

No tipping point



Photos by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Even though case numbers are higher than last year at the same time as reported by the Ferris case tracker and more variants are in the US, Ferris has reduced COVID-19 restrictions.

Ferris administration and Re-entry Committee maintain minimal COVID restrictions

Jessica Oakes
Special Editions Editor

As COVID-19 case numbers rise at the national, state and university levels, Ferris has no plan for expanding campus-wide rules and regulations.

The Re-entry Committee has been responsible for creating and executing a gradual re-engagement to face-to-face learning since late 2020. Though the Committee meets weekly, the potential of returning to previous levels of restrictions has yet to be discussed.

Sandra Alspach, communications professor and sole faculty member of the Committee, explained that it is difficult to engage fellow committee members in conversations regarding additional policy.

“What’s our tipping point? Will it take a death to make us flip?” Alspach said. “And of course, when I [say] that, there’s a dramatic ‘aha’ moment and [the Committee is] very quiet. Because, of course, nobody wants that to happen. But in terms of what percentage of positive cases will we need to make a flip, nobody wants to speculate.”

According to Ferris Faculty Association president Charles Bacon, President Eisler’s stance on face-to-face learning remains “intractable.”

On Thursday, Sept. 23, the FFA held a demand to bargain with Eisler, Vice President Fleischman and five other high-level administrators. Attorney Robert A. Boonin of Detroit’s Dykema Gossett spoke on behalf of every administrator in attendance.

The FFA did not reach their goal of finding compromise regarding faculty who feel unsafe teaching face-to-face with a student body that is less than one quarter vaccinated.

ed. “...‘We believe that we’ve done all that we need to do.’ These are the words of Rob Boonin, who was brought in to be the sole voice to speak for Eisler [and] Fleishman... The only person permitted to speak knows nothing about what we do,” Bacon wrote to the FFA.

“*What’s our tipping point? Will it take a death to make us flip?*”

Sandra Alspach

This failed demand to bargain follows a summer-long general pause on non-COVID-19 related grievances. Several issues, including queries about the spending of a \$26 million Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, were compiled throughout the season. Bacon stated that the next step is to move to mediation.

While plans for mediation develop, exemptions from face-to-face teaching remain unattainable for most faculty members.

“Even if you had a compromised immune system, it didn’t make any difference at all unless you were declared disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act,” Gary Huey, a history professor at Ferris, said.

Huey uses two immune system suppress-

ing medications to treat Crohn’s Disease, an auto-immune disorder he has lived with for over 50 years. Because his particular case was considered severe enough by the ADA and Ferris’ administration, he now teaches fully online.

“I had to get my doctor to fill out a three-page form, indicating why the doctor believed I should be allowed to teach on Zoom, and how it was dangerous for me to be face-to-face,” Huey said.

Huey was notified about his ADA accommodation over two and a half weeks after his form was sent to Ferris. Other faculty members were denied any accommodation.

“You had to be in the classroom because [the administration] wanted it just like it was back in the fall of 2019. Sticking their head in the sand like that, and just ignoring what was taking place. That is, I think, what happened to a couple of my colleagues,” Huey said.

With no shortage of faculty grievances, Alspach describes her committee role as “the squeaky wheel that squeaks every meeting.” She has felt strongly about this representation since the Committee’s conception.

“When the Re-entry Committee was announced... and they listed the participants, it was clear that they were representing the whole of the organizational structure,” Alspach said. “But they had forgotten the faculty. So as academic senate president, I reached out on behalf of the faculty and requested a seat at the table.”

Alspach explained that the Committee is a democratized entity. Before policy changes are set in motion, they must be discussed at length by all 16 members. These

members represent several corners of the university, including academic affairs, the FFA, Birkam Health Center, administration and finance and the president’s office.

“Understand that one or two voices are not driving the committee... So, to the extent that we have the healthcare specialists offering their perspective and their advice, that’s taken into account. They’re not driving the bus,” Alspach said.

Despite this work, Bacon, history professor Barry Mehler and other faculty members feel that they are being ignored by administration and underrepresented on the Committee.

“I have been a faculty member here at Ferris for over thirty years and I think the administration is significantly more intransigent than it has ever been before,” Mehler wrote in an open letter to faculty and staff. “We have been consistently shut out of the conversation regarding how to adapt to the ongoing threat posed by the pandemic.”

“*It is time for Eisler to leave and take Fleishman with him.*”

Charles Bacon

Re-entry | see page 2

NEWS

Noah Kurkjian | News Editor | kurkjin@ferris.edu

New Michigan budget offers aid for higher education

New budget signed into law benefit students and their futures

Jerry Gaytan
News Reporter

On Wednesday, Sep. 29, Gov. Whitmer signed a new state budget into law that provides funding to universities and students.

The overall budget is set at \$70 billion, with \$2.2 billion for higher education and \$50.7 billion for state programs and agencies. The budget will include a 5% increase in funding for all Michigan public universities, which is around \$2 million for Ferris State University. The budget also contains a \$2.5 million increase in the Tuition Incentive Program, it also removes the budget cap.

"This is great for TIP students," Patrick Weisgerber, Tuition Incentive Program coordinator, said. "Not capping the tuition to \$200 less means that a student in the first phase of the TIP scholarship will still be able to receive a full-time student's tuition coverage."

According to a message from President Eisler, TIP funding was the university's top legislative priority in Lansing with assistance from TIP student Logan Evans and his testimony. This then led to the approval of the budget through legislators who understood the importance of TIP for students and their future.

The budget will also provide a one-time payment of around \$86 million to the seven Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System universities. Ferris' current budget for MPSERS is \$11 million. The \$86 million will be paid for those costs as well as reduce pension liability.

The budget will aid in mitigating the university's rise in MPSERS payments, but details on the amounts being funded to each university have not been released.

The budget also consists of:

A 4% one-time increase in operations with an additional 1% for colleges and universities in Michigan.

\$55 million for the Michigan Reconnect program to aid an in-demand industry certificate or associate degree for Michigan adults that are aged 25 and older. Along with \$25 million for the Futures for Frontliners scholarship program paying for community college tuition for frontline workers.

A \$500 million deposit in the state of Michigan's rainy-day fund totaling it to around \$1.4 billion, per MLive.

\$460 million to set a \$2.35 per hour permanent raise for direct care workers.

\$196 million for repairing and replacing around 100 bridges in serious conditions, along with \$19 million on dam repairs.

The budget went into effect on Oct. 1, the start of the new fiscal year.

