ferris dental hygiene Bailey Good said. "When COVID lockdowns first hit we had to be able to learn and maneuver into all online learning which was super tough, flipping the switch back to the norm will definitely come with its challenges."

Ferris sonography Kendra Madraza is also stressed about the transition.

"Since I'm starting a program

and I haven't been in person for so long I'm afraid I will get overwhelmed," Madraza said. "With online classes you have all those lectures on video so you can re-watch them. But now with in person you have to be in that class and retain it all right then."

Not all students are concerned about being back in person though, Ferris junior AJ Arechiga said he is not that nervous about being back in person, but can understand how some students would be.

The thing to remember about stress is that, no matter the cause, there are ways to deal with it. Everyone has their own way of taking their mind off the things that stress them out.

"I think the best way thing is to try to get into a schedule and a habit of doing the work and getting up and going to class in person," Good said. "You should definitely try and motivate yourself to get up and go to class."

Madraza has a different approach to stress.

"Something that helps me with my stress is working out and just trying to get as much done in each day as I can," Madraza said.

Arechiga said that if students

are not comfortable going back to in person just yet, they could try sticking to virtual.

"If staying away from face to face classes is what makes them the most comfortable I would suggest reaching out to their teachers."

No matter the approach to dealing with the stress, one thing is still certain. Ferris students are resilient, and they will be able to get through this transition in whatever way they can.

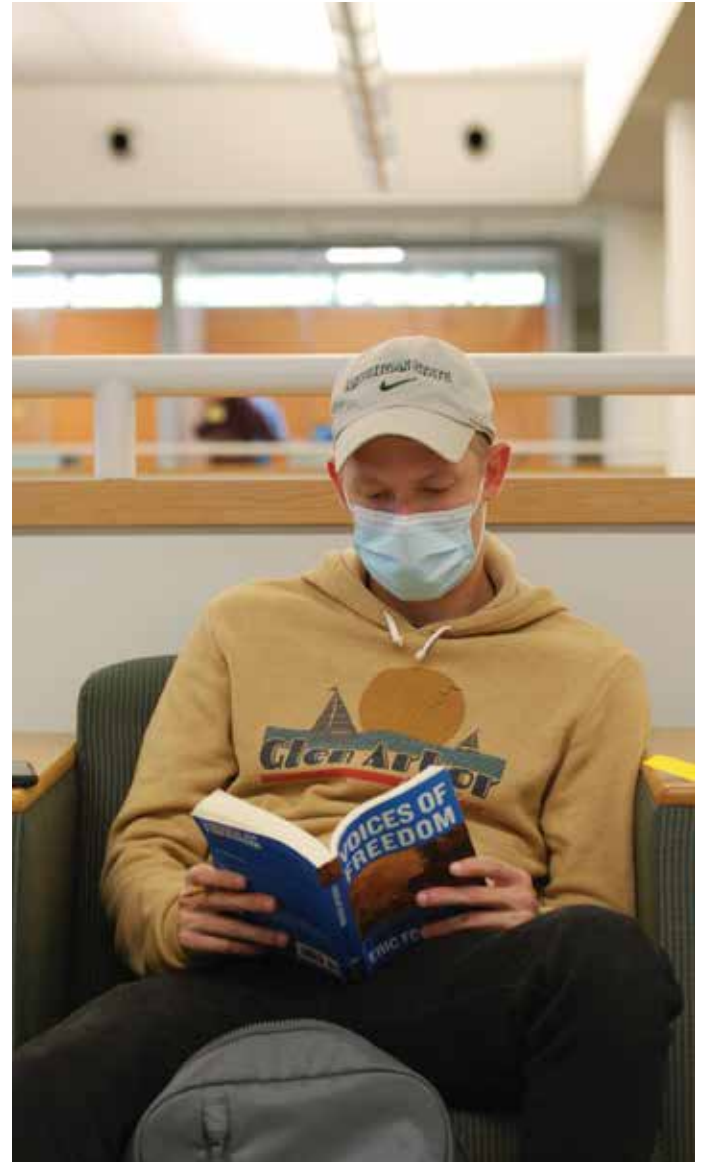


Photo provided by Torch file photos

Students are preparing for the start of in person classes after being online for the last year

