

2 Broke Girls = 1 successful woman

What a women in comedy brought to Ferris

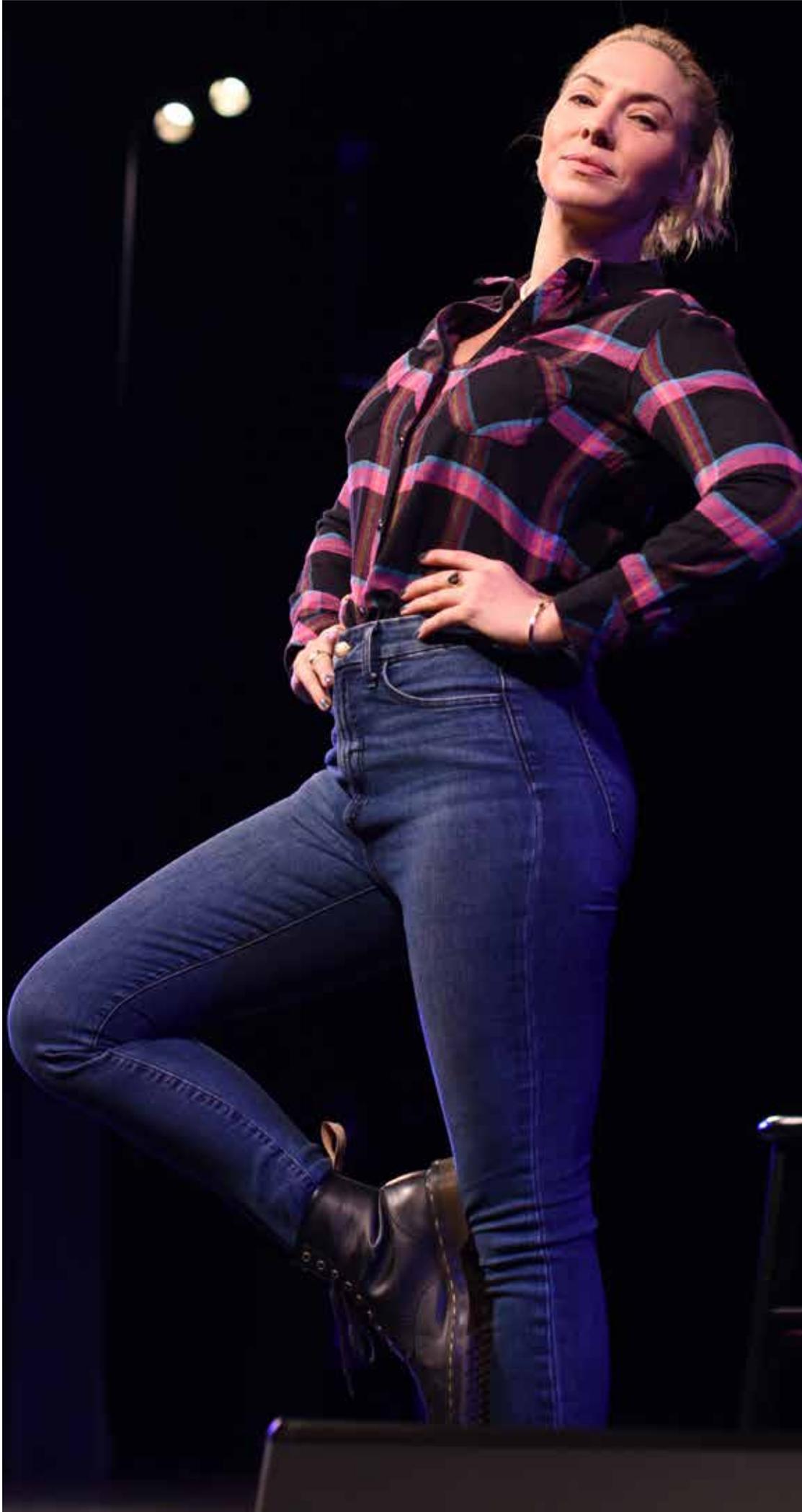


Photo provided by Ferris Services Digital Media Specialist Hannah Crouch

Ferris was the first college Whitney Cummings' has preformed at.

Marissa Russell
Lifestyles Editor

As Whitney Cummings takes the stage she also takes off her shirt for the camera.

Co-creator of the show "2 Broke Girls" Cummings brought laughs all around Williams Auditorium as the 2021 Ferris Homecoming Comedian as part of her "Touch Me" tour. But as she entered the stage she made sure that the audience wouldn't forget her show.

Unbuttoning her shirt and turning around so her butt was on display for the crowd is one of the ways Cummings stands out from her

"Alright, hot take, I'm more confident being a woman," Whitney said. "Because I think in comedy, the bigger thing to me at this point is someone going to have similar premises, am I going to say something that the comedian has already said? I think if you're a woman in a male dominated field as a comedian you have experiences that they've never had so I don't have to worry about seeming original I don't have to worry about oh, did someone else already do this joke. I'm going out here like, even if they don't like me because I'm a girl at least I'm not going to have said anything they've heard from most comics, because my point of view is going to be a little bit different."

Cummings wanted to take a contrary action as a women in comedy. When misfortunes of her happened, like having her naked photos being blackmailed to her, she decided to turn the tables and make it part of her skits. Cummings wants her confidence to be shown.

"I think if you if you bang your head long enough in a wall you'll eventually be like 'let me try this direction,'" Cummings said. "I also just sabotaged myself enough and had enough bad performances because I was like I am a woman and they don't like me and they're not gonna respect me. It just didn't work. I was like let me try the confidence thing and everyone was like, we like that, you're not putting your gross insecure shit on us."

Cummings said that no 20 year old, no matter their gender, just has the confidence to make jokes at their own expense. She learned

to build hers up through trying out new jokes and not letting the thoughts that she has to be extra good now that people pay for tickets.

Ferris television and digital media production junior Cheyenne Brown thought the show was fantastic. It was very funny and she thought it was a really good way to take a break from homework and classes.

"I was really happy it returned to in person because it felt much more personal than the zoom session one that was done last year," Brown said. "I really liked how she did a Q&A at the end of the show, it was enjoyable and nice to get advice from her. I went because I have watched some of her specials online and I figured it'd be a really good way to spend a Wednesday night."

Brown went up to the stage during the Q&A portion to ask Cummings about what it was like as a women going into traditionally male dominated fields like television and production. It gave Brown confidence about her future.

"She mentioned that I shouldn't think of it as a disadvantage, and that if anything me going into that field is an advantage because the demographic is changing in terms of how many women actually work in TV and film," Brown said. "It was personally one of my biggest worries going into this field is that I wouldn't get the jobs or leadership opportunities a man would because I'm a woman working in a male dominated career field. But her being someone who has actually worked in that field and was successful in it, it was very inspiring to get her insight on the topic."

Ferris music and entertainment business major and president of the Ferris Homecoming Committee Madison MacDowell said in Ferris' announcement on their website that they felt like Whitney has the sense of humor that would fit well on a college campus.

"In the past few years, Ferris has brought mainly male comedians, and as great as those men were, I'm excited to showcase an amazing female comedian," MacDowell said.

To read about the opening act, Brandon Stahle, go to page 2.

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NEWS

Noah Kurkjian | News Editor | kurkjin@ferris.edu

Campus comedian: a dream come true



Photo courtesy of Ferris State University

Brandon Stahle, secondary English education major took the stage before headliner Whitney Cummings.

How the night went for a comedian who's also a fellow student

Rebecca Witkowski
News Reporter

This was the big night, the chance to achieve his goal. The crowd cheered as one of their own took the stage: Brandon Stahle.

Brandon Stahle is a Secondary English Education major with a minor in Speech Communications. He grew up in Morley, a small town about 20 minutes south of Big Rapids.

"Around Halloween, the Jack-O-lanterns have more teeth than those who carved them," Stahle said about his hometown.

Stahle's first experience with standup comedy was when he was in high school. He had a seven-minute set that was cut down to two minutes. Despite the short set, Stahle still had a positive experience.

His first year at Ferris, Stahle saw a poster for the Comedy Competition, where the winner would open for Dave Coulier. He decided to enter the competition, and although he was not the winner, the competition inspired him to write his own material and perform at small open mic nights.

Stahle auditioned once again in 2019 to open for Marlon Wayans but was once again unsuccessful. However, he continued to write comedy and practice his stand-up. That same year, Stahle performed a 30-minute set in a comedy night hosted by Entertainment Unlimited.

With the third time being the charm, Stahle auditioned for and won the 2021 Comedy Competition. A week later, Stahle was on stage at Williams Auditorium.

"Onstage, I was having an out-of-body experience," Stahle explained. "Once I had

the mic in my hand and the lights on, it felt like something so natural, but out of place, I couldn't believe I was there. I thought I'd experience some stage fright or forget my material, but it just felt right. Once I heard the first scattered laughter at my opening joke, it was like a spark to a powder keg, and I just didn't want to stop."

Stahle based the jokes he was going to tell on the audience present. He also considered that his set was going to be followed by comedian Whitney Cummings, who typically did more explicit humor. Stahle picked jokes that he felt confident were going to land, such as jokes about his relationship, along with new material he was hoping to try out. Not all his jokes landed as he hoped.

