

Ferris rewards vaccinated students



Graphic by: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager

Students who confirm their vaccination status on the Healthy Dogs portal can win \$1,000 cash, free room and board in the spring, a MacBook, a PS5 and more.

Fully vaccinated students are eligible to #VaxUp and cash in

Jessica Oakes
Special Editions Editor

In light of the FDA's approval of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, Ferris State University is randomly selecting names of vaccinated students for cash, daily and weekly prize drawings.

#VaxUp and cash in is meant to reward students who took the initiative of getting vaccinated and encourage those who are still hesitant.

"COVID vaccine hesitancy is a real thing. I try hard to listen to [people's] concerns without judgment, to understand their fear, and to show care for their well-being," Dean of Student Life Joy Pulsifer said.

According to Pulsifer, every person who has confirmed their full vaccination status in MyFSU's Healthy Dog Portal is automatically entered to win. Students have a chance to receive \$1,000 cash, free room and board for the spring semester, a faculty/staff parking pass, various tech prizes such as a MacBook or PlayStation 5, and more.

The term 'fully vaccinated' implies that at least two weeks have passed since the final dose was administered. This would refer to the second round of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or the initial Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

Because this incentive is running from Aug. 24 to Oct. 1, unvaccinated students still have the chance to enter the drawing by receiving the Johnson and Johnson vaccine before Sept 17.

"People who are on the fence about the vaccine have different concerns," Pulsifer

said. "Sometimes it can be helpful to share the history of how the vaccine was addressed, to address myths, or to refer them to one of the clinicians in Birkam to address their personal medical concerns."

Lauren Corwin, a junior in the nursing program and #VaxUp prize recipient, was recently awarded \$1,000. She wishes to use her expertise as a nurse technician to clear up a common misunderstanding regarding the COVID vaccine's historically efficient rollout.

"Coronavirus is actually an umbrella statement, just like influenza is. There are many different types of coronaviruses, some of which are super common. And this hasn't been the first time people have gotten fatally sick from a coronavirus," Corwin said. "SARS-CoV of 2002 and MERS-CoV of 2012 are also types of COVID. The vaccine research has been around since then. That's over a decade of research. It also only makes sense that the time to develop a vaccine decreases as we have more access to better technology."

Corwin is currently on track to receive her bachelor's of science in nursing while working in an intensive care unit in Nashville, Tenn. While forging her career as a medical professional during this century's most fatal disease pandemic, Corwin must learn to cope with great tragedy.

"I've really struggled with seeing so much death so early in my nursing career. I've found that the best way to cope is to realize that I tried my best, my coworkers tried their best, and that we are unable to save everyone, regardless of how hard we try," Corwin said.

The Associated Press reports that the United States is seeing more than 100,000 new cases of COVID-19 per day, while the New York Times reports a daily death toll of over 1,400. As of Aug. 24, the CDC estimates that unvaccinated people are 29 times more likely to be hospitalized than those who are vaccinated.

Corwin believes that it is often defiance, not science, that encourages people to remain unvaccinated.

"...it's called psychological reactance. Therefore, when the government, hospitals, school systems, etc., are requesting the general public to get vaccinated or wear a mask, they are hesitant or reluctant," Corwin said. "In these cases, we really need to take a step back and think about why we are hesitant. Is it because I have real concerns and fears of the consequences? Or is it because someone told me what to do? If it's based on concerns and fears, talk to a healthcare professional rather than your friends or the internet."

Social work major and Michigan Army National Guard member Ashton Dickinson was also rewarded with \$1,000. When he first received the prizewinning phone call, Dickinson could hardly believe what was happening.

"First, I was like, 'is this a scam or something?' But looking into it, seeing that it was officially through Ferris and whatnot, I was a little bit flabbergasted,"

Dickinson signed up for the vaccine as soon as it was made available for the military. After seeing both his wife and mother catch COVID-19 in the previous months, he felt a personal responsibility to contribute to herd immunity.

"I want to do what's right for me, for my kids, for my family," Dickinson said.

Getting vaccinated was a "no brainer" to Dickinson. Because of his position in the National Guard, he heavily considered the health and wellbeing of those outside of his immediate circle.

"When you got 50 bodies all in one gymnasium, I mean, it's all too easy [to spread COVID.] Not only that, but if we get activated for something like a flood or a civil unrest issue, that person's not just spreading it to their unit, but to potentially every person they interact with, whether they're there to help or not. Ultimately, it'd be doing more harm,"

Dickinson emphasized how simple and easy it is to help an "exponential" amount of people by getting vaccinated. Still, he understands that what others do is not within his control.

"I can't control fairness, I can't control the world, but one thing that I can control is myself. I know that me and my wife are both doing what we need to... [this is] the example we've set for our kids...And so long as other people can do that, so long as every individual island, as it is, is following the rules. Slowly, those islands kind of come together and merge into a bigger body of people that I can trust," Dickinson said.

Students, faculty, staff and their household members aged 16 and up can contact Birkam Health Center or visit www.vaccines.gov to schedule a free vaccine appointment.

Got news? Let us know.

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NEWS

Noah Kurkjian | News Editor | kurkjin@ferris.edu

Fight breaks out at welcome weekend party



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Police are still looking for suspects as of time of production, Monday, Sept. 6.

One critically injured in the Campus Creek Apartment fight.

Rebecca Vanderkooi
Opinions Editor

Early Sunday, Aug. 29, police were called to Campus Creek apartments to a party where a fight broke out and a gun was fired.

A 20-year-old male sustained head injuries after being beaten by three to four people. He was taken to Spectrum Health Big Rapids Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The pistol was reportedly shot into the air and didn't injure anyone.

