

## Getting connected



Photo by: Brendan Sandera | Editor In Chief

(Left to right) Hospitality Program Alumni Justin Mortier, Jason Nelson, Merdith Lauzon, Abigail Anderson, Jessica Smith and Kenra Riley came back to recruit at the career fair.

### Students connect with businesses through internship fairs

**Meghan Hartley**  
Lifestyles Reporter

Every semester, Ferris hosts career and internship fairs that are designed to help students gain work experience before they graduate. These career and internship fairs are hosted by the Career And Professional Services office or by the different programs at Ferris.

Last week, the hospitality program held a week-long internship fair. It consisted of informational Zoom meetings, resume and networking sessions and the internship fair itself.

Kathryn Wolfer, a faculty member and internship coordinator for the hospitality program, was one of the individuals in charge of setting up this event.

“We get contacted throughout the semester [by] industry professionals [that] want to come in and speak to our class and make connections,” Wolfer said. “We decided to implement what we call ‘Internship Week.’ It’s a week-long process [where] we try to prepare our students to attend the career fairs.”

At the beginning of the week, the hospitality fair began with Internship 101, an informational Zoom session where under-

classmen were given the opportunity to speak with upperclassmen who already had an internship. Upperclassmen were able to talk about how they got their internship, their experience in the position and how they fulfilled their internship class requirements.

On the second day, the hospitality program held two resume-building sessions in the computer lab. Participants were able to pull up their resumes and learn what improvements could be made to them.

On the third day, there was a networking night. The networking night consisted of a meal, which students from the international

cuisine class cooked, and opportunities to socialize with attending companies.

“We had about 15 industry professionals, along with 40 students,” Wolfer said. “That went for about two hours. Our students were able to meet with people in the industry, and then [the night] culminated with the event in the ballroom.”

The morning of the fourth day was similar to networking night. Conversations were able to continue, and business could begin taking place. By the afternoon, interviews were being conducted, so the professionals

**Internship fair** | see page 4

## Car Crashes into Timber Cannabis Co.

### Minimal damage leaves store operational

**Jerry Gaytan**  
News Reporter

A car struck Timber Cannabis Co., located near the main entrance of Ferris, after being T-boned into the building on Wednesday, Feb. 9.

The incident took place on Feb. 2, at Timber Cannabis Co., located at 105 Perry Ave. According to Timber’s marketing manager Chivonne Rush, the vehicle left minimal damage to their building.

“Buildings can be repaired,” Timber inventory specialist Brooklyn Veldman said. “A busted building is the least of our worries. I’m just glad

we were there to help if needed.”

When asked for comment, the Big Rapids Police Department directed the Torch to file a FOIA request, which is pending.

“Our building and employees are safe and looking forward to having customers come to the store,” Rush said.

Timber Cannabis Co. had just opened its doors at the beginning of 2022. The cannabis company has three active locations and one coming soon to Sturgis, MI. The current locations are Muskegon, Allegan and Big Rapids MI.

This is a developing story.



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Timber is the 12th dispensary to open within the city limits of Big Rapids.

Got news? Let us know.

Email: [fsutorcheditor@gmail.com](mailto:fsutorcheditor@gmail.com)  
Phone: 231.591.5978



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
FERRIS STATE TORCH



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER  
@FSUTORCH



ADD US ON INSTAGRAM  
FSUTORCH



WATCH US ON TIKTOK  
FSUTORCH

Connect with us on social media - Read articles online at [www.fsutorch.com](http://www.fsutorch.com)

# NEWS

Noah Kurkjian | News Editor | kurkjin@ferris.edu

## Hatching new ideas

Innovative planning behind the innovation conference



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

(Left to right) Haley VanHouten, Brooke Moore and Mariah Vonphachanh are leading just one of 40 presentations.

**Jessica Oakes**  
Special Editions Editor

HatchEd, the annual conference for innovation in higher education, will set the stage for 40 original staff and faculty presentations on Friday, Feb. 25.

The Innovation Advisory Team invited members from each of Ferris' and KCAD's departments to attend in the name of academic exploration. Staff and faculty will observe and deliver presentations in four categories: Student and Technology Engagement, Innovative Techniques, Data Assessment and Grant Funded Innovation.

Coordinator of Innovative Initiatives Brooke Moore explained that the presentations will range from classroom research and instruction to newly finalized programs.

"It's all different stages of where people are in their projects," Moore said.

Moore particularly looks forward to hearing from keynote speaker and entrepreneur David Ollila. A Michigan native, Ollila holds 16 technology patents and currently works as founding director of Invent@NMU in Marquette.

"[Ollila's] gonna bring some excitement that is sometimes difficult when you do an internal conference... It'll be nice to have someone that has an outside perspective, but also can bring some energy around innovation," Moore said.

For the past year, Moore, the IAT and student Innovation Assistants have been planning HatchEd 2022. In light of the pandemic, the conference will be held in a hybrid format. Though balancing both Zoom and face-to-face presentations is difficult, Moore knows the importance of adaptability.

"I think that the pandemic has taught us that the status quo doesn't work," Moore said. "And if we're not thinking a couple steps ahead, we're just gonna end up that much farther behind."

Moore and her team have spent this time planning every detail of the conference, including how many charcuterie boards will be needed for each face-to-face attendee. The HatchEd planning team also arranged the annual Celebration of Scholarship and Creative work on Feb. 24. This is a cere-

mony dedicated to honoring the faculty and staff that have published work within the past year.

"I think it's just really important that people know we're paying attention, you know, that the university is paying attention to the good things that they do," Moore said.

Though students do not attend HatchEd, they may still benefit from its existence. Both Moore and student HatchEd Lead Haley VanHouten believe that professors who prioritize classroom innovation will lead the Ferris community.

"We have 40 different presentations offered at HatchEd [that support] the development of our staff and faculty. And if they can develop, then students can develop," VanHouten said.

VanHouten, a junior studying healthcare administration, says that aiding in the planning of HatchEd has helped her learn about the professional world and about herself.

"Without this job, I would not be as prepared as I am for my future career," VanHouten said.

She appreciated the real-world experience offered by the position of a HatchEd Lead. She remarked that working with professors has helped her grow as an event planner.

"It's taught me how to work in an office, how to work with people on a professional level and how to plan big events," VanHouten said.

VanHouten thoroughly enjoyed working alongside Moore and Video Production Lead Mariah Vonphachanh, a junior studying television and digital media production.

Throughout the academic year, Vonphachanh has used her TDMP experience to oversee the HatchEd promotional videos.

"I feel like I have a lot of freedom to create the different things that I do," Vonphachanh said.

Vonphachanh appreciates the position as Video Production Lead and plans to continue in this line of work.

"I mean, 100% it's given me a lot of real world experience. I design so much for HatchEd. I have really built up my portfolio," Vonphachanh said.

HatchEd will be held next Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. via Zoom or in select locations across campus.

## COVID-19 Q&A with Dr. Klepser



Photo courtesy of Dr. Klepser

Dr. Klepser has been at the forefront of COVID-19 testing and precautions on campus since the pandemic began.