"That's the point of performing," Stahle said. "You find out what doesn't work, and

you go back to the drawing board."

After concluding his ten-minute set, Stahle exited the stage. He was congratulated by Cummings, which he described as a surreal experience. Cummings also gave Stahle some tips on performing comedy as well as feedback on some of his older material.

Stahle plans to continue doing stand-up at comedy clubs and open mic nights. He sees comedy as a hobby rather than a career.

"I love comedy and I wanted to go out with a win," said Stahle. "I have had two goals since attending Ferris: performing in front of a crowd at Williams Auditorium and getting my picture on [one of] those banners that line the roads into Ferris. For the longest time, these were just a joke, but at least I can scratch one of them off the list."

MICHIGAN

NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

MARQUETTE - Former Ferris Vice President Fritz Erickson was fired from his position as the President of Northern Michigan University last Friday.

NMUs governing board voted 8-0 to relieve Erickson of his post, a post he'd been holding since 2014.

"When I took this job, my one hope was that I would leave the university, whenever that happened, in a little bit better place than we were," he told WLUC-TV. "And I'm really proud that we did that, whether that's programs or facilities or innovation."

The board cited lacking communication, amongst other things that led to the dismissal of Erickson.

LANSING - Prominent Democrat and Republican heavyweights have announced Monday that they would be launching a ballot drive in Michigan to have the state join the move among states

to have the President decided solely on popular vote.

Mark Brewer, an election law attorney who is a former chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party, and Saul Anuzis, a political consultant who is a former chairman of the Michigan Republican Party and former member of the Republican National Committee, announced the National Popular Vote petition drive at a Monday news conference according to the Detroit Free Press.

"We are excited to launch our effort to bring this important proposal to let voters, not politicians, determine if Michigan moves our country toward a national popular vote for president," Brewer said in a news release.

Anuzis, who has been working on the issue for years, said to Freep: "Every person in Michigan who believes in the principle of one person, one vote for presidential elections should join our effort today."

- ON THE RECORD -

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

No bell boy here

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

Robin Court

Sept. 24, 8:27 p.m., Officers were dispatched to Robin Court for a reported domestic violence situation. Both parties involved were students. The male suspect in this case was arrested.

Football fenzy

Sept. 25, 11:41 p.m., Officers were dispatched to Top Taggart Field Saturday after the home coming game as a man was causing a disturbance. Officers made contact with the man who was not a student. The case was closed as the man complied with

officers and left.

No bell boy here

Sept. 25 11:45 p.m., Officers were dispatched to Johnson Hall after a student noticed items they had left unattended had been stolen. The case was closed due to a lack of leads.

Ferris State Torch

Corrections

Taking on res-paw-nsibilities

- Last week, we mistakenly identified a photo of Jasimine Palasek as Cami Lowe.

ROTC cadets depart for training

- In the story published last week, we mistakenly called Staff Sgt. Bradley Plaska Sgt and Cadet Teneyck instead of Commander Teneyck

Corrections can be submitted through email at fsutorcheditor@gmail.com or by calling 231-591-5978

The future of competitive gaming

The Ferris Esports Team look forward to moving into the Center of Virtual Learning

Jerry Gaytan
News Reporter

The Ferris Esports Team is levelling up when it comes to their new home which will include modern technologies and promotion of the sport.

The Center for Virtual Learning will be home to the first purpose-built Esports arena in Michigan, according to the CVL website. It will include dedicated spaces for Esports production such as a production room, commentators' room, and support for the fastest-growing campus club sport. The Esports team is coordinated by Jonathan Eaton who has seen the team grow from 20 students to over 400 students.

"The CVL will be a huge boom to Ferris Esports," Eaton said. "Having a home for gamers in the heart of campus will allow a community to develop and for players to build even stronger connections with one another."

The \$29.5 million project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2023 and allow for enhanced production for hosting live events and bigger crowds. The completion date does mean that current students who soon graduate will not be able to use the center during a school year.

Kyle Wilkowski, head coach for the League of Legends explained that he is "disappointed" in missing out on the CVL. Wilkowski, a junior in accounting and fi-

nance, said he will be back to check out the CVL and the Esports team when it is completed.

The Future of the Ferris Esports team will mirror traditional athletics, where a director will be present, coaches, support staff, and scholarships for students and broadcast personnel.

When it comes to Ferris the team is growing year after year with over 300 students in the team's Discord channel. They also have another 300 students in the Super Smash Bros. Club, making esports on Ferris the biggest sport and RSO on campus.

"Esports provides a safe and friendly gaming atmosphere for students to engage with," Andrew Peterson Interim Executive Director for Online Learning said. "The current student population enjoys everything from social games to highly competitive games versus other universities."

The Esports team hosts the Michigan

Bandwidth Bowl every spring where all Michigan teams come and compete. The Michigan teams they compete against are Michigan Technological University, Michigan State University, Grand Valley State University, and the University of Michigan.

The teams compete to earn points for their respective schools to see which Michigan university has the best all-around team.

For more information go to Ferrisesports.club or visit their Twitch at Ferris Esports.



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Rising cases, falling confidence



Photo by: Amelia Reed | Torch Photographer

Dr. Mary Bacon, Chemistry professor, believes that if the numbers continue the way they are, they should set classes back to online.

With coronavirus cases rising in the county, students and professors are left questioning when and if the university will act

Charlie Buckel
Lifestyles Reporter

As cases of COVID-19 in the area around campus rise, some students and professors are concerned about how the university should be reacting to the situation.

According to the New York Times the seven-day average number of cases in Mecosta County, where Big Rapids and Ferris State sit, has increased by 118%, almost to the level of infection seen in April of 2021, the most severe month for COVID cases in 2021. This is a concern for some at the university.

Dr. Melinda Myers, a professor in the Department of English, Literature and World Languages, and Dr. Mary Bacon, a chemistry professor, have both had students missing from their classes due to contracting COVID.

"I had three students in different classes who let me know that they have COVID," said Myers, "and then also there's obviously the number of students who are just missing because they're sick, they don't necessarily know they have COVID or not but who can't show up because they're either going to get tested or they were around somebody. So, there's definitely some attendance issues."

Not everyone is too worried though, Taelyn Siddal is in the Dental Hygiene program on campus, and she hasn't seen any evidence of a worsening situation yet.

"I haven't seen it personally," Siddal said, "it almost seemed to be worse last year. I also know that I'm protected in my dental hygiene courses with PPE."

There is also a concern that the number of cases on the Ferris' COVID dashboard doesn't reflect the same increase the county is experiencing.

"It doesn't make sense," said Bacon, "are we getting the whole story?"

"I think that for whatever the reason students aren't reporting," Myers said, "between the case numbers in Mecosta County and simply the number of students that I've had in my own classes, as well as all of my colleagues...we look at the dashboard and there are only 20 active cases and it's like, between my department we can come up with more than 20 students."

Student Drew Smythe also brought up the fact that

students aren't reporting everything to the school, and they don't wear masks off-campus.

"People don't do the symptom checker. I think that they all wear their masks on campus but once they're off-campus they all go maskless," Smythe said.

One general opinion shared by all is that if the cases on campus do get out of hand, the university will choose to be reactive instead of proactive, implementing new restrictions and plans later rather than sooner.

"They'll be reactive. I don't think there's a doubt that the university really wants everything to go back to normal. I think the phrase that they use is business as usual," said Myers.

"They will probably switch to their COVID plan later rather than sooner," said Siddal, "I think everyone is over this mess and is trying to get back to normal regardless of the case numbers these days."

In the event that cases do rise to the level that the university must take action, moving classes online, either partially or completely, seems to be the most popular option with students and professors when it comes to what they would like to see from the university.

"Go back to fully online teaching," directed Bacon.

"I think we would have to go back to zoom," Smythe said, "it's very unfortunate but it's better than just nothing."