As of Friday, Sept. 3, Sheriff Brian Miller, who is heading up the case, said they are still looking for the suspects.

"We have a couple of persons of interest

that we are looking to make contact with who may have been responsible for the assault that took place before the firearm discharged," Miller said.

Miller added that the primary suspects are a couple of young men from the Muskegon area who were not Ferris students.

While the suspects, as well as the victim, weren't from Ferris, many Ferris students attended the party as a part of the welcome weekend festivities.

One student who was in attendance explained that she was inside a friend's apartment for most of the night but had stepped outside to meet her boyfriend when she saw the gun being raised into the air and

heard the shots.

"When the gun was fired everyone who was in the area fled immediately in opposite directions to get as far away from the gun as possible," the student said.

Back in her friend's apartment, they watched as the police arrived and taped off the crime scene, and the ambulance came to bring the victim to the hospital.

"I've been in situations where fights have broken out, but the gun being used was new. I don't think I'm nervous about going to parties in the future, however, large crowds outside like the one I was at will probably bring some hesitation," the student said.

While the fight took place on the Campus Creek grounds, most people there were not residents of the apartment complex.

The Torch reached out to Gary Offenbacher, Executive Vice President at Continental Management LLC, the management company for Campus Creek who has not yet responded with an official comment.

Anyone with further information that might aid in the continuing investigation is asked to contact the Mecosta County Sheriff's Office at 231-592-0150 or by using the tip line on their website.

Onto better things

Update on the construction of the Center for Virtual Learning and its new technologies.

Jerry Gaytan
News Reporter

The progress on the Center for Virtual Learning is on schedule and will feature state-of-the-art equipment to promote student success.

According to senior project manager Joe Haupt, the demolition and abatement process of Vandercook Hall started in May of 2021 and was completed in August. The current schedule has the building is ready for occupancy in Fall 2023.

"It is the beginning of a tremendous opportunity, not only for our university, our campus, and our local communities," said provost Bobby Fleischman. "But it will be especially meaningful for all individuals fortunate enough to be a student when its doors open to

them."

The new Center for Virtual Learning will include new technologies such as an e-sports arena and a large exterior display on the east façade of the CVL building. The large display will have the ability to stream e-sports or cyber challenge competitions being held in the CVL.

Tara Lowery, a junior at Ferris explained that the new building will be great for campus and she hopes it helps students with any virtual struggles

"The CVL represents a transformative moment in Ferris' history," said Fleischman.

The CVL will bring state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories that allow for students and faculty to be together while providing a modern and cutting-edge environment

Ferris State professor Greg Gogolin explained the CVL will enhance the capability to deliver online and hybrid classes and a variety of technologies, per News 9 & 10.

Provost Bobby Fleischman explained that the educational experience that students will have in the CVL is "life-changing" for both current and future.

The construction process is on schedule with no major issues to date. According to the CVL information page, it is on a \$29.5 million budget.

The possibility for early completion of the CVL is highly unlikely due to current market volatility with construction material, per Haupt.

Construction for the new building is set to be from Aug. 2021 to July 2023.



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

The CVL crew broke ground on Sept. 2 and construction should wrap in 2023.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

LANSING - Last Tuesday, a bipartisan group of law makers debated in the House of Representatives for their legislation which would outlaw Michigan's "tampon tax".

Legislation on the matter has failed in the past but the pair of bills filled this year may actually earn enough support because of how they are broken up.

Both bills classify feminine hygiene products as "tampons, panty liners, menstrual cups, sanitary napkins, and other similar tangible personal property designed for feminine hygiene in connection with the human menstrual cycle."

Bill 4270 sponsored by Tenesha Yancey, D-Detroit, would exempt these products from use tax. This was filed in tandem with Bill HB 5267 sponsored by Rep. Bryan Posthumus, R-Oakfield Township which would exempt these feminine hygiene products from the Michigan 6% sales tax.

"When this legislation

gets pigeonholed into a partisan legislation, or when it gets pigeonholed into a gender-specific legislation, that's close-minded thinking. It doesn't take into account the actual ramifications of what we are trying to do here," Posthumus said to the Detroit Free Press.

"And so I brought this legislation forward as a male Republican strictly because I wanted to take those arguments out of it... it's not a partisan issue, it is not a gender issue. It is commonsense legislation that we should be pushing forward with, no question."

Those opposed to the bills suggest that the economic impact will be too insignificant to do the trouble.

The pair of bills would both have to pass the House and the Senate to be enacted into law. If the bills are passed, their effectiveness date would likely be 90 days thereafter.

However, because these bills are tie-barred together, if one fails, they both automatically fail.

- ON THE RECORD -

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

On the Record is taking a week off in observation of Labor Day and will return next week.



**CRIMES ON CAMPUS CAN
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Ferris State Torch

Corrections

Correction: In last weeks "Everything you need to know about the third dose", the photo was incorrectly attributed to Mul-timedia Editor Cassidy Jessup, it was actually provided courtesy of Danielle Wells.

Correction: In last week's "HEERF III Grant arrives", the photo was incorrectly attributed to the Torch archives, it was actu-ally taken by Multimedia Editor Cassidy Jessup.

Correction: Reporter Charlie Buckels' name has been incorrectly spelled in the last two editions of the Torch.



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On-campus employment opportunities

Many opportunities exist for students to work without leaving campus

Rebecca Witkowski
News Reporter

A job fair hosted by Ferris on Aug 31 provided students with an opportunity to learn about on-campus jobs available to them that they might be interested in.

The event was attended by several employers and organizations including dining services, IT, admissions, Ready for Life, Birkam Health Center and Eagle Village. The Big Rapids Fire Division was also

looking to hire at the event.

"The student job fair was primarily focused on connecting students with campus employment and supporting campus departments with their hiring needs," said Michele Albright, the career and professional success coordinator who organized the job fair.

There was a previous job fair hosted virtually on Aug 10. According to Albright, there were more than 600 open positions available on campus prior to both job fairs.

"Following both events, department recruiters

communicated that they appreciated the opportunity to engage with students, that they were interviewing many students, and were having success in filling their schedules," explained Albright.

The fair was focused on providing students with on-campus jobs due to the many benefits they are believed to have. According to Albright, on-campus jobs provide real-world experience, connect with classroom learning, strengthens time management, builds students' resume, and has been proven to improve academic performance.

The job fair also hosted workshops during the event.

The workshops covered topics ranging from event planning to marketing through social media to technology tools.

Groups also used the job fair to show off different things that made their organization unique or more enticing to potential employees. For example, Maker-space, an open laboratory free to Ferris students, used the opportunity to show off one of their 3-D printers.

Even with the relative success of the job fairs, it is likely that many positions will remain unfilled. As of Sept 3, Ferris State's job search showed 69 positions that were still needing to be filled. Jobs included office

assistants, custodians, dining service helpers, IT technicians, and more.

Students interested in applying for an on-campus job should sign in to the Ferris State job search through the FSU website. Students looking to work in specific departments should reach out to those departments directly since not all open positions may be seen on the job search.



Graphic by: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager

The future of Ferris' campus facilities

Eisler delivers remarks on Alumni remodel, athletics upgrades and more

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

Over the last two weeks, Ferris' President Dr. David Eisler has addressed the Ferris community multiple times and talked about both Bulldog history along with what there is to look forward to.

First, Eisler sat down with Luke Edington on an episode of Ferris Forward where he discussed his time at Ferris. Then he took to the stage for his annual Presidential address delivered in the University Center on Sept. 2.

Eisler touched on everything from move-in activities, the demolition of Vandercook and Taggart Halls, the construction of the Center for Virtual Learning and finally all of Ferris' upcoming projects.

"This is a year with a fair amount of construction going on, there's the Center for Virtual Learning... and then we are going to be renovating the Alumni Building," Eisler said.

The oldest building on campus is getting a facelift. The Alumni building, constructed in 1929, will

now feature things like air conditioning.

An additional floor is also going to be added to the building which will accommodate the IT department who will be relocating from the West Building.

Athletics will also be receiving some upgrades, notably a new Bulldog Area which will be replacing the current Volleyball facilities at Ewigleben Sports Arena.

Ewigleben Sports Arena will then be upgraded to become a new fitness and conditioning facility.

Athletics renovations will also include upgrading the remaining locker rooms on campus that have yet to be renovated and tidying up hallways and pathways within existing sports complexes.

"It'll be a great place for our athletes," Eisler said.

"They deserve a great facility and we're going to build them one,"

Those interested in learning more about the campus master plan can find on Ferris' website by searching "campus master plan".



Photo by: Noah Kurkjian | News Editor

This stream can be watched at any time on the Ferris State University Alumni Association Facebook page.

LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

An unlikely servant



Photo provided by: Kim Boss

Kim Boss' journey as a female reverend

Rebecca Vanderkooi
Opinions Editor

At 14 years old Kim's church tried to have her thrown out for asking too many questions. 20 Years later Reverend Kimberly Bos is the campus minister and nonprofit director at the Ferris Wesley House.

Bos didn't start out thinking she would be in ministry. Her first degree is in social action and public policy, and she hoped to work in politics or become a lawyer.

In 2008 she worked on President Obama's election campaign, which helped cement what she thought she wanted to do with her life. However, upon graduating she got a job in the governor's office and realized politics weren't for her.

"I learned that people are really slimy and shitty, and politics is really slimy," Bos said. "While I learned that some of politics is 'we can make a difference together,' a lot of it is not that."

Kicked Out

At age 14 Bos joined the teen Bible challenge which is like a quiz bowl or game about the Bible. For this she was committing massive sections of scripture to memory. Because of this she started to figure out that the church she was in wasn't living up to what the Bible said so she started asking questions about it.

The leaders of her youth group didn't like the questions, feeling like she was undermining authority so often they would kick her out of meetings. Eventually she was sent to the pastor, hoping he could answer her questions.

"I started asking him (the pastor) all these questions about how we talk about the poor, how we treat the LGBTQ community, how we treat families who have gone through a divorce, how we treat people just in general. He told me, that it wasn't my job to ask questions it was my job at 14 to listen and learn from the authorities around me," Bos said.

Eventually it got to the point where the church decided to have her removed. They had a forum to discuss what she did, but she wasn't allowed to be there to defend herself.

"My father is the head of these proceedings...Which should have meant that I got coverage, that at some point someone says, 'no we aren't doing this.' Hopefully the guy

with the gavel says 'no, I know my kid's heart and I'm not going to let you do this to her.' He did not," Bos said.

The night before the Bos prayed a lot, conflicted with the loving kindness she saw in the Bible and the judgmental hatred within the church.

"Before they made the vote, I came in to make my final plea and as my final plea I said, 'you don't have to do this, you don't have to vote, you don't have to fight, you don't have to have more discussions or debates if you don't want me to be here, I won't be here.' So, I left," Bos said.

After she left the church, she was forced by her parents to go with Methodist church on a mission trip. Her mother told her that after she went, they wouldn't make her go to church anymore.

After the mission trip Bos ended up regularly attending the Methodist church. As she explained they, "loved me back to Jesus."

Running from God

Soon after she graduated from college and quit her job with the governor Bos experienced some of the most challenging months of her life. Her brother was in a motorcycle accident which left him in a coma for almost two years. Her dad also had cancer and her mom attempted to commit suicide. All of this gave her reason to be angry at God.

"At that time, I was already working with the church and feeling kind of called into ministry but I watched what perceived as bad thing after bad thing happen to my family and so I decided that if God didn't have my back, then I didn't have God's back. I was just angry. Angry that the world had dealt me like that, and God hadn't stopped it," Bos said.

She joined Teach for America and taught at a Native American reservation for five years.

"If you're going to run away from God don't run to South Dakota there's nothing there to distract God from you or you from God," Bos laughed.

At the reservation suicide runs rampant at 12x the national average. Bos found herself time and time again coming alongside families and individuals in their times grief.

"I found myself talking less and less about commas, contractions and sentence structure and more and more

about the nature of hope in a world that seems broken and angry," Bos said.

Bos was content to stay at the reservation teaching and ministering to the families who were struggling. However, at the urging of some friends she decided to go to seminary.

Today

Bos has been at Ferris Wesley House since July of 2019 and has been integral in growing a community there that is affirming and accepting to all.

"The church at its best is loving people back to God at it's very worst is pretending it is God. Here at Wesley, we are really open about the fact that we aren't God," Bos said. "We cater to the Christians who feel like they've never really fit Christianity."

Bos is intentional about helping every student who enters the Wesley House to feel seen and valued regardless of their religious backgrounds.

"She always has a passion for making the biggest impact on the world that she can and one of the big ways that she's doing that is by trying to develop the next generation of adults who are going to be entrusted with the world," Bos's husband Will Olsen said.

Through free lunches offered Tuesday's, dinner and devotions on Thursdays, a food pantry for students and other fun events mixed in the Wesley House is a busy ministry welcoming to all.

"I love how open and accepting Wesley House is to all different groups of people, Kim is a big part of that," Claire Belke a Wesley student said. "Kim's Thursday night lessons make me a better person."

From the age of 14 Bos witnessed the church belittling and ignoring marginalized groups of people. Now as a reverend she works to amplify the voices of young people, of gay people, of women and other minority groups within the church.

"As a female clergy my whole goal is to embody God to those who can't see them yet and to invite all those other voices to come to the table too so that the body of Christ may know itself," Bos said.

The ALC Bringing Students To Success

See how the academic literacy center can help you this school year

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter

If you have ever wondered how to get help in your classes for free without bugging your friends, the ALC is for you.

The Academic Literacies Center, located in the library, offers tutoring, structured learning assistance, writing assistance and much more to support students throughout the school year. Ferris designed the ALC to support students when they needed help the most in their classes if they are struggling.

Alyssa Rosebrugh, a part-time program assistant, said multiple areas within the ALC are there to help students for free to get them going in the right direction.

"The ALC is the academic literacy center," Rosebrugh said. "What it is, is tutoring and SLA[,] which is academic support. Then there is the writing center, so it's like two entities under one roof. We provide different types of academic support to all students on campus[,] and it's all free."

Rosebrugh also said it's a place where students can get answers to their questions and feel safe enough to ask for as much help as they want.

"This is a space we have deemed to be a safe space for all of our students," Rosebrugh said. "We are here to help students in every aspect that we possibly can[,] and we are also here if a student has questions about financial aid, or questions in general. We are here to guide them in the right direction."

Both Ferris faculty and students run the ALC. The students are the ones who are tutoring, mentoring and giving tips to other classmen on how to succeed in their classes.

Hannah Baas, a math tutor, joined the ALC program because she enjoys helping people. She can show students tips and tricks that help them catch up to their peers. As an aspiring teacher, she knew she wanted to begin helping students as soon as possible in this great program.

"I think it is super important that the ALC is here," Baas said. "Because there are students that need help. I get that everyone doesn't love and enjoy math as much as I do, but that way[,] for the students that do need help[,] they can get that help."

The center has become a place where students can find assistance for their classes

through the ALC's resources, such as tips and studying resources. The center has also become a place where students having a hard time can go to for any reason and find the guidance needed to proceed throughout the school year.

"It's basically a safe spot for any student that is struggling, needs help or just needs someone to talk to," Baas said. "Whether it be classes or emotional support...we can direct them to professionals and help them that way."

There is a lot that can happen throughout the school year. It can also be a lot to take on your first year in college, coming from high school. However, the ACL is prepared and always there to lend a helping hand.

Caitlin Ewald, a structured learning assistant facilitator for chemistry classes, said some courses are so complex that many have trouble understanding. With an SLA, which is essentially having one tutor for a whole class who has experience with the subject, topics can become easier to understand.

"I think a lot of people...really need some extra support," Ewald said. "There are some really tough classes that people aren't probably used to taking...I think it really helps if someone has taken the class before to help you through the course work that you might not have as much background knowledge on."

It's always a good thing to hear about students finding the help they need for their issues. From classes to emotions to even questions about life on campus, the ALC is excited to help those in need.

"Anything they need, they can just come in and ask us because we have tons of answers we want to give them," Rosebrugh said.

The ALC, and all the academic support they provide, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students can either make appointments by visiting their office or their website. The ALC always reminds students, when they come in and as they go, to continue to ask questions when they have them.

"No question is dumb," Rosebrugh said. "I can guarantee that the question that you have asked [has been asked by] at least five or six other people... So, don't be afraid to ask questions and reach out. We are here for your success."



First game tailgate

As sports start back up students are excited to start tailgating and celebrating Bulldog pride.

Photo by: Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor

Events calendar

WEDNESDAY

Sept. 8

Doughnuts with the Deans

Location: Lot 41
Time: 8:30 - 11 a.m.

The Remarkable Musical History of Motown - Webinar

Contact: Lynn Miller
lynnmiller@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 4 - 5 p.m.

LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coffee House

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

Bulldog Bonanza

Contact: Teresa Fogel
TeresaFogel@ferris.edu
Location: North Quad
Time: 4 - 7 p.m.



THURSDAY

Sept. 9

Promesa Invitational

Contact: Kaylee Burke
kayleeburke@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Tune in with Teresa featuring Micala Evans

Contact: Teresa Fogel
TeresaFogel@ferris.edu
Location: Instagram Live
Time: 1 - 1:30 p.m.



FRIDAY

Sept. 10

Study Abroad Weekly Workshop

Contact: Megan Hauser-Tran
MeganHauserTran@ferris.edu
Location: IRC 137
Time: 1 - 2 p.m.



Saturday

Sept. 11

Big Alleyway Cleanup

Contact: Katie Thomas
kathrynthomas@ferris.edu
Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.



Tuesday

March 30

What is the LASSI? Learning and Study Strategies Inventory

Contact: Karen Royster-James
(231) 591-3771
Location: SCI 102
Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.



For more events, check out calendar.ferris.edu

Graphics made by Production Manager Charlie Zitta

Something New In Store



Photo by: Angie Rosenthal | Multimedia Editor

As the campus bookstore gets new branding student share their opinions on how they think its going.

The campus store is sporting a new design for the new year

Charles Buckel
Lifestyle Reporter

Construction of the new store began over the summer. During construction, the Ferris Outfitters Instagram often posted updates on the progress for students to see. They also showed off some of the new items that would be available once the store opened.

Finally, on Aug. 23, the store did a soft opening in anticipation of a larger grand opening towards the end of September. They also had a pop-up store outside Wink Arena for people to visit during move-in.

Now, naming themselves students' one-stop-shop, Ferris Outfitters sports a new layout that provides a more open feel to customers, with a variety of Ferris branded clothing, accessories, school supplies, technology supplies and home goods and decor. Ferris Outfitters also has a section of the store dedicated to offering snack foods and drinks for customers to buy.

Students are enjoying the current design of the store as well.

Especially some of the new clothing choices. One student, Ashlee Porter, said that she liked the store's latest design and that "the newer stuff will attract more people."

Sophomore Aidan Hyde also likes the new design. "I like it, it has a lot of clothes and a good selection," said Hyde. He also thought the new store would be successful with the new design, "I think it's pretty evenly laid out, and it is not hard to look at stuff."

The store is also implementing new ways for students to pay for merchandise, including the Ferris Outfitters Charge Program. This program allowed students to charge up to \$150 at Ferris Outfitters from Aug. 16 to Sept. 4. Ferris will add this charge to the student's account balance on their e-bill, which they must pay before the end of the semester. If students charge more than \$150, they must handle the excess charge with another payment method.

Another means of payment that students can use at Ferris Outfitters is Bulldog Bucks. Students

can add Bulldog Bucks to their ID through the MyBulldog Card Portal on the Ferris website, allowing them to use their ID as a debit card.

One thing missing from the store is that they no longer sell textbooks. That service has been moved online after the university partnered with Akademos. Now students can buy their books by going to ferris.edu/books.

So if you're planning on buying some new Ferris merchandise, some school supplies, or maybe a snack or two, Ferris Outfitters is waiting for you to visit and pick up whatever you need.

You can find Ferris Outfitters on the first floor of the University Center, right beside Starbucks. They're open Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Fridays 8 a.m.-5 a.m. and weekends 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Students can contact the store by email at FerrisOutfitters@Ferris.edu or by phone at (989) 591-2649. Students can also follow the store on Instagram at @ferrisoutfitters if they want to keep up to date on anything new happening with the store.

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OPINIONS

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: A homemade delight

By Brendan Sanders

I'll start off the week by saying this, if you are reading this column, then the *Torch* pulled off one of the toughest production days in recent memory.

Let's flashback to Tuesday, August 31st. The morning I was supposed to send in our PDF files to the Pioneer. As I walked into our office building in the Alumni building, I noticed something weird. I flipped on a light trying to see in the darkness of the basement, yet the lights didn't turn on.

Interesting, I thought that maybe the university has automatic lights and these switches don't work. I continued into our office knowing that our light switch would work. Well, it didn't. It was about this time that I got an email from the University saying power to the Alumni building along with a few other buildings was out.

This put me into a scramble for last weeks edition, in which the library become my office for about four hours while I finished the files and sent them into the Pioneer.

The real fun came when I learned that power to the Alumni building would not be returning anytime soon. I'm fuzzy on the details but I presume trying to maintain a

building that is older than my grandparents could have something to do with the issues they are having.

Anyway, because of this, we were left looking for a place to work for this upcoming week of production. At first, the solution seemed simple, we would get to work in the University Center where they had cubicles that we could put the paper together in. The solution seemed easy.

As I was getting the keys, I was informed that the UC would be closing at 6 p.m. on Friday and not re-opening until Tuesday after Labor Day. While that ultimately makes sense, the two days we produce the paper are on Sunday and Monday. So the University Center quickly fell out of favor for this week.

The library was also closed on Monday. Thus, leaving us with no viable option on campus to produce our paper for this week. For a few days, we scrambled trying to figure out what we were going to do. Luckily, our News Editor, Noah Kurkjian offered up his apartment as a possible workplace.

We moved all of our Mac computers to his apartment, but we ran into a multitude of issues revolving around our access to the

server. The server allows us to link photos to the drive, find our templates, get to our InDesign files, and basically put our paper together. The VPN our school has for off-campus server usage is about as stable as a house of cards that is two stories tall.