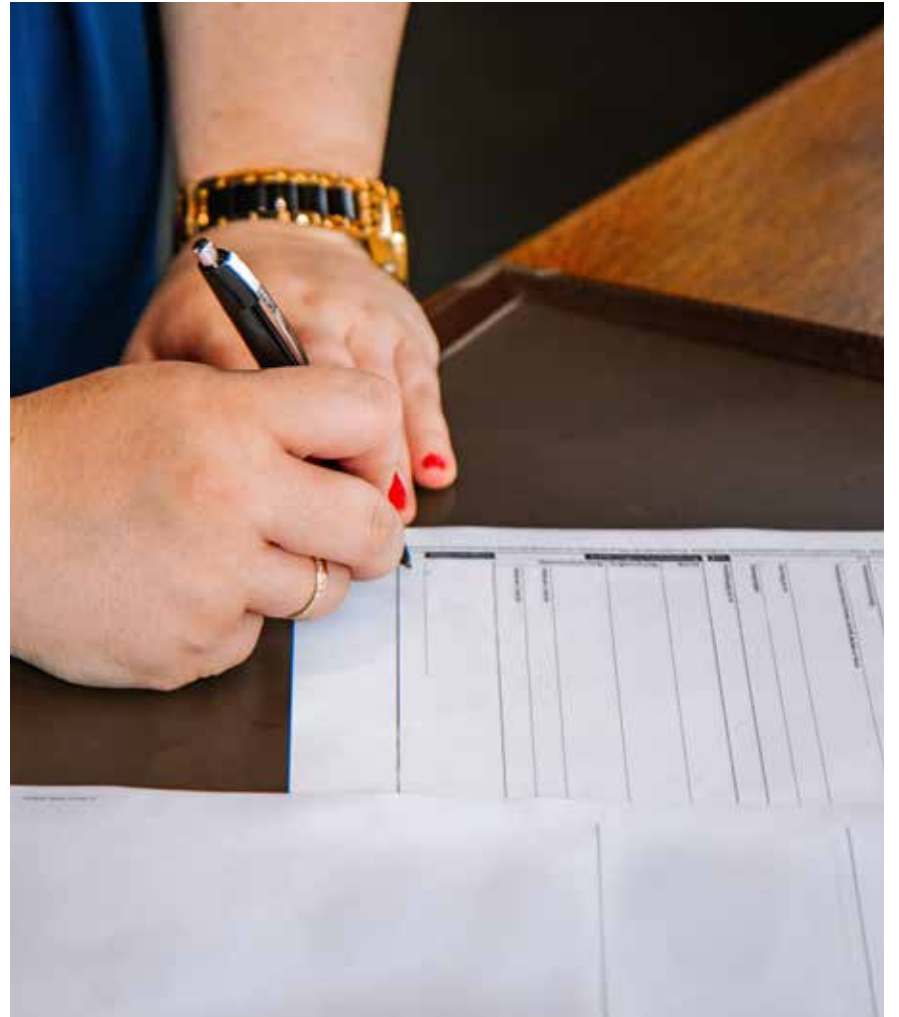


Photo courtesy of Unsplash

TIP recipients will continue to have a fully funded education..

Re-entry

Continued from page 1

Among Mehler's top concerns are the reporting of positive COVID-19 test results and subsequent contact tracing.

"[A student] was experiencing COVID symptoms. Birkam said she should probably get tested. She asked if she had to get tested. No, but it would also be really good to stay in your room and quarantine for a couple of days or until the symptoms go away. We can get you in for a test day after tomorrow," reads a post from the Ferris Facebook Faculty Lounge.

As explained in the Committee's message to students from Sept. 28, testing and quarantining are not always mandatory. Asymptomatic vaccinated students are not required to get tested or quarantine after exposure. This is in direct contradiction

with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's most recent advice.

"Anyone who has been potentially exposed to the virus should get tested, the C.D.C now says. Previous guidance recommended testing only for fully vaccinated people who were symptomatic," reported the New York Times on Sept. 21.

Testing is not mandatory for students to return to work or classes, regardless of color or status in the Healthy Dog Portal, if a 10-day quarantine period is executed.

According to Lindsay Barber, Director of Health Services and member of the Committee, contact tracing is only conducted by a Birkam registered nurse after a student reports their positive status in the Report a Positive Test Result Portal.

Mehler believes that this system of self-reporting is unreliable and insufficient at this stage of the pandemic.

"I am more and more convinced that

Birkam is being actively used to suppress the true COVID case count on campus," Mehler said.

Alspach and Jeremy Mishler, director of re-entry communications, stated that the Committee is both "positive and optimistic" that their approach will keep the Ferris community safe.

"If there is one thing the pandemic has taught us, it is to be nimble, to be flexible and to be prepared for changes, sometimes on a daily basis," Mishler said. "The university continues to take a proactive, flexible and collaborative approach to operating during the pandemic..."

According to Alspach, Ferris is unable to make grand policy changes that only concern the Big Rapids campus. The other locations in Flint, Traverse City and Dowagiac must also be considered to avoid accusations of favoritism.

"We don't have the freedom that indi-

vidual school districts in the state have to come up with their own local policies," Alspach said. "The last government directive was do what you need for your community, and if your community needs to take time out, take it. But we're not going to impose a state standard on you."

As the semester continues and holidays approach, faculty members remain uneasy about the safety of the Ferris community, as well as the motives of the administration.

"They don't care about the health and safety of the faculty and staff. They only care about the money they get from students and families," Bacon said.

Bacon publicly stated that "it is time for Eisler to leave and take Fleishman with him."

Eisler and his team have yet to comment to the Torch regarding this story.



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- ON THE RECORD -

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

Odors of October

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

It's not your time

Sept. 27, 7:10 p.m. - Officers were dispatched a civil dispute over the visitation of a child. Officers were able to defuse the situation.

Appear or dissappear

Sept. 29, 6:30 a.m. - Officers arrested a citizen on probation with an outstanding bench warrant for 77th district court for probation violation.

He's not worth it, sis

Oct. 1, 12:30 a.m. - Officers were dispatched to Ward Hall to find a suspect who has been trespassed from campus. The female student was caught harboring the suspect.

Not okay anywhere

Oct. 1, 10:59 a.m. - A male student threatened his female friend with violence or death if they were not on campus. The case was closed and sent for judicial review.

Stairway to hevean or stairway to hell?

Oct. 1, 11:58 p.m. - An RA

smelled the odor of marijuana in the stairwell of McNerney Hall. The RA confronted 4 different students near an open widow and caught one with a joint in his had and the student confessed to it. Others denied, the student who admitted it was referred to student conduct.

Parking war continues

Oct. 2, 2:13 p.m. - Officers received a tip that the non-student male who was casuing problems with various parking enforment employees had returned to campus. Officers searched for him in an effort to serve him with that trespass notice when they found him squatting. Officers made contact and arrested him for unlawful entry and trespassing.

Odors of October

Oct. 3, 11:41 p.m. - An RA smelled it in the hallway, believed odor was was coming from a specific room, made contact w the two residents, RA made the students empty their bags and students complied. Officers confiscated the items and the student caught with contraban was referred to student conduct.

For my next trick

An evening with Michael Kent during friends and family week



Photo by: Amelia Reed | Torch Photographer

Michael Kent has been professionally practicing magic for 17 years.

Rebecca Vanderkooi
Opinions Editor

Award winning comedy magician, Michael Kent, returned to Ferris this past week to put on a show for Friends and Family week.

Approximately 150 students and their families attended the Friday evening event held in the Williams Auditorium.

Dominic Parrish, a junior involved with Entertainment Unlimited, the organization who put on the event, explained that Kent has toured at Ferris before, and they were eager to have him back for Friends and Family week.

"We've had [a] good reception from him before, so why not have him again? He's a great magician and all-around great person," Parrish said.

Throughout the hour and a half long show, Kent displayed both his witty sense of humor, similar to a late night talk show, as well as his abilities as a magician all while interacting with the crowd.

Kent called sisters, Tagen and Taryn, up to the stage where he

showcased his self-declared mind reading abilities. He successfully predicted that Tagen was thinking of goldfish crackers and Taryn was thinking of Disney World. He even knew the name of their childhood dog, Onya.

"We didn't talk about it, we didn't say the word or anything like that. We never said it out loud," Taryn, who is a freshman at Ferris, said.

Kent, now 42, has been professionally doing magic and comedy since the age of 25, when he left his marketing job to pursue his dream full time.

"It's just one of those things where I'm passionate about it. So I'm willing to work really hard at it because I'm constantly interested in it," Kent said.

Kent's hard work has brought about success. He won Entertainer of the Year in Campus Activities Magazine in 2014 after being nominated both years before.