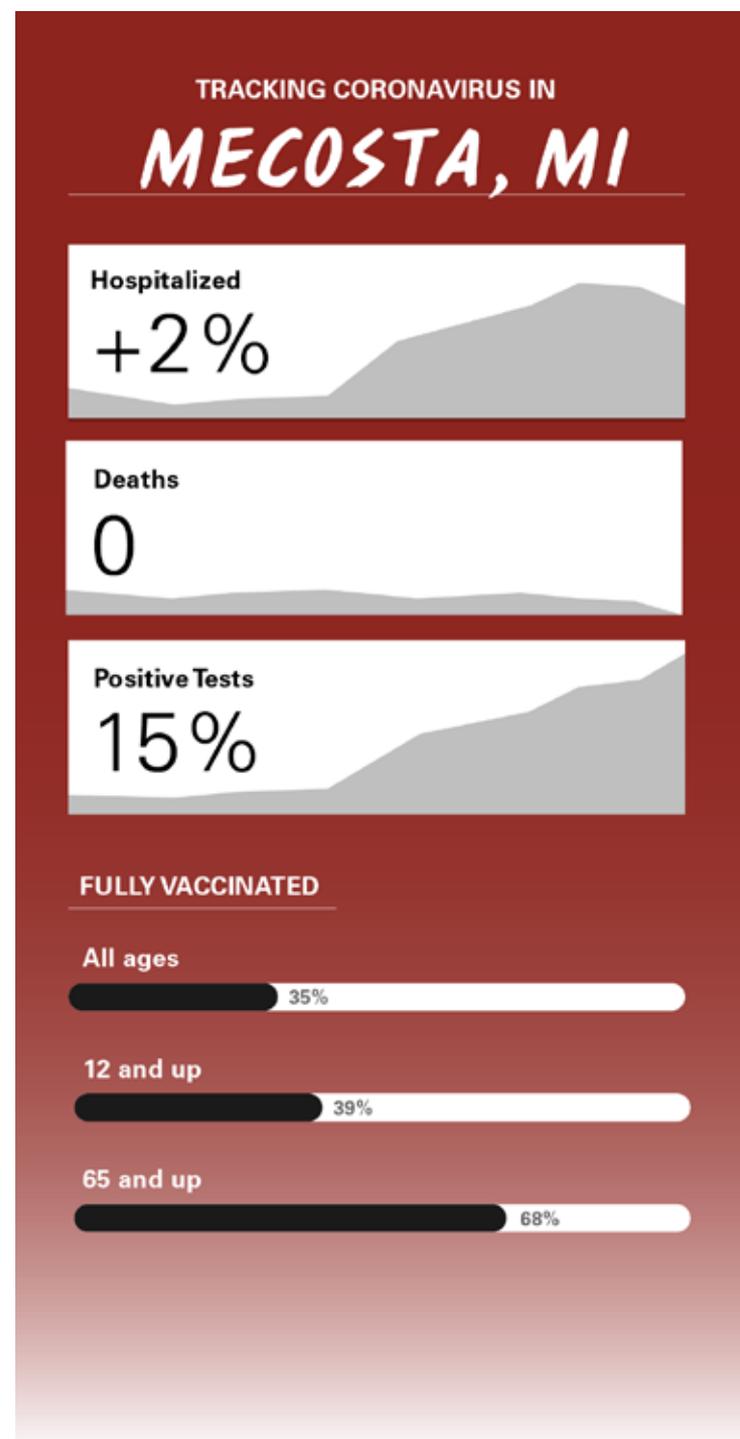
Myers would prefer a hybrid/flex (hyflex) solution if she had the choice.

"I would probably turn to a hyflex model where we would have Zoom up in the classroom. And I would allow students who wanted to attend the class to attend in person, and students who wanted could attend through Zoom," Myers said.

Myers said she would also like to see flexibility for the staff who are actually teaching classes to choose how to proceed with classes if COVID becomes worse.

"We have a vast amount of experience from the last two years of teaching online in various modes I've taught synchronously, asynchronously, that we can really at this point, we know how to do those things pretty well," Myers said.

For now, all anyone, student or staff, can do is wait and see what happens.



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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Gabby Petito

By Brendan Sanders

One of the biggest stories taking up national media is the story of Gabby Petito.

A young woman about our age who was reported missing on September 11th after being on a cross country road trip with her fiancé. As more details come out it's becoming ever apparent that she didn't survive the trip.

I was wondering throughout the investigation, why is this case receiving so much attention compared to the thousands of missing person's reports that are submitted every year?

According to the 2020 NCIC Missing Person and Unidentified Person Statistics published by the FBI, there were 154,480 21+ year old adults reported missing. Of those 154,480 cases, 59,369 of those reports were women. In the data represented, 23,634 women were filed under either endangered or involuntary. Not to mention the 46,239 people filed under "other".

The way I read that data, there could potentially be thousands of Gabby Petito's out there. So why was she different?

After reading a few articles, specifically the Washington Post's piece on why her case became so well known. I came up with a few conclusions.

First off, social media. A big part of this

case is both Petito's use of social media. Being 22 years old, she was able to resonate with the target audience of Tik Tok and other platforms. She was active on Instagram, posting on her page since 2014 and amassing thousands of followers before her disappearance. After her disappearance her Instagram now has over 800,000 followers. Not to mention her Youtube account that has thousands of subscribers.

She was able to get a following prior to her disappearance, and she hits the correct demographic with her age. Is it just because of social media that her story went mainstream?

In an article written by Caroline Anders and Meryl Kornfield for the Washington Post, there was an interview with criminologist Scott Bonn who talked about a few different aspects to Petito that allowed her case to go mainstream while so many have not.

"It's about our culture and our society," he (Bonn) said. "We place a priority on whiteness. We place a priority on youth and on our expectations of physical beauty."

According to Bonn, our society cares more about cases that involve white people, along with being young, and beautiful.

Petito checks all of these marks which

also may have helped her case become mainstream.

People say her case was unique, while this is true every case is unique. There are hundreds of cases of relationships that went bad in different ways. There are hundreds of cases of women traveling across the country only to go missing. There're thousands of families begging to the public to help get their daughter home.

Most of the time, it goes on deaf ears.

Why is that? Why shouldn't all of these cases get the recognition that Petito got? Is our society that bad that we've just gone numb to missing person reports?

I'm not saying that Gabby Petito's story doesn't deserve the recognition that it got, or that it isn't a senseless tragedy that didn't need to happen. I just would love to see society, and social media in general, try to make every missing person's story as special as hers.

Gabby Petito could've been any one of us, if it wasn't for social media there is a chance that no one would have ever known what happened to her. Now we have to bring the same energy to the ten's of thousands of people who are still out there, hoping to be found.

Why fix what is not broken?

Examining the shift to a virtual bookstore



Giuliana Denicolo
 Freelance Reporter

Ferris replaced our beloved and much needed bookstore with the MyBulldogs Service Center downstairs of what is now known as Ferris Outfitters. To purchase or return books, you must now do it completely online. This inconveniences many students.

This makes it more difficult to order and return books nonetheless on time when needed. It made the process longer. This is annoying because if a student purchased a book and soon after dropped the class, they have to print out a shipping label and drop it off at the nearest postal service. In the past, they could just drop the book off at the UC.

I personally have a textbook laying on my kitchen counter waiting to be returned because my roommate was involuntarily switched out of a class. It is now her responsibility to take care of a book she never had to buy. College is expensive and busy enough without the long process of shipping books.

This return process also affects students who save money by renting books. Students have to figure out the new return policies and dates when they were already used to the previous system.

Marketplace, a space for students to buy or sell used textbooks, is one of the features of the online bookstore. Even though this is an option, I believe it is still more complicated than doing it in person.

At the new service center, students can get their IDs, parking passes, and barcodes to check out university equipment. These services already had a place for them. It is convenient that they are all in one place now, but not at the cost of having a bookstore. These services are not as much of a priority as textbooks.

With this being the only option for students to get their books, there is an overload of orders causing delays. Though it is rare, a student could receive a book late just to find out it was the wrong version.

Last year, I bought the online version of a photog-

raphy book and decided I wanted the physical copy instead. The return process was quick and easy. So, in retrospect, was this change really worth it? I say no and I know many other students can agree with me.

Some students, myself included, prefer to buy their books in person. It was nice to have an in person and virtual option, but now there is only one way to buy our textbooks.

Overall, in my opinion, this was just not a move in the right direction for Ferris. Many students were already overwhelmed

with change as school becomes fully in person again. Adding a change as big as this was not necessary when the previous system was working fine.



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Dear “Dear Evan Hansen”



Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

Ben Platt in “Dear Evan Hansen”

A (mostly) spoiler-free look at some musical-to-movie issues

Becca Witkowski
News Reporter

With multiple Broadway musicals having hit the big screen over the last year, I decided to take a look at the most recent release.

“Dear Evan Hansen” follows the main character, Evan Hansen, as he loses himself in a web of lives involving a dead teenager, a grieving family and his own depression. While the plot is certainly interesting, there are multiple things that made the movie disappointing.

Starting with the casting; Evan Hansen was played by Ben Platt, who also played the character in the original Broadway production. While having the original actor reprise his role for the film adaptation may seem like a good idea, I feel that it caused some issues.

Platt turned 28 this year, while the character he was playing was a high school senior. The wardrobe department certainly dressed Platt like a high schooler, but the ten years he had on his character still showed. This messed with the immersion of the film and caused me to laugh at times. Platt looked very out of place in many of the shots in the film.

The rest of the characters were cast very well. Colton Ryan, who played Connor Murphy, looked like he could be a high school senior, despite being 26. Kaitlyn Dever, who played Connor’s younger sister, Zoe, also looked like she could be in high school.

Next is the acting. None of the acting was bad, per se, it just felt wrong. Many of the actors in the film had lots of experience and were actually very good, however, Platt’s acting sometimes made me laugh in the theater while I was watching the film.

Stage acting and film acting are very different. When one is acting on a stage, they have to exaggerate their facial expressions and movement, so that the feelings and actions don’t get lost in the distance between the actor and the audience. I feel that Platt, being used to playing the character on a stage, brought these exaggerations to the big screen.

Platt’s portrayal of Evan Hansen in the film led to an interesting display of mental illness that left me confused for most of the film. In the beginning of the film, Hansen is constantly stuttering, avoiding eye contact and not quite grasping social cues, among other things.