**Rebecca Vanderkooi**  
Opinions Editor

Dr. Michael Klepser is a pharmacy professor at Ferris who specializes in infectious diseases and point of care diagnostics. He has been staying up to date on all pandemic related information and has contributed to many Torch articles in the last couple of years. This week, he was willing to be a part of a question and answer session, as we reflect on almost two years of the pandemic and look ahead to the future.

**We are nearing year two of the pandemic, is there an end in sight? Is this the 'new normal'?**

COVID is going to linger. The trends appear to suggest that even though cases have been going up and down, mortality and hospitalizations are not spiking proportionally. This is good. I think COVID will continue to be around and infections will continue, but it will become like influenza.

**With the increase in variants, do you think that will affect the efficacy of the vaccines?**

What we have seen is that immunity may differ to preventing infections, but they still tend to be protective against severe disease. Vaccines are still effective.

**To go with the above question, do you think that yearly boosters will become standard?**

We are likely going to need additional COVID booster shots. We may need one every year like influenza.

**Numerous people have now gotten COVID more than once, are reinfections something that people should be concerned about?**

Yes and no. It is reasonable to believe the people will get reinfected, just like [with] the cold and influenza [viruses].

**Could you explain why there have been breakthrough infections with the current Omicron variant in vaccinated individuals?**

With Omicron, you have more opportunities to become infected because there are more people carrying the virus, and you have an increased chance of not clearing the virus because of its ability to evade your immune system. So, the increased likelihood that you will be exposed to Omicron, coupled with the variant's ability to evade immunity, places people at increased risk for breakthrough infections. However, it is important to note that breakthrough infections among vaccinated individuals are typically less severe than illness among unvaccinated individuals.

**Final thoughts from Dr. Klepser:**

Eventually, case numbers will become less important than the fraction of infected people that develop severe disease or require hospitalization. We can manage colds, however, overcrowded hospitalizations are problematic.

# MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

**Noah Kurkjian**  
News Editor

DETROIT - The Ambassador Bridge, connecting Detroit to Canada, reopened Monday after a week-long protest by Canadian truckers who were upset with the vaccine mandates.

Gov. Whitmer issues a statement Monday calling the reopening a "win for Michigan families," according to the Detroit Free Press.

"It's time to get traffic and trade moving across North America's busiest land border crossing again. I will always stand with every hardworking Michigander, and do whatever it takes to ensure that our businesses can keep humming along," Whitmer said.

The Detroit International Bridge Co. announced on Sunday night that the bridge is fully reopened.

As of Monday, Windsor Police have been patrolling the area and have made 42 arrests and seized

37 vehicles, according to Freep.

The majority of those arrested have been released with court dates and are facing charges of mischief, according to police.

"The CBSA would like to thank travelers and commercial carriers for their patience and for helping to minimize the impact of this border service disruption," the Canada Border Services Agency said in a news release.

This shut down carried an immediate impact. It is estimated that around 10,000 commercial vehicles pass over the bridge every day, with an estimated \$325 million worth of cargo, according to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Matt Moroun, chairman of the Detroit International Bridge Co., thanked all of those involved in the reopening in a statement Sunday.

Moroun extended thanks to the "hard-working truck drivers who exercised their right to free speech and made their voices heard."

# GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

**Noah Kurkjian**  
News Editor

In a press conference on Monday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that he holds information stating that Russia could invade Ukraine as early as Wednesday, Feb. 16.

"We are told that February 16 will be the day of attack. We will make it a union day. The decree has already been signed. This afternoon we will hang national flags, put on blue-yellow ribbons and show the world our unity," Volodymyr said.

Volodymyr also said that joining NATO, a goal of their country since 2008, could be over, stating, "maybe the question of open doors is for us like a dream."

Russia has deployed over 100,000 troops around the Ukrainian border, although the Russian government, also known as the Kremlin, has denied a planned invasion.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited Ukraine on Monday, with

plans to visit Russia on Tuesday, in a last-ditch effort to prevent the breakout of a war.

The U.S. also decided to move its Ukraine embassy staff from Kyiv to Lviv, according to Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a statement released Monday, citing the "dramatic acceleration in the buildup of Russian forces" as the cause of the relocation.

This comes after officials suggested that the window for diplomacy may be closing, citing a uneventful phone call between President Biden and Mr. Putin over the weekend that resulted in "no fundamental change in the dynamic that has unfolded now for several weeks," according to the White House.



## Ferris State Torch Corrections

Corrections can be submitted through email at [fsutorcheditor@gmail.com](mailto:fsutorcheditor@gmail.com) or by calling 231-591-5978

# WANTED

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ferris State Torch

### 2022 - 2023 SCHOOL YEAR:

We are seeking an organized student (enrolled in at least six credit hours) for the Editor-in-Chief position during the 2022 - 23 school year. Candidates must write well, possess excellent leadership skills and be prepared to work the entire school year. Candidates should be familiar with basic journalistic principles, as well as printed and digital publishing techniques. Qualified students can receive competitive wages for up to 20 hours per week. Ability to work and train in April and August of 2022 is necessary. Prior journalism experience or training required.

The Torch offers a chance to work in a professional "real world" environment and adds excellent credentials to your resume

### APPLICANTS NEED TO SUBMIT:

- Resume
- One-page (typed) essay answering the following:
  - >> Why do I want to be Editor-in-Chief?
  - >> What should be the goals of a student-run newspaper?
  - >> How will I, as Editor-in-Chief, ensure that the newspaper reaches its goals?
- Copies of articles or other written work
- At least two references (recommendation letters not required)

### SEND RESUME, ESSAY AND CLIPPINGS TO:

Garrett Stack at [garrettstack@ferris.edu](mailto:garrettstack@ferris.edu)

DEADLINE: Wednesday, March 4, 2022

## - ON THE RECORD -

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

**Noah Kurkjian**  
News Editor

### Hit'n'split

Feb. 8, 3:52 p.m. - A student reported a hit and run that occurred in parking lot 9. The case was closed with no leads.

### Speedracer

Feb. 9, 10:26 a.m. - A vehicle was pulled over on Ferris Dr. for traveling 40 MPH in the 25 MPH zone. The driver was let off with a verbal warning.

### Speedracer pt. 2

Feb. 9, 1:55 p.m. - A vehicle was pulled over on Ferris Dr. for going 44 MPH in the 25 MPH zone. An officer made contact with the driver and learned they

did not have insurance. The driver was issued a citation for the lack of insurance and was verbally warned for speed.

### Rowdy at the Rec Center

Feb. 9, 9:02 p.m. - A fight broke out at the Student Rec Center. The group was preparing to take the fight to the parking lot when DPS was called. Officers arrived at the Rec Center to find the group already dispersed. The case was closed, as there were no leads.

### Clark Hall arrest

Feb. 11, 12:18 a.m. - An instance of domestic violence occurred at Clark Hall. The male suspect was arrested for nonaggravated assault.

**PREMIERE PROVISIONS**  
714 Perry Ave  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
[PremiereProvisions.com](http://PremiereProvisions.com)

Home of the Best Deals in town!