Yet, come today, the paper is getting put together by the staff, all huddled together in Noah's apartment. Graphics being made on one end of the couch, photo's being uploaded in the kitchen. Design changes being made at the dinner table. The *Torch* was made in a home this week.

And I've been witnessing this from afar. Why? Because COVID decided that it was my turn to go to battle against it. Now, as I type this from my home desk, I'm smiling between coughs because if we can produce a paper in a situation like this, there's nothing this staff can't do.

I hope they all get to read this column, because that mean's we were successful. That mean's that they accomplished a challenge that none of them have had to face in their career's here at the *Torch*.



Photo by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

This is the *Torch* office set up in News Editor, Noah's apartment.

Cancel Culture: It isn't social media's fault Maybe it's been our fault all along



Charles Buckel
Torch Reporter

These days, whenever someone famous does something wrong and is rightfully called out for it, fans usually come to their defense, saying that the situation is just an example of cancel culture. This often goes along with them then criticizing social media for being at fault for cancel culture.

The issue I have with this is that cancel culture, although a prominent issue today, was around before social media became a part of everyday life. We just didn't have a name for it back then.

Growing up, the only music I ever really heard was country music, which meant I was introduced to The Chicks (formerly The Dixie Chicks) at a very young age. The Chicks are perhaps the biggest example of pre social media cancel culture.

In March of 2003, days before the invasion of Iraq, The Chicks' lead singer Natalie Maines, who is from Texas, was filmed at a concert in London saying the band was ashamed that then-President George W. Bush, who effectively orchestrated the invasion, was from Texas.

To put it lightly, the backlash was severe. The band was almost completely blacklisted from country music radio, and countless fans were filmed destroying the band's records. This was all before the most popular social media platform of the early 2000s, Myspace, was founded in August of 2003.

I often wonder—when people complain about social media creating cancel culture—if they haven't thought about how people have always found ways to shun public figures when they get the chance.

Further back in the past, long before the debacle with The Chicks, there was the Tanya Harding incident. After her husband orchestrated an attack on Nancy Kerrigan, her figure skating rival, Harding was shunned by the nation. Harding claims she hadn't known about the plot until after the fact.

There are valid concerns when it comes to the relationship between cancel culture and social media, especially since the development of so many platforms has made it easier for the public to catch and cancel celebrities. But to say that social media is the cause of this would be, in my opinion, an error in judgment.

Kanye West is hungry for attention

The man who has a love and hate relationship with the media



Jerry Gaytan
Torch Reporter

I remember when following up on Kanye West used to be thrilling. It was hard to not pay attention to him because he was, and continues to be, a rapper that tends to go head-to-head with his own ego.

But all of the lights have seemed to dim, and the thrilling feeling of seeing this man has turned into the knowledge that he is simply one of many billionaire rappers; one who holds stadium-sized release parties, owns a billion-dollar shoe company and struggles with bipolar disorder.

According to Medpage Today, Kim Kardashian-West, West's ex-wife, was "concerned" about Kanye. In 2016 at age 43, West was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, and Kim was worried about him going through a manic period.

On July 4, 2020, West tweeted that he was running for the presidency, which shocked some but not most.

"We must now realize the promise of America by trusting God, unifying our vision and building our future. I am running for President of the United States! #2020vision," West tweeted. A few days after his announcement, he went on to have a four hour interview with Forbes magazine, where he made statements that seemed to show he craved media attention.

He stated that the COVID-19 vaccines are "the mark of the beast" and that "Planned Parenthood has been placed inside cities by white supremacists to do the devil's work." This is coming from a man who once said 400 years of slavery was a choice and that Bill Cosby was innocent.

West is a rapper who has not made an amazing album in five years, per Pitchfork. The same man who, in 2005 during a benefit concert for Hurricane Katrina, stated that "George Bush doesn't care about Black people."

The statement was heard around the world, and while West later apologized on The Today Show, it didn't stop him from being criticized. According to Flavorwire, he was trying to shock the media into paying attention to him by saying the most controversial thing he could think of at that moment.

The most recent ploy West has used to gain media attention is his Donda release party that was held in Soldier Field.

The 44-year-old held his third and final listening party, and some special guests were rapper DaBaby, who recently trashed HIV and AIDS, and singer Marilyn Manson, who has been accused of sexual assault.

West will always have a discography with albums that once shocked the world, but I believe the rapper has shown and given us enough to no longer pay attention to him. He will continue to start controversy, spit problematic beliefs and stage PR stunts to keep himself in the public eye.



Photo by: | Brad Barket/Getty Images

This is Kanye West who is changing his name to Ye.

The pink tax

A discussion of empty dispensers and expensive products



Becca Witkowski
Torch Reporter

You go to the bathroom, but you didn't realize it was that time of the month. Yes, that time. You go to the machine to buy a tampon and discover that it's empty. Now you're down 50 cents and you have nothing to catch the blood flowing out of your vagina.

Unfortunately, this is a reality for many uterus owners. The machines in bathrooms that are supposed to provide convenience are left unstocked and empty. Those unprepared and without their own products are left with little choice but to put toilet paper in their underwear and hope for the best.

"Just bring your own stuff", some may say. While they do have a point, you can't always predict when your period is going to arrive. Periods can be unpredictable and can come at the most inconvenient times. One mistake shouldn't result in having to deal with blood staining your underwear and pants.

I can understand not wanting to just "hand out" period products in every public place. That would be a cost to the owner that, depending on the place, might not be paid back. However, they should definitely be available at places where other items, such as condoms, are given for free.

Condoms typically cost more than period products, but are handed out for free in many places,

such as health clinics and college campuses. I appreciate that these places are encouraging safe sex, but I believe they should also be encouraging personal hygiene.