To me, it felt like Platt was portraying Hansen as being on the autism spectrum, rather than suffering from depression and anxiety. Having suffered from depression myself and witnessing people on the autism spectrum, it felt like the behavior

lined up more with autism. I recommend reading the review of the film by Jorik Mol, who has autism, to get a better understanding of the connection.

Finally, the exclusion of certain songs, mainly the opening number “Anybody Have a Map,” made the film lose some of the connection to the original Broadway musical. The opening number in the musical helps to establish the theme of motherhood and parenting. This is completely absent from the film, which begins with the musical’s second song, “Waving Through A Window.”

Despite some of my issues with the movie, I’m glad that it was made. Musicals are slowly being adapted into feature films, allowing a whole new audience to experience them. Issues are bound to pop up when you’re moving a story from a stage to a screen. Any way to get the issues worked out now means better film adaptations in the future.

Settling the great campus food debate

Which Ferris food establishment is the best?

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

Ferris State University is ranked 107th when it comes to college food in the United States according to college ranking site Niche.com. This number rivals many notable world-class universities like Stanford and Columbia.

While it has been decided that our campus food is the best amongst other colleges, one topic is still debated to this day: which campus food establishment is the best at Ferris?

When it comes to the most popular choices, it always seems to be two locations: The Rock Café and The Quad Café. If there was a student survey across campus, the vote would likely be close to a 50/50 split, or slightly favored to The Rock. If you were to ask me which I would prefer, my choice is easy and simple. Like the classic game of rock-paper-scissors, paper, or in this case quad-ruled paper, always covers rock. Here’s why.

Location

I tip my cap to whoever decided to place The Quad inside the University Center. The idea was brilliant. Being centered between three of the largest teaching buildings (Starr, Swan and Science), the widely popular FLITE library, and four residence halls, brings easy convenience for many students and faculty. Inside the UC, being close to the bookstore and various study spaces, provides opportunities for those looking for a quick snack or meal.

Unless you live in a south campus residence hall, The Rock is a hefty walk away and does not have the competing resources to draw in customers like The Quad. The Rock also only has a metered parking lot for students to park in, leaving commuters and more distant residents with a longer walk to enter the restaurant. The Quad has an advantage by having not only a commuter parking lot, but a large one to guarantee a parking spot. I don’t know about you, but I’ll take a minute-long free walk or a 30-second walk costing me 50 cents.

Layout

When it comes to the arrangement of each cafe, there are things I like about both places. The Rock is the king of space, there is no arguing that. How can The Quad compete? Modernity. The visual pleasure of the Quad brings a much more contemporary, lively look. Whether it’s the colorful station signs, vivid light fixtures or bright televisions, The Quad’s modern design surpasses The Rock’s dull, 90’s furniture store vibe.

Not only does The Rock lose eye appeal, but the overall layout doesn’t help its case. With all the seating on the further outside of the circular station of food and condiments, the customer is forced to walk a long distance to grab a second plate or more sauce. The Quad has direct seating off the main path of stations, creating the benefit of quicker access to food and beverages. Being able to get ketchup for my french fries in less than 30 seconds comes in clutch for days when I am feeling physically tired, which is more often than I wish.

Food

Finally, the part you’ve been waiting for. Believe it or not, this one pleads no contest in my mind. While both cafes often cook and prepare food similarly to each other, The Quad always seems to hit the spot more consistently.

When it comes to how the food is organized and presented, I personally prefer the Quad’s style. The Quad organizes stations based off the ethnicity and type of food. For example, there is a Chinese food station, Mexican food station, dessert food station, breakfast food station and more. This provides more consistency in what to expect from each station every day. The Rock contrasts by organizing by the feeling of food. Names like Comfort Zone, World’s Fair and Woody’s Grill describe the food served.

Here’s how they compare. With the Su Casa station at the Quad and the World’s Fare station at the Rock, both often serve tacos or nachos during the week. The difference is that Su Casa consistently has various tacos, nachos and quesadilla options nearly every day, while World’s Fare might serve tacos two days a week and serve other world cuisines like jambalaya and chicken curry the rest of the week. For me, the amount of trust to know what to expect is more important than a surprise each meal.

All in all, both cafes can provide great meals throughout the semester. They are the cornerstone of Ferris’ on-campus dining and will continue to be for years to come. Although they both have their own benefits, The Quad has always been my preferred choice. While many people may disagree with me due to The Rock’s popularity, I hope these points provide insight into why the Quad is more than people realize and start to consider it as a viable dining option.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

A Ferris State Torch special edition

Ten years later



Photo by: Amelia Reed | Torch Photographer

CLS Executive Director Kaylee Moreno-Burke works with students everyday to foster an inclusive campus environment.

Looking back on a decade of growth and community in the Center for Latin@ Studies

Jessica Oakes
Special Editions Editor

In 2011, Kaylee Moreno-Burke was a young Ferris student with a desire for community and a spark in her eye. Today, she is the executive director of the Center for Latin@ Studies.

With the ten-year anniversary of CLS fast approaching, Moreno-Burke and CLS co-founder Dr. Anthony Baker are reminiscing about the center's humble beginnings.

Before the formation of CLS, Moreno-Burke explained, there was no central hub for Ferris' Latino community. With Latino students making up roughly 1%-2% of the campus population, she found it difficult to connect with, or even find, peers that looked like her.

Looking for a sense of belonging after her freshman year, Moreno-Burke approached Baker, her sociology professor, with questions of how to connect with the Hispanic community of Grand Rapids.

Baker promptly offered to set Moreno-Burke up with the Grand Rapids Hispanic Center the next morning.

"I've had lots of students say that kind of stuff to me over the 20 years I've been at Ferris, and most of the time they've got something else to do at nine o'clock tomorrow morning... So, Kaylee met me the next morning in Grand Rapids, and she ended up introducing herself to people in the Hispanic Center, and she got herself an internship that summer," Baker said.

According to Baker, Moreno-Burke was a consistent self-starter. With a passion for cultural inclusion and the drive to match, Moreno-Burke was an essential force in the original focus group of students that encouraged the creation of CLS.

"[Moreno-Burke] never got to the phase of complaining about what Ferris should do for students," Baker said. "She started creating it."

The original focus group, arranged by Baker, Social Work Program Director Mike Berghoef and Vice President for Diversity David Pilgrim, described their experience as Latino members of the Ferris community. One year into this

groundwork, it was decided. Ferris would create a central gathering place for Latino students.

Over the next academic year, Baker took a break from teaching to focus on arranging CLS. His immediate course of action as the center's first executive director was hiring Jessica Cruz as his assistant.

Baker and Cruz ran the commencing CLS as a type of student union, offering informal education and cultural exposure. With the center in its infancy, Cruz spoke out about how necessary this work was to community building at Ferris.

"The Latino Student Union was a home base for me when I was at Grand Valley," Cruz said. "There [were] Latino students here at Ferris who [had] just recently met other Latinos through our center who [were] already in their third year."

For CLS to develop into an inclusive home away from home, the founding members knew they had to expand. Today, the center connects Ferris students with Latino communities across western Michigan, including the areas of Grand Rapids, Holland and Oceana County.

"I'm getting a little emotional just thinking about the number of people that we have interacted with, that we have built relationships with, that we have gotten to see grow," Moreno-Burke said.

Moreno-Burke credits CLS for pushing her through her undergraduate studies. She made lifelong friends and learned to climb the ladder of leadership as a member of CLS.

"The center is the reason why I graduated from Ferris, hands down. The relationships that I built up through the center, the sense of belonging that I felt through the center's programming. Even as we were just building it, when it was just a suitcase that traveled between my apartment and another one of my friend's apartments," Moreno-Burke said.

Upon graduating with a Bachelor of Social Work degree, Moreno-Burke told Cruz, a personal mentor of hers, that she dreamed of one day having her job as assistant director of CLS. One master's degree from the University

of Michigan, months of serving on the CLS advisory board and a tearful job application later, Moreno-Burke exceeded her dreams by becoming the center's youngest executive director.

"I was beyond excited at the thought about the potential of going back and helping to ensure that original vision that we created for the center could not only be fulfilled, but we could transform that vision to better meet the needs of students," Moreno-Burke said.

Accompanying the center's original vision of connecting Ferris with Latino communities, CLS leaders work towards a future in which they are no longer needed.

"Now [CLS] is owned by the Latino communities of West Michigan and the students. And it is seen as a part of them, separate from the individuals that created it. That's something to be proud of," Baker said.

Moreno-Burke described her position as executive director as intentionally working herself out of a job. When she feels that every corner of Ferris is dedicated to the inclusion and success of all races and cultures, she will know that her job is done.

"We continue to work to transform the entire campus so that it's not pockets, but every campus department, every organization, every college is intentionally thinking about the representation of Black, Latino and Indigenous voices and asking those questions. Who are we intentionally supporting? Who is being left out of these conversations? And how do we look at information to ensure that every student feels represented and connected to our institution?" Moreno-Burke said.

The road stretching from a summer sociology course to the ten-year anniversary, paved by Baker, Cruze, Moreno-Burke and countless others is far from completion. And the well of momentum stored in the heart of CLS is far from dry.

