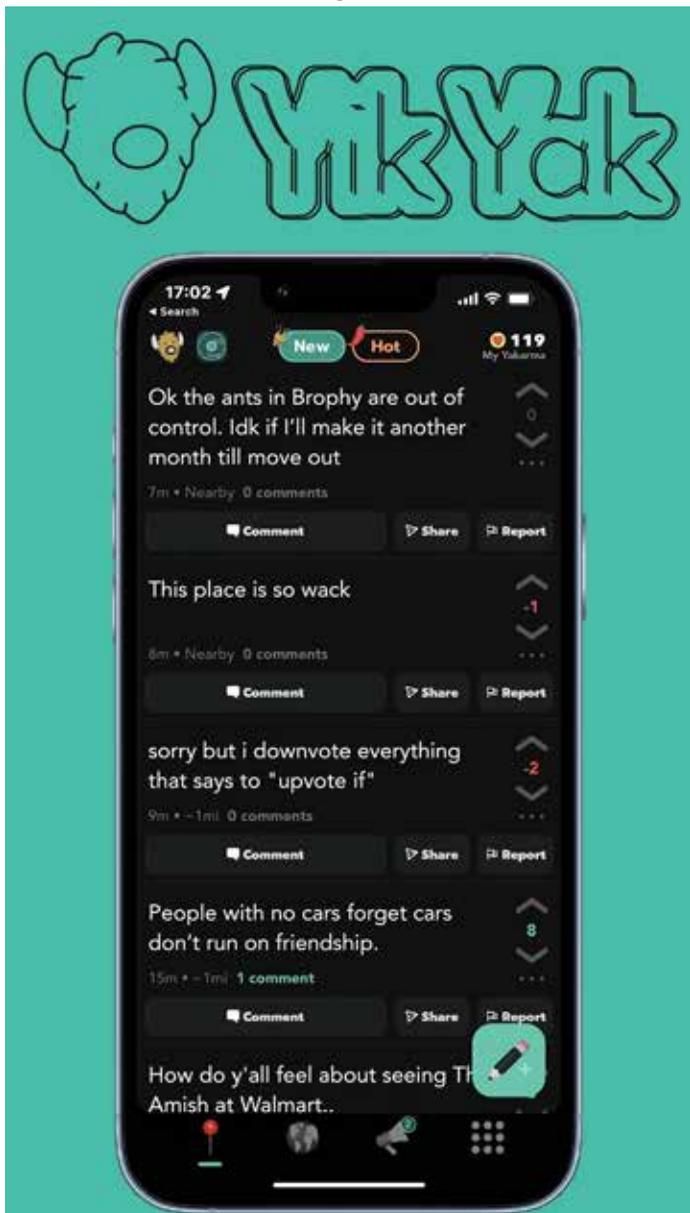


The YikYak problem

Cyberbullying within anonymous app has real consequences



Graphic by: Noah Kurkjian | News Editor

Rebecca Vanderkooi
Opinions Editor

YikYak, the anonymous, proximity-based, social media app, has been causing problems at Ferris, due to an increase in cyberbullying happening within the app.

Multiple students are being investigated by the Office of Student Conduct after their targeted harassment through YikYak led a student to attempt suicide.

As reported by The Hill, at its peak, YikYak was worth \$400 million, but in 2017 the app shut down due to problems with cyberbullying, harassment and racism. However, after four years of being shut down, the app came back in August of 2021.

One of the biggest changes in the app since the 2017 shut down is that it has a section outlining community guidelines, which includes mental health and other safety resources.

However, even with these safeguards in place, the app is already causing problems with cyberbullying.

An RA from Ferris, who does not feel comfortable sharing their identity for fear of losing their job, explained that they downloaded YikYak just before spring recess. This happened after several small instances of roommate and hall drama were occurring within the app.

Recently, they explained, the app has become more malicious, and numerous people were targeting certain students.