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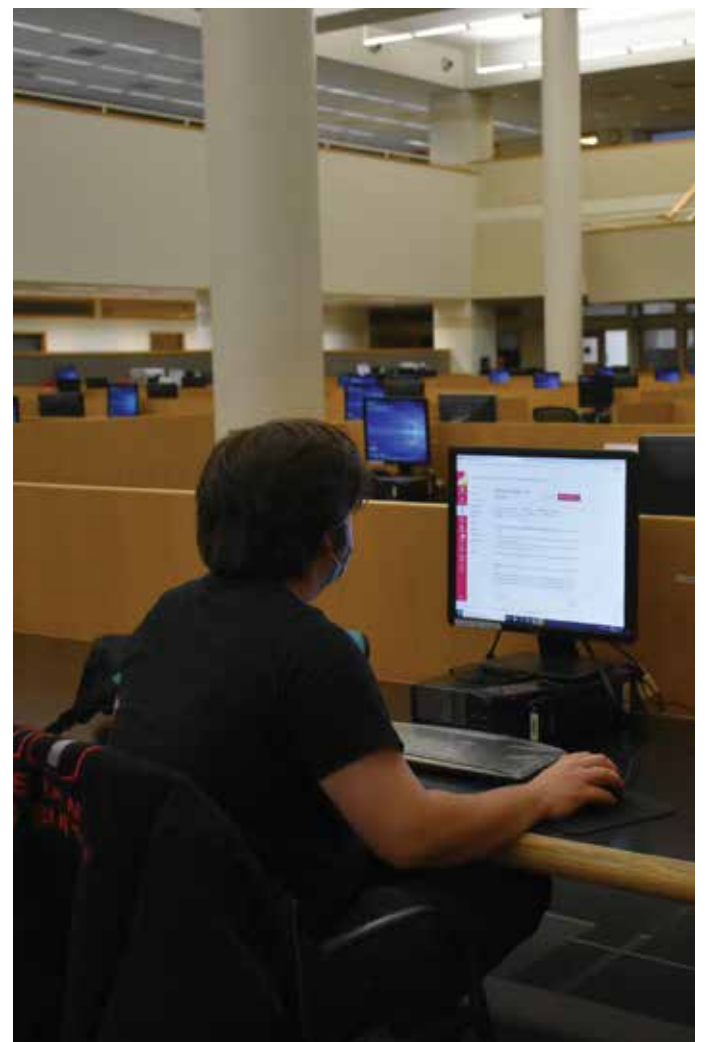


Photo provided by Torch file photos

Some students are excited for the norm to come back while others are anxious.



# Traditional & unique Ferris

## Sharing what makes Ferris unique through its traditions

**Meghan Hartley**  
Lifestyles Reporter

Taking part in traditions and unique experiences are what make for a great start to the year.

At Ferris, there are many great traditions that have been established over the years. One of them is to take a picture with Woodbridge Ferris, university founder who can be found in the North Quad.

There are many photo opportunities to take across campus, but none can be more traditional than taking a photo with Brutus.

Emma Polski is the Vice President of the Student Alumni Gold Club which helps current students and alumni stay connected, engage students in campus activities and keeps school spirit high.

The SAGC's most notable activities involve covering the emblem on the BR campus, their rake and run service project and most of all coordinating their Brutus mascot program, acting as his bodyguard. Polski says Brutus is a big part of the Ferris traditions and helping him out is extra special.

"He is so loved around campus," Polski said. "Everyone lights up when they are around Brutus and I think that is so fun. So whether I saw him at a game or whether I was with him, helping him, I think that is one of the best traditions that we have."

Polski says having Brutus so active on campus and interacting with fans of all ages is what makes any interaction with him exciting.

The SAGC is always working to keep students engaged on campus. One way they try to do this throughout the year is through their Bulldog Bucket List. It contains activities for

students to take part in across campus and within the city, such as bowling at The Gate and eating at Gypsy Nickel.

Advisor to SAGC Brandi Behrenwald says the list was first introduced and passed out to the Ferris community in 2016.

"The idea came together from a group of students who went to a student-leadership conference. We adapted the program from there and made it Ferris worthy." Behrenwald said.

The SAGC is excited for this year to begin as they have multiple activities prepared for the next few weeks to get new students acquainted with the campus and get returning students excited for the year to begin.

"Oh my gosh, let me get my list!" Polski said. "We have something new every week. Definitely covering the seal, the rake and run activity, welcome weekend events with Brutus, an alumni tailgate that all are welcome too and homecoming events."

The SAGC will be seen quite often around campus at different events. They can be caught at Rec fest which is just around the corner.

This group isn't the only one excited to welcome students back to campus and get the excitement rolling, Residence Hall Association is preparing itself as well.

After a year of hosting little to no events on campus, the Residence Hall Association is returning to having events on campus to engage students in person, rather than just in their online classes.

RHA hosts campus-wide events such as drive-in movies, carnivals and pancakes with the president. All intended to engage students with the campus and with each other.

Alando Steele is currently a co-President of RHA and says the group not only creates its own events but also supports many other campus-wide events.