Tampon accessibility is not the only thing I believe is negatively impacting people who purchase products that are traditionally marketed towards women. Pads, tampons and other products are often more expensive than products marketed towards men.

According to an article from Listen Money Matters, women pay 48% more for shampoo and conditioner, 11% more for razors and lotion and 6% more for body wash when compared to how much men pay for similar products. While this may not seem like a lot, the difference adds up over time, resulting in lost money for those who consume these products.

Why should women pay more for products that do the same thing? I understand that shampoos and conditioners could cost more because of expensive ingredients, however, the difference in price for razors makes little sense to me. They are almost identical products, so why is there such a difference in price?

Tampon inaccessibility and the price difference in products are just two things that make life harder for the people who depend on these products. Problems like these should be addressed to make the world just a little fairer.



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

SPORTS

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

Mandatory vaccinations

Ferris Athletics taking precautions against COVID-19

Brody Keiser
Sports Editor

All athletes, coaches and support staff for Ferris athletics are required to get the COVID-19 vaccine for the 2021-2022 season, per an official statement from the University and its Athletic Department.

The statement goes on to say that athletes, coaches and support staff must be fully vaccinated by Oct. 1. Those athletes wishing to take a medical or religious exemption or to remain unvaccinated must withdraw from their athletic program completely and will be removed from all team-related activities.

Senior volleyball libero Nina Gorgijevska believes the athletic department has the athletes' best interests in mind when making COVID-19 and vaccine related decisions.

"There's always different opinions, but I trust the athletic department to decide what's best for us athletes," Gorgijevska said. "I don't want to be the one to say this is good or this is not good because it's not just up to me, it's up to everyone."

Junior tennis player Josh McDermott expressed his thoughts on the athletic department's decision to require vaccinations.

"I think people should have a choice, but us athletes should know what's best for the team," McDermott said. "We're playing for a team, it's not just ourselves. We have to take that into perspective as well."

"On the men's team, we're all vaccinated now," McDermott continued. "I think we all did a good job getting vaccinated and doing what we needed to do to get ourselves ready for the season."

On top of requiring vaccinations, Assistant Athletic Director, Rob Bentley, explained other precautions Ferris is taking to keep athletes, coaches and support staff safe from COVID-19.

"Everyone has to wear a mask indoors," Bentley said. "There will be some travel precautions in terms of wearing masks on buses and things like that. At the team meetings, team meals and things like that they are wearing masks. The teams that compete

outside are also wearing masks when they come indoors."

While all teams must wear a mask indoors, Bentley said there is no requirement for outdoor teams to wear a mask when practicing, working out or competing outside. He also hopes that indoor teams will not have to wear a mask when competing this season.

Fans will be allowed to attend Ferris athletic contests this year, and they will follow many of the same rules as the athletes.

"Right now, with the campus mandate, they will have to wear masks indoors," Bentley said. "We'll take some precautions to keep our athletes separated from the fans. There are still a lot of decisions being made and reviewed before the start of the season."

Athletes, coaches and support staff will also be tested regularly, according to Bentley. Teams will follow their respective conferences' COVID-19 protocols, which Bentley acknowledged are still being reviewed. However, Bentley said testing of all athletes, coaches and support staff, regardless of vaccination status, "will be part of the process."

COVID-19 greatly affected sports at Ferris a year ago, and while there will be a slight return to normal this season, the virus will still have an impact. However, Gorgijevska is more appreciative to have an opportunity to play again than she is worried about the virus.

"I'm not anxious or nervous about it," Gorgijevska said. "There are times where I have to stop and think about it. For example, when I go to the grocery store, I don't have to wear a mask anymore, but I think about my team and put a mask on. We don't want to be shut down again or bring COVID-19 to the team. We're extra aware of where we go and what we do. We make that decision to be careful."

Safety of athletes, coaches, support staff, fans and anyone else involved in athletics is of paramount importance. For as long as COVID-19 remains a danger to athletics, Ferris will take the necessary steps to ensure that safety comes first.



Photo courtesy Bulldog Athletics

Josh McDermott and Nina Gorgijevska expressed their thoughts on COVID-19 vaccinations

Triumphs in the 2021 Tournament

Volleyball started their season this weekend at their annual invitational at home.

Hannah Loucks
Freelance Reporter

After four games this weekend, the Bulldogs took away three wins and closed with one loss.

Senior Katie O'Connell, who has been awarded All-American honor for the past two seasons in 2018 and 2019, shared a few words on what this weekend was like.

"It was great to be back playing in our gym with the fans. It's been a while since we were able to have spectators, so the energy in the gym was so exciting for us."

During the game on Thursday against Tiffin, the team set the momentum for the weekend and won 3-0 with games of 25-14, 25-10 and 25-17. Both O'Connell and Junior Sam Hermann scored 8 digs each during this game.

"We didn't have a lot of information, so we made changes as the game went on and that was a challenge we executed well," O'Connell said.

After missing a season due to Covid-19, the team has been practicing for almost a year waiting to compete again.

"The most rewarding [part] was just seeing the last couple weeks of practice and months of work in action during a game," O'Connell said.

The team played again Friday afternoon and won against Saint Leo University 3-1.

"Everyone on this team has put in work, and it was rewarding to see everyone get better on the court and just have fun," O'Connell said.

During this game, Libero Nina Gorgijevska racked up 18 digs for the Bulldogs and O'Connell racked up 14 digs. O'Connell spent quite a bit of time on the court this weekend and played all three sets. During the match against Missouri-St. Louis, O'Connell scored a total of 18 kills.

"I think the most challenging part was just adapting to the other side of the net," O'Connell said.

"This team has just bought in at all levels. We are all committed to helping the team be the best it can be, while also working to be the best versions of themselves. It's great to have that standard in the gym and have the balance of relationships and volleyball," O'Connell said.

The team is coached by Tia Brandel-Wilhem, who has led the team for the past 25 years, and assistant Hannah Wuest, who is in her second year with the team. The faces of this team have changed since they last played in 2019.

Some of these new faces include Claire Nowicki, Keona Salesman, Kaylee Maat, Leah Bylut, Hannah Tecumseh, Grace Fath, Connie LeBel, Syann Fairfield, Jessica Lefler, Tatum Outlaw and Olivia Henneman-Dallape.

During the game versus Missouri-St. Louis, Freshmen Nowicki, Salesman, Maat and Bylut played all three sets. Salesman had a total of nine kills, while Maat contributed 20 digs.

"We might be young, considering a lot of people haven't experienced a normal season, but I think the underclassmen are so talented and they have a strong volleyball IQ," O'Connell said.

Finally, the team lost in a match to Winona State, another nationally pre-ranked team like Ferris, from Minnesota in 3-1. The record for this match was 25-10, 16-25, 25-22 and 25-20. Both players and coaches left this match ready to play again.

"We have some big goals for the season for volleyball, and a lot of it just has to do with building a championship culture in all that we do," O'Connell said.

The Bulldogs will play again on Sept. 9 at the University of Texas-Tyler.

Football dominates Findlay



Photo by Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor

Bernhardt rolls to his left on one of his many big runs on the evening. Bernhardt would be named GLIAC Offensive Player of the week for his performance.

Bernhardt scores seven touchdowns in Ferris' return to football

Brody Keiser
Sports Editor

For the last four years, Jared Bernhardt played lacrosse for the University of Maryland. On Sept. 2, 2021, he scored seven touchdowns for Ferris.

The Bulldogs took to Top Taggart Field for the first time in nearly two years and beat the University of Findlay Oilers 54-14. The senior quarterback Bernhardt dominated from the moment he stepped on the field.

Ferris scored seven touchdowns in seven drives to start the game, all courtesy of Bernhardt. He started the day by scoring three rushing touchdowns on three consecutive drives. For the game, Bernhardt was 12-14 passing for 218 yards and three touchdowns with one interception while adding 120 yards on the ground for four more scores.

Head coach Tony Annese talked about the former lacrosse player scoring seven touchdowns in his first football action in years.

"I didn't know exactly how it was going to work out," Annese said. "My wife thought for sure he was going to be very, very good in her analysis of watching him play lacrosse. He was the national player of the year in lacrosse. Right now, all he can talk about is the interception he threw. That's how humble he is. He's a perfectionist."

As for Bernhardt, he credited his teammates for his success and talked about returning to football.

"It's a new environment," Bernhardt said. "I'm trying to get a feel for Big Rapids and this new team that I'm a part of. It was great to get back out there and play."

Annese also spoke on having the opportunity to be back on the field for the first time in almost two years.

"I'm thrilled that we have the opportunity to play the great game of football again," Annese said. "It was a lot of fun."

"I'm really proud of the guys," Annese continued. "It's been incredible through the whole process. We've really grown a lot and they grinded it out."

To start the game, Findlay received the opening first-half kick. The Oilers wasted little time putting points on the board, as they scored a 47-yard passing touchdown just under three minutes into the game.

The Bulldogs also scored on their first offensive drive of the season. Bernhardt took a designed run up the middle to score from five yards out, putting the Bulldogs on the scoreboard for the first time in 2021. Following a missed extra point, Findlay led 7-6.

The Oilers did not hold their lead for long. Bernhardt scored rushing touchdowns on each of Ferris's next two drives. On the second drive, he scored a rushing touchdown from 35-yards out. After that, he took a 10-yard draw play up the middle to score his third touchdown of the first quarter and gave the Bulldogs a 20-7 lead.

Early in the second quarter, Ferris tacked on another touchdown, this time a 30-yard passing score from Bernhardt to junior receiver Marcus Taylor. The score gave the Bulldogs a 27-7 lead.

Findlay answered Ferris's 27-point run by scoring their second touchdown halfway through the second quarter, making the score 27-14 in favor of Ferris.

Bernhardt scored his fifth touchdown of the first half on Ferris's ensuing drive on a 28-yard run up the middle. That gave him four rushing touchdowns in the first half, tying him for second-most rushing touchdowns in a game in Bulldog history.

Sophomore tight end Mason Pline caught a four-yard touchdown pass from Bernhardt in the closing seconds of the first half, giving Ferris a 40-14 lead. Pline, a former basketball player for Ferris, was playing his first collegiate football game.

On the first play of the second half, junior receiver Sy Barnett caught a 65-yard touchdown pass from Bernhardt, giving Ferris a 47-14 lead and giving Bernhardt his seventh touchdown of the day.

Junior quarterback Evan Cummins rounded out the Bulldog scoring on the night by connecting with junior receiver Xavier Wade for a two-yard score near the end of the third quarter to give Ferris a 54-14 lead.

Defensively, junior defensive back Sidney McCloud recorded two interceptions for the Bulldogs. He said his ability to make the interceptions came down to the coaching staff preparing and game planning well and personal effort.

The Bulldogs will travel to play Ashland University Saturday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Football

Sept. 2 - Ferris 54, Findlay 14

Women's Soccer

Sept. 2 - Ferris 0, Findlay 1
Sept. 4 - Ferris 4, Lindenwood 0

Volleyball

Sept. 2 - Ferris 3, Tiffin 0
Sept. 3 - Ferris 3, Saint Leo 1
Sept. 4 - Ferris 1, Winona State 3



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