Moreno-Burke believes that the center is done crawling. Today, they walk proudly as members of the Ferris community. Soon, it will be their turn to run.

What's inside

How Hispanic Heritage Month became what it is today

pg. 2

The value of culture to a first generation student

pg. 2

The struggle of assimilation

pg. 4

Honoring Latin culture in Greek Life

pg. 4

A history of the celebration

A brief look at the origins of Hispanic Heritage Month

Becca Witkowski
News Reporter

Hispanic Heritage Month, starting Sept. 15 and ending Oct. 15, celebrates the culture and lives of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, the Caribbean, Mexico and Central and South America.

In 1968, Hispanic Heritage Week was declared by Congress, beginning Sept. 15 of every year. In 1988, the Reagan Administration extended it to a month. The change allowed more celebrations to take place to honor Hispanic achievements.

"Hispanic Heritage Month is aligned with a group of historical events," Ferris history professor Jana Pisani said. "On Sept. 15, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua gained their independence. On Sept. 16, Mexico gained its independence. Chile did so on Sept. 18 and Belize on Sept. 21. Columbus Day is also Oct. 12, so it fits into this month-long time frame of Sept. 15 to Oct.15."

The Congressman who pushed the initial resolution in 1968 to recognize Hispanic Heritage Week was George E. Brown of California. According to the United States National Archives, the resolution's purpose was to recognize the influence and

role Hispanic people played in American history.

Congressman Brown's resolution mentioned locations with Hispanic names, and cities that were developed with the help of Hispanic communities. The National Archives quote the resolution as saying that the "Spanish surnamed population has contributed the highest proportion of Medal of Honor winners through acts of bravery and determination in the defense of our land."

In 1988, Senator Paul Simon of Illinois issued a bill to extend the week into a month. The National Archives explains that Senator Simon's bill was "the companion bill" to a bill from Representative Esteban Torres of California. Representative Torres' bill explained that a month would better celebrate the accomplishments of Hispanic Americans. Despite Representative Torres's bill dying in committee, Senator Simon's bill passed and was signed into law.

Today, the Hispanic population is more than 62 million, according to the Pew Research Center. This marks a 23% increase from 2010. The Pew Research Center also states that "Hispanics have become the largest racial or ethnic group in California."

The United States Census Bureau states that 18.5% of the population is of Hispanic or Latino origin. The Census Bureau also states that in Michigan, 5.3% of the population is of Hispanic or Latino origin.

"Every sitting president since George H.W. Bush has made National Hispanic Heritage Month proclamations," Pisani said.

The trend continued this year, with President Joe Biden beginning his proclamation with "we recognize that Hispanic heritage is American heritage."



“
...Hispanic heritage is American heritage.
”
Joe Biden

Photo by: Dylan Bowden | Multimedia Editor



Photo courtesy of CLS Staff Directory

Sophomore Lucero Hernandez works as a Student Staff Assistant for CLS.

My culture

A look into the life of a first generation Ferris student

Lucero Hernandez
Guest Writer

As the daughter of two Mexican immigrants, I have learned to appreciate what I have. Coming from a low-income family has taught me to work hard to have the things I have, and to value my hard work to be where I am today.

I come from an advanced generation full of many opportunities that my school has to offer, such as technology. Technology plays a big role in my education. My family has taught me to appreciate every tradition, food and clothing we have. Growing up in the fields, you learn to value every dollar you make.

I have worked hard to manage my money wisely and to invest in my education. My culture has taught me the value of family and tradition. I am proud to be a Mexican American, Chicana and Latinx. As a first-generation student, I value my education. I am the first in my family to attend a university. I am a sophomore at Ferris State who is majoring in public health with a focus on nutrition.

Hispanic Heritage Month represents culture, from its colors to its traditions. In Mexico, we celebrate the independence of our country from Spain on Sept. 16. Miguel Hidalgo and Costilla, who were from the small town of Dolores Guanajuato, rang a bell telling people to fight against the Spanish soldiers and fight for the independence of their country. This is known as el Grito de la Independencia (cry of independence).

CAMPUS EVENTS

9/30 Carlos Almaraz: Playing with Fire

10/2 Bulldog Asada

10/2 Capa de Ferris: Soccer Tournament

10/5 and 10/6 Financialmente Fuerte: Fasfa & Scholarship Workshop

10/12 "Ovarian Psycos" Film Screening and Panel Discussion

for more information follow @ferriscls on instagram



Sorry, no hablo Español

Forced to assimilate, then viewed as less because of it

Veronica Mascorro
Guest Writer

The dinner table is filled with quiet murmurs of “sí” and “no” as 17-year-old Cody Mascorro faces an issue unique to his peers, he cannot properly communicate with his parents.

With two Mexican immigrants as parents, the primary language spoken within the household is Spanish. Cody, although he can understand it all, finds that his difficulty lies with speaking the language, as at an early age he was forced to assimilate to the English language.

As the second child in this family, I grew up witnessing the struggles that Cody encountered over time.

My parents already had practice with raising bilingual children. Their first son, Kevin, who was born in Mexico, learned English when they moved to the U.S. I learned the English language from Kevin and the cartoons I had seen on T.V. before Spanish, which in turn created another tricky scenario that my family had to navigate. They were relieved after seeing that Cody, similarly to Kevin, had picked up the Spanish language first. It wasn't until Cody entered the school system when the unexpected happened.

Living in the predominantly Caucasian town of Middleville and attending the Thornapple Kellogg School District, Cody was very different from his peers. When first arriving to school, he struggled with speaking English. While his classmates attended kindergarten every other day, Cody was enrolled in multiple sessions and would attend every day to catch him up, but this still wasn't enough. The school district expressed interest in holding him back a year to try and advance him more, but our parents refused and insisted that he move onto the next grade level.

With the scare of knowing that their kid was struggling, our parents began to feed him English content and would encourage Kevin and I to use English around him, as we were the only ones who spoke it. With a variety of different methods, slowly enough, Cody began to catch up and was no longer considered to be an “at-risk” student. However, at the cost of not falling behind academically, Cody ultimately lost his ability to speak the Spanish language.

Over time, Cody became shy and quietly spoke with more hesitation. If he didn't have to speak Spanish, he wouldn't, which led to conversations with our parents becoming shorter and shorter.

Although communicating with his family might seem like the only issue he may encounter, Cody, along with many other Latinos in the U.S. who do not speak Spanish, faced the larger issue of struggling with his identity and having it questioned by peers, friends and even family.

Are you even Latino?

Within the U.S., the number of Latinos is increasing every year, however, as shown in a Pew Research Center study done in 2017, the number of those who speak Spanish is decreasing. 71% said that you didn't need to speak Spanish in order to be considered Latino, and, at the same time, nearly 90% said that it was important for future generations of Latinos to speak Spanish.

Looking back at the results of this research is a bit ironic. A majority of people want the future generations of Latinos in the U.S. to speak Spanish, but how many of them actually speak the language? Part of this belief has to do with the shame that many have received from others due to their lack of knowledge of the language, something Ferris graduate, Edith Moreno, has firsthand experienced.

At a young age, Moreno struggled heavily with Spanish. Being the daughter of two immigrants, a mix of English and Spanish was spoken at home, with English being the main language used. It was a trip to Mexico, where she



Young Veronica and Cody Macorro.

Photo courtesy of Veronica Mascorro

was taunted and made fun of by her family members for her minimal Spanish, that made her want to properly learn the language.

“It was really hard hearing those things at such a young age, especially from my own family. I felt like I wasn't properly accepted into my own culture,” Moreno said. “It motivated me to properly learn, and thankfully I can speak it fluently now, but I struggled heavily with my identity.”

This feeling that Moreno experienced is commonly referred to as “language insecurity” in the academic community, and is especially common among second-generation Latinos in the U.S.

Amelia Tseng, a professor of linguistics at Georgetown University, a research associate at the Smithsonian Institution and a scholar in residence at American University, where she studies multilingualism and identity, spoke about this topic in an article published by NPR by the title of “Can You Lose A Language You Never Knew?” in 2018.

“They kind of feel like they can never win,” Tseng said. “They're just very aware that any moment they could be told, ‘You're not doing it right,’ and there's sort of a challenge to that part of their identity.”

With multiple barriers to bilingualism, such as social pressure, stigmatization and discrimination, Tseng believes that growing up monolingual isn't anyone's fault, and that it is important to accept all identities, not only the ones we deem to be correct.

Similar to Moreno, Ferris sports communication junior Matthew Dominguez-Sandoval grew up in a family that mainly spoke English at home. Although he understands the language, his ability to speak it is much less than his peers. He mainly struggles with pronunciation.

“My family was really culturally aware and embraced our roots a lot, but it was really rare for us to speak Spanish at home,” Dominguez-Sandoval said. “It did affect me a lot. Whenever situations arise where I might need to use my Spanish, I get a bit uncomfortable because I don't want anyone to make fun of me.”

Another study from the Pew Research Center done in 2017 showed that language abilities diminish across generations. Meaning that if one or both of your parents are immigrants, there's a good chance you'll be bilingual, however, less than a quarter of third or fourth-generation Latinos are bilingual.

A contributing factor to these numbers is the history of the Spanish language in the U.S. education system. In the early 20th century, students would be punished by being paddled or having their mouth washed out with soap for speaking Spanish in the classrooms or even the hallways, Victoria-María MacDonald, a retired assistant professor at the University of Maryland and an expert on Latino education, wrote in an article published by the Washington Post.

This continued on into the 1960s and early 70s. Teachers would hand out detention slips when students spoke Spanish anywhere, from the bus to the schoolyard. Although this is no longer common practice in the school system and the popularization of immersion schools (schools where two languages are integrated into every-

day curriculum) has begun, Latinos still face hostility in their everyday lives for speaking the language or for their inability to speak it.

“Latinos are expected to speak impeccable Spanish, while non-Latinos are showered in praise for speaking imperfect Spanish. When white Americans learn Spanish it's seen as enrichment, a sign of high social status and education. This is because their “American-ness” is never up for question,” Tseng said.

Being Latino isn't a language

Growing up with constant criticism from others can be harmful to one's mental health and can have a variety of outcomes. It could lead one to fully learn the language, such as how Moreno did, or become afraid of speaking it. Cody's father, Sergio Mascorro, feels that his son experiences the latter of the two. Sergio's interview was translated into English for the clarity of readers.

“Deep down inside, I think that he knows how to speak Spanish. He's not a big talker, but I think part of his problem is that he gets really anxious or scared that he's going to say the wrong thing or mispronounce words, so he stops himself from saying anything at all,” Sergio said.

Sergio himself struggles with the English language, but the difference that he notes between himself and Cody is that he is not scared to make a mistake and speaks confidentially, even if no one is able to understand him. To him, the only way to improve is through practice.

Sergio also attributes Cody's complex relationship with the language to where he was raised. Being one of the few Latinos in the town of Middleville, there weren't many people that he could relate or talk to.

“Both of my other children, and even nephews, after graduating or leaving this town, learned to fully embrace their culture and grew so much. I feel that the same will happen with him. Although it is a nice community to live and grow up in, he isn't able to grow to his full potential here.”

Which is something that I could confirm. Living in a small community that wasn't diverse, hindered my abilities to embrace my culture and held me back from who I truly was.

Despite his struggles with the language, Cody has a deep passion for his culture and doesn't think he is any less of a Mexican because he can't properly speak, as he indulges heavily on the other aspects.

“There's a lot more to being Mexican than just speaking Spanish; there's the food, the celebrations, the clothes, the sports and even just the way of living,” Cody said. “There were times where I did feel like I wasn't enough because I couldn't speak properly, but over-time, and thanks to a few trips to Mexico, I learned that knowing the language is only one part of it and that I am a valid Mexican.”

Cody is currently taking Spanish classes in school to learn how to read and write. His biggest goal and motivating factor is being to talk more to his parents.

Culture is pride

Sorority celebrates Hispanic Heritage



Photo from Chi Epsilon's Facebook page

Members of Sigma Lambda Gamma.

Rebecca Vanderkooi
News Reporter

Sigma Lambda Gamma (SLG) is the only multicultural sorority Ferris' campus. Throughout Hispanic Heritage Month, they take part in campus wide cultural events and celebrate their members of Hispanic descent.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15 and ends Oct. 15. Because SLG was founded by Latina women, the nationwide sorority takes this month to honor their Latina members.

Bernice Alvarez is the president of SLG at Ferris, she is a junior studying communications and Spanish.

"Hispanic Heritage Month is a big celebration honored by SLG. SLG not only honors all different ethnicities during Hispanic Heritage Month, but truly honors them every day," Alvarez said.

Alvarez explained that SLG has members of all different ethnicities and backgrounds. They prioritize learning about and advocating for diverse cultures.

"During Hispanic Heritage Month, our sorority honors those members of Hispanic and Latino backgrounds. This is a month to educate and celebrate," Alvarez said. "As a Latina, I'm so thankful to be a part of an organization that appreciates and celebrates my background."

Business administration sophomore Marisol Benitez

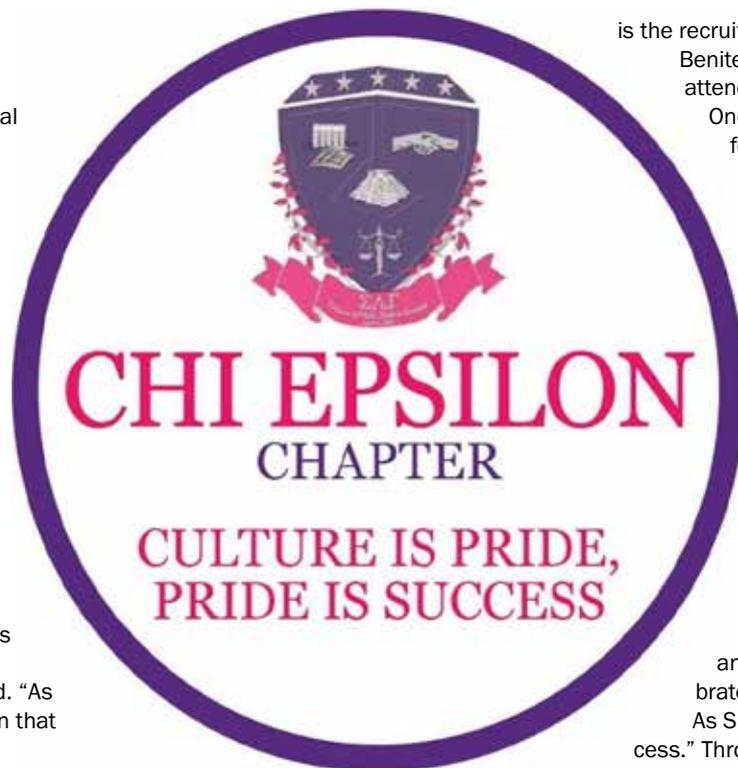


Photo by: | Facebook
Crest of the Sigma Lambda

Gamma Chi Epsilon Chapter

is the recruitment and treasurer chair of SLG.

Benitez explained that throughout the month the sorority has attended events that celebrate Hispanic heritage on campus. One such event was the LatinXpo, a festival celebrating the food, dance and culture of Latin America.

"As a sorority with members of hispanic descent, we hold huge pride in our roots and are always ready to educate others to the best of our ability, as well as share our personal experiences," Benitez said.

Benitez explained that the five principles SLG follows are academics, community service, cultural awareness, social interaction and morals & ethics.

Since its creation in 1990 in Iowa, SLG has spread nationwide and currently has chapters on 117 college campuses.

"The humble beginnings of Sigma Lambda Gamma were built at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, where the vision was to create a network of academic and social support for Latina women," the SLG website said.

In its 31 years of existence, this Latina-based sorority has been open to individuals of all ethnic backgrounds, and Hispanic Heritage Month is the perfect time to celebrate that.

As SLG's motto states, "Culture is Pride. Pride is Success." Through celebrating their heritage and learning about other cultures, the members of SLG embody this adage.



Photo by: Dylan Bowden | Multimedia Editor

LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

Homecoming with meaning: ambassadorship

Learn about what it means to represent Ferris State through the 2021 homecoming ambassador candidates

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter

Homecoming is a time where we celebrate the beginning of school, students returning, and most of all the Bulldog community gathering together again.

On the Big Rapids campus, students, faculty, and the community celebrate homecoming all week long with activities, giveaways, comedians, and promoting the homecoming ambassador candidates.

The homecoming ambassador is a student who is selected through votes of the student body and becomes a representative of the school throughout the year. They participate in and host many campus-held events including the Torch Bearer Awards, an awards ceremony that highlights students going above and beyond in their work on campus.

For homecoming 2021, there were two candidates the student body would be able to vote from. The candidates were Emily Obermeyer and Kennedy Melton. Both are current seniors who spent months preparing for homecoming week.

Ambassador | see page 8



Photo provided by Ferris Services Digital Media Specialist Hannah Crouch

Emily Obermeyer wants to be an example for younger undergraduates.



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Photo provided by Ferris Services Digital Media Specialist Hannah Crouch

President Eisler (second from right) and wife (middle) take the field during the homecoming football game with past ambassador, Leonardo Almanza (left), Obermeyer and Melton (right).

AMBASSADOR

Continued from page 7

Applications for the ambassadorship opened in late May, and according to Obermeyer the process to even become a candidate was lengthy.

“When you apply you have to send in a resume and cover letter,” Obermeyer said. “You have to answer short application questions, have an interview with the homecoming committee, then after that, I got working on my digital portfolio. We had a bit of an ambassador kick-off meeting where we got to meet with the whole homecoming team, and they pointed us in the right direction for our next steps.”

The next steps for Obermeyer and

Melton were getting their name out there in the community and get people to know that they were running for the ambassadorship. It was a long process, but for both ladies, it was worth the work.

For candidate Melton, running for homecoming ambassador was an opportunity for her to give thanks to the university that has been her home for the past five years and everything they have done for her.

“Ferris has done so much for me,” Melton said. “It’s offered me so many different connections and ways to reach out to people not only in my major but through different organizations. It’s also given me opportunities to network with alumni of all different majors and histories.”