"If there are any campus events going on with a little more pizzazz, usually the resident advisors come to RHA for planning and decision making for lending money out to others," Steele said.

Steele also mentioned RHA works closely with housing and the events they run, hosting them and supporting their events in any way possible.

RHA helps students within the residence hall feel more welcome where they are staying. The RHA's connection with the RA's and the planning of events specified to fit the theme of each hall help to further the sense of community.

It's tradition for Ferris groups to have a welcome week filled with fun events that everyone can participate in.

Sydney Stevens, the hospitality manager, says that a lot of the uniqueness in their events comes from students themselves as they are encouraged to share their ideas with the group.

"RHA is an inclusive place where the resident halls and students can share their opinions," Stevens said. "We love student views and everyone is always welcome."

Because of students' voices in the RHA's planning, they have been able to have events more oriented to the students' tastes, such as movie selections for the drive-ins, what items they would like to win at raffle drawings and keeping events recurring like the popular Stuff-A-Plush. Which is expected to make a return this year.

Ferris is filled with tradition and has unique upcoming events around every corner that any bulldog can take part in and enjoy. This year will hold a lot of excitement that all students should be looking forward to.



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Geocaching locations can be found campus and different places in Big Rapids.



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

If you look through the rocks outside Birkam there is a surprise.



# BULLDOG BUCKET LIST

- Take a "first day of classes" pic
- Eat at the Quad/Rock
- Eat a burger at Schuberg's
- Participate in the BIG Event
- Study on every floor of FLITE
- Go to a hockey game
- Rock climb at the UREC
- Get a donut from Bernie's
- Go to a soccer game
- Eat at Gypsy Nickel
- Nap in FLITE
- Go to Hemlock Park
- Go to a basketball game
- Join an RSO/Clubsport
- Go to the Homecoming parade
- Eat at Cranker's Brewery
- Go to a softball game
- Eat at wing night at the UC
- Find three bulldog statues
- Bowl at The Gate
- Go dance at Shooters
- Go to Bulldog Bonanza
- Go to a volleyball game
- Paint "The Rock"
- Buy a coffee from *both* Starbucks
- Attend Grad Fair
- Learn the Ferris fight song
- Take a picture with Brutus
- Swim at the UREC
- Tube the Muskegon River
- Go to the homecoming bonfire
- Walk on the university seal
- Go to the bookstore
- Tailgate at a football game
- Go to a football game
- Take a "last day of classes" pic



Graphic by: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager

## Nights not to miss

**THURSDAY**  
AUG. 25

**Ferris Forward**  
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AUG. 26

**Bulldog Welcome  
and Carnival**  
7 p.m.



**SATURDAY**  
AUG. 27

**UC Late Night**  
9 p.m.



**SUNDAY**  
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# OPINIONS

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN: The get happy tour

By Brendan Sanders

In July, I took a vacation without my family for the first time in my life. I wanted to find something that I felt I had lost over the previous year: happiness.

I know you've heard it all before. 2020 comes and everyone gets sad. So I'll skip through all the rough patches that hit in that year.

Despite the rough year I had between the ears, I was apparently pretty good for the Torch. They promoted me to this position when I applied for it. I was going to achieve the main goal I set for myself when I joined this paper. I should've been happy.

To my dismay, I wasn't.

When I realized this, I knew I had to do something. I needed to be in the right spot mentally to take on the challenge of this position, and to handle the schedule that I had given myself for my senior year. So I entered the summer with one goal: to get happy.

There were a few things I planned on doing to find happiness again. Each relating to the previous year's struggles.

First was fighting the feeling of being trapped. Obviously in 2020 you understand why one would feel trapped, but beyond that, there was the trapped feeling that came with my job.

The last two summers I had worked for the Lowell Ledger, writing roughly 40 stories about vari-

ous things. Taking up to four story assignments every week to make extra money is one of the easiest ways to burn yourself out and ruin your weekends.

I didn't have much time to dedicate to traveling, and the time that I did have was filled with the work that needed to be done for the paper. So I changed that. Instead I chose to take zero jobs, and I focused on being with my family and working on my childhood home.

Now that was an extreme measure, especially for a college senior who is getting an apartment for the first time in his life. Admittedly, I'm a little tight on money. To me, though, the benefits outweighed the financial downsides.

The first two months I spent at home I focused on my body. Being in the dorms with no desire to go any other place beyond the Torch office meant that I was too skinny, weak and reliant on a diet that consisted of an unhealthy amount of peanut butter. So I used my time at home to learn how to cook and eat a more diverse range of foods.

Along with that, I started working out with the one person that I new would make fun of me, yet still encourage me as a personal trainer: my sister. I'm not really sure how, but our relation-

ship improved. We managed to enhance our stereotypical brother sister relationship through her pushing me while we worked out.

That was the first thing that really made me happy.

July came and suddenly I found myself traveling with my best friend to Omaha, Nebraska where he had an internship with a baseball team. I spent a week with him running around the cities of both Omaha and Lincoln for the 4th of July.

I then travelled to southern Wisconsin to stay with my cousin, his wife and their daughter. It was the one place I felt like I could talk to people about how I've been feeling without fear of making them sad. They provided an outlet for me to pour out the feelings that I've been keeping in for the better part of 15 months.

Driving the long way, I had ten hours to reflect on the two week trip. There were two cages that I felt were opened for me. The first being the cage of feeling stuck. I had travelled over a thousand miles halfway across the country and back. My mental struggles resided in the second cage.

It was the first time in years where the sole person I was trying to keep happy and safe was me. I realized that my mental state was too reliant on how others were feeling. If others were happy, then

I was happy. If they were sad, I was sad.

Trying to get everyone else happy, bosses, co-workers, friends, family, professors, that random guy who was on the other side of the dorm wall, exhausted me to the point of breaking down. I didn't allow myself to feel happy for my own accomplishments.

Having two weeks to take care of myself allowed me to clear my head and come to terms with the side of myself that feels the need to please others. I'm happy that it's there, of course. Ultimately, my goal is to make sure I can make everyone I'm close with happy. But learning how to manage it and begin to enjoy what I'm doing again has been imperative to me getting happy again.

I'm not 100% back to where I was prior to everything happening. I'm not sure if I'll ever be, but having the summer tour to make progress has allowed me to enter my senior year with the best mindset I've had since my sophomore year.

## Vaccine hesitancy The danger behind COVID vaccine misinformation



Rebecca VanderKooi  
Opinions Editor

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a hot button topic for over a year and a half now. From mask mandates, to stay at home orders and the more recent vaccine requirements, there has been much debate on how to address the pandemic.

Recently, Ferris announced that it is requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for all student athletes, unless they have a medical or religious exemption. This comes after the news that other schools, such as Grand Valley State University and the University of Michigan, are requiring vaccines for all students, faculty and staff.

There has been a lot of fear and misinformation surrounding the vaccine, which has led many people to avoid getting it. It's unfortunate because numerous countries across the globe desperately want the vaccine but don't have access to it. Here in the United States, we have the opposite problem: we have more vaccines than people willing to get them. The New York Times reported in a survey of 10 states that an astounding 1 million vaccines

have gone to waste since the beginning of vaccine rollout.

Part of the reason people are so hesitant to get vaccinated is because they think the process has been rushed, or they are worried about what is in the vaccine. However, as USA Today reported, most people don't realize that following the 2003 SARS outbreak the COVID-19 spike protein was identified as a potential vaccine target. Because of existing technologies, the vaccine was able to be developed at a quicker rate, but that doesn't mean that corners were cut in its production or development.

The side effects for the COVID-19 vaccine are standard compared to other vaccinations. It includes soreness at the injection site, fever for a day or two, body aches and other mild symptoms. Ferris pharmacy professor Michael Klepser explained his wife's opinion of the vaccinations. She would rather take the more known side effects of the vaccine than the risk of contracting a potentially fatal virus, knowing that if she survived the long-term effects are still vastly unknown.

Another thing people seem to have forgotten is that most K-12 students are required to provide an up-to-date vaccination record in order to attend classes. Many schools, from elemen-

tary to college, are now requiring that students provide the same thing with the COVID-19 vaccination.

It's not new, it's simply adding another vaccine to the list of required vaccines already in place. However, for some reason, many people are calling the COVID-19 vaccine requirements unjust, but they've never before complained about the mandatory vaccination record.

A quick Google search reveals conspiracy theory after conspiracy theory as people try to condemn the vaccine; a popular theory is that the vaccine is some sort of government tracking chip. Most people nowadays have phones and social security numbers, so it's safe to say the government could find people if they wanted to, they certainly have no need for inserting a tracking chip.

It's understandable why there is vaccine hesitancy, especially with all the misinformation floating around, and the many people trying to make this a political issue when it's a medical and scientific issue. However, the only way out of the pandemic is by getting vaccinated. It's about more than just ourselves. Not everyone can get vaccinated, so it only makes sense that people who are able should get the vaccine.



# Classroom mask requirements

## Why the mask mandate is the right call



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production assistant



Meghan Hartley  
Lifestyle Reporter

While life on campus may be returning to normal with in-person classes, masks will still need to be worn.

On Aug. 12 it was announced that Ferris faculty, staff, students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, will have to wear a mask when stepping into any building on campus.