BEST OF WMM 21 WEEDMAPS

# So, what's next?

## Ferris graduate degree fair explained



Photo by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

**Rebecca Vanderkooi**  
Opinions Editor

On Wednesday, Feb. 9, Ferris hosted its annual graduate degree fair via Zoom as a three hour drop-in event from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Jennifer Amlotte is the director of marketing and admissions for Ferris' extended and international operations, which include graduate programs. As a host at the event, she answered student questions regarding the graduate programs at Ferris.

"I think there are a lot of students who don't realize that Ferris does have opportunities beyond the associates and bachelor's degree," Amlotte said.

Both current Ferris undergraduate stu-

dents and other prospective students attended the event.

Kasey Ninke has worked in admissions for 13 years, and she recently moved to graduate studies. She explained that the process for graduate student applications is very similar to the undergraduate application process.

For undergraduate and transfer students, an online application will need to be filled out, even if one was already filled out in applying for the undergraduate program.

"Every program requires a resume and a statement of purpose, but your statement of purpose will have a different intent based on your program," Ninke said. "Every program will also require letters of recommendation. [The specific program will de-

cide if you need] two letters or three."

Ninke also added that students at Ferris can apply anytime within their last year of undergraduate studies, but the sooner the application is submitted, the better the applicant's chances. Applications for the upcoming summer semester will be open until March 1.

Financial aid advisor Ryan Buckley also attended the grad fair, and he highlighted the primary differences between financial aid for undergraduate and graduate students.

"[Graduate students] do typically have a few different types of borrowing they can look at. And those types of borrowing are similar to what an undergraduate would be looking at, with the exception of some of

the loan limits [being] higher," Buckley said.

Buckley noted that graduate students' annual borrowing limit on direct loans is \$20,500 a year, which is far more than undergraduate maximums, which are \$5,500 for freshmen, \$6,500 for sophomores and \$7,500 for juniors and seniors.

Buckley also added that, in order to receive federal direct loans, you must be at least half time enrolled. Half time enrollment looks different for graduate students, though. Five or more credits is considered half time, and nine or more credits is full time.

Another big difference in graduate and undergraduate financial aid is that most scholarships are donor-based for graduate students.

### Internship fair

Continued from page 1

could hire within the hospitality industry.

These week-long events are opportunities for students to come and talk with different companies in the hopes of attaining full-time or part-time positions.

Hospitality sophomore Hannah Nunamaker attended the smaller internship fair with a resume and cover letter in hopes of making more connections for future positions. Nunamaker had also attended the other preparation sessions the hospitality program held leading up to the day of the fair. She noted that attending the other events, especially the networking night, made her more comfortable heading into the fair.

"I think it's made me more confident," Nunamaker said. "I think the networking session made it easier to confront people

because they remembered me, and so they started asking more questions."

The larger career and internship fair, run by the CAPS office, is similar to the hospitality internship fair, but it all occurs on one day, and there isn't as much free time to build connections.

According to computer and information technology senior Wil Olson, the career and internship fair has had around 200 employers.

"Most of the businesses I saw were heavy equipment construction, insurance and business administration," Olson said. "Part of my pre-scouting was that I knew I was going to be looking for a more niche market."

Olson said there aren't many businesses at these events, and he has unfortunately not found a position through these events. However, he has attended six career and internship events, even after finding his own internship outside of the fair.

Olson finds that going to these fairs is good practice for the future when you are interviewing for a job.

"I tried to attend every single one that I [could]," Olson said. "The more times you do it, the more comfortable you are in that setting, and the more familiar you are with how it all goes down."

Olson recalled how some of his classes have taught him how to write and present an elevator pitch, which is essentially a quick speech introducing yourself.

He said taking that speech and cutting it down to three or four sentences that he can say quickly to employers is a help when at a fast-moving event.

At smaller, more program-oriented internship fairs, students are typically able to learn how to market themselves to businesses within their field. There is more time for students to feel comfortable meeting with businesses. With larger, university-held internship fairs, students must

come prepared with no previous aid or tips to help them navigate landing a position.

No matter what type of internship fair it may be, students should not be afraid to go to them.

Nunamaker has been able to make connections with hotel owners and other hospitality-oriented businesses in the past all because she took the opportunity to put her name out there at these fairs.

"Take every opportunity that you can," Nunamaker said. "Even though you feel like it may not be for you or it may not be your plan; it may be what you need. So, you never know. Just take the shot and talk to people and see what happens."

The next career and internship fair is on Feb. 22, at the university recreation center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, students can head to the CAPS Instagram or stop by in their office.

# LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

## Confidence is key

### How students show their creativity and uniqueness through fashion

**Giuliana Denicolo**  
Lifestyles Reporter

Fashion is constantly changing, but it will always be around. As one of the biggest forms of self-expression, it can build confidence like no other.

Sophomore Emma Lentz's favorite trend this season has been a collared shirt under a sweater vest with jeans and white shoes. Lentz has started wearing headbands recently, and they're becoming her most used accessory. This idea was sparked from Blair Waldorf's iconic, preppy style in the show "Gossip Girl." Her mom's style also inspires her to wear most of her outfits. According to Lentz, her mom is her fashion icon.

"I wear a lot of clothes that my mom does," Lentz said. "Half of my clothes are hers."

Though her everyday style is more relaxed, she remains mindful of what she wears.

"My style is definitely very casual and comfortable," Lentz said. "I look put-together a couple of days of the week, but a lot of the times I just like to wear sweatpants and hoodies."

to wear something less casual to stay motivated.

"I dress up during the week if I know I have a lot to do that day... When I feel good on the outside, I'm definitely more productive," Lentz said.

She spends a lot of time getting ready when she goes out over the weekend, and she believes that sometimes trying to stay warm ruins the look.

"I don't feel like I really wear a lot of warm stuff," Lentz said. "I'm going for cute instead of convenient."

Some advice that she would give to others who struggle with their sense of style is to buy timeless pieces that are versatile and can go with everything.

"Trends change all the time. Finding what works best for you is a great way to feel confident in your outfits," Lentz said.

According to Cleo Wade, an artist and activist, "[Style] is one of the few things you can control in a world you can't control. Style can make you confident; like you can crush that interview and take on the world."

Kennedy Mapes, a fashion studies student at KCAD, uses fashion as a form of self-expression.

"Fashion is just the most awesome way for me to use my creativity to show people who I am," Mapes said.

In the past, Mapes focused her style based on what was trendy. Over the years, she has decided to start wearing whatever she liked. She built her wardrobe with that mindset.

"I'm focused on collecting pieces that I know are going to transcend different eras," Mapes said. "So, I'm very into a capsule wardrobe and having pieces that I know are going to look good, no matter what I put with them."

She gathers some of her fashion inspiration from Pinterest and TikTok, but puts a modern twist on her outfits, as she looks to her timeless fashion icons, Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly.

In Mapes' opinion, fashion is very versatile. There is so much that can be done with it, no matter what is trending or in style.



Photo provided by Emma Lentz

Emma Lentz shows off her favorite fashion combo in a photo she submitted.

"You can really just show how unique you are with what you're wearing on your body," Mapes said. "We [can] wear what makes us happy and what we feel good in, and I think that showcases who we are on the inside."

When Mapes started getting into fashion, she felt the need to pick one aesthetic and run with it. It was not until she tried different styles that she started to realize what her personal style was.