Melton has been an active participant

in the Student Alumni Gold Club and sorority Phi Sigma Sigma. Not only has her membership in these groups continued her growth in connections but also helping her stay positive throughout her different experiences on campus.

Being a part of student organizations and participating in university events is what contributes to becoming a great representative of the school. A Ferris ambassador is someone who represents the ideals of the university and has a good social network in place, according to Obermeyer.

Obermeyer believes she is the perfect example of a well-rounded college student, who can set an example for younger undergraduates. As a student majoring in information and security intelligence, it is a well male-dominated

field with few women.

“I would like to be in that position and serve as a role model,” Obermeyer said. “Advocate for other girls who also are struggling to find their place in their major if it’s one that’s male-dominated or anyone else who feels like they’re in a place where they don’t belong, I definitely want to advocate for that.”

Obermeyer will have the chance to encourage fellow students to find their place, be confident in their major, and try something a little out of their comfort zone as she was announced the homecoming ambassador of 2021.

While homecoming 2021 has come to an end, Obermeyer’s ambassadorship has just begun, and the Bulldog community will definitely know her name this year.

RSO’s Re-Engage with Caution

How RSO’s are impacted and how they are impacting the pandemic

Trent Carlson
Freelance Reporter

The pandemic has changed the routine of every Ferris student on campus, Greek RSO’s especially have experienced enormous change compared to years past.

Rules and guidelines regarding COVID-19 for Ferris have been reconsidered in recent weeks. However, the University is sticking to its standard of protecting the students and continues watching over how social events may occur.

“Any event indoors requires a mask, and no events will be prohibited indoors with alcohol,” said James Kendrick, President of Interfraternity Council, “Greek life has to be creative and utilize the outside spaces that they have available at the moment.”

According to Kendrick, this could pose a problem for greek life with the cold Michigan winter following fall. However, he has faith in the organizations on campus to do what is right.

“I think as an organization we have done a great job with providing masks and making people fill out their symptom checker as well as all the basic things we need for the events we have,” said Marlene Muscat, President of Alpha Xi Delta, “the University has done well with their restrictions and keeping up with the state, letting us know when we can have food and when we are at capacity for events.”

According to the University Re-Engagement Guide, avoiding large gatherings wearing a mask and using the daily symptom checker is a great way to slow the spread on campus. However, students seem eager to participate in

outdoor social events such as tailgating. Most do little or nothing to protect themselves or others from the pandemic.

“Greek life is already doing great being leaders,” said Kendrick, “I have seen a lot of masks with their organization represented on them, and I love to see it. No one likes wearing a mask, but Greek life is just doing the best they can to make the best of it, and I would encourage the rest of the student body to do the same. Vaccination comes down to political standpoints and views, but everyone can wear a mask.”

Being virtual last year was difficult for Greek organizations. Muscat expressed a disconnection between herself and her fellow sisters at Alpha Xi Delta, due to being virtual. For that reason, she and most Ferris students can agree; it is good to be back in person.

“Obviously, the struggle of being vir-

tual is a lack of connection, especially after it being normal to see your sisters regularly on a daily basis,” said Marina St. Louis, Vice President of Alpha Sigma Tau, “I’m so glad we are back in person, it feels so fresh and reliving to see these girls again.”

The Student Re-Engagement Guide expresses that students may feel trepidation or underlying angst returning to in person. However, the University states this feeling is normal and should pass with time.

For more information on the University’s guidelines for RSO’s as well as students and staff in general, visit the Ferris State website under Student Re-Engagement Guide or the RSO Re-Engagement Chart.

Media Minute

Superliminal: a mind bending beauty



Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

You're drifting off to sleep at around 3AM, the last thing you hear is an ad for Dr. Pierce's Somnasculpt dream therapy program. By the time you open your eyes again, you're dreaming and within the beginning stages of the experiment.

As Superliminal, released in late 2019, comes to Xbox Live Game Pass this September, it's time to take a look back at the mind-bending, dream logic-based game.

Superliminal is a game where you as the player are dropped into a dream state where you are allowed to alter how you perceive things. For instance, you can walk up to a chess piece on a table, pick it up, spin around and now, because

there isn't a table in front of you, the chess piece has room to grow. You're able to manipulate an object's size just by how you pick it up and where you pick it up from.

The player is tasked with using items they can pick up and resize to move throughout the experiment. These mechanics are taught well in the tutorial level and moving throughout the game is quite easy overall.

Every time a player starts a level, they'll wake up to an alarm in their room at the experiment facility and will have to proceed from there. Sometimes you'll just proceed out of the room to complete a level, and other times, you'll have to solve lurking mysteries before you can move on.

Once a player enters a level, the play-

er will have to discover what items can be manipulated and use them to pass through various doors, or sometimes lack thereof, to find the elevator that typically ends the level. Other times you may not be looking for an elevator- or be in control at all.

There are nine beautifully designed stages with surprises around every turn and even more off-limit areas to be found and explored. These levels take place in varied indoor locations that range from factory-like facilities to a nicely decorated hotel hospital-like facility. This is also a game to enjoy with headphones as everything sounds fantastic. The music, the sound effects, the voice overs, everything just sounds crisp and perfect.

I sat down and played this game in one sitting on my 32" ultrawide monitor and

let me tell you, if you have the option to play that way, do it. The experience was so immersive and attention grabbing, I just couldn't get up.

Each and every level contains so many secrets and every once in a while, when you stumble on a stereo, you'll get a somewhat bone-chilling message from the doctor because they "can't locate you". There's also a lot of beautiful artworks to be discovered throughout the game as well.

While this isn't a very long game if you have a few hours, \$20 and a laptop made in the last five years, please, pick up this game and open your mind to the Superliminal.

Big dreams



Photo provided by Rebecca Vanderkooi

Rebecca Vanderkooi and other students that worked the Emmys hanging out at their hotel.

A college student's journey to the Emmys

Rebecca Vanderkooi
Opinions Editor

I have always had big dreams of working in the entertainment industry but coming from a tiny West Michigan town it never felt like it could become reality.

However, that all changed when I was hired as an intern with a company in charge of a Pre-Oscar gifting suite. A few months later my boss reached out to me, asking if I was interested in working as an assistant at the Emmy event. Of course, I said yes and took a long weekend working vacation out in Los Angeles.

Coming back after the Oscars I felt like I knew what I was doing and was more comfortable working on the celebrities. Something I quickly learned was that while some of these people may be well known household

names, they are just people like the rest of us. Knowing that, I no longer worry about nervousness around them.

Additionally, being able to reconnect with a couple of my coworkers from the Oscars was so nice. The crew who runs the event spends so much time together over those few days that we become close, and it is bittersweet when we wrap at the end.

While the twelve-hour workdays we put in are not anything to bat an eye at, the experience of meeting writers and directors for shows like Ted Lasso, Handmaids Tale and Cobra Kai is inspiring. As a writer myself, talking to the best of the best and gaining knowledge and advice from them is a unique experience that I will forever cherish.

The two-day event I spent touring Emmy nominees and other celebrities through the gift suite. Think of it as an

expo but with fancier products and celebrities as guests.

Getting to work with stars like Billy Porter from Pose, Eileen Galindo from Why Women Kill, and most notably, Tyra Banks from America's Next Top Model was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

It is always great to make connections with people in the industry, as that is something much harder to do here in Michigan. This event I had the unique opportunity of connecting with an up-and-coming actress on a couple different shows. After exchanging contact information, we set up a meeting and I am now helping as her social media manager part time.

As someone who has always had big dreams, seeing them come true even if it is simply by touring celebrities through an award show gift suite, is a step toward my ultimate goals.

SPORTS

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

Ferris basketball teams go off court



Photo courtesy of Andy Bronkema.

Ferris's basketball teams gathered at Hemlock Park to give back to the Big Rapids community.

Men's and women's basketball help Big Rapids community

Austin Arquette
Sports Reporter

Ferris's basketball programs are known for winning on the court, but on Tuesday, Sept. 21, both the men's and women's teams focused their attention elsewhere.

The Ferris basketball teams, coaches and assistants all spent their Tuesday evening together in downtown Big Rapids as they repainted Hemlock Park. The teams spent time repainting the dull wood at the playground in the children's area into bright brown to give the park a spark.

Ferris women's basketball head coach Kurt Westendorp and men's basketball coach Andy Bronkema led their teams in this event. Josh Pyles, the director of the Big Rapids Downtown Business Association, reached out to the teams and both coaches jumped at the opportunity. Westendorp said there was a need that the teams could meet so they wanted to pitch in however they could. Bronkema said that these opportunities teach players that it's all about others and giving back to those who support you.

"It was a great time to re-engage with service to our community," Westendorp said. "So many of these opportunities were tabled last year with public health orders. To be out again with our fellow student-athletes was a great time. We love teaming up with our men's basketball program every

chance we get. We want to give back right here in Big Rapids to show our appreciation to how much the Big Rapids community supports us. Hemlock Park is also a special place to me personally as I bring my kids there throughout the year."

Like many parents, each coach enjoys the ability to take their children to the park and the players said they enjoy the freedom the park brings as it is a great place to escape to, whether it's to hang out with friends or do homework. Both the men's and women's teams were seen smiling and happy to be around others in the repainting project. Ferris women's basketball junior guard Mallory McCartney enjoyed the experience, and said it was something she never thought would have been so engaging.

"While the focal point was painting, I think more than that it was just to do your best in order to give back," McCartney said. "It really made us realize how rewarding this process was seeing how important it was to the community. Supporting the community is so important to me because they do everything for us by coming to all of our games and supporting us. It was great to be able to give back and help them with this project."

Not only did McCartney see the value taken from this event but so did Ferris men's basketball sophomore wing Jimmy Scholler. Team bonding has always been a big part of Scholler's model in sports

and said he always looks forward to Friday events they do for that. Scholler said that the team chemistry has been great so far and that the team has all gelled very quickly even though there are a lot of new faces.

"The best thing I saw during the repainting was watching how serious coach Bronkema was painting," Scholler said. "I think it shows how much we appreciate all the support from the community. It was cool that both teams came and stained the playground."

Both McCartney and Scholler said they wanted to really do a good job for the community because of what the community does for them to be able to play the game they love. Repainting the park was the focus of the event, but spending time together and bonding with each other was also very important for both teams.

"The team bonding was amazing," McCartney said. "It was a great way to learn about the new players on both the men's and women's teams and helped build relationships while doing it. The best thing I saw was the conversations just taking place. Seeing all the smiles of both teams and having fun with the project was really uplifting and great to see."

In turn, while the coaches were happy to help their community the best thing Westendorp viewed was giving back as well as bringing the team together as practice kick-off and their seasons begin.

"Any time we have the opportunity to take part in a project like this it helps our team grow," Westendorp said. "Getting to spend time with one another away from the court focused on giving back to others really brings us closer together. Getting to see our players working hard with smiles on their faces is very rewarding. One of our core values is gratitude, and it was great to see that in action."

Bronkema was thrilled to share the opportunity with the women's team and collectively bond the programs together since they have been apart for a while. The amount of support the teams share for each other helps their offseason so that during the regular and post-season the teams give it their all.

"It's what we teach with the curriculum here at Ferris which is about giving back to others and just know it's bigger than yourself," Bronkema said. "It's bigger than yourself and giving back to others by giving yourself to others is what we are all about."

The men's basketball team will take the court for the first time this season on Saturday, Oct. 23 at 3 p.m. for their annual alumni game at Jim Wink Arena. The women's basketball team will kick off their season as they travel to Detroit to take on Walsh in the Conference Crossover Tourney on Saturday, Nov. 13 with a 5 p.m. tip time.

WEEKEND SCORCARD

Football

Sept. 25- Ferris 38, Davenport 0

Women's Soccer

Sept. 24-Ferris 2, Northwood 1

Volleyball

Sept. 23-Ferris 3, Grand Valley 2
Sept. 26-Ferris 3, Davenport 0

Bulldog football dominates Davenport



Photo by Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

Mylik Mitchell looks to make a play against Davenport.

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

After a narrow victory against Saginaw Valley, Ferris came out and dominated Davenport on homecoming with a 38-0 victory.

Ferris began the game on the defensive side of the football, where they established their defensive presence immediately, forcing Davenport to go three-and-out.

"Everybody up front played phenomenal," senior linebacker Liam Daly said. "We had a lot of opportunities to make tackles."

The Bulldogs' first offensive play from scrimmage energized to the homecoming crowd, Top Taggart's largest of the year. Starting quarterback sophomore Mylik Mitchell found junior receiver Marcus Taylor on a back shoulder throw to pick up 30 yards. However, Ferris was forced to punt after stalling on the drive.

The next six drives of the contest combined for five punts, one turnover on downs and an average of 17.8 yards per drive for both teams.

"The game was totally different than I anticipated," head coach Tony Annese said. "We tried to run the ball early with little success."

With just over three minutes remaining in the first half, the Bulldogs got on the scoreboard thanks to a 3-yard rushing touchdown by senior running back Marvin Campbell.

From there, the Bulldogs grasped the momentum. After forcing a Davenport three-and-out, the offense put together a quick drive to reach the redzone with under one minute to go in the half. Junior quarterback Evan Cummins found freshman receiver Tyrese Hunt-Thompson to give

the Bulldogs a 14-0 lead before halftime.

"That was the key possession," Annese said of the touchdown before half. "It was critically important."

Late in the third quarter, Cummins found junior receiver Brandon Childress for a 28-yard touchdown pass.

The Panthers tried to get something going offensively in the third quarter, but strong defense from Ferris kept Davenport off the scoreboard.

"We have a lot of experience in the defensive front," Annese said. "I loved our fight."

Hunt-Thompson scored his second touchdown of the game on an end-around early in the fourth quarter, giving Ferris a 28-0 lead.

"We practiced that play a lot," Hunt-Thompson said. "Marcus (Taylor) made a great block for me. I give it up to my teammates for trusting me and allowing me to make the play."

Mitchell later returned to the contest in the fourth quarter and led a 40-yard touchdown drive. He connected with junior running back Jeremy Burrell for Ferris's fifth touchdown of the afternoon.

"Mylik did a lot of good things," Annese said on the starting quarterback's performance. "It was a great performance and I'm real proud of him."

Ferris's defense dominated the game from start to finish. The Bulldogs held the Panthers to 163 yards of total offense, allowing an average of three yards per play and only three third down conversions on 15 attempts throughout the game. Daly led the team with eight tackles and the team recorded two sacks.

Daly said his team wanted to record a shutout, and credited

their ability to keep Davenport from capitalizing.

The Bulldogs finished with 475 yards of offense, 332 yards coming in the passing game. Mitchell paced the team with 194 yards in the air while senior running back Tyler Minor led Ferris with 48 rushing yards. Taylor finished with 101 receiving yards on eight catches and Hunt-Thompson gained 81 yards on four catches. While they did not reach their average of 273.3 yards rushing per game from the first three games, Coach Annese believes the game's flow dictated the change in game plan.

"I tell our guys that our offense is built to take what the defense gives us," Annese said. "Today, they gave us the pass and we were able to make some big plays."

After committing seven turnovers against Saginaw Valley, Annese was glad to see his team commit no turnovers against Davenport.

"Taking care of the ball is obviously critically important," Annese said. "Our penalty yardage was way down. Sometimes you must internalize the mistakes you're making and own those circumstances."

The Bulldogs will begin a three-game stretch on the road Sat., Oct. 2, where they will face Northwood University in Midland. For tickets or information on Ferris State Football, visit the "Football" tab on ferrisstatebulldogs.com.

Bulldogs win weekend

Ferris defeats Grand Valley and Davenport to even GLIAC record

D'Andre Head
Freelance Reporter

The Bulldogs put an end to an 0-2 start in conference play and picked up two big wins over the weekend.

After a slow start to conference play, the Bulldogs evened their GLIAC record thanks to a pair of wins over the weekend against Grand Valley and Davenport. Ferris played a close game with Grand Valley, and then won handily against Davenport.

Ferris hosted the Lakers on Thursday, Sept. 23 and improved their record to 6-4 (1-2 GLIAC) with a 3-2 win. The Bulldogs lost the first set 27-25 before coming back and winning the second set 25-20.

Grand Valley came out on top 29-27 in a close back-and-forth third set. Ferris responded in the fourth set with a winning score 25-18 to force the crucial fifth set. The Bulldogs got out to an early advan-

tage in the final set and won the match with a 15-10 victory in the final set.

Ferris head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm said her team adjusted very well to push through to win the game.

"I was pleased with how we played, and I thought we competed extremely hard, and our defense made an adjustment to slow them down after the first two sets," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "With the help of our assistant coaches, they did a nice job running the defense and our team to get them out of their system with such a strong offense."

Ferris got contributions from many players in the victory. Senior outside hitter Katie O'Connell and freshman outside hitter Keona Salesman led the team with 15 kills each. O'Connell also led the team with 24 digs. In addition, sophomore middle hitter Kira Merkle and freshman middle hitter Olivia Henneman-Dallape contrib-

uted 11 kills each, while freshman setter Kaylee Maat led the way with 49 assists. The Bulldogs also got 22 digs from senior libero Nina Gorgjjevska.

O'Connell spoke on the energy the team added to this game.

"We had to keep working for each other and having each other's back," O'Connell said. "With energy, our team is able to support itself, work hard and focus on the team. We know what we were capable of."

Ferris followed its victory over Grand Valley with a 3-0 victory over Davenport on Sunday, Sept. 26. Maat led the team with 33 assists and 15 digs. With the win, Ferris improved to 7-4 (2-2 GLIAC).

The Bulldogs will play two more games at home this weekend. Purdue-Northwest comes to town Friday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. Wisconsin-Parkside will visit Sunday, Oct. 3 at 1 p.m.



Photo by Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

Keona Salesman makes a play in Ferris's victory over Grand Valley.

This school year feels less stressful already.

**Ferris State students and faculty
get 15% off. No coupon limit.**

Michigan's #1 cannabis retail and
delivery is in downtown Big Rapids.

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