

Charges filed in the Mehler v. Ferris case

The jury trial is taking place March 7

Rebecca VanderKooi
Opinions Editor

On Wednesday, Jan. 25 four counts were filed in the Barry Mehler v. Ferris State University case after Mehler's class introduction video went viral, leading to his suspension.

Mehler's attorney, Matthew Hoffer is claiming that Ferris violated Mehler's First and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

Hoffer provided the Torch with a copy of the documents that were filed.

The case is officially Mehler v. David L. Eisler individually and in his official capacity as the president of Ferris; Randy Cagle, individually and in his official capacity as the Dean of Ferris State College of Arts and Sciences, Ferris state's board of trustees, and Anna P. Seibold, Anna L. Ramirez-Saenz, Rupesh K. Srivastava, LaShanda R. Thomas, George K. Heartwell, Kurt A Hofman and Ronald E. Snead, in their official capacities as the Trustees of Ferris State University's board of trustees

"The process is unconstitutional and is aimed at suppressing speech and we're hoping the court will just strike this whole thing down and [Ferris] will never ever be able to do this to anyone ever again,"

-Dr. Berry Mehler

The document outlined Mehler's history as a professor at Ferris for over 30 years and included information about his teaching method.

It also referenced numerous past court cases that are relevant to this current case including the Snyder v. Phelps

case and Cohen v. California. These cases were used these cases to claim that the video's profanity does not cause it to lose its First Amendment protections.

"Criticizing the government, or in this case, FSU and the administration, including Defendants Eisler and Cagle, is a protected activity under the First Amendment," the document said.

The four counts that have been filed claim Ferris violated Mehler's First and Fourteenth Amendment Rights specifically regarding academic freedom and the right to free speech.

In the initial hearing, Mehler had hoped U.S. District Judge Jane Beckering would immediately allow him back into the classroom, however, that request was denied. Mehler had also requested an immediate temporary restraining order but Judge Bickering found it was not justified.

After that, the goal became to go to trial as soon as possible because Mehler is hoping to get back to teaching this semester.

"We got a four-page letter from the court, which clearly demonstrated that the judge read over all the materials and understood exactly what was going on. And the point was, she wanted us in the court as soon as possible," Mehler said.

The civil action case is going to be a jury trial taking place on March 7.

In court Mehler is requesting reinstatement of his position as a tenured professor, reinstatement of his 2022 spring semester term classes' Canvas pages, restoration of his faculty bio page on FSU's website, removal of the ban on him from campus and the contact ban with current and former students and colleagues.

Mehler noted that this case is not just about him anymore, but also about ending the process that Ferris has in place that he believes has restricted his ability to teach and his right to free speech.

"The process is unconstitutional and is aimed at suppressing speech and we're hoping the court will just strike

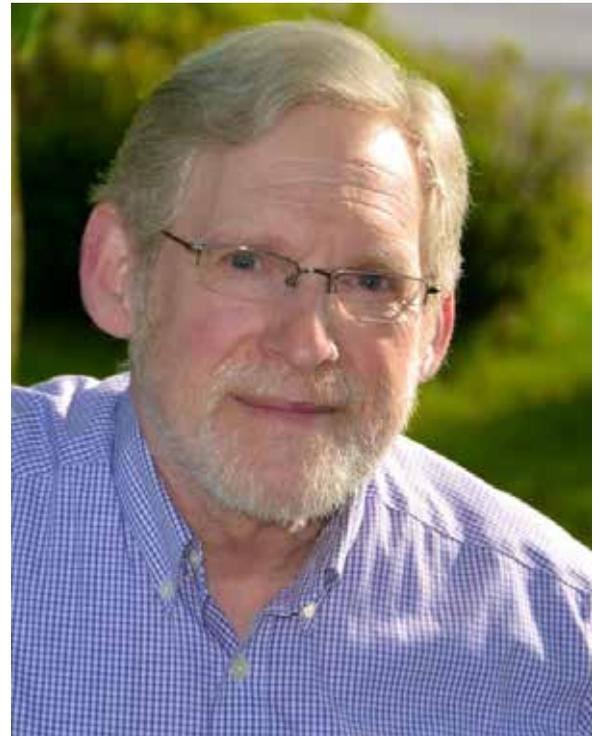


Photo courtesy of Professor Mehler

this whole thing down and [Ferris] will never ever be able to do this to anyone ever again," Mehler said.

Additionally, Mehler explained that he had his deposition with Ferris hired attorney on Thursday in which he was "grilled" from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. regarding the viral introduction video and his use of profanity.

Despite the challenges, Mehler is still optimistic that he will win this case and be back to teaching before the end of the semester.

The Torch reached out to Ferris, but they were unwilling to comment on the case.

Local dispensary temporary closes

The tough Big Rapids cannabis market leads to closings



Photo by: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager

Mother Nurture aimed to treat its customers specific needs and avoid a steril experience.

Jerry Gaytan
News Reporter

Mother Nurture, a medical and recreational adult cannabis dispensary located at 520 S. Third Ave, has temporarily closed due to the tough cannabis market in the Big Rapids area.

The dispensary was a self-funded business that was able to survive 11 months. The cannabis market is currently sitting at 12 total dispensaries. According to Mother Nurture president of operations Shaun Barsic, the building is also up for sale, so it could be a permanent closing.

"It could be a permanent pause, but we just think the factors are supply chain, inflation and more pot shops coming into town," Barsic said.