Kent has performed in hundreds of colleges and almost every state. One year he went to 40 states. His favorite shows have

been performing overseas for the United States troops.

"They've sent me to some wild places. Places like Seoul, South Korea and Thailand and Tokyo. Places that I may have never been had it not been for magic. The audiences there are super appreciative because they don't get a lot of entertainment choices," Kent said.

Kent ended the show telling the crowd how grateful he is to be back performing and interacting with a crowd after the extended hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I thought I was working hard before, like in 2019. The amount of work that I had to put in last year to learn new skills to learn new tricks every week to do virtual magic was crazy," Kent said.

Kent explained that while many events have been smaller than pre-pandemic times, he's so grateful to be able to feed off the audience's energy once again.

To see upcoming events at Ferris, check out the web calendar on Ferris' website.

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Help Ready for Life



Photo by: Amelia Reed | Torch Photographer

The Ready for Life program aims to provide equal opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities, as well as to make them feel included on campus.

Make a difference in the lives of the program's participants

Becca Witkowski
News Reporter

The Ferris division of the Ready for Life program is looking for student volunteers and employees to assist Ready for Life Academy students in classwork and basic life skills.

The Ready for Life Academy is a program for adults aged 18-26 with an intellectual disability. The program allows these adults to attend college while building the life skills they need to live independently. This is the first year the program has been running at Ferris.

"The Ready for Life students have the same goals as every other Ferris student, [and they share] many common interests with students across campus," Deedee Stakely, the director of the Office of Transfer and Secondary Partnerships, said. "Ferris students may find that getting to know a Ready for Life student just might be the start of a true friendship. All of us are searching for our sense of belonging. The Ready for Life students want to experience that sense of belonging and reciprocal friendship with other Ferris students."

The program is looking for student volunteers and employees to help program participants with schoolwork and independent living skills. Student volunteers would assist with homework and join program participants in on-campus activities and

meals. Student employees would work with participants on life skills such as time management, doing laundry, grocery shopping and others. Student employees must complete training provided by the Ready for Life program.

"There are no specific requirements except for compassion and a desire to learn," Stakely said. "All of the training will be provided and paid for by the program. Experience working or interacting with individuals who have intellectual disabilities is not a requirement."

The Ferris division of the program began after President Eisler learned about it while at an event at Hope College. Stakely says that President Eisler felt that the program aligned with Ferris' values and would be a good addition to the school. Stakely and former Provost Dr. Paul Blake became key stakeholders.

There are currently six students participating in the program. The goal is for the program to allow for there to be ten first year participants and ten second year participants. Participants would be in the program for two years.

"Ready For Life students are truly Ferris students, and as such are entitled to the same resources and services that all students receive or have access to," Stakely said. "In addition, Ferris has provided space for the Ready for Life classroom, established the Ready for Life Advisory Board

and connected the students and staff to programs and services on campus, such as Educational Counseling and Disability Services, Tutoring, CLACs etc. Ferris has provided the same opportunity for the Ready for Life Academy at FSU as any other Ferris student."

The Ready for Life program aims to provide equal opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities, as well as to make them feel included on campus. Participants will ideally make lifelong friendships, build confidence and build maturity. This is in addition to providing participants with the skills necessary for independent living and paid employment. There are additional divisions of the Ready for Life program at Hope College and Calvin University.

"Inclusion occurs when everyone is given the same opportunities, regardless of their differences," Stakely said. "The partnership between Ready for Life and Ferris State University creates an expanded form of inclusion that expands into higher education. Every student at Ferris brings unique experiences and value to the campus community and to higher education... This unique partnership between Ready for Life and Ferris State University provides an opportunity for young adults with intellectual disabilities with an opportunity to live and learn on an inclusive campus where everyone can learn from each other."

More information on the Ready for

Life Academy and its volunteer and employment opportunities can be found on the Ready for Life webpage on the Ferris website. Students can email Sandy Baker at SandraBaker@fsu.edu for information on volunteer opportunities. Students can also email Brittany Gwisdala at BrittanyGwisdala@fsu.edu for information on employment opportunities.

Jess Oakes contributed to the reporting of this article.



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LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

Emily Obermeyer: Confidence is key

Meet the 2021 homecoming ambassador and her time at Ferris

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter

The newest Ferris ambassador is putting a spin on her new role on campus, and it all begins with her confidence.

Taking on the homecoming ambassadorship is an important role with big shoes to fill. It is a position on campus in which everyone knows your name, you represent the ideals of the university, and represent what a well-rounded college student looks like.

Emily Obermeyer was named the 2021 Ferris Homecoming Ambassador at the football game on Sept. 25. She was excited and grateful to have acquired the title after a month-long campaign.

"It was a very humbling moment," Obermeyer said. "To kind of realize how far I've come since my freshman year and how I've been able to accomplish everything I've wanted to by making connections."

Being announced as the ambassador was validating for Obermeyer because it showed that she is able to make a presence on the Ferris campus by reaching out to students and supporting them in their endeavors. Even if she has had just one interaction with them.

According to Obermeyer, it's the 'little things' that make a big impact on someone's life. It's not wanting to change the campus for Obermeyer, instead, it's wanting to help others in having a better day that is most important to her, even if all a person needs is a bit of support.

Obermeyer is ready to support not only the students on campus but the university as well. The homecoming ambassador hosts many university events such as the Torchbearer Awards, held in the springtime to honor students and student organizations that have gone above and beyond every year. The ambassador also collaborates with the organization Entertainment Unlimited, a group that hosts a variety of events on campus each semester including films, comedy shows, and more.

"Anything you need the homecoming ambassador for, she will be there," Obermeyer said. "I will say 'yes' to anything. So, if they asked me, whatever they ask me to do, I'll do it."

Obermeyer likes to describe herself as a 'very outgoing eccentric person' who is ready to take on the next adventure in her life, and she has her student organizations to thank for instilling this confidence. She is currently a part of four RSOs, Women in Cyber Security, Information Security and Intelligence Alliance, Order of Omega, and Ferris State IT Cyber Security Office. She is also a member of the sorority Alpha Sigma Tau.

"I don't think I'd be where I am today, professionally and in personal growth, without any of my organizations," Obermeyer said. "My confidence has improved a ton. I feel like coming from my freshman year I was a lot more hesitant to show my full colors and exactly who I was, but at this point, I am so confident in myself I know there is so much waiting for me beyond college and I can



Photo by: Amelia Reed | Torch Photographer

Emily Obermeyer would describe herself as an outgoing, eccentric person.

go out there and get it because I already have all the tools I need from all these organizations."

"I have so much relevant experience from being in these organizations and being in leadership positions," Obermeyer said. "Having to make hard decisions, have hard conversations when it comes to business things, having to stay organized on top of deadlines. Alongside my other organizations, my family, I've been able to balance all those things and it made me realize how I can prioritize myself as well and what I love to do and school all at once."

A lot of growth can happen over the course of just one year of being involved in so many groups as Obermeyer has, but the payoff is worth it. Currently, Obermeyer holds an internship at ViacomCBS where she works on the social media aspect of productions.

Just before she obtained her Viacom internship, Obermeyer was losing faith she would actually find one. Her sister encouraged her to continue applying to different companies, knowing she had the skills to find the right position. And

just like that, after a blind application and two interviews, Obermeyer was able to successfully get her dream internship.

"It's so ridiculously up my alley," Obermeyer said. "What I'm doing and what I get to work on, I love it, it's so cool. I think what makes me so happy with it is that I get to talk to people all day. People from all over the company and the world, which is insane. It has been absolutely incredible being able to get that exposure to work and internationally even."