"Don't be afraid to use your creative side and just let that shine through, no matter what," Mapes said.

Mapes struggled in the past with self-confidence and body image, but fashion allowed her to feel more confident in herself.

"What you're putting on your body makes you feel good because it expresses who you are on the inside," Mapes said. "Fashion is the most perfect way for us to express who we are and to feel good and beautiful in our own skin."

Fashion became fun for her when she took off the weight of having to look good every day.

"Just allow [fashion] to be the creative, fun thing that it is," Mapes said. "Once I started making it fun and not really putting pressure behind it, I felt so much better."

Fashion is about experiencing different styles that make you feel good about yourself and taking that confidence and using it to physically express who you are.

**"You can really just show how unique you are with what you're wearing on your body."**

**-Kennedy Mapes**

She usually dresses up over the weekends, but on the weekdays she chooses



Photo by: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager

# Brightened teeth and class credits

Get your teeth cleaned, while providing a learning experience for students



Photo provided by Trisha Bennett

Trisha Bennett posted this photo with her classmates Ally Dougherty, Kennedy Davis and Hayley McLeod on Facebook to try and get more patients.

**Rebecca Witkowski**  
Freelance Reporter

Dental hygiene students scrub in on real dental services as a part of their course curriculum. In exchange, patients get to walk out with clean teeth without breaking the bank.

The Ferris State Dental Hygiene Clinic offers various dental services at a cheaper rate than standard dentists. The services are performed by students in the dental hygiene program who are supervised by registered hygienists and dentists.

The Dental Hygiene Clinic allows students to graduate from the program with real-world experience. They learn how to provide different services for actual patients. In turn, the patients get full dental cleanings, x-rays and other services at a cheaper cost.

Last year, the clinic had to change policies and procedures to help keep both the students performing the services and the patients safe from COVID-19. According to Susan Wancour, an associate professor and chair for the Department of Dental Hygiene and Public Health, students last year had to wear respirator masks, and services were limited due to aerosol production.

"We just lightened up this semester," Wancour said. "We are allowing instructors to decide if they want to wear a respirator mask or a regular surgical mask, and we're allowing more aerosols to be produced... We still screen all patients and students for COVID every day."

Dental hygiene students sign up for clinic classes in order to graduate. At the clinic, students are expected to find their own patients. Each semester, the number of patients they are required to service for credit increases. In their first semester, students have to have eight patients. By their final semester, they are expected to have 23 patients.

Students have a variety of ways they acquire patients. They can recruit their friends, make posts on social media and ask classmates in other classes. Online groups based

in Big Rapids also provide an opportunity to recruit patients. Students can also get patients from individuals who call in to make an appointment but do not request a specific student.

"We're all like super excited to finally be able to have patience, but we're also super nervous because we know it's hard to recruit people," first-year dental hygiene student Trisha Bennett said. "I have a lot of friends that live between two to five hours away and so it's harder for them to recruit patients to come in. We're doing okay, but it's kind of a struggle and nerve racking to try to get our requirements met by having to reach out and get patients to come in."

Bennett posted on a Facebook group called "Ask Big Rapids" where she asked members to come into the clinic to help their education. With this post she had a mother of five come in and gave her and four other students to work on.

One issue that dental hygiene students face with their patients is that there are times when the patients have to wait for as long as three hours. But in the trade off the patients get good services for cheaper rates.

The clinic has a variety of services available such as teeth cleanings, fluoride treatments, X-rays and sealants. Throughout the year, veterans can receive teeth cleanings at no cost.

During their first semester they need two patients just for X-rays then in the second semester they can do X-rays and cleanings. The second year they will be able to do sealants.

The clinic is open September through April. During the open season, there are multiple specials that go on. From Feb. 7 through March 3, Ferris students can receive discounted X-rays and cleanings. There are certain days where children up to age 13 can get free teeth cleanings and half-off sealants.

Appointments can be made either directly through a student staffing the clinic or by calling the clinic at (231) 591-2260.

Marissa Russell contributed to this article.

# For LEASE



Nice 4 bedroom, 2 bath home right on the Muskegon River for lease close to campus.



Landlord pays heat, electric, water, garbage, washer & dryer, internet and cable.

Partially Furnished • Dock Included  
Good Neighborhood

**\$525/month**  
per bedroom per tenant  
plus security deposit

August through May  
810-338-9618

TUNE IN TO OUR PODCAST:  
**THE FIREPIT**

SCAN THE SPOTIFY LINK TO LISTEN

# Senior spotlight:

## Max Sheerin and his online life

**Jeremy Wolfe**  
Freelance Reporter

Digital animation and game design senior Max Sheerin is your average fan of sports and hanging out, but when classes are over and he's back in his dorm, he livestreams video games for fans to watch, comment on and even play along with him.

In his livestreams, he often uses a working capture card at a high capture speed, a webcam, his personal computer setup and various consoles. As of right now, he mostly streams "Super Smash Bros. Ultimate" and "Pokemon Legends: Arceus."

Sheerin has been interested in games for a long time. He became interested in them at a young age, and the passion stayed with him through his college years. Now Sheerin has a lifelong appreciation for the medium, and he wants to make a career out of his favorite pastime.

It all began with a little push from his brother.

"My older brother handed me a Gameboy with "Pokemon Yellow" when I was about four or five," Sheerin said. "Ever since, I've loved video games and worlds different from our own with crazy monsters and stuff."

Sheerin's streams tend to start after school, around 3-4 p.m. From there, the nature of the streams vary. Some feature drinking games with his subscribers, challenges in video games or battle arenas for people to fight in fighting games. This variety is something he strives to keep in all of his streams going forward.

However, running a livestream isn't easy. Like any job or school, it requires keeping track of time and following a regiment to make sure people know you're live and engage with you. Additionally, you have to come up with things on the fly while live, which makes it hard to keep an entertaining persona over many hours.

"It's very easy to just turn on a stream and play a game, however, the energy required to make that content engaging and entertaining is not as easy as it seems," Sheerin said. "You have to take your personality, turn it up to 11 and play the court jester sometimes. Even on days when classes or my actual job have me physically and mentally drained."

Running a livestream is hard work for a hobby, and making money off of it is even harder. People do this work professionally with big subscriber numbers and donations, but it is difficult to break into the mainstream. With this in mind, Sheerin has reeled in his expectations, so he can be happy no matter how this experiment turns out.

"The only way streaming will become full time for me is if I hit it big," Sheerin said.



Photo by: Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

Max Sheerin sits down at his computer setup for a live stream.

"However, the likeliness of that is very slim, so it'll probably just remain a hobby that I do for fun and to make a little extra cash."

While streaming is hard work, Sheerin also has his sights set on other things. As a DAGD major, he wants to focus on making video games and modelling in the future. His streams reflect this desire, as he works on his newest models or plays around with Blender and other 3D programs. He hopes to go into this field one day, and he uses his streams as an outlet to keep up with this work.

"My content this semester is going to be a lot of 3D art streams, where I show off and practice my modeling skills," Sheerin said. "I'm dead set on making video games."

Tired of the cold and snow?  
Come be a part of our Florida family.  
There's a beach chair waiting for you.