Mother Nurture was the only dispensary in Big Rapids that offered one-on-one consultation rooms for every customer, according to their website.

"There's always a new shop opening with

great deals [and] all that fun stuff," Barsic said. "And so it's really hard to have the sort of general business indicators of [whether this is] what we're going to see on a daily basis."

The inability to gauge the number of daily customers led to challenges with scheduling staff and ordering products.

Barsic stated he was proud of what his team was able to give to the community.

Previous customers have given them reviews and rated them 4.7 stars and up on Weedmaps, Lookyweek and PotGuide.

The dispensary is owned by Michael Vlasic, who has been best friends with Barsic for over 40 years. They have been running the business together.

Mother Nurture opened back in Feb. 2021. It was the eighth dispensary to open in the Big Rapids area and the second dispensary to close. The first to close was Well Flower in Oct. 2021, which was located next to Jet's Pizza, as reported by the Pioneer.

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NEWS

Noah Kurkjian | News Editor | kurkjin@ferris.edu

Support for stalking victims

A brief summary of stalking signs and resources



Photo by: Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

Presenter Darby Dean directed victims to the on-campus Title IX office, reachable at (231) 591-2088.

Rebecca Witkowski
News Reporter

Critical information about cyberstalking and harassment was presented to Ferris students Thursday evening.

The presentation was organized by the Anti Violence Alliance at Ferris State. The AVA covered signs of stalking, statistics and resources for individuals who were or are victims of stalking. Below is some of the important information that was provided.

Stalking Behaviors

Individuals can experience stalking in many ways. Constant texts and phone calls, driving past an individual's house and monitoring an individual's location can all be stalking behaviors when unwanted and persistent. Individuals may also show up at locations the victim does not want them at or seek them out in everyday life.

Stalking can also take place online. Social media has provided more options for stalking and harassment to take place. Perpetrators of stalking may create fake social media profiles to gain access to the victim's private accounts or to pose as the victim. They may also share intimate images of the victim online without the victim's consent.

The perpetrator may also use the internet to gain access to the victim's personal devices. Spyware can be installed onto phones and computers to track the victim's location, texts, phone calls and to gain access to the device's camera and microphone. The perpetrator can also dox the individual, finding and publishing personal information about the victim.

The AVA's presentation stated that 45% of stalking incidents reported by college campuses involved unwanted texts and voice messages. 44% involved unwanted emails and social media interaction. Doxing was involved in 16% of the incidents.

Victims and Perpetrators

Anyone can be a victim of stalking. According to the presentation, stalkers are usually known to the victim, typically a former or current intimate partner. Individuals 18-24 years of age experience the high-

est rate of stalking among adults.

The AVA reports that 1-in-4 women and 1-in-17 men are victims of stalking. According to a 2018 campus survey conducted by Ferris, 28.8% of students reported being victims of stalking behavior.

What to do

Individuals who are told about stalking behaviors by a friend or someone close to them should be supportive of the individual. Providing a safe place for the individual to discuss the behaviors can help the victim feel safe and comfortable. They should provide resources to the victim if they have access to them.

Bystanders who witness stalking behavior can use the five D's of bystander intervention, according to the AVA. The five D's are distract, delegate, direct, document and delay. The AVA says that direct, document and delay are the most useful when handling stalking behaviors.

For direct, the bystander or victim could directly block the perpetrator on social media or tell the perpetrator to leave them alone if they are comfortable doing so. For document, the bystander or victim could take screenshots of the persistent texts or phone calls they receive. They could also document the date and time the different incidents occur. For delay, the bystander can check on the victim after the incident.

Resources

There are many resources available to victims of stalking. On campus, there is the Title IX Office, the Personal Counseling Center, the AVA website and the Office on Violence Against Women. The Title IX Office and the OVW are not confidential, meaning that the incidents discussed would be reported to the proper authorities if required.

Title IX Office: kaitlinzies@ferris.edu OR (231) 591-2088

PCC: ThePCC@ferris.edu

Anti-Violence Alliance: fsuantiviolence.org

OVW Project Director: ravenhills@ferris.edu

Remembering Kyle Mellon



Photo courtesy of MLive Obituaries

Jessica Oakes
Special Editions Editor

Graduate student Kyle Mellon passed away at age 23 on Jan. 15. Son of Dennis and Stacie (Timmerman) Mellon, he tragically died in a snowboarding accident at Caberfae Peaks in Cadillac. Mellon joined the pharmacy program after graduating from Grand Valley State University with a bachelor's degree in biomedical science. Mellon also worked as a pharmacy technician at Meijer. According to obits.mlive.com, Mellon was a "determined and compassionate young man." The Ferris community will feel the absence of his "fun-loving spirit" and "endlessly caring heart."



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LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

Show off your clothes and pose

Giuliana Denicolo
Lifestyles Reporter

"It's about to be a movie y'all," the robed model said as the audience of close to 70 people waited for the winter fashion show to begin.

Ferris' student fashion alliance set up this year's show in honor of the students. The event took place last Friday, Jan. 26, at six o'clock.

President Fatou Thiam and Vice President Zanya Scott have been organizing this show since September, and they have overcome many obstacles to present it exactly the way they imagined.

"It was, like, very hectic, but I got it done with the help of my friends and the help everyone here," Thiam said.

She was one of the models in the 2019 fashion show and got promoted to president of the alliance and host of the show this year. Her inspiration began from there, and that is when she decided this year's show was going to be dedicated to the students.

"I see lots of students with amazing style," Thiam said. "And I really want them to come out of their comfort zone and just show everyone that they can dress."

The main purpose was to spotlight the student's styles outside of the classroom and to show off some clothes that were made by other businesses.

"We don't always have to wear these basic, casual outfits," Thiam said. "I want people to wear out of the ordinary clothes, and [I wanted] to support other businesses."

At the show, each chair had a goodie bag that contained some candy and the business card of one of the vendors that were promoted in the show.

"Fashion is my art so how people were going to accept that was very important to me."

-Biani Isibor

"Even though we had different vendors, we also incorporated people's different styles with the size of the vendors," Scott said. "So even though [the models] wear a hat of the vendors, they have their own street clothes on to spice it up a little bit."

The show consisted of DJs, photographers, a full audience and 18 models, including the two hosts. The students put their own outfits together and modeled them in five different categories: business, casual, vintage, thrift and athletic.

Kessey Kwakye, a junior, was one of the models who participated in the show.

"Fatou introduced me to [modeling for the show]," Kwakye said. "I was a very quiet person, and I thought it would be like getting out of my comfort zone."

He thinks that modeling in this show was the perfect opportunity for him to show off his style and get more out there, just like he has always wanted to do. This was his first time doing anything like this, which was why he was so nervous.

At first, there were not as many people, but as the night went on, the audience grew, and so did his nerves.

"I was sweating bullets, I was nervous, but in the end it was fun, and I'm glad everyone came out," Kwakye said.

Freshman model Aleigha Mack signed up thinking she was going to be a posing model, but shortly after she realized that she was modeling for the runway.

The audience was unexpectedly bigger than the students originally thought.

"I knew a lot of my family was going to come, and a lot of friends, but I wasn't expecting this many people," Mack said.

Not only did the models have to walk on the runway in front of tons of people, but they also had to present their own outfits and style them.

"I like my style, and I was trying to get my style into a lot of [my outfits]," Mack said. "It was pretty scary, and I thought no one was going to like my outfits."

Biani Isibor was another one of the models. She had modeled for the fashion show her freshman year at Ferris, but she still found this experience to be frightening.

"[Modeling] was nerve-racking, but fun at the same time," Isibor said. "I had my friends here and all these people to support me."

She was nervous to show off her style to everyone because she didn't know how they would react to the outfits she put together. According to Isibor, the process of putting the outfits together was interesting because of how important fashion is to her and how she wanted to convey that within her style.

"Fashion is my art," Isibor said. "So how people were going to accept that was very important to me."

Even though most of the models were new to this, they seemed to be naturals. They had fun with the show, and each model had a personality when walking down the runway and showing off their look.

Evan Scott, a senior, attended the fashion show to support a friend. Three words he used to describe the show were "spectacular, interesting and eye-opening."

"It was cool seeing everybody's different styles, it was definitely interesting," Scott said.

The show was thrilling and fun, especially with the audience's energy and enthusiasm.

"The audience did a great job with cheering people on," Scott said. "There was all-around support regardless, even if you didn't know the [model]."

Taylor Robinson, another model at the show, spoke at the end of the show to credit the organizers of the show and presidents of the alliance "day and night."



Photo provided by Bradley Winka

Fatou Thiam is the president of the Student Fashion Alliance and was in charge of the fashion show.



Photo provided by Bradley Winka

Kessey Kwakye was brought in by Thiam to model for the show



Photo provided by Bradley Winka

The models from the show gather at the end of the show for one final picture.

Summer full of internships

Learn how important internships are to earning a degree

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter

Summer is usually a time in which students can relax and not worry about school work, however, this isn't the case when you are in an internship.

Ferris requires most majors to complete at least one internship relating to their field during their time here in order to graduate. This allows students to feel prepared when entering the workforce and gain an understanding of how their degree will play a factor in their profession. Because of the internship requirement, students typically use their summer vacations to join a company, enroll in a class and report on how their internships are going.

Product design engineering technology senior Matthew Eden spent 12 weeks interning at General Motors in the summer of 2021.

"All I can say is the department I worked in was advanced vehicle design," Eden said. "It's basically the future of vehicles that are three, four years out. Within that group, I did latches, which are pretty much door handles and things like that."

Eden can't talk about everything he was able to work on, due to company policy, but he was able to get a glimpse of what the future of the automotive industry is going to be, especially with electric cars coming into play.

The most interesting thing Eden learned while at GM was their organized communication as a team.

"We were online always having meetings, everybody's right there to communicate," Eden said. "Especially being a first-year intern, I had a lot of questions. So having somebody right there, not having to worry about if they were in a meeting or not, because you know right on the screen if they're busy or not, was nice."

Eden said he knew communication was huge when it came to working in teams, and he was able to see that it really can go a long way, especially in a well-known company like GM.

Internships relating to student's majors are great opportu-

nities to learn how degrees can be put into effect in the workforce. Especially if a student knows what field they would like to specialize in and with what company. Gaining the opportunity to have an internship with them makes the process more enticing.

Product design engineering technology junior David McGuigan is looking forward to the start of his internship this summer.

At the moment, McGuigan has only had one interview with Ford, but he sounded hopeful when stating that it was exactly what he was looking for when he started looking for internships.

McGuigan said even if he does not end up getting the internship, it was still good practice, and he's glad he's going through this process.

Being able to reach out and have the opportunity to interview with large companies can also prepare students because they learn what companies look for in candidates in terms of qualities, knowledge of technical programs and willingness to learn.

Insurance junior David Seaver was able to obtain an internship at KorthaseFlinn Insurance after participating in a golf outing with a company representative. He said when looking for internships, you have to put yourself in a position to get the position. "You have to reach out," Seaver said. "Have a cover letter and resume ready at all times. Tell them you go to Ferris and are looking for real work experience. They'll send your resume to who can hire you."

Reaching out, having interviews and displaying a desire to learn from these companies, even if just for an interview, can be very valuable in the process of obtaining the right internship. Having real experience within a student's major can help better their odds of being chosen for a job, all because they spent a summer earning their qualifications.

Students can find internships through Indeed, LinkedIn and even the internship fair hosted semesterly by the university.



Graphic by: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager



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The Finish Line

Seniors thoughts on their last semester

Jeremy Wolfe
Freelance Reporter

Spring 2022 is the final semester for many seniors, and with that comes complicated emotions.

The end of school years, from kindergarten to college, often leave students feeling this way. Some are happy and ready to move on, while others feel that there was more they could have done.

Information security and intelligence senior Trey Laven belongs to the first group. For him, studying and learning on his own time has been more satisfying than being given instruction in a classroom.

"I find that teaching topics and concepts to myself is much more enjoyable most of the time," Laven said. "I have had some of the best teachers and classes here, but also some of the worst too."

The COVID-19 pandemic has put an end to many aspects of socialization and learning that people enjoyed in college. Laven was no exception in feeling that the virus made things harder to enjoy, both on campus and in class. For him, the instruction felt lacking, which made

him want to quickly move on from college.

Laven, however, is looking forward to what comes after college, specifically in the summer. As someone with a deep respect for Japanese culture and some fluency in the language, Laven plans to find employment abroad in Japan in the information field. This lifelong passion for the location and culture came from gaming as a child. Now he has the opportunity to pursue his dream while advancing his career.

"I am hoping to find employment or a language school opportunity in Japan, but COVID is making this seem impossible," Laven said. "I will likely be looking for a job in my field for a company with a Japanese location or the U.S. military, which also has bases in Japan."

Overall, Laven's assessment of his time at Ferris would be considered positive. With both educational and social difficulties, he still feels his time spent could have been improved, but he believes he made the most of what was given to him during the semester.

Plastics engineering senior Ethan Kowelchuk feels differently about his time.

This semester has been positive for him so far, and his thoughts on his time at Ferris are aligned with that. To him, his view of the campus has not changed much since the pandemic, and has enjoyed his time, despite the restrictions.

"I personally didn't care about COVID changing the college experience, since I didn't do much on or off-campus," Kowelchuk said.

Kowelchuk's desire to get into plastics came from learning about the program early on in school and declaring for it. Plastics is a varied field that has many applications, and it fit his skill set well. This versatility gives him a lot to work with in the professional field.

This has also led to Kowelchuk pursuing different things in the summer. With jobs for plastics being everywhere, he plans on getting a job after finishing the semester, but figuring out what to do after school isn't always set in stone.

"I'm not pursuing grad school, but Ferris has set me up well to continue learning post-graduation if I went down that route later on," Kowelchuk said.

Kowelchuk's view of Ferris as a whole comes off as being upbeat and happy

with what was provided, even in the face of a pandemic. His view of moving forward is one of optimism, since he feels that his time on campus was worth the effort he put in for his major and professional career.

"Besides COVID, I had a positive experience at Ferris," Kowelchuk said. "I could not have imagined who I would be without the people I've met and the memories I made."

Kowelchuk's attitude towards the future is hopeful, but his feelings on what he wishes he could have done differently have a different tone. He says he wants to make sure he spends more time with the people that he cares about and enjoy good memories while they happen, instead of putting these moments aside for his education or other things on campus.

"The one thing I wish I could have done differently was spend more time hanging out with my friends," Kowelchuk said. "I'll be working for the next 45 years or so, but I won't have the time to hang out with the people that mattered to me most."



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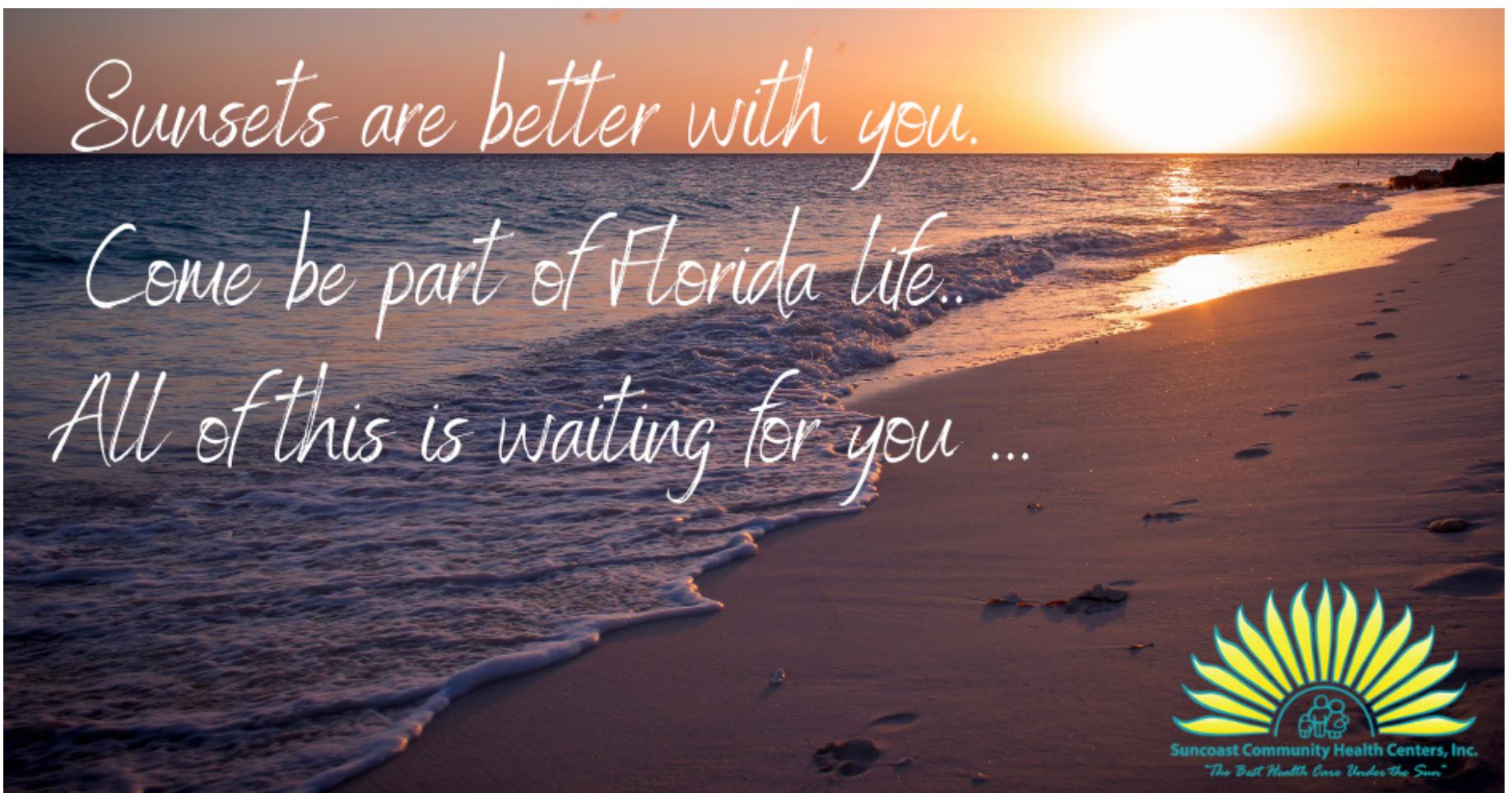


HOUSING

Dorms on Campus

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HALLISY HALL	BUILT: 1958
BROPHY/ MCNERNEY HALL	BUILT: 1962
WARD HALL	BUILT: 1963
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Forgotten dorm essentials

Items to bring that you might not think about

Rebecca Witkowski
News Reporter

Moving into a dorm for college is an exciting time for any student. However, sometimes essential or helpful items are overlooked or forgotten.

This can lead to Walmart runs or online orders to try to make the dorm feel a bit more like home. In the hopes of preventing those last-minute purchases, here are some things that should not be overlooked when preparing for dorm life.

Mesh Laundry Bags

Also called lingerie bags, these are amazing for keeping delicates sorted so they don't go in the dryer. Spandex, bras, masks, tights and anything else elastic should avoid going in the dryer. The heat from the dryer can cause the item to lose its elasticity and become loose. By putting them in a mesh bag they can still get washed, but they are easier to pull out before the load goes into the dryer.

Mesh laundry bags can be found at Walmart and other stores. They can also be ordered online through Amazon.

Rugs

Most dorms have hard tile flooring.

Walking around barefoot results in cold, uncomfortable feet. A rug can create a buffer between the cold floor and your feet. It can also add a pop of color and personality into the room. The rug may also prevent someone from feeling crumbs or other things that may have fallen onto the floor.

Rugs can be bought at Walmart, furniture stores and online. It is important to look up the room dimensions as well as the rug dimensions beforehand.

Slippers/Indoor shoes

Alternatively, slippers or shoes can be worn inside the dorm to keep feet covered. Slippers and shoes both keep feet warm, but shoes offer more structure. Having a pair of indoor shoes allows the feet to be covered without tracking outside dirt around the dorm.

Slippers can be purchased online or in stores such as Walmart. Shoes can be bought in stores such as Foot Locker and Walmart, as well as online.

Shoe Rack/Mat

A shoe rack or mat can provide a place for shoe storage as well as a way to keep dirt, mud and snow from tracking its way around the dorm. It can be placed near the door to conveniently slide shoes on and off

without walking through the room. It can also give shoes a place to dry after walking through rain, snow or mud.

Shoe racks and mats can be purchased online or in stores like Walmart.

Headphones/Headset

With online classes being popular due to social distancing guidelines, headphones have become an important item to have. They can help keep noise levels down for roommates, prevent echoing voices on Zoom calls and they can provide a better audio quality than the computer speakers.

Headphones and headsets can be found at stores like Walmart and Best Buy. They can also be purchased online through gaming stores such as Hyper X and JLab, as well as Amazon.

Power strips/bars/towers

Any dorm is not complete until it's outfitted with enough outlets to power your life. My current top pick is the SUPERDANNY 3 tier surge protector with 10 watt wireless charging built in . It also offers 10 AC outlets and 4 USB ports and clocks in at \$38 on amazon.

Graphic by: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager

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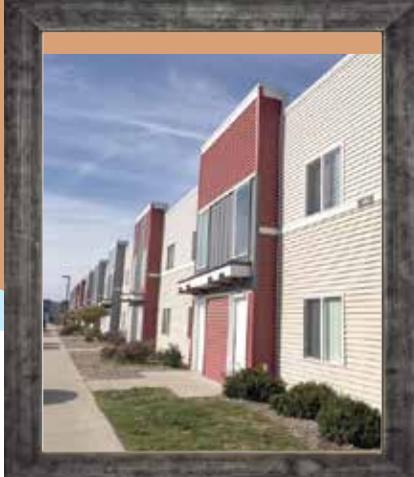


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EDITOR'S COLUMN: The Third Wheel Super Bowl

By Brendan Sanders

Congrats to Lions fans! In two weeks, you will be as close as you will probably ever get to experiencing a Super Bowl as a fan.

Are the Lions in the Super Bowl? Not even close, in fact, they are sitting next to the Jaguars as the worst team in the league. A familiar place for the franchise. But luckily, the franchise's former golden boy, Matthew Stafford, is solidifying his place among the NFL's elite. Instead of leading the Lions to glory, it is with the Los Angeles Rams.

On March 18, the Lions granted Stafford the sweet release of a trade. A rarity for a franchise that likes to suck the life out of their superstars until they retire early with less fanfare. Calvin Johnson and Barry Sanders were probably punching the air when they saw the trade notification pop up.

This trade to the LA Rams not only gave the Rams a potential star QB but also gave Stafford a new lease on life in the NFL. Finally, he would get his shot to prove to everyone that he was better than the Lions had made him out to be.

Still, there were people that doubted him. The Huge Show still has a tweet up from July 14 saying that Jared Goff would have more wins in Detroit than Stafford would in LA. Though the Huge Show has about as much talent at making predictions as I do. (I am the one who put down Ohio State as my pick to win the NCAA tournament.)

It was hilarious to hear everyone say that the Rams were making a mistake trading for this guy as if he has not thrown for the 5th most passing yards in a single season. He also lead the Lions to two playoff berths when the Lions hadn't been to the playoffs since the 1990s.

It showed that there were people that genuinely believed that Stafford was the problem in Detroit. Some were even so blind as to believe Goff was the better QB out of the two. Both ideas are ludicrous.

The Lions did everything possible to stunt Stafford's career. From putting him behind patchwork offensive lines to having no running game and only one good receiver to throw to, the Lions consistently shot Stafford in the foot.

And when they finally had a coach that could actually make the team compete with Jim Caldwell?

They got greedy and decided that they were better than a 9-7 team, firing Caldwell with the best win percentage of any Lions head coach since 1972. (.563)

And who did they hire to replace the best head coach they have had since 1972? Some Bill Belichick disciple named Matt Patricia. People really believed that this Belichick follower would make Detroit greater.

As you can imagine, it failed. After firing Jim Caldwell after

a 9-7 season, the Lions would win 13 games in the next three years. Patricia would get rid of nearly every talented player the Lions had on the roster and bring in Patriots players instead, alongside Jesse James.

Once the Patricia era came to a predictable end then they brought in Dan Campbell, who I do not dislike, yet they still won only 3 games this season.

I will never forgive the Lions for being so stupid with their team management. From hiring clowns as general managers to hiring jokes at head coach, then firing the only decent one they have had. They have wasted countless players' careers over my lifetime because of their general ineptitude to put together a competent squad.

Now, Lions fans get to play as third-wheel Rams fans since quarterback Matthew Stafford

escaped the clown show that is the Detroit Lions. Because of this, people are going to be partying here in Michigan, even more so if Stafford ends up winning this game.

Lions fans should be sympathetic to the plight of Matthew Stafford. An amazing talent whose skills were wasted on mediocrity. Many people grew up watching this QB try to drag the home state team to places that they did not deserve to be. They saw him put his body on the line in a futile attempt at greatness.

Then he finally got a real shot outside of Detroit, and he is flourishing. I am rooting hard for Stafford to win this Super Bowl. It proves that Stafford was not the reason the Lions could not win. The Lions are the reason the Lions cannot win.

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SPORTS

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Bulldogs split with Bowling Green



Photo by Dylan Rider | Torch Reporter

Blake Evennou takes a shot during Ferris's win over Bowling Green on Saturday, Jan. 29.

Dylan Rider
Sports Reporter

The Bulldogs split their second season series with Bowling Green on Friday, Jan. 28 and Saturday, Jan. 29.

The Bulldogs' weekend began with a 4 - 3 loss, which ended their two game win streak.

Head coach Bob Daniels felt that momentum swings played a large part in their loss.

"We fell behind two-nothing early then came back in the second to take a 3 - 2 lead," Daniels said. "I thought in the third period, obviously, they got the two power play goals to take the 4 - 3 lead. Two of the penalties were in the offensive zone, they were offensive zone hooks. It's the thing we've been talking about. You can't take those kinds of penalties. I think if you were gonna boil it down to one thing, it's the penalties in the offensive zone."

Freshman Noah Giesbrecht started in goal for the Bulldogs. Bowling Green got out to a quick start and opened the scoring at 2:57 in the first period.

The Falcons extended their lead to 2-0 2:32 into the second period.

The Bulldogs cut the lead in half with a goal from freshman forward Kaleb Ergang at 6:47.

The tying goal for Ferris came only two minutes later. Senior forward Justin Michaelian scored an unassisted goal, tying the game at two.

With four minutes left in the second period, sophomore defenseman Luke Farthing scored his first goal of the season, which put the Bulldogs up 3 - 2. They held that lead into the third period.

Senior captain Liam MacDougall took a hooking penalty at 3:28 in the third period and Bowling Green converted to tie the game at three with 15 minutes left in the game.

Only 30 seconds after the goal, junior forward Dallas Tulik took a hooking penalty and Bowling Green went back on the power play. With ten seconds left on their power play, the Falcons got the go-ahead goal and took the lead 4 - 3.

Ferris pulled Giesbrecht in the waning minutes of the third period but failed to score and fell to the Falcons 4 - 3.

The finals stats of the game were:

Noah Giesbrecht's save percentage: .851 (23/27 saved)
Shots: 27 - 27
Powerplay: 0 - 3
Penalty kill: 2 - 4

Daniels expanded on the penalty kill that ultimately sunk the Bulldogs in the third period and their struggles against the power play.

"We have got to do a better job of killing on our penalty kill," Daniels said. "We need to avoid taking unnecessary penalties. The power play didn't look good at all. I thought that it wasn't a mechanical thing or a strategy thing as much as I thought their four outworked our five out there. I felt as though the guys were trying to strategize their way to a goal and not work their way to a goal."

The Bulldogs got vengeance the next night and came out on top in an overtime thriller with a 2 - 1 victory.

The fight began in a slow and sloppy first period from the Bulldogs. The Bulldogs

started sophomore goaltender Logan Stein. Stein faced 17 shots in the first, while the Bulldogs put up seven against Bowling

"We looked like we were in quicksand."

Bob Daniels

Green, but neither team scored.

Daniels felt his team came out and played slow in the first period.

"We looked like we were in quicksand," Daniels said. "We looked slow, we looked sluggish, we got beat to every puck. I thought Logan Stein was great the whole game, but he really gave us a chance in the first period. I think at one point, shots were 8-nothing for them. We just didn't start the game on time."

The Bulldogs came out with much more intensity in the second period. Two minutes into the second, Bowling Green took a penalty for too many men on the ice.

The Bulldogs scored just 11 seconds into the power play as Ergang picked up his second goal against Bowling Green in two games.

Halfway through the second, Bowling Green took a ten minute game misconduct for contact to the head. Ferris finished the period with a 1-0 lead.

Farthing took an interference penalty to start the third period, giving the Falcons a power play.

Bowling Green acted fast and netted a power play goal, tying the game, 1 - 1. Later in the period, Bowling Green took a second ten minute game misconduct penalty. The third period closed in a 1 - 1 tie.

Overtime kicked off with possession from Bowling Green. They registered a quick shot on Stein, who collected a save. Bowling Green turned the puck over and senior forward Marshall Moise slipped past a defender for a breakaway opportunity where he took one shot and slotted the game-winning goal for the Bulldogs.

Moise commented on his game winner to halt Bowling Green's chance at a sweep.

"I was just excited to put that one in for the team," Moise said. "We're working hard. It was funny because guys in the locker room, they were saying I was due so I was ready. I was like 'I gotta get one here.'"

Final stats from this game were:

Logan Stein's save percentage: .971 (34/35 saved)
Shots on goal: 35 - 33, Ferris State
Powerplay: 1 - 5
Penalty kill: 3 - 4

With just six games left on the schedule, the Bulldogs will hit the road and battle the Lakers of Lake Superior State Feb. 11 and 12 in what will be their penultimate road series of the regular season.

Sports Speculation

What Ferris must do to climb the CCHA rankings before the tournament

Dylan Rider
Sports Reporter

Last year, the Bulldogs finished 1-23-1 and lost to Minnesota State in the first round of the CCHA tournament.

This year, they could play their first game in the CCHA tournament on their home ice.

With six games remaining on the schedule, Ferris has a chance to finish fourth in the CCHA standings and play their first game inside Ewigleben Ice Arena.

The tournament is slated to begin on March 4 and will run until March 19. All CCHA teams will compete in the tournament.

It will begin with a best-of-three quarterfinals round. After that, semifinals and then the championship. Each team in the CCHA is seeded based on where they finished in the regular season standings.

Ferris currently sits at seventh in the standings with a 10-18 record and 23 points. Fifth or sixth place is not out of reach for the Bulldogs as they are tied in points with the sixth place Lake Superior State Lakers. Both teams are only one point behind fifth place Northern Michigan.

Minnesota State sits atop the CCHA with 50 points, with the closest team, Michigan Tech, sitting at 35 points. The massive point differential and impressive 25-5 record has the Mavericks not only at the top of the CCHA but as the number one team in NCAA D1 Hockey according to a USCHO.com poll.

St. Thomas sits at the bottom of the standings with 9 points and they don't have much of a chance to overcome the Bulldog's 14-point lead in the standings.

So how does this pan out for the tournament? Refer to the graphic below to see what the CCHA tournament would like if it started today.

With a few weeks left and seeds 1 and 8 pretty much cemented, there is room for the standings to be shaken up between seeds 2 - 7.

What does Ferris need to do to make that final push? The answer is simple: win.

The Bulldogs play at Lake Superior State, Michigan Tech and at Northern Michigan to close their season. Because Ferris is tied with Lake State and just one point behind Northern, those series will be key for the Bulldogs to make a jump in the standings.

Ideally, the Bulldogs will want to walk away with at least a split with the second place Michigan Tech.

Making a run at a higher seed is clearly a goal for head coach Bob Daniels.

"We want to get up as far in the standings as we can to get the best seed," Daniels said. "And then from there, we want to make sure we're playing as good of hockey. Our hockey as of late has been very good. I feel very confident rolling our game out into the playoffs. Ideally, we wouldn't wanna go to Minnesota State, but that's not going to happen. I'd feel pretty confident going into any arena. I'm not giving up on home ice yet either, but we'd have to go on a heck of a run."

A "heck of a run" would do the Bulldogs a lot of favors to get closer to home ice. But Ferris would need some help as well.

Ferris is only seven points out of fourth place. Ferris could achieve home ice with a couple sweeps in their next series coupled with the current fourth seed, Bowling Green, dropping a few series. That is very much a possibility as they still play top seeded Minnesota State and Michigan Tech.

With three weeks of games left, the Bulldogs are on a mission. The final push starts against Lake Superior State this weekend.



Photo by Amelia Reed | Torch Photographer

Bradley Marek chases a puck in the Bulldog's win against Bowling Green Jan. 29.

Minnesota State University TW: 1 	VS	St. Thomas University TW: 8
Michigan Tech University TW: 2 	VS	Ferris State University TW: 7
Bemidji State University TW: 3 	VS	Lake Superior State University TW: 6
Bowling Green State University TW: 4 	VS	Northern Michigan State University TW: 5

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X-treme opportunity



Photo courtesy of Photographer Karyn Kiio.

From left to right (back)-Valerie Ryan, Marra Boulanger, Joey Stout, Keri Frahm, Jamal Bohannon, Nicholas Rice and from left to right (front)-Emma Franklin, Madison tollstam, Janitza Sawyer-Ocasio, Noah Poser, Breyanna Gebben, Jessica Tucci and Kary Kiio pose for a photo with a Ferris flag.

Ferris State students earn experience at X Games

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

Over 37,000 people have watched high-flying flips and supersonic speed at ESPN's Winter X Games in Aspen, Colorado.

Out of these thousands of people, there were eleven that brought their Bulldog pride and enthusiasm for the experience.

In partnership with Ferris's event management program, professors Amy Dorey and Karyn Kiio brought nine Ferris students to assist and run event operations for the three-day national competition.

"The X Games provides an exceptional model for the type of mentor relationship and focus on the student experience," Dorey said.

Helping at the X Games has become a yearly tradition for the event management program. The annual experience started six years ago when Dorey and the students made a valuable connection by helping at a local wakeboarding event.

"Our program was approached by the West Michigan Sports Commission for help with the Mastercraft Throwdown wake-

boarding event in Grand Rapids," Dorey said. "I rounded up about ten students from across the College of Business and Sports Communication and took them to Millennium Park. Through that initiative, we met the director of operations for the X Games and he invited us to participate based on our performance."

Since that initial meeting, every year students take the nearly 1,500-mile trip to Aspen, Colorado to learn and participate in various pieces of the professional event management circuit.

"Students are able to learn what it looks like when internal guests are taken care of really well and have an outstanding experience," Kiio said.

For students like Brey Gebben, the experience allowed her to learn not only what goes on within a massive event but what happens on the outside too.

"The experience I had was getting to interact with the locals," Gebben said. "It was interesting to learn how they all live inside of a ski town."

Not only do the students get to be hands-on, but so do the administrators. Although their positions have developed over time,

there is one thing that continues to stay the same: emphasis on the student's learning.

"We're hired to enhance the student program and experiential learning on-site," Dorey said. "We hold supervisory roles scattered across guest services, sponsorship activations and some public relations and social media teams."

While the group has made the journey to the Rockies for six straight years, fans haven't had the same pleasure. In 2021, fans were deprived of a live view of the games at Buttermilk Mountain due to COVID-19 restrictions. In-person attendance returned in 2022 with what Kiio would describe as a warm welcome back from the athletes.

"We all got pins on our hats that said, 'Welcome Back Fans,' which was pretty cool. It was such a big deal and the athletes kept talking about how having the fans there made it much better."

When it comes to the overall experience, many attendees attribute the live contests as the coolest part of their experience. For Gebben, it actually came outside of the games watching a simple practice session.

"Thursday night after our training, we got to go watch the men's snowboard super-

pipe practice on the side of the pipe. I have videos of the snowboarders right in front of us doing their tricks. It was the first time I truly realized I was in Aspen."

For those who participate in the event, the tradition has led them to feel a part of a special group characterized by the common badge.

"Year to year, students wear their summer and winter X Games gear," Dorey said. "They are brandished points of pride on this campus. The 'X' represents a symbol of the relationship we have."

While the opportunity has gone past, there are still opportunities lurking in the future. The organization also partners with the summer X Games that takes place annually in the U.S. According to Dorey, every student that does a job interview is often asked first about the X Games experience.

"It's a rare, unique opportunity that is just straight fun."

For more information on the unique event or the management program, contact amydorey@ferris.edu.

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