I believe this was a good decision, and with the delta variant spreading I am sure many of us can understand why the university made this choice. However, there may be indi-

viduals, vaccinated or unvaccinated, who are upset about having to wear a mask for another year.

Even though I have been vaccinated, it will be an easy decision to wear a mask this year when I am attending class. I will be doing this alongside sanitizing my hands often, only seeing a small handful of friends in person and keeping my distance when in big crowds. I do this all for one simple reason: I do not want the delta variant of COVID-19. If I were to contract any of these virus variants, I would have to be shut away in my room. I would have no in-person contact, my meals would be dropped off at my door and I would rack up an unhealthy amount of screen time. If this happened during the school year, I would have to miss out on the events that are finally being allowed to take place.

It's not great to feel like we are going backwards. Going back to wearing masks, keeping track of who we come in

contact with and making sure we are never too far from hand-sanitizer. But being worried about a virus spreading around feels much worse.

I would love to go back to my first year at Ferris: no masks, no excessive amounts of disinfectant spray and certainly not keeping six feet apart from each other. It would be fantastic to go back to that normal, but in order to move on to something that resembles that time we need to be smart.

Wearing masks right now is essential for us to get back to a life where we don't need them. The only way we are going to move forward is if we adapt and do not fall back on the habits that caused this virus to spread so quickly in the first place.

I fully believe we can get to a new and even better normal if we all work together in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and the new Delta variant on campus this year.

## MagSafe: I was wrong

### Apples' magnet accessory system has matured



Noah Kurkjian  
News Editor

Last September, Apple released the iPhone 12 series of phones with a new and important feature, MagSafe.

MagSafe is an array of magnets within an iPhone 12 so that different accessories may be attached.

About eight months ago, I wrote an article titled, "MagSafe: a bust out of the gate." I wasn't impressed with the selection of accessories, and the ones that were out at time of release, or even three months after, were still under baked. But since then, some things have happened.

First and foremost, the third-party case market grew exponentially. Third-party companies started adding the MagSafe pass-through into their cases. No-name brands from Amazon are even getting the pass-through. This allows for available accessories to be used by a wider variety of people, as there is no longer that \$50-\$60 fee of entry for buying the Apple official MagSafe compatible cases.

Second, and arguably most important, the accessory part of the third-party market exploded. There are now things that I was begging for, like different options for affixing a popsocket to a phone using MagSafe. That just wasn't an option a very short time ago.

There were also other additions, like the recently released MagSafe battery pack. This little device is no bigger than a deck of cards, but it can double the battery of the iPhone 12 or 12 Pro. It also has a nice trick up its sleeve. When you plug in your iPhone at night, if the MagSafe battery pack is attached to your iPhone, it will be wirelessly charged by your iPhone and they'll both be full

in the morning, alleviating the need for an extra cord next to your bed.

There are a few downsides to this product, though. Mainly the fact that you can only see the battery percentage of the pack on your iPhone. It also only comes in white, and in the short time I've had it, it's gotten quite dirty. Thankfully, Anker released its own MagSafe battery, and that one alleviates all of the drawbacks, has a larger battery capacity and is \$50 cheaper.

There are other nice additions, like the Belkin MagSafe car mount. It has a similar story to the MagSafe battery pack: it's no bigger than a deck of cards, clips into your air vent and holds your phone. However, it was a little disappointing to see that for \$40 it didn't also charge your phone. I'm just waiting for the Belkin MagSafe car mount and the Belkin boost up car mount to have a MagSafe Boost mount baby.

I also decided to revisit the Apple MagSafe Wallet, and I must partially take back what I said originally. It can stick well to a case, so long as that case is leather. It's not the best solution, but if you want to sit around and wait for them to patina, they will look fantastic and serve you well.

I personally have swapped many of my accessories for MagSafe compatible ones, and I couldn't be happier. All my power comes through MagSafe. I use the wallet and popsocket mount daily. I can't wait for this to expand, and I am happy to say that, for once, I think a phone manufacturer nailed attachable accessories as well as anyone will be able to for the foreseeable future. If you've got an iPhone 12 model, or plan on upgrading to the next generation iPhone, I highly recommend investing in this new technology.



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production assistant

# SPORTS

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

Evan Cummins throws a pass against Findlay in 2019.



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

Katie O'Connell makes a play against Ohio Dominican in 2019.



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

Grace VerHage goes for a header against Parkside in 2019.

## The return of fall sports

*Bulldog athletes discuss hopes and expectations for upcoming season*

**Austin Arquette**  
Sports Reporter

Summer is nearly over, and that means the return of Ferris athletics is near.

Ferris competed without fans in attendance last year. This year, many athletes are eager to play in front of their beloved fan base once again.

### Football

Ferris football saw fans again during the annual spring game hosted at Top Taggart field back in April. Senior quarterback Evan Cummins led the way for the Bulldogs in the spring game, and will be a big piece of the team again this year. Cummins looks forward to competing with his teammates after almost a two-year hiatus.

"I can't wait to have fans back at Top Taggart, I remember for the spring game we had a pretty good-sized crowd, and it was awesome," Cummins said. "I can't wait to see the stands filled come week one on Sept. 2!"

The Bulldogs continued training hard ever since the announcement that they would not play in 2020. Cummins said many of his teammates never stopped training, and some trained harder than ever. The Ferris Football team camp is Cummins's favorite time of the year.

"You're with the team almost every waking second of the day," Cummins said. "I can't think of anything else I'd rather be doing. I think one of the only positive takeaways from this pandemic is how close we have grown as a team."

Like many other athletes, Cummins wants to bring a championship home to Ferris. However, his personal goal for the season is to be the best teammate he can be. Whether his role is as the starter or backup, Cummins just wants to win.

"I was just talking to some of our defensive backs last week and I don't think we have ever had a team here that has felt so comfortable around each other. Everyone truly just wants what's best for this team and for each other. It's a great thing to be around," Cummins said. "I'm just happy that things are getting back to normal. We have been looking forward to getting back on the field for a long time now and cannot wait to see everyone at Top Taggart."

Ferris Football kicks off their season with a home opener at Top Taggart field on Thursday Sept. 2 against Findlay.

### Volleyball

The last time the Bulldogs were in action was during the GLIAC tournament semifinals in a loss to top seeded Michigan Tech with a 3-0 setback. The last time Ferris volleyball played in front of fans was March of 2019. Senior outside hitter Katie O'Connell is excited that fans will fill the stands once again.

"It means a lot to get back to a regular fall season and have a sense of normalcy with our season since we played our season in the spring," O'Connell said. "Last year was an adjustment because we had to work really hard to create our own energy in gyms without fans, so having them back will just create so much more energy and be a fun environment."

"After the unknown of last year we're just grateful for each day we get to practice and play volleyball, and I think the best way our team has dealt with everything such as playing volleyball in a pandemic was staying connected with each other and kept our team relationships," O'Connell said. "I think it was most difficult when we were all home and away from each other, but we were very conscious of how hard we had to work to connect and stay together as a team."

The Bulldogs are focused on picking up where they left off before the pandemic. O'Connell is most looking forward to having the entire team back on campus, and excited to show their off-season efforts.

"A goal we have as a team is to win our conference, and we want to win our region to make it to the Elite Eight as well," O'Connell said. "My goal is just to be the best I can for whatever my team needs. We have a really talented team so I'm excited to get to work with them and play this fall!"

The Ferris volleyball team serves up their season on Thursday, Sept. 2 against Tiffin with a 5 p.m. start time.

### Cross Country

Junior teammates Katrina Droski and Donis Harris are both ready to show all the hard work and training they have done since the pandemic started. Harris said he is very thankful to have coaches and training staff that have worked hard so the teams can compete safely.

"I think the best way to deal with the pandemic is to just try

not to worry about it and control what you're able to," Harris said.

Droski learned how to keep training despite the difficulties of COVID-19.

"With the pandemic and sports, I dealt with it fine, even when we had to wear masks to run, it was a bit annoying," Droski said. "I just keep on practicing my sport because running you can do anywhere."

Harris talked about getting back to competing.

"We've all been working hard to get to this point, so it'll be exciting to see everything come together," Harris said. "I've really seen these guys put in a lot of hard work over the past year and a half."

For the men, Harris said it has been an odd year in terms of team chemistry since there were restrictions on what the team was allowed to do. However, on the women's side Droski said they have all kept each other up to date on social media and planned game nights together. Both teams have made plans for having team runs and gone to dinner together on multiple occasions.

For Droski, she wants to post under a 24-minute 6k and hopes her team places top five this year. Harris would like to break the school record in the 8k race. Harris believes the Bulldogs have the potential to be the fastest team that Ferris has had in the past six years.

The Bulldogs will have their first competition at the Ray Helsing Bulldog invitational on Saturday Sept. 11 in Big Rapids.

### Soccer

This season, Ferris women's soccer will defend their GLIAC Championship from last season.

For seniors like forward Grace VerHage, it will be the last time they lace up their cleats for Ferris. It is especially important to VerHage that fans will be back.

"At one point in time I was so nervous I would never get to close my college soccer chapter," VerHage said. "And now with the ability to get back out on the field again this fall, I will never take anything for granted because you never know when something so special could be taken from you so fast."

VerHage used all the support from her family and friends to help through the pandemic. She believes it helped being a part of such a close-knit team because everyone was experiencing the same situation. She said the team chemistry is always there with the soccer team, no matter how long they are apart from each other.

"Everyone gets along so well, both on and off the field, making soccer even more enjoyable than it already is because you get to play the game you love with all of your best friends," VerHage said. "Something I've learned in my college career is the importance of team chemistry both on and off the field. When you learn to play for bigger reasons than yourself, that is what makes college athletics that much more special."

VerHage hopes to have made an impact on both the team's success and culture during her time at Ferris. This year, VerHage and her teammates are ready to work to defend their championship title and aim for new heights.

"As a team we hope to win both the tournament and regular season play conference titles and now that we finally have a chance to enter the National tournament again, a national championship title has always been the end goal," VerHage said. "As we advance through the season, we hope to check off these boxes. Personally, I hope to have the highest point scoring season I have had yet over the course of my four years here."

Ferris State soccer will lace up the 2021 regular season at home against Findlay on Thursday, Sept. 2, starting at 1 p.m. on the Bulldog soccer field.

### Tennis

May 9 was the last time the Ferris tennis teams on the courts. Both the men's and women's squads lost to Southwest Baptist in the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional Semifinals in Midland. That loss ended a streak of 15-matches won for the men's team and 16 straight victories for the women.

Last spring, the Bulldogs captured both of the GLIAC regular season and Tournament Championships, joining the Bulldog women's squad atop the conference. Ferris was making their 24th all-time NCAA Division II Tournament appearance with it being the sixth in a row this season for the men.

With a majority of both lineups returning for action this season, hopes are once again high for head coach Mark Doren's squads.

The Bulldogs open their season Sep. 11 against Grand Valley State University.



# Well wishes for Weisenburger

Staff members look back on Perk Weisenburger's time at Ferris

**Hannah Loucks**  
Sports Reporter

After 11 years at Ferris as the Athletic Director and over 40 years of time spent in athletic administration, Perk Weisenburger is retiring.

In 2010, Weisenburger joined Ferris, and since then he has led the Bulldogs to many victories.

His experience prior to Ferris included a position as the Athletics Director for External Operations at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Athletic Director at Illinois State University. Weisenburger positively impacted the culture of athletics at Ferris through his unique background and impactful interactions with others.

Rob Bentley works as the Assistant Athletic Director for Ferris and has worked closely with Perk for the last 11 years.

"Perk brought a lot of experience and the whole department was better overall because he was there," Bentley said. "He helped me a lot professionally and made us all better."

Not only did Weisenburger bring in positive change, he also brought in success. Sara Higley, the Senior Associate Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator at Ferris, has also worked closely with Weisenburger for several years.

"The most exciting thing about working with Perk was that he brought Ferris so much success," Higley said. "Perk helped Ferris to grow in Division II athletics."

In the case of the hockey team, Weisenburger was integral in the switch from the Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA) to the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) in 2013. Recently, they switched back to the CCHA under the guidance of Weisenburger.

Some highlights that demonstrate the success the Bulldogs have had in the past several years under Weisenburger's time include the appearance of the hockey team at the Frozen Four in 2012, the men's basketball team's National Championship title in 2018 and the football team making it to Nationals in 2019.

Among these accomplishments, the Bulldogs also earned accolades including 23 conference titles and 17 conference tournament championship titles. The volleyball team claims six of these conference championship titles from years 2014-2019.

"Ultimately, we had success as a whole program," said Higley.

Bulldog success is directly related to the coaches that lead each team. Some of coaches that Weisenburger recruited include Tia Brandel-Wilhem, head coach of the volleyball team, Tony Anesse, the head coach of the football team and Andy Bronkema, head coach of the men's basketball team.

In the past several years, the Athletic Department has worked towards the establishment of the Center for Athletics Performance, a

multi-million dollar project. During his time, Weisenburger has been integral in planning the construction of this facility which will provide a place for student-athletes to train for years to come.

"He placed a huge priority on the student-athletes and on championships and more importantly, degrees," Bentley said.

Weisenburger will be working with the university to find a new athletic director and his retirement is in full effect on Oct. 1, 2021. Weisenburger's colleagues had nothing but positive regards for the soon-to-be retiree.

"I wish him all the best, and I am certainly going to miss him," Bentley said. "We appreciate all that he did and it's time for him to enjoy his retirement."

"I'd like to thank him for all he has done. I hope he is able to take time to reflect on the great success that has taken place here," Higley said. "Perk has been a great mentor to me. It has been a great experience working together. I wish him nothing but the best."

As Weisenburger begins his retirement, he leaves big shoes to fill but he has left behind a legacy.

"It has been a very rewarding experience to be able to work with the university administration, the coaches, staff, the outstanding student-athletes and our wonderfully proud alumni has been a highlight of my time as the Athletic Director," Weisenburger said.



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

Perk Weisenburger impacted many people during his time at Ferris.



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

Ben Cook golfing for Ferris.

**Brandon Wirth**  
Sports Reporter

The road to the pro tour has been a continuous journey for former Bulldog Ben Cook. While the destination is still slightly distant, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

The former division two standout won the prestigious 100th annual Michigan PGA Professional Championship on Aug. 18 for his third win in the event. Although he held the lead through the entire round, Cook was glad to take home the win despite the discomfort.

"I was grinding out there," Cook said after his win. "Winning on a tough course like this against a great field, it helped me get better."

Cook is not unfamiliar with making history. As a two-time PING All-American, he finished his Ferris career with a record-breaking regional round to help the Bulldogs finish sec-

## Cook striving towards the top

Former Ferris standout looking to land on PGA Tour after finding success at the amateur level

ond and clinch their first national championship appearance since 2010. From there, Cook decided he felt ready to chase after the professional level.

"Being All-American my junior and fifth year was a huge confidence boost," Cook said. "I felt like I could play and compete with anybody."

Cook went on to join the PGA Tour Latinoamérica, a "third level" pro tour consisting of an 11-event schedule spanning all over the world, including tournaments in Mexico, Argentina, and Ecuador.

"Latinoamérica is really cool," Cook said regarding the tour. "Being able to travel the world doing something you love is a great bonus."

Despite the challenge of moving to the professional level, Cook continued winning. The former Caledonia native went on to win the Northern Ohio PGA Professional Championship and was also named the Northern Ohio PGA Section Player of the Year in 2017.

When asked about how the winning translated so quickly, Cook quoted the skills he developed in college and beyond were a key part.

"I have always been a good ball-striker," Cook said. "Being able to ball-strike my way around a golf course makes it feel easier than it actually is. It helps me make more birdies and pars that way."

While playing under conditional tour status from 2018-2019, Cook played in nine top level tournaments. Cook collected a top-20 finish in the PTLA Qualifying Tournament and a top-25 finish in the larger-scale Costa Rica Classic with an impressive 10-under par. He finished the season with a near top 100 ranking as well winning over 5,700 dollars.

Cook then hit the ground running in the 2019 and 2020 campaigns with a top-10 and two top-5 finishes on the Latinoamérica Tour. The former Bulldog found himself ranked number 14 on the season leaderboard, giving him nearly 23,000 dollars in tour winnings.

"I had a lot more confidence than the previous year," Cook said on his 2020 improvement. "It was a change in mindset.

Instead of being worried about making the cut, I was more worried about winning."

Thanks to his tremendous play, Cook received an invite to the PGA Championship in 2019 at the prestigious Bethpage Black in New York. He played alongside the game's best until he missed the cut line. Cook went on to play two more PGA Tour majors. Despite not making the cut at either event, Cook still knew he was a better golfer.

Cook continued to work hard through 2021. Even with the bumps in the road from the COVID-19 outbreak, Cook was still able to train by using locational resources.

"Everything was shut down for like four months," Cook said. "It was hard to stay motivated and practice knowing your event was three months away. Fortunately, I was in Florida which was much more open than Michigan. I was just trying to make the most of what I had at the time."

When the time came, Cook qualified for his third consecutive PGA Championship. After a solid performance, Cook found himself in a position he hadn't experienced yet: playing his final two rounds after making his first PGA major cut.

"It was pretty easily one of the better days in my life for sure," Cook said. "Having all the hard work finally pay off in a PGA major was awesome."

Not only was making the cut a monumental accomplishment but Cook also had an exclusive experience with one of his favorite players. He got to share the stage with the outright tournament champion: Phil Mickelson.

"I have always been a huge Phil fan my whole life. For him to be the one that won and being able to stand next to him (at the trophy presentation) was pretty cool."

As the season goes on for Cook, the pressure heightens knowing the tour qualifying tournament is just around the corner.

"Golf comes down to two weeks that can make or break your year. My game has been great this year and I'm just hoping and praying for a good week at 'Q School' in October."

To follow Ben Cook, check out the PGA Latinoamérica Tour at [www.pgatour.com](http://www.pgatour.com).

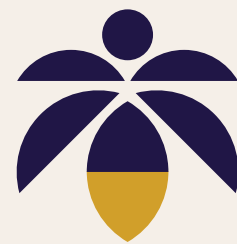
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