Suncoast Community Health Centers, Inc.  
"The Best Health Care Under the Sun"

Great Benefits  
Paid CME/CEU  
Incentives &  
Bonuses Available!

Now Hiring Medical Assistants,  
Licensed Clinical Social Workers,  
Dental Hygienists and more....

For Current Career Opportunities Go To:  
[www.suncoast-chc.org](http://www.suncoast-chc.org) and click on job openings.

# OPINIONS

Rebecca VanderKooi | Opinions Editor | vandr122@ferris.edu

The Ferris State *Torch* is published on 27 Wednesdays throughout the academic year. This student-run newspaper is printed by The Pioneer Group.

OUR LOCATION  
Alumni Building 013  
410 Oak Street  
Ferris State University  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
fsutorch.com/letter-to-the-editor/

The Ferris State *Torch* welcomes comments on topics of interest to the general readership. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and The *Torch* reserves the right to edit for length. Letters will not be edited for grammar, punctuation or spelling. The *Torch* will not print letters deemed to be libelous or obscene. All letters must be signed by their authors and include his or her phone number.

Unsigned editorials appearing on this page are the opinion of The *Torch* and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the university's administration, faculty or staff. Signed columns represent the opinion of the writer. Inquiries regarding editorial content should be directed to the Editor in Chief at (231) 591-5978.

To advertise with the *Torch*, contact Julie Wiersma at the Pioneer Group: (231) 592-8373 or Julie.Wiersma@hearst.com

Student media retain the same rights, responsibilities, privileges and protections afforded by the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and under applicable state laws.

The *Torch* and fsutorch.com, the student newspaper and its accompanying online version focused on Ferris State University, are public forums for student expression. Student editors have the authority and responsibility to make all content decisions without censorship or advanced approval for both the print and online editions of the student newspapers.

## - TORCH STAFF -

**Editor in Chief**  
Brendan Sanders

**Production Manager**  
Dylan Bowden

**Production Assistant**  
Sienna Parmelee

**News Editor**  
Noah Kurkjian

**Lifestyles Editor**  
Marissa Russell

**Sports Editor**  
Brody Keiser

**Opinions Editor**  
Rebecca VanderKooi

**Multimedia Editor**  
Cassidy Jessup

**Social Media Manager**  
Jessica Schmittling

**Podcast Manager**  
Marissa Russell

**Visual Content**  
Bradley Moore  
Angelica Rosenthal  
Amelia Reed

**Special Editions Editor**  
Jessica Oakes

**Reporters**  
Austin Arquette  
Brandon Wirth  
Jerry Gaytan  
Jessica Oakes  
Meghan Hartley  
Charlie Buckel  
Rebecca Witkowski

**Freelance Reporters**  
D'Andre Head  
Giuliana Denicolo  
Trent Carlson  
Hannah Loucks

**Managing Copy Editor**  
Alyssa Myers

**Copy Editors**  
Jared Cron  
Natasha Waldfogel

**Distributor**  
Ready For Life

**Adviser**  
Garrett Stack  
(231) 591 - 5869

## EDITOR'S COLUMN:

By Brendan Sanders

## Red Out

I want to tell you a story of the last day of my 6th grade year.

That night I was celebrated my closest friend's birthday by going to a West Michigan Whitecaps game. The day after we would be making the final preparations for my cousin's wedding. It was going to be an amazing weekend to celebrate with my entire family.

After the game, I stayed the night at my friend's house. When my dad picked me up and took me home, I noticed a few things were strange.

First, there was no one else home. It was just my dad and me. We had a wedding to get ready for! Where was everyone?

Well, I would soon find out when my dad put his arm around me. The rest of my family was across the state. Why? Because my grandpa had suddenly passed away.

Why do I talk about this dark moment in my life? Because it was believed that he passed away due to a heart attack. (I say it was believed because they were unable to do an autopsy due to his religious beliefs. He had heart issues before and every indication was this was the same.)

This left a mark on me growing up. He passed away before I could really get to know him, and his advice would've been very helpful in this part of my life.

It showed me firsthand what heart health should mean for a person, it's why I want Red Out to be as successful as possible.

Last year at this time I was in COMM 389 filling out my major, it was one of the lower points of my junior year, trying to put together an e-sports event that supported Area 5 Special Olympics. It was a disaster, and we lost more money than we were able to donate.

This year, with the return of in-person events, we had the opportunity to return to the events that the Sports Communication knew. Heart health is one of the most important health fields to support, especially women's heart health.

According to the CDC, Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women, causing 1 in 3 deaths each year. This, alongside the fact that approximately 57.5% of total stroke deaths are in women.

The event that the COMM 389/489 program puts on alongside Ferris athletics directly supports the Cardiopulmonary unit based here in Big Rapids. The last time the event ran, in February of 2020, the event raised \$1,100. This year it hopes to raise more.

This year, it is more than a one-day event, seeing events being held this past Monday for both basketball games, and for the two hockey games this Friday and Saturday.

Now, while we want to raise money for these classes, we also wanted to raise awareness for the issue. We also are running

tables and posting social media pointing out some possible indications of heart issues.

This included the following:

- Cold sweats
- Nausea
- Light Headedness
- Unusual Fatigue or the ability to sleep
- Shortness of breath
- Paleness or Clammy Skin

Any little bit of information on this topic helps. I don't want to lose another family member to a heart issue. Alongside this, I don't want to possibly see anyone lose a loved one to a heart issue that could potentially be prevented.

Just like every dollar helps with organizations and hospitals taking care of people who have these heart issues.

I wish that my grandpa could see me today. I hope he would be impressed with what I am doing, both with this paper and for the community.

For those interested in attending the hockey games and seeing what this event is all about, come to Wink Arena on Friday at 7:00 p.m. or on Saturday at 6:00 p.m.



## GOT AN OPINION?

### HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Deadline for submissions every Friday by 5 p.m.  
Brendan Sanders | Editor-in-Chief | Email: Sandeb16@ferris.edu

1. Think of a topic that you feel strongly about.
2. Write out your thoughts in a coherent and respectful manner.
3. include a headshot and some information about yourself (location, age, etc.).
4. Email your opinion to the editor for a chance to have your work published in our next issue!

# Representation done right

## How Schitt's Creek sets a new tone for queer representation

**Sienna Parmelee**  
Production Assistant

Along with the rest of the world, I have shamelessly binged many television shows over the past two years. And also, like many others, I finally began to watch the highly talked about show Schitt's Creek.

As a lesbian, it is difficult for me to feel represented in film and television when queer characters' storylines are often based solely on their queerness. However, I was pleasantly surprised with Schitt's Creek compared to others.

LGBTQ+ representation in media is much higher than it used to be. According to a GLAAD report, 80% of films with an LGBTQ+ character in 2020 gave the character more than ten minutes of screen time. However, the problem with representation is that there is a difference between presence and representation.

2018 saw the release of the film "Love, Simon," a coming-of-age movie about a teenager coming out to his family and friends. While this film was a significant success, it was just another movie about coming out.

In 2020 "Happiest Season," a lesbian Christmas film released on Hulu. I was super excited to see this movie because I thought there would finally be a cheesy Hallmark Esque film for queers. However, the entire film centers around coming out, nearly ruining the couple's relationship.

Coming out stories are important, especially for those struggling with doing it themselves. But when you dwindle a character down to only their differenc-

es, it implies that there is nothing valuable outside of that. These characters are present in the film, but it makes you ask, are they being represented?

Schitt's Creek created an atmosphere with no homophobia and perpetuated no negative stereotypes. The show begins with the Rose family losing their fortune. They were left with a town that Johnny, the father, had bought for his son as a joke for his 9th birthday. Throughout the series, you learn more about the characters, including one that is pansexual.

When David's sexuality is brought up, he responds with an analogy between dating and wine. "I like all kinds of wine. Red wine, white wine, pink wine". The concept of sexuality was put into terms I had never heard before. An approach so simple but so meaningful. And most importantly, it was the only time his sexuality was ever mentioned.

And it is not just me who feels this way about the show. In the documentary "Best wishes, warmest regards," Daniel Levy and the rest of the cast discuss the show's effect on the LGBTQ+ community. Levy received a letter signed by 1800 moms of queer children stating, "Your willingness to explore, inform and educate about LGBTQ people and their relationships in an entertaining but respectful and positive manner sets a tone that is often missing."

The Director, writer, and star of Schitt's Creek made a utopia for queer people, a safe place in a town, so many of us came from. If more media can continue representing minorities in a safe space, society will change us. Instead of seeing us in the worst moments of our lives, witnessing the best.

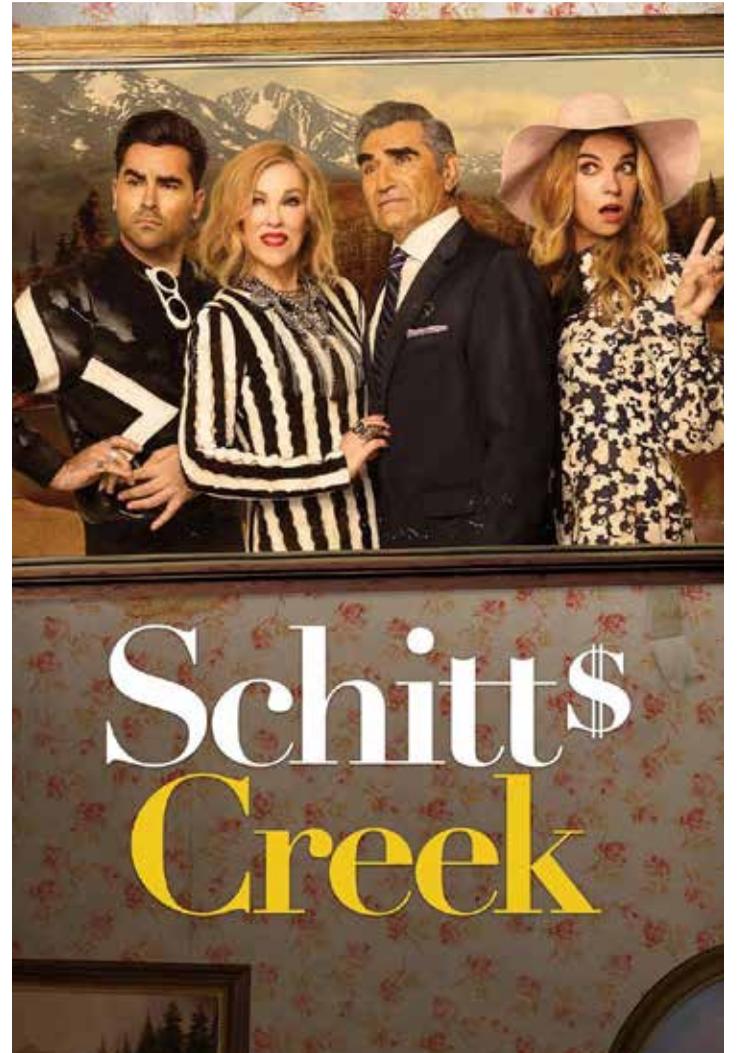


Photo by: Rotten Tomatoes

# Correlation between Super Bowl and human trafficking

## The dark side to the Super Bowl

**Rebecca Vanderkoi**  
Opinions Editor

On Sunday, Super Bowl 56 took place in Los Angeles, an upwards of 150,000 fans flooded the city, the game took place at the sold-out SoFi Stadium with 70,240 fans in attendance.

While it's a day of camaraderie, sports, and celebration there is also darker side to the Super Bowl.

The student loan company, SoFi, spent \$625 million to put the LA Rams stadium in their name. This amount of money seems ludicrous to some seeing that 45 million Americans are in \$1.8 trillion of student debt, something that Senator Bernie Sanders tweeted his disappointment with weekend. This begs the question, why did they spend the money on that rather than providing student loan assistance.

The Super Bowl is also marred by an increase in sex trafficking and human trafficking the day of the event, as well as the days leading up to it and after.

This year, the Association of Flight Attendants put out a warning preparing all flight attendants working out of Los Angeles to look for human trafficking victims.

"As Flight Attendants, we are uniquely positioned to identify human traffickers

and assist their victims. Flight crews are skilled observers, and with the appropriate training, we can be the front line against the horrific crime of human trafficking," the Association of Flight Attendants website said.

The Association of Flight attendants also provided more background on human trafficking, explaining that approximately 12.3 million individuals are enslaved around the world, 56% being women and girls.

"Mega events like the Super Bowl are a magnet for human traffickers," the Association of Flight Attendants website said.

Every year headlines break claiming that there is an increase in sex trafficking while others claim that this is a myth.

Collective Liberty compiled evidence and facts from previous Super Bowls and other major events to get a clearer picture on human trafficking that occurs at the Super Bowl.

Collective Liberty reported that there was an increase in demand was measured and confirmed during the 2014 and 2015 Super Bowls demand, corroborating trafficker testimonials.

They further added that increased tourism at large events have the right con-

ditions for an increase in sex and labor trafficking.

"Nationwide, there's consistently a spike of reported incidents around January and February (when the Super Bowl takes place). In January 2019, there were ~450 reported incidents, with a jump to ~540 in February. It dropped to 140 incidents in March 2019," Collective Liberty reported.

A study also found that, "Around big sporting events, [demand] increased 100 percent. In D.C. around election time, [demand increased] around 50 percent."

Collective Liberty said that to measure and assess demand for commercial sex leading up to the 2015 Super Bowl, researchers at the university of Arizona posted decoy commercial sex ads and compared the response to the same ad posted at the same time a year before the Super Bowl. The two decoy ads were posted twice a day for 11 days and response from buyers wishing to purchase sex was measured. The results found that there was a 22.1% demand in commercial sex surrounding the Super Bowl.

More recently in 2018, 94 buyers were arrested during week of the Super Bowl and 28 victims were identified. Ads that were posted in Minneapolis in Jan/Feb

decreased by 17.3% from 2017-2018 and increased 69.5% from 2018-2019.

The evidence shows that surrounding the Super Bowl there is an uptick in demand for commercial sex as well as arrests of buyers and traffickers, and an increase in victims recovered.

While it's a day to enjoy sports and fun it's important to understand that the event is the perfect setting for human trafficking, and it's important to take precautions to protect the most vulnerable.

Human trafficking is a very real problem in today's society and at the Super Bowl and other large events it's even more important to be vigilant and aware of surroundings during these times.

The FBI also recommends looking for signs that human trafficking may be occurring including individuals without contact to friends or family, people who have moved through multiple placing through a short period of time, and workers who have unusual work restrictions.

# SPORTS

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

## A special family tree

How Walt Kelser has continued the basketball family legacy



Photo courtesy of Walt Kelser.

Walt Kelser sits with his family inside Jim Wink Arena. From left to right (back row)-Ray Kelser (dad), Verna Kelser (grandma), Tamelia Hamilton (mom) and Joann Lipkins (grandma). From left to right (front row)-Greg Kelser (uncle) and Walt Kelser.

**Brandon Wirth**  
Sports Reporter

For the Kelser family, basketball has been attached to the family name for many generations. Over the past fifty years, multiple Kelsers have hit the hardwood at levels ranging from prep school all the way up to the NBA. This inspiration led Walt Kelser to pick up a basketball at the age of five.

The six-foot, 175-pound Southfield-native is in his third year manning the backcourt at Ferris. As a transfer from Schoolcraft College, Kelser's stellar play was sought after by many top-tier colleges. In the end, Coach Bronkema's demeanor and championship success led Walt to signing with the Bulldogs.

"One of the things was just talking to Coach Bronks," Kelser said. "He was reaching out every day. We had conversations about anything, not just basketball. Then, on my visit, I already knew a couple of people that were there. Them just winning the National Championship also helped too."

During his time in Big Rapids, there's no questioning Kelser's offensive dominance. Wearing a Bulldog uniform, Kelser has averaged 18.7 points per game on 43% shooting. This comprises eight 20+ point performances this season, including 40 points against Drury and 37 points against top-10 ranked Minnesota Duluth.

Bronkema believes Kelser's offensive prowess is a special talent.

"Walt is a high-level scorer and very efficient," Bronkema said. "He's got some natural ability and has put in a lot of time in the gym. From a basketball family, he's grown up with those expectations."

While Kelser has flourished as a Bulldog,

his success has stretched throughout his entire college career. At Schoolcraft, he averaged 21 points, along with 3.8 assists, 3.5 rebounds and 1.7 steals per contest en route to earning the Michigan Community College Athletic Association Eastern Conference Player of the Year honors.

"It was a great experience," Kelser said on his Schoolcraft career. "I loved the coaches and teams I played with there. It helped me a lot with adjusting to college basketball."

No matter where Kelser is playing, there is one thing that has traveled with him: his family's support. Whether it's parents, siblings or other family members, many come from near and far to watch him play.

"The travel to Big Rapids is about a three-hour drive," Walt said. "My family has always been supportive from day one, and I appreciate them."

Of these family members, there is a notable name when it comes to Michigan basketball. Kelser's uncle, former NBA player and Michigan State alum, Greg Kelser, currently serves as the color commentator for the Detroit Pistons. Although the once National Champion captain has a full job in motown, Greg always finds time to watch his nephew play.

"When I was coming up through high school, my parents and my family supported me," Greg said. "Then, when Walter's father Raymond was coming through the ranks, we all supported him. And now it's Walt's turn, and we are happy to support him. I will try to come anytime Ferris has a game, if the Pistons aren't playing."

Throughout the years of watching Walt play, Greg believes he has many of the tools to become an elite player.

"Walter has tremendous quickness and speed, as well as his ability to handle the basketball and create offense for himself," Kelser said. "He is also very unselfish on the court and is working hard to become a better defensive player."

While Walt has used his skills on the floor to pick up many athletic accolades, there is something he has earned off the floor that his family is extremely proud of. Playing under his fifth year of eligibility, Walt completed his bachelor's degree in sports communication in the fall of 2021. This accomplishment continues another family tradition.

"Walter's grandfather told me 40 years ago, when I was at Michigan State, that no Kelser should go without a college degree from now on," Greg said. "That's exactly what has occurred. I got my degree, my brothers got their degrees, Walt's sister got her degree and now Walter has his."

When it comes to family, there's another portion of connections he embraces. When asked about what makes him love the game of basketball, Walt pointed to the bonds formed within the team.

"It's like a big 'ole family," Walt said regarding his teammates and coaches. "I'm going to miss the guys for sure."

Over the past two seasons, Walt has shared the starting backcourt with second year point guard Jimmy Scholler. In their time together as both hotel roommates and teammates, Scholler has had a front row seat to Walt's leadership.

"Walt isn't afraid to get after people when they aren't giving the amount of expected effort," Scholler said. "He is like another coach on the floor, which is cool. He has been a great mentor and has helped

me be more aggressive and stay confident throughout the game offensively."

The consistent winning culture has put a lot of expectations on Ferris basketball. The Bulldogs are currently looking to win their fourth regular season GLIAC title in the last six seasons. Since 2015, the Bulldogs have won four GLIAC tournament titles, including the National Championship in 2018. While Ferris has put many trophies into the case, Bronkema attributes the winning culture to something that goes beyond the game.

"Championship culture doesn't even have to involve championships," Bronkema said. "It's a way you go about life."

When asked about this culture, Walt mentioned how coaches like Bronkema do a great job of forming a relationship with the players. This includes having individual meetings with players to talk about not just basketball but "real life stuff."

Although this basketball season will be Walt's last, his post collegiate plans do not involve putting down the basketball.

"I want to play professional basketball," Walt said about his plans. "I want to see how all my skills can do up to this point."

Walt and the Bulldogs currently sit atop the GLIAC standings with a 13-2 record this season. They will be in action against Wisconsin-Parkside on Thursday and Purdue Northwest on Saturday. To follow the games and the Bulldogs' chase for the conference championship, visit [www.ferris-statebulldogs.com](http://www.ferris-statebulldogs.com).

## WEEKEND SCORECARD

### Hockey

Feb. 11 - Lake Superior State 5, Ferris 3  
Feb. 12 - Lake Superior State 4, Ferris 0

### Men's Basketball

Feb. 10 - Lake Superior State 88, Ferris 73

### Women's Basketball

Feb. 10 - Ferris 70, Lake Superior State 47

# Student, athlete and father

**Joe Nagy**  
Sports Reporter

In addition to being a student-athlete, Lee Higgins is a Ferris men's basketball player grappling with the struggles of being away from his son and family.

After playing at Concordia University, St. Paul for three years, Higgins has made his mark in his first and only year with the Bulldog squad. However, attending Ferris has taken time away from raising his son, who lives in Minnesota.

The process has been tough for Higgins, but finding a winning program that he can be a part of and help improve has been his focus for this season.

"I wanted to win. I haven't really been around a winning program, so Ferris is kind of the go-to school for that," Higgins said.

The 6'3" shooting guard has been doing what he's come to Big Rapids for. Higgins has appeared in every single game for the Bulldogs so far this season, building an average of 12.5 points per game, as well as shooting nearly 50% from beyond the arc.

Higgins' abilities on the court compliment each one of his teammates. He's shown an above average rebounding ability in his position, which helps Logan Ryan and Vejas Grazulis on the weak side. He also shows an impressive display of his court vision, which helps open the floor for the other three-point shooters on the roster.

"They got the license to shoot it when they're open. If they can get themselves open, they can shoot it," head coach Andy Bronkema said about the shooting talents of Higgins and Dorian Aluyi.

Higgins didn't begin his career at the Division II level for basketball. Instead, he made his collegiate debut at Des Moines

Area Community College. He started in all but one game for the Bears, averaging 15 points, two assists and one rebound. Shortly after, he made the trip to Minnesota to play two seasons for the Golden Bears.

The decision to spend his final year of eligibility in Michigan wasn't an easy one.

"It was tough, actually," Higgins said. "I have a son back in Minnesota, so it was a tough process."

After three years of building relationships and habits, as well as spending so much time with his son, it took a long time to adapt. Although leaving behind this bond is tough, the chance to build new ones makes the change a little bit easier.

"Lee has been confident since he's gotten here," sophomore Ben Davidson said. "He has a swagger about him that is very helpful to the team. The only thing bad about Lee is that he's a Bears fan."

Fans can see he's fit in quite well with the other guys on the Bulldog roster in his short time here. He has left a positive mark on his teammates and coaches both on and off the court.

Compared to his last stop in the big city of St. Paul, Higgins has found some of his favorite places here in Big Rapids. One of the things he enjoys most is indulging in some delicious burgers from Schuberg's.

"At Concordia, it was very small. It was a big city, but it was like a small campus," Higgins said. "There was only one place to eat, so this is definitely different for me."

As much fun as it is to have fun off campus, Higgin's focus is always on the court. Despite the 18-4 overall record that the team has reached so far this season, the last two road losses have given them much to work on.

"Every road game in the GLIAC is pretty



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

Lee Higgins has provided 12.5 points per game for the Bulldogs as a graduate transfer.

tough. We just approach it like, alright, we got to come out [and] hit them first," Higgins said. "They don't really feel like away games. We [have] some nice traveling fans.

"I like the family atmosphere [and] how the fans are all involved and stuff like that. You see the same people at the games," Higgins said. "They all feel like they are apart of the Bulldogs. That's what I like."

With Higgins and the rest of the Bulldogs working to finish with another 20+ win season, there's still work to do. Finishing out

the regular season and getting redemption in the GLIAC and March tournaments are things that each of the players, managers, coaches and fans are working together to achieve.

# Ferris

## OUTFITTERS

### SHOP TO SUPPORT

### OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL STUDENT SERVICES



FOR A LIMITED TIME

**HAND-PICKED PRODUCTS SUPPORTING OMSS**

Stop into Ferris Outfitters today to pick up items hand picked by the Office of Multicultural Student Services. For this month only, a portion of the proceeds on these items will be provided to the OMSS.

# Ferris hockey trends upwards

After a hard 2020-21 season, the Bulldogs begin to improve

**Dylan Rider**  
Torch Reporter

Ferris hockey has made clear improvements from their last season, but one question remains: how improved are they really?

For starters, there's the obvious improvement in their record. Ferris hockey went 1-23-1 in their 2020-21 campaign and 0-11-1 in their conference. At the time of writing, this year's team sits at 10-18-0, with an in-conference record of 8-12-0.

Goaltender Logan Stein spoke on the thought process he had after the forgettable season.

"For me, I just wanted to continue to work," Stein said. "I know this program has the resources, and the talent and the coaching staff to win a lot of games. To win national championships. To win conference championships. So it was about us as players using those resources and really putting in the work ourselves."

Stein's goaltending improved from last year. Stein only played in 12 games last year, going 0-11-1. In those 12 games, he posted a .887% save percentage. This year, Stein has played in 22 games and started in 19 of them. Stein posts a 6-13-0 record, with a .878% save percentage.

Sophomore forward Stepan Pokorny spoke on what it was like playing during the 2020-21 season and gave his thoughts.

"I thought it definitely wasn't the best season," Pokorny said. "Obviously nobody was happy with that season as a first one. Nobody came to Ferris hockey to have a season like that. Personally, I was happy

2020-21 POWER PLAY GOAL PERCENTAGE:

**0.194% (14 goals on 72 power plays)**

2021-22 POWER PLAY GOAL PERCENTAGE:

**0.135% (13 goals on 96 power plays)**

2020-21 PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE:

**0.722% (65 kills on 90 power plays)**

2021-22 PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE:

**0.767% (89 kills on 116 power plays)**

as a freshman to get enough opportunity to play and see what the NCAA level is about. I always knew that the outcome of that season could be better. I knew what we could've done. I thought we just struggled with confidence. Personally, I always knew we were gonna be getting better as each year goes on."

Stats from the special teams shows an improvement, while also highlighting a

struggling unit.

The obvious lack of progress comes in the form of the power play, with a .059% decrease. Ferris currently has played three more games than last season, which adds insult to injury on the struggling power play. The improvement comes in the form of the penalty kill, with a .045% increase. The increase does make sense when considering that Ferris has played three more

games this year, but it bodes well for this improving team.

Senior forward Justin Michaelian spoke on rebounding after the 2020-21 season, and how he and the team wanted to come back even stronger.

"Everyone kinda came in with that chip on their shoulder," Michaelian said. "We kind of just threw last year out the window with COVID and everything. Everyone was sick of it. It was just not a good year, and this year we just tried to focus on [the] things we can do to get better and just an all around team effort. Just everyone buying into everything, really. It's paid its dividends for sure. We're a lot better team than we were last year."

Michaelian, who tore his labrum last season, also spoke on coming in with a chip on his shoulder. Michaelian was limited to only 14 games in a 25 game season. This year he leads the Bulldogs in goals, assists and points.

Ferris hockey is very much a young team. The team is composed of seven freshmen, nine sophomores, eight juniors and six seniors. The freshmen already have made their mark on the team. Examples of this are forward Bradley Marek, forward Kaleb Ergang and defensemen Zach Farthing.

Between Pokorny, Stein and Michaelian, the hope that Ferris will be able to make the jump in these next few years is high. All three believe that it's only going to get better from here on out.

**VOTED MICHIGANS TOP 10 BREWERIES & MECOSTA COUNTY'S #1 CASUAL DINING RESTAURANTS**

# CRANKER'S

**BREWERY & ECLECTIC EATERY**

**Great Food!**



**Great Beer!**



**213 S. State Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307**  
**231-796-1919**

## FEBRUARY SPECIALS

**Monday BOGO Night**  
Buy one of our Famous Wet Burritos or HANI Pitas and get one 50% off

**2\$ Tuesdays**  
\$2 Tacos (Beef, Chicken, Pork),  
\$2 Sliders, \$2 Detroit Coney Island Dogs and many other \$2 specials

**Wednesday**  
**Breakfast for Dinner**  
All You Can Eat Pancake and Eggs \$8.99

**Thursday College Night**  
**Comedy Night**  
With live performances  
FOOD & DRINK Specials only with College ID

**Friday Seafood Night**  
Enjoy Wild Caught Seafood SPECIALS (Fresh Fish, Shrimp, Crab)

**Saturday Steak Night**  
CHOPHOUSE STEAK SPECIALS (New York Strip, Ribeye, Filet Mignon, Sirloins)