Obermeyer is a current senior majoring in Information Security and Intelligence, which is a relatively male-dominated field. Jumping into this public position as ambassador she hopes that other girls, of all majors, can look up to her as a role model and encourage them to have confidence in themselves going into what they are passionate about.

"No matter your major, you don't have to fit into one certain mold just because you think that's what people expect from you," Obermeyer said. "Just keep being true to who you are and don't minimize any part of yourself in order to fit in a

bowl you think people want. The more true to yourself the more doors will stay open."

Had it not been for the influence of close friends and her leadership experience in her organizations, Obermeyer would not have been able to show as much of her true self as she does now nor reach for what she truly wants.

"It's been absolutely amazing and beyond what I thought I could have achieved in my time at Ferris," Obermeyer said. "Advice I would give, the biggest piece of advice I would give to anyone at Ferris is if you're thinking about doing something, do it. You are here for a limited amount of time and once you are out of college you don't get that time back. You don't want to regret anything, so go for everything, dive in headfirst."

In Obermeyers' case, confidence has really been the key all along. She hopes that others will take on her advice, challenge themselves, and make some memories while they are still on campus.

Media Minute

Grey's Anatomy season 18, is this the beginning of the end?



Photo provided by: | Getty Images

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

This article will contain spoilers for season 18 episode one of Grey's Anatomy. Consider yourself warned.

I have been counting down the seconds until season 18 premiered and, cutting directly to the chase, I was underwhelmed. This was a good premier, however, you don't need to "brace yourself for one heck of a return" like the promo material suggests.

There was a lot of good to be had here, starting right at the top with the card they displayed.

"This season, Grey's Anatomy portrays a fictional, post-pandemic world which represents our hopes for the future. In real life, the pandemic is still ravaging the community. Get the latest information on how to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19 at getvaccineanswers.org."

I was floored to learn that the show had put the pandemic in the rear-view mirror. Don't get me wrong, season 17 had some powerful scenes in it that brought me to tears, however, I didn't want it to drag on. This show is America's Thursday night escape and honestly, one season of the pandemic on my TV was more than enough.

Then we move to the opener, how strange that was. I get what the episode's writer, Meg Marinis is going for conceptually by bringing back Kate Burton's Ellis Grey, however, I feel like the angle has just been done to death. Oh, Ellis comes to Meredith in a dream? Is it seasons three through 14 again? My question is just why? They could have achieved the same plot with some general narration instead of dragging back this dead angle.

They don't even need to say it, Maggie is pregnant. They wouldn't lay a sex injury on so thick if it wasn't about to be a whole pregnancy. This also tracks as Kelly McCreary is pregnant in real life and I don't think they want to hide it for an entire season. Furthermore, it gives Magston a reason to have screen time going forward. Frankly, this was the only reason they made it screen this episode, so this is all I'm going to say about them.

Moving right along to Owen 2.0 or Amelink. I audibly and aggressively groaned when these two started to

fight a whole two seconds after they appeared onscreen. When this relationship began, neither one was interested in marriage and that was okay for them, but right about the time our hearts were shattered by season 16 episode 16 "Leave a Light On", Link was more than ready to get married, conveniently blowing up his relationship right as Jo becomes single.

Krista Vernoff, the Grey's Anatomy showrunner, if you are somehow reading this, please, for the love that is all that is sacred, do not make this a love triangle in the show. Either let Link and Amelia be happy or break it off. Neither Amelia nor Jo deserves to be put in this situation, not after all they have been through.

However, to wrap up Amelink, I am incredibly proud of Amelia for standing up for herself and not getting sucked up into a man's orbit as she did with Owen. She knows marriage isn't right for her and she's not allowing herself to be put back into a bad place.

Oh Minnesota, why? Another weird angle. I know they need to liven things up in this show but where did the continuity go? At the end of season 17, Meredith took over as residency director at the request of Webber and Bailey, so I'm really confused why the show is pushing her in this Minnesota direction. Episode two promos (which I'll touch on more later) indicate that this is going to be an ongoing storyline and the promo has Webber doing resident training things that we assumed would be Meredith's job.

Thankfully, there are still likely 23 to 25 episodes left in the season, and this Minnesota thing could evaporate quickly. We could see Meredith back in her new position and I hope we do. However, they may just be trying to make us forget she ever got the job because, at the end of the episode, Webber is pledging to make the residents better.

Not to say that I don't like Peter Gallagher's Dr. David Hamilton because I do, Gallagher is a very charming actor, it just feels very forced plot-wise. I also don't want them to try and create a Pac North situation where they are splitting the show between multiple hospitals. It would be quite annoying.

Proceeding to the next main story, the Towne wedding. This better be it

for them. Everything has gone wrong so many times, including today, with their priest getting struck by a tandem bike. While they do end up getting married at the end of the episode, that's not before we casually hear about the implosion of the end-game relationship of Owen's sister Megan and best friend Nathan Riggs.

The vibes were off in this entire storyline. Teddy seemed skittish the entire time like she did another awful thing we have just yet to learn about, Megan's break up and then something I found very strange was that Farouk just magically lost his accent? I know he's on the younger side, but if we're to believe that Megan has been living in America ever since she and Riggs rode off into the sunset, I just have a hard time believing that he lost his thick season 14 accent in like four years. Also, the whole tutu comment from Owen's mom to Leo was just weird and unnecessary.

I really hope that this is the end game and Teddy, and Owen will stay together and just live happily ever after, but this is Grey's Anatomy and we do not live in a perfect world.

Continuing along to Jo and Luna, this was honestly just above the Magston storyline in terms of depth. Jo is struggling as a single mother; she doesn't want to leave Luna at daycare because she doesn't want her to feel abandoned. There, now you can skip every Jo scene in the episode. I don't mean for this to come off negative because I like Jo, she just got virtually no screen time.

Finishing up Meredith, we get the transplant surgeon. *yawn* This was a Leah Murphy-style over-hyped return. He is a fine character, there just wasn't any need in my eyes to bring in what I assume is yet ANOTHER series regular when there are already so many avenues they could send Meredith down for love. He and Meredith have decent chemistry; however, I am not going to bother learning his name until he graces our screens a few more times.

Rounding out the episode's storylines, (hopefully) new hire Dr. Lin. I already like her! We have yet to have a female plastics chief and I think it's about dang time. She's headstrong but not in an arrogant way and she seems like she'll be a good teacher when it comes down to it.

Overall, I think this was a good episode, however it felt like the premier of the 18th season of a show. It doesn't compare to Grey's premiers like "Time Has Come Today" (3x1) or "With You I'm Born Again" (7x1) or "Going, Going, gone" (9x1) or even "Break the House Down" (14x1). Some of these come off banging finales, I know, but I just felt underwhelmed.

Especially after I found out what could have been. Apparently, according to leaks, there were two versions of this premier, the one we got where the transplant surgeon is our surprise return and the one we didn't get where Justin Chambers' Alex Karev was supposed to come back.

I was heartbroken when Alex left and honestly a return would have made for some good TV because it was drugged up so much. Jo would have to face him; he would have to face Meredith and the other people he left behind and it just would have kept me on the edge of my seat.

Furthermore, if Alex came back, there wouldn't be a need for the transplant surgeon to come back and Merhayes wouldn't have had to have their weird off-screen relationship and breakup and we may have been able to see them happy on screen.

Finally, as much as this pains me to say, I believe this is going to be the last season of the show. There were a lot of parallels between this episode and the pilot episode. For instance, Meredith was wearing the same shirt she had worn in the pilot episode. Also, some of the dialogue she said in her opening narration was from Webber's speech on her first day and some of the dialogue she exchanged with the transplant surgeon was eerily like dialogue she exchanged with Derrick in the pilot.

This could just be them trying to revitalize the show and bring back some of the magic of the MAGIC days, but there were just one too many details for me to think this is just revitalization. I am hopeful that this will be a good season as the promo for episode two looks very promising. It seems like the residents will finally get more screen time and we will find out more about the Minnesota research lab being offered to Meredith.

Whistle and stripes and everything nice



Photo by: Cassie Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Ry started out officiating football but moved to women's lacrosse since he grew up around the sport and then later moved to basketball.

The journey of a young referee

Giuliana Denicolo
Freelance Reporter

Ry Rodriguez worked at the Torch from 2019-2021 as a reporter and news editor.

As a child, thinking of what you are going to be when you grow up is the best thought. As a teenager, it becomes scary. But for some, they know at a young age what their calling is, and they work hard for that dream to become reality.

Ry Rodriguez is a junior at Ferris studying criminal justice law enforcement. He is a former employee of the Torch and recently stepped down from an intramurals referee to focus on other opportunities. Aside from these on-campus jobs, he has had many other crazy opportunities that are hard to find at such a young age.

Rodriguez was a football player and decided after one too many concussions that he no longer wanted to get hurt. In order for him to still be involved with sports, he started officiating at the age of fifteen. Football was the one and only sport he officiated, until later when he realized he wanted to take on more. His first mentor was his dad's best friend,

who helped him begin this journey.

"Really, you're just thrown in the job," Rodriguez said. "And then it's kind of your responsibility to have that mentor to show you how to do everything."

After a while of just officiating football, he decided to expand to women's lacrosse. He grew up around this sport and already knew the rules. Nonetheless, he enjoyed it and thought it would be fun to put two things that he loved together. He later added basketball to the list to be his winter job.

He was considered the youngest official to ref a playoffs game and a varsity sport. In the past, he worked at CMU and GVSU and will be making a full transition from a high school official to NCAA this year.

In a few weeks, Rodriguez will be attending transitional camp and then will be working at Sienna Heights later this year. Going onto six years of officiating in MHSAA, Rodriguez was elected the secretary of Woman's Lacrosse Officials of Michigan back in March 2021.

"[Officiating is] a lot of training... It's not just like it comes easy," Rodriguez said. "I've had more than 150 games under my belt. More than probably 500 hours of training because no matter what tournament I go to, there's got to

be some type of training attached to it."

When Rodriguez came to Ferris, the assistant director at the time was impressed with his resume and believed he was overqualified for the job at the Recreational Center. With that, he was hired as an intramural sports official. In his second semester of college, he was promoted to the supervisor position.

"I definitely felt like I had imposter syndrome, but at that time, I also felt like I can train other people the right way to be an official and everything else," Rodriguez said. "But yeah, I didn't feel like I [deserved to be there] because I was so young."

Rodriguez has officiated for middle school, high school, college, and even elementary schools. He finds this job enjoyable because it comes easy to him, and he feels as though he is giving back to the community. He wants to give people their first good experience with a good official so that they can enjoy the sport they are playing and their referee of that game.

"I met these triplets down in Indiana... [their] dad was the most supportive of all three of them," Rodriguez said. "It's just fun to see those moments because it brightens up your day."

Rodriguez encountered a lot of negativities throughout these experiences. At games, parents and players would get mad at the calls he made or did not make.

"At the end of the day, someone has to lose," Rodriguez said. "And I'm not there to make someone lose, I'm there to keep the game safe."

After some games, he felt poorly because he knew he did not perform to his full abilities. The job is hard and stressful because he is constantly having to make split-second decisions, and at any time can get yelled at for doing his job.

It's easy to take what people say personally. Regardless, he ignored the negativity and continued to be confident in his calls and stay objective.

"Some people need to understand that they're yelling just at your stripes," Rodriguez said.

He thinks it would be cool to pursue officiating as a career, but at a certain point, he feels it is unnecessary. He still enjoys the job and wants to continue to give back to his community.

Rodriguez's passion and hard work paid off because he got to experience so much at such a young age. He went for what he wanted and succeeded greatly.



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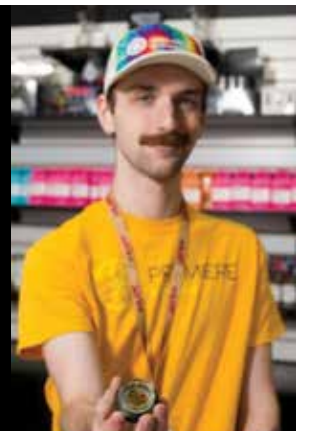


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Rebecca VanderKooi | Opinions Editor | vandr122@ferris.edu

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Bubba Wallace

By Brendan Sanders

Motorsports has always been a part of my life, I've written about it before when talking about being a part of a team.

I started watching the sport of NASCAR when I was 7 years old. My families flight had been postponed leaving Texas. and little 1st grade me was flipping through the channels. I found this sport where drivers were driving race cars at unimaginable speeds, crashing, spinning, hitting each other. It was something I had never seen before. After that first race, I was addicted. It was the first sport I ever watched. Before football, before basketball, before anything else, I watched NASCAR. That first race saw Matt Kenseth in the black and yellow #17 car win the race. He became my favorite driver, through thick and thin for 13 years. As it became ever apparent that he was growing old and going to retire, I needed to find a new driver.

Enter Darrell "Bubba" Wallace Jr. Bubba Wallace was the first African-American driver to win in NASCAR's top three national series in 50 years when he won a truck series race at Martinsville. He then went to drive in the #2 NASCAR series for Roush-Fenway Racing. He was good, though tended to damage the car a lot and didn't have the funding of other drivers. This led to the #6 team shutting down. I was annoyed, because I knew he had talent.

Wallace first really made waves for me when he was so open about his mental health. One race weekend, he came into a press conference visibly off and talked openly about his recent battles with depression and some of the other mental health

issues he had been battling. This was what really drew me to him. Not a single driver had previously talked openly about their mental health. They always hid behind a smile and their sponsors. He's been a leader in that regard, with multiple other drivers talking about their mental health since he first opened up.

Still, Bubba Wallace was heading towards an OK career in NASCAR. He was a top 20 driver, but the equipment he was in was lackluster. Then 2020 happened. With the Black Lives Matter movement and a well publicized noose/pull loop incident at Talladega Superspeedway, Wallace became one of NASCAR's most influential drivers. The day after the incident at Talladega, the entire Cup garage rallied around the driver, showing support for their competitor. Wallace went through a lot, with people saying that he lied to everyone to create a story with the Talladega incident. Though he wasn't even the one who reported the garage rope. With a fanbase rooted in the deep south, there was a lot of disgusting things spoken about Wallace on many different platforms. Still, he pushed on.

With everything that happened, he was able to get sponsors and became one of the biggest names in the sport. This stardom allowed him to join forces with star driver Denny Hamlin and NBA legend Michael Jordan to drive the #23 car for the newly formed 23XI Racing team. The season has had many ups and downs.

Everything culminated into a race this past Monday. At the track where last years inci-

dent happened, where all the drivers rallied around him, his home track: Talladega.

With rain threatening, the driver of the #23 McDonald's car rode the high line to the front of the field, before blocking every possible attack that he could. The laps dragged on for what seemed like hours as each line of cars made a run for the lead as rain began to fall. Finally, the inevitable crash happened, and Bubba Wallace was out front.

The rain came, and it poured. Soon enough, Bubba Wallace was declared the winner. He was now the first African-American driver to win at NASCAR's top level since Wendell Scott in 1963. A time where Scott wasn't given a trophy, or even recognized as the winner due to his skin color. Bubba Wallace will be getting the trophy. He'll be getting all the recognition he deserves as a NASCAR Cup Series winner.

When he got out of the car, over ten drivers were there to congratulate him. The politics didn't matter, heck, even the driver who ran the Trump car last year was congratulating him. It showed the camaraderie that goes on within a sport such as this.

Part of NASCAR's growth relies on it's ability to diversify. Hopefully Bubba Wallace is the first of a new generation of Cup Series drivers where a more diverse group of people are competing for wins. Currently, Hailie Deegan is the only woman with a real chance to drive in the Cup series, and beyond Wallace, there isn't another African-American driver in the top three serie's. My hope is that kids will see Wallace's win and want to continue to grow the sport I love.

Time to be transparent

The university should be crystal clear about what their possible plans are if COVID-19 cases get too high

Charles Buckle
Lifestyles Reporter

Classes have been back in session for over a month now, and so far fully in-person learning has been seemingly successful. But what happens if, or when, COVID-19 cases become a problem again?

When you look at the university's COVID-19 dashboard, you can see the number of cases active on campus, how many are new and how many we've had since the pandemic began. There's also various information about certain COVID protocols, like mask-wearing and testing.

What there isn't, however, is a plan for what happens if the pandemic gets out of hand again.

As a student, it is a bit concerning that Ferris has not been completely transparent about their plan, considering what happens with an increased number of cases. It's something that we, as students, should know because it affects our education. An

education we're giving the school money to provide.

It is not unreasonable for us as to want to know how our classes are going to progress if we enter into a time of stricter regulations. I've had professors take the time to explain what the university wants to do to classes if cases get too high again, but even they did not want to say too much.

As far as we students know, the plan is to split physical classes into two groups, one group in the classroom with the teacher, and the other in a separate room watching the rest of the class. A plan that was not very popular with my classmates and I.

The issue here is not the potentially inefficient plan of action; it is that the administration didn't bring it upon themselves to actually notify students of the plan, which affects them more than anyone else.

Why are students left in the dark about what could happen to classes in the future when the university should be clear so we can prepare for all the possibilities?

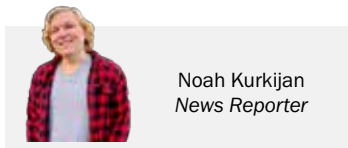
We should be notified of what the benchmark number of cases is that would entail a change in the teaching process, so we can do our best to not reach that number. We should also be told of the actual plan that Ferris has when it comes to COVID-19, that way, if it comes down to it, students are not blindsided by a sudden change in learning.

I understand wanting to be cautious about what students do and do not know about administrative plans, but when those plans could directly affect the lives of the students on campus, decisions should be shared with students.

We have already received updates from the Dean of Student Life that tell us that we need to wear masks, do the symptom checker, report positive results and promote vaccine confidence. So maybe, just maybe, it wouldn't kill them to let us know what is happening with the possible future of our education.

I built a champagne smart home on a beer money budget

Nine smart speakers and displays, 33 smart bulbs and plugs, less than \$500 spent.



I have been dreaming of having a smart home since I was 12 years old. Now, it's finally my reality. There's a pretty common misconception that to build a smart home, you need to be using Apple HomeKit and buy all of the brand name products to have a successful smart home experience. In fact, that's one of the worst ways to do it.

I went down the Google Home track. It's compatible with a huge range of devices, the voice commands are natural, the assistant is very good with general knowledge questions and the app is a whole heck of a lot more intuitive than the Alexa app.

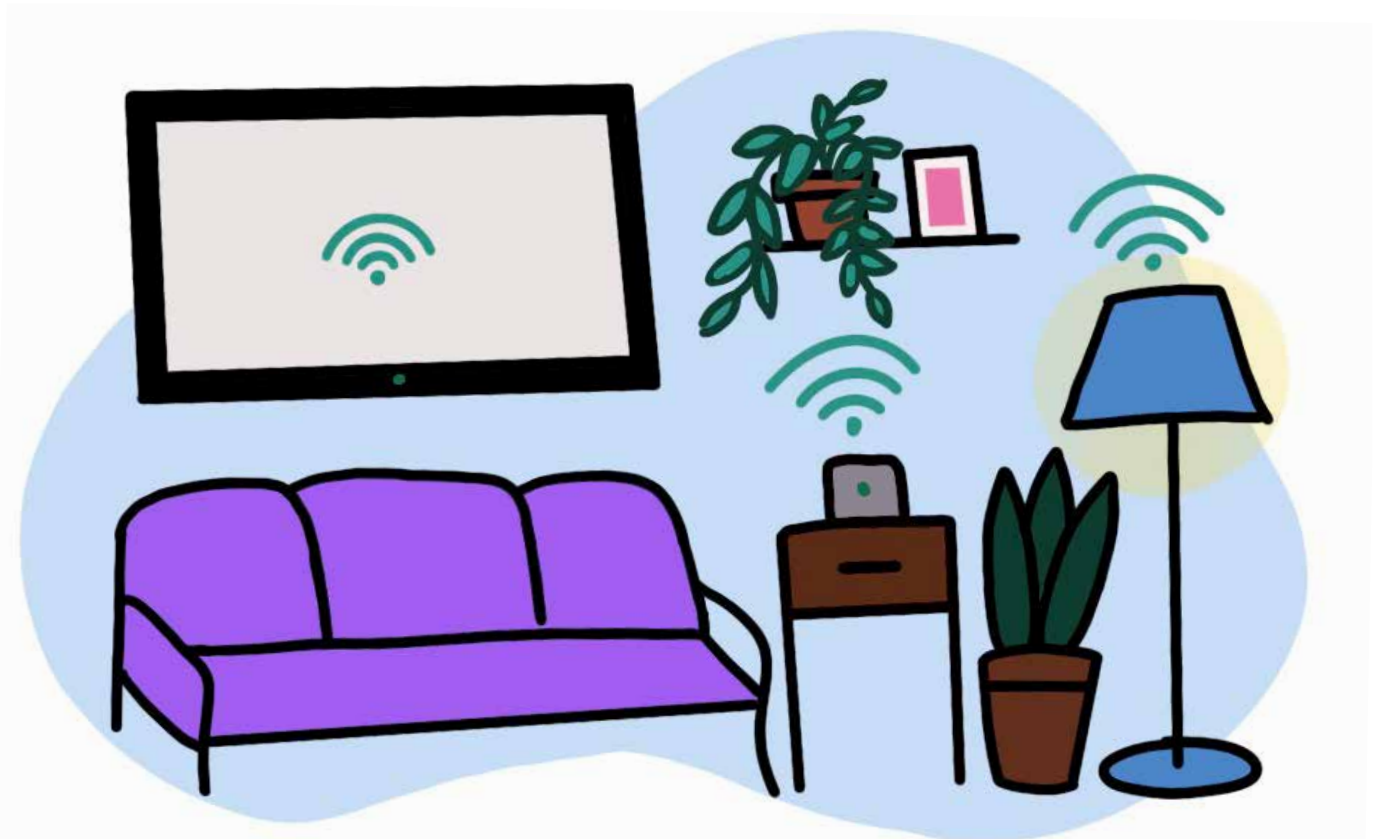
As for bulbs, I was a lot less worried about the brand of bulb than the app that the bulb works with. While some bulbs, like Phillips Hue, have their bulb, their app and all of the smart home integration handled all by one company: Phillips. The system I chose was a no-name bulb company that utilized a standard Wi-Fi bulb format and the standard catch-all app: Smart Life.

This approach does not limit me for the future, either. Because this app is quite open-source, I can add things as I need them. For instance, I eventually want to install smart light switches. This will negate the issue of the light not being controllable remotely when the switch is off. I also want to install smart water sensors so I can be notified if my basement starts to flood and smart gas sensors to be notified of a gas leak.

All of these things can come in time because of the Smart Life platform I chose. All of these things can be added as you go, nothing is set in stone.

I also don't need to have my phone littered with apps to manage my smart home. Google Home for the speakers, displays and TVs, Ring for the doorbell (which we'll touch on later) and Smart Life for everything else.

Getting down to brass tax, what this all cost me. Smart speakers and displays are a dime a dozen these days. So many people get them for free on a daily basis that eBay collects them like an unkept field



Graphic by: | Sienna Parmelee

keeps dandelions. You can consistently get three packs of the Google Home Minis or Nest Minis for the price of one, or pick one up by itself for 60% off. In terms of the displays, most stores have these on sale quite consistently. I picked my first Nest Hub display up at WalMart for 50% off, and then displays two and three on eBay for 70% off each.

These speakers are kind of like cable boxes in a way, there isn't a whole lot that can wrong with them over time. They sit in one location, rarely touched and remotely interacted with and there's no battery to degrade. The only thing that happens is newer generations just get faster and more features. Since the old ones don't really "break", building a smart home on a budget is that much easier.

In terms of bulbs, honestly, I just picked bulbs that were compatible with the Google Assistant and my bulb sockets. They turned out to be "Smart WiFi Light Bulbs" by EVER Lighting. A four pack was just under \$20, and I needed 24 to light my entire apartment. All in all, 24 off brand bulbs cost

me just about \$120 whereas if I went with Phillips Hue, lighting my home would have cost me a mind boggling \$1,200. Quite literally 10 times more expensive.

The smart plugs were the same exact story. Same company, same pricing model, I needed eight, so that ran me just about \$35.

Finally, my doorbell was the only outlier. I ended up going with Ring, even though it's quite incompatible with my smart home. It still works, I just don't get to enjoy features like seeing the camera preview on my smart displays and TVs. However, I chose Ring because of the style of bell they offered.

Instead of having to presently mount a doorbell on my rental, I was able to take out my peep hole and just slide the doorbell right in. This adds an extra layer of security while allowing us to communicate with people even while we're not at home.

My grand total for my hodge-podge smart home came to just under \$500. If I built this on a standardized platform like Apple HomeKit, it would have cost me a

mind-bending \$3,000 to achieve a similar, yet feature-stripped set-up with less flexibility and a more complicated bridge hub setup.

While my setup is by no means perfect, the occasional bulb may need a second to rejoin the network or the wrong Google Home will hear your command and then not be able to contextualize it, it works for me.

That's the beauty of the way I went. I can build my smart home just for me. You may just want bulbs that can be different temperatures of white and not need a video doorbell because you live in a locked building. Sweet, your entire set up just got cheaper because you don't need bulbs that can handle all color or a doorbell. Oh, you already have a fire stick and some Echoes, sweet, that'll still work.

While it may take a little more research to determine compatibility, building your own smart home can be incredibly fun and affordable.



TUNE IN TO OUR WEEKLY PODCAST WITH **MARISSA RUSSELL**

The Torchcast can be found on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel

SPORTS

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

Bulldogs split opening series



Photo by Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

The Bulldogs split their season opening series against Miami (Ohio).

Ferris begins season 1-1 after weekend series with Miami (Ohio)

D'Andre Head
Freelance Reporter

In just two games to begin the 2021-2022 season, Ferris hockey matched their win total from a season ago.

Following a 1-23-1 campaign in 2020-2021, the Bulldogs started this season on the right foot. Ferris followed up an opening night loss on Saturday, Oct. 2 against Miami of Ohio with an overtime win against the RedHawks Sunday, Oct. 3.

Head coach Bob Daniels spoke on getting a win early in the season following an opening night loss.

"I was proud today," Daniels said. "Yesterday we had a two goal lead and were not able to drive that home. Tonight we were down a goal twice and came back to take the lead."

On Saturday, the Bulldogs played an intense first period with the RedHawks. Ferris scored first when senior forward Jake Transit scored an unassisted shorthanded goal early in the first period. The RedHawks scored the next goal, and sophomore forward Antonio Venuto answered back with the Bulldogs' second goal of the game.

Miami scored again, followed by two more Bulldog goals in the first period. Senior forward Marshall Moise and sophomore defenseman Sam Skinner recorded the two Bulldog goals, giving them a 4-2 lead after the first period.

Miami outscored the Bulldogs 4-0 in a momentous second period. The RedHawks capitalized on a turnover behind the net at 02:34, leading to a series of consecutive unanswered goals for Miami. The RedHawks finished off at the 19:45 mark with a goal on a power play. Miami took a 6-4 lead into the final period.

"Our first period was good," Daniels said. "We scored four goals consisting of every kind, with a penalty shot, shorthanded goal, power play and a 5-on-5. In the second period, we got beat to the loose pucks and fell behind. They were more physical and hungrier around both goals. Them getting four unanswered goals is the story."

The remaining third period would not see a goal until the RedHawks capitalized with an insurance goal on the empty net in the final few seconds of the game. The Bulldogs ended with a final score of 4-7 loss to the Miami RedHawks.

Ferris State won the battle for shots on goal 30-22, while Miami had 3-6 on the power play. Sophomore goaltender Logan Stein made 15 saves in the loss. Venuto became the first Bulldog to score a penalty shot since Gerald Mayhew against Minnesota State on March 19, 2016.

In Sunday's game, Ferris came out on top of an overtime game 4-3. The RedHawks scored a goal at 2:42 to take the quick lead in the game. Sophomore forward Mitch Deelstra answered back with a goal front of the net off assists from sophomore forward Stepan Pokorny and freshman forward Kaleb Ergang.

In a scoreless second period, Stein prevailed for the Bulldogs making 12 stops, including several vital shorthanded saves to keep the Bulldogs 2-1 going into the third period.

In the third period, Venuto forced a one-time goal to even the game at 2-2. Freshman forward Bradley Marek gave the Bulldogs a 3-2 lead just over 1:30 to play in the game. However, the RedHawks managed to tie the game with just 60 seconds remaining on the clock with their goalie pulled.

In overtime, Pokorny scored a shorthand-

ed game-winning goal to give the Bulldogs a 4-3 win over the RedHawks.

"I just shot on the net and tried to get a draw down in their zone," Pokorny said. "It kind of just bounced to me and I was able to score it. It was great to get a win. We want to keep winning."

Stein, who recorded 27 saves and his first collegiate victory, felt his team played much better in their second game of the season.

"This game was a much better game from our perspective," Stein said. "We won the special team battle and had a solid 60 plus minute effort. As a group we are just taking this season step by step. We want to improve everywhere and keep trying to constantly go out there together as a better team."

Ferris won the shots battle for the second straight night going 33 to 30.

Ferris will hit the road to take on the Western Michigan Broncos in the first away game of the year Friday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. The Broncos will then visit Ewingleben Ice Arena on Saturday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. to conclude the weekend.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Football

Oct. 2 - Ferris 67, Northwood 25

Men's Cross Country

Oct. 1 - 12th place at Lansing Invitational

Men's Cross Country

Oct. 2 - 19th place in 8K Blue Division at Greater Louisville Classic

There's no place like home

Ferris soccer returns home after three weeks of away games



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

Pia Nagel makes a play in the Bulldogs' home victory over Davenport.

Joe Nagy
Freelance Reporter

One of the largest crowds in Ferris soccer history welcomed the Bulldogs back home after five straight away games.

The nationally 11th ranked Bulldogs extended their win streak to seven with a win against Davenport on Friday, Oct. 1. The match was physical from the start, totaling 37 fouls, but that did not stop the Bulldogs from netting four goals. Despite the tough competition, Ferris kept their foot on the gas for all 90 minutes.

Late in the first half (43:10), Ferris opened the scoring with a ball crossed into the box from senior forward Pia Nagel, which was shot into the back of the net by junior forward Payton Price. The goal marked Price's fourth of the season, and Nagel's second assist so far this year.

The Bulldogs pressured the Davenport defense early in the second half, but the Panthers held off the Bulldog's efforts. Then the floodgates opened when Nagel received a long pass from senior defender Maddie Dickens and beat the Panther's goalie Samantha Beckles. She slotted the shot to give the Bulldog's a 2-0 lead in the 72nd minute.

Coach Greg Henson knew his team needed to capitalize in the second half.

"We had a lot of chances, but everything was hitting the big net and nothing hitting the target," Henson said. "We had to make their goalkeeper make saves. We were able to do that in the second half, and that's why the scoreline changed the way it did."

Senior midfielder Bri Rogers continued the scoring with a penalty kick (74:36). The penalty was drawn by junior forward Isabella Zamborini, who was taken down just inside the box. Rogers got the call and added to her school record with a total of 10 successful career penalty kicks.

To close out the scoring, Nagel roped a left-footed curl into the top left corner from 20 yards out after sophomore forward Sydney Stones gave her a pass up the side of the field. The goal marked Nagel's sixth goal so far this season and puts her fifth on the all-time scoring list in program history with 33 goals.

Nagel talked about her mindset when she scored.

"You can't plan something like that," Nagel said. "I just turned and didn't see a good option so I thought why not? Time to take some risks."

She also mentioned how the on-field relationship between her and her teammates

has given her continued success.

"I just try to be a good teammate every game," Nagel said. "For my teammates, set them up for success so that they can set me up for success."

The game also served as a tribute to newly retired Athletic Director Perk Weisenberger. Weisenberger, who helped Ferris Athletics achieve historic success over the past 11 years, is retiring from over 40 years of high-level intercollegiate achievements.

The Bulldogs made sure to give the big crowd a great game to watch, outshooting

the Panthers 22-9. They once again made freshman goalkeeper Darya Mossalaei's job easy, only allowing 3 shots on goal.

Ferris also competed on Sunday, Oct. 3. They visited the nationally first ranked Grand Valley and tied 2-2. After the two games over the weekend, Ferris's record sits at 7-1-1 (4-0-1 GLIAC).

The Bulldogs will host two more home games this weekend, starting when Michigan Tech visits on Friday, Oct. 8 at 4 p.m. Then, Saginaw Valley State will come to Big Rapids Sunday, Oct. 10 at 1 p.m.



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Women's Cross Country

Oct. 1 - 8th place at Lansing Invitational

Women's Cross Country

Oct. 2 - 9th place in 5K Blue Division at Greater Louisville Classic

Soccer

Oct. 1 - Ferris 4, Davenport 0
Oct. 3 - Ferris 2, Grand Valley 2

Volleyball

Oct. 1 - Ferris 3, Purdue Northwest 0
Oct. 3 - Ferris 3, Wisconsin-Parkside 0

Volleyball stays hot

Bulldogs collect two weekend wins to extend GLIAC win streak

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

Ferris added two more conference victories over the weekend against GLIAC opponents Purdue Northwest and Wisconsin-Parkside. They swept both teams in three sets.

In Friday's opening home match, the Bulldogs wasted no time to set the tone. Head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm's squad took an early 12-1 lead, thanks to seven aces.

"Our game plan was to establish velocity with our serves," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "We did it very early and I thought it put [Purdue Northwest] on their heels a little bit."

Ferris finished the set winning 25-6, their largest set win since Sep. 11 against Southeastern Oklahoma (25-9). While the Pride fought back in set two by limiting errors early, they were unable to slow the Bulldog offense. Senior outside hitter Katie O'Connell and freshman outside hitter Claire Nowicki combined for 10 of the Bulldogs' 18 set kills

to win 25-14.

Ferris took control of set three and cruised to a 25-8 win, winning the match 3-0. Nowicki led the Bulldogs with 10 kills, followed by sophomore middle hitter Kira Merkle (9) and O'Connell (6). Merkle also added four of Ferris' 10 aces in the game while freshman setter Kaylee Maat recorded 36 assists and senior middle hitter Samantha Hermann added four block assists. Junior libero Brooke Norder and senior libero Nina Gorgijevska led the back row having 12 and 14 digs, respectively.

"We played a great game," Norder said. "Our energy has been upbeat and we've been following the scouting report well."

Sunday's home match against Wisconsin-Parkside began similar to Friday. The Bulldogs unloaded with their most efficient offensive set of the season, scoring a hit percentage of 47.8%. They only needed 28 points to win the opening set 25-3, breaking their previous season-best from two days earlier.

"Our serves came out right away with velocity," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "We wanted to force them into some uncomfortable situations."

Ferris did cool down slightly in set number two but were able to capitalize on nine Ranger errors to win the second set 25-18. The final set turned into the most back-and-forth period of the match, where Ferris trailed 12-11 midway through. The Bulldogs responded by scoring nine of the next ten points, giving them the eight-point cushion that would seal the win 25-17.

"Parkside has a really potent, aggressive offense," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "We tried to pull them off the net as much as we could."

Ferris moved to 9-4 on the season and 4-2 in GLIAC play with the victories over the weekend. The Bulldogs will look to continue their winning streak at Saginaw Valley State on Friday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. and at Wayne State on Saturday, Oct. 9 at 2 p.m.



Photo by Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

The Bulldogs have won four straight GLIAC matchups.

GROUPE BENETEAU



ENJOY THE BOATING LIFE AND JOIN A LEADER IN THE MARINE INDUSTRY!

Groupe Beneteau - Cadillac, Michigan

PLANT CONTROLLER

PGroupe Beneteau – Cadillac, MI Operations is seeking an experienced Plant Controller to join the finance team. A successful candidate will possess the following experience and qualifications:

- Monthly Financial Reporting – including Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow
- Financial analysis, and key metrics reporting
- Leadership of day-to-day accounting functions
- Annual budget process and quarterly forecasting
- Prepare financial presentations for management
- Assist with mid-year and year-end audit requirements
- Interface with French Corporate office as needed
- Ensure compliance with internal controls

Qualifications

- 4 year Accounting or Finance degree required, CPA or CMA a plus
- Advanced skills in Microsoft Excel is required
- Previous work experience in a manufacturing environment and ERP systems are preferred
- Minimum 5 -10 years' experience
- Strong analytical abilities
- Excellent communication skills and detail oriented

MARINE DRAFTER

Create part drawings, production manuals and part books for all product changes and new models of recreational powerboats. Associates Degree in Drafting or Mechanical Design. Fluency in Creo or similar 3D CAD software.

We are looking for a motivated, self-starter with excellent communication skills. The candidate must have a strong commitment to quality and customer service, flexibility with schedule /task assignment and be able to support and work in a team environment.

Competitive compensation and benefits package based on candidate qualifications.

Candidates should respond with a resume and salary history to:

k.cater@beneteau-group.com

or

Rec Boat Holdings, 925 Frisbie Street, Cadillac, MI 49601

ATTN: Human Resources Department EEO/MF