“I saw them posting about the students, telling them that they’re worthless, that they should commit self-harm and commit suicide, they should kill themselves, really really serious things,” the RA said.

One individual did attempt to take their life because of the harassment. Thankfully, they were unsuccessful.

After that, some of the RAs were able to put together who some of the bullies were. Since they are mandated reporters, they reported the situation to their hall director.

As of last week, the individuals being accused of cyberbullying and harassment are still being investigated by the Office of Student Conduct, and other students associated with the bullies are also being brought in for questioning.

The Office of Student Conduct was not willing to comment on the story, as it violates student privacy policies.

“The students that had been confirmed to be bullying are facing serious repercussions. I know that expulsion was mentioned,” the RA said.

The RA explained that, typically, when there are cases of harassment, the students get moved, so they aren’t living in the same hall, and a restraining order is often put into place.

“There’s police involvement in certain circumstances where it’s serious enough. I could see that happening with this situation. I’m just not entirely sure if it has yet,” the RA said.

A report was filed with Ferris DPS after a post on YikYak doxed the location of the individual. However, the case was closed and deemed a civil matter due to the anonymity of the post.

According to the Code of Student Community Standards, harassment, both on and off-campus, is not acceptable. The section titled, ‘Individual misconduct on or off university property’ outlines more details on harassment cases.

“Behavior that creates a hostile or intimidating environment in which verbal or physical conduct, because of its severity or persistence, is likely to unreasonably interfere with an individual’s work environment, education environment or environment for participation in University activities,” the handbook states.

Business administration freshmen Riley Green started using YikYak last semester. He explained that last semester he didn’t notice any bullying in the app, and there seems to be an uptick in bullying in the past month.

“I just think it’s kind of like the

nature of YikYak itself. It is by most accounts a completely anonymous social media. And that kind of gives people the leverage and the power to say whatever they want, just because they can without repercussion of anything happening to them,” Green said.

Green explained that the whole situation saddens him because, up until this point, his experience with YikYak has been positive, and he’s enjoyed seeing funny posts. However, the bullying paints the app in a bad light.

Ferris is not the only university dealing with cyberbullying and harassment via YikYak. WILX reported that Michigan State University students and staff are concerned in regards to the return of the infamous app.

In 2015, a former MSU student was charged with making a false threat of terrorism against the university through YikYak. The student was sentenced to probation. Now that the app is back, the MSU community is concerned.

According to the article, while nothing of this nature has happened yet at MSU, there have already been instances of bullying and calling out professors within the app.

The University of Vermont has had similar concerns with the app. As reported by The Record, unfounded rumors circulated that freshman Cal McCandless had assaulted someone.

“I was essentially sitting in my room one day, and one of my friends up the hall sent me a post on Yik Yak that was about me. It essentially said, in a really fuzzy and benign way, that I assaulted someone,” McCandless told The Record.

McCandless immediately filed a police report to have the misinformation taken down, but it took eight hours for that to happen.

Despite the new safety measures within YikYak, there are still reports of bullying within the app both here at Ferris and on a national level.

Noah Kurkjian contributed to the reporting of this article.

‘Speaking up and Speaking Out’ summit success

“Making the world a better place is about bringing people to where they can maximize their potential,” Martey-Ochola said

Jessica Oakes
News Reporter

Entrepreneur Dr. Christine Martey-Ochola speaks English along with several Kenyan languages. At Thursday’s diversity, equity and inclusion summit, she only spoke her truth.

Martey-Ochola is the Lead Consultant at Grand Rapids’ Cultural Intelligence Center, a Pennsylvania STEM ambassador and

CEO of haircare company Nuele. She traveled to Big Rapids to share a message of multiculturalism in one’s professional and personal life.

This year’s summit was titled “Speaking up and Speaking Out: Your Voice Matters!” Keynote speaker Martey-Ochola spoke on finding voice through cultural intelligence. She believes that every person “shows up” with their own personality and mannerisms and that there is great value in recog-

nizing these differences.

“Our cultural differences can empower us to build a better world,” Martey-Ochola said.

The diverse crowd of students, staff and faculty listened intently and laughed genuinely during the speech. Martey-Ochola offered experiences from her own family life in order to connect with the audience on a more personal level. She is confident in her ability to engage with college students be-

cause she has been in their position once herself.

“Even for students who are planners—who know where they want to go with their lives and their careers—there’s always a certain level of uncertainty,” Martey-Ochola said. “I find that if I can bring forward the experiences I’ve had, then maybe it’s going to make a student’s life easier. Or it can just minimize that anxiety a little bit around

Diversity summit | see page 4

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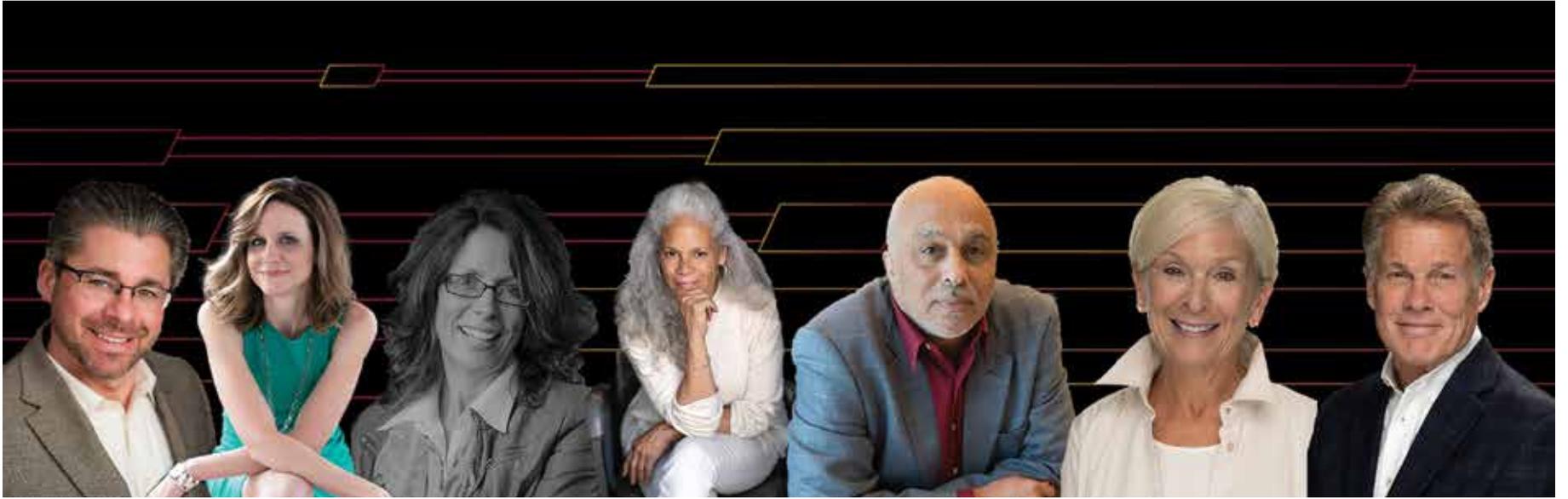
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NEWS

Noah Kurkjian | News Editor | kurkjin@ferris.edu

Fresh faces

Introducing the six new Ferris Foundation Directors



Graphic by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor | Photos courtesy of Ferris State University

(From left to right) Matt Bissett, Jenifer Cutter, Denise Graves, Dana King, David Pilgrim, Christine Visner and Russ Visner join the 28-member appointed Board of Directors for the Ferris Foundation.

Rebecca VanderKooi Opinions Editor

The Ferris Foundation, Ferris' philanthropic board of directors, welcomed seven new directors in December.

The new directors include Matt Bissett, Jenifer Cutter, Denise Graves, Dana King, David Pilgrim, Christine "Chris" Visner and Russ Visner.

Kimberly Erickson has been the Ferris Foundation Assistant for the past 16 years, and she is the direct contact for the 28-member board of directors.

She explained that the Ferris Foundation is made up of a diverse group of individuals that represent various industries.

"The new directors bring with them connections to individuals, corporations and foundations that will continue to help students and faculty at Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design. This group has displayed energy and interest in moving Ferris forward and is committed to providing connections for financial support for the University," Erickson wrote in an email to the Torch.

According to Erickson, the process by which the new directors are confirmed is relatively simple. The current directors and others can suggest individuals who could potentially be good candidates. Once the individual has been vetted by the committee, they are then invited to join. If the individual accepts the invitation, they are voted on by the Ferris Foundation board and approved by the board of trustees.

To welcome the six new directors, we would like to briefly introduce them.

Matt Bissett

Matt Bissett received his Bachelor of Science in surveying engineering from Ferris. From there he took on roles within Atwell LLC, and today he is both a partner and senior vice president there.

"I have real thankfulness, since Ferris gave me a foundation for success," Bissett said in a university press brief.

This isn't Bissett's first time being involved with Ferris since his graduation. He received the Distinguished Alumni award in 2014. Additionally, according to a university press brief, Bissett encouraged Atwell LLC to endow scholarships for surveying engineering students and those in the Associate of Applied Science degree for surveying technology at Ferris.

"I am still learning about The Ferris Foundation and its mission," Bissett said in a university brief. "My early impressions are that this will be a great way to help the university improve the support that can be offered to students, faculty and staff in their pursuit of excellence."

Jenifer Cutter

Jennifer Cutter graduated from Ferris in 2000 with a degree in hospitality management.

She was recommended to the board of directors by sport, entertainment and hospitality management associate professor Amy Dorey.

"I graduated from Ferris and have stayed connected, specifically through my program, the hospitality program," Cutter said. She stayed in touch with students through the program and is excited to make a further impact now that she's a director with the Ferris Foundation.

Cutter further added that higher education has undergone a lot of changes, and she's excited to explore ways to make Ferris more attractive to new students. This could mean doing more with virtual learning, adding more certifications or adding other new options for students.

"I think the next era of higher education looks probably quite a bit different than what the previous decades have looked like, or even the last five years," Cutter said.

One of Cutter's biggest goals in her new role is to use her platform to create awareness for Ferris and educate people about the work that Ferris is doing.

Denise Graves

Denise Graves graduated with a Bachelor of Science in accounting in 1989. A university brief explained that she is currently a university relations director in entrepreneurship and innovation for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Because of this role, she often interacts with Ferris' Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

Like many other new directors, she is excited to use her new platform with the Ferris Foundation to help Ferris in any way possible.

"I view The Ferris Foundation board as a great opportunity to do important work for students and to assist the faculty and staff of the university in moving forward. So, I am proud and honored to join such an es-

teemed group," Graves said in a university brief.

Graves further added that once she has begun work with the foundation board, she is open to serving the university in other ways as well.

Dana King

Dana King is an Emmy award-winning television broadcaster turned sculptor. She graduated from Ferris with a Bachelor of Science in marketing in 1982.

The Jim Crow Museum is what originally brought her back to Ferris. She is involved with the Jim Crow expansion project as a member of the Jim Crow Museum Campaign Cabinet.

Now, King is a director with the Ferris Foundation and is also receiving her honorary Ph.D. from Ferris in May.

"I am so honored, like tears honored," King said.

King explained that she is excited to pay it forward and help the university in any way possible. She views herself as an ambassador for Ferris, regardless of where she is or what she is doing.

"Everyone should know about the Jim Crow Museum, and everyone should know about Ferris because it's an institution that has been driven by its mission to educate any and all people since the very beginning. To me, that's what higher ed should be about. It shouldn't be an exclusive space that keeps people out and is intimidating; it should be a welcoming space where people feel a sense of belonging, and that's exactly what Ferris is," King said.

David Pilgrim

David Pilgrim has been a member of the Ferris community since 1990.

He explained that he took this new role to make a positive impact on the University.

"These are challenging times for Ferris State and most universities in Michigan and the nation. But we can do something special here—and I want to be a part of that 'something special,'" Pilgrim wrote in an email to the Torch.

Pilgrim further explained that the Ferris Foundation mirrors many of his values in terms of diversity, inclusion and equity. He is hopeful that together, with the other directors, he can help the university in any way possible.

"Together we can continue to advance the mission and vision of the University—

and we can do it in a way that builds a campus that belongs to all of us as much as it belongs to any of us," Pilgrim wrote.

Christine "Chris" Visner

Chris Visner has joined the directors of the Ferris Foundation beside her husband, Russ Visner.

As reported in a university brief, Visner graduated from Ferris with a Bachelor of Science in secondary education. While at Ferris, she was the first woman to serve as All College Student Government President and was Ferris State College's Woman of the Year in 1972.

Her father was also involved in the Ferris community, and she is excited to continue to use her abilities to benefit Ferris and its students.

"I can hardly wait to begin my service on the board, as my dad also lent his talents and energy to areas like the Residence Hall Association and Student Government," Visner said in a university brief.

Visner also explained that she's excited to be taking this role alongside her husband.

"This is an exciting time to serve [and] support the intentions of the board of trustees and be among the attributes available to the next president of the university. We are very much looking forward to it," Visner said.

Russ Visner

Russ Visner received his Bachelor of Science in accounting from Ferris, then he became a CPA. He worked for 36 years at Etna Supply Company. During his time there, the plumbing, water system hardware and fire suppression implement distributor grew into a multi-state operation. He retired as both the CEO and owner.

Visner expressed excitement over this opportunity to give back to the university after Ferris has given so much to both him and his wife.

"We thought about our time together at Ferris, which means so much since it allowed us to do as we had hoped, which now includes serving our alma mater together," Visner said in a university brief.

Visner has an extensive background in community service and professional organization leadership. He hopes his contributions through the Ferris Foundation can be of benefit to the students, faculty and staff at Ferris.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

LANSING - Gov. Gretchen Whitmer vetoed a set of bills on Friday, April 1, that, if passed, would have caused hundreds of thousands of Michigan voters to take active steps to stay registered to vote in the state.

Michigan's Secretary of State recommended upgrades to the voters list maintenance process back in 2019 and partnered with lawmakers to draft these bills. However, Republican lawmakers amended these piece of legislation to include measures that, according to the Michigan Secretary of State, would add extra cost and open the door to errors, according to the Detroit Free Press.

The bills would purge or update the roll of voters with unknown or unverified birth dates and those who haven't cast a ballot in decades.

If a voter were to be flagged under these bills, they would be mailed a form by their local election official to verify their information. The forms would also require their signature and

any other identifying information that may be required to vote.

Just under 400 voters have unverified birthdays, according to Freep. These voters had birthdays that could not be verified and added to the electronic voter file system when the digitalization took place.

Under 300,000 people would fall under the inactivity update, according to Freep. This includes voters that have not cast a ballot since the 2000 presidential election.

Voters who fail to respond to these mailings, reach out to their local clerk or participate in voting related activities would be purged from the voter rolls after two November general elections.

In the letter accompanying her veto decision, Gov. Whitmer cited that the bills "do not advance the goal of improving Michigan elections" and "they would burden clerks and voters, while increasing costs to Michigan residents."

There is currently no word as to whether or not these bills will be revised.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

PERU - Peruvian President Pedro Castillo avoided impeachment last week after an extended parliamentary debate that lasted more than eight hours.

Of the 118 legislators, 55 voted to impeach, 54 voted not to impeach and 19 abstained from the vote. The opposition needed a total of 87 votes to remove Castillo from office.

"I shall always squarely face the nation... because I am subject to the rules of due process," Castillo said at the opening of the hearing, according to Al Jazeera, a middle-eastern English news network.

Castillo, a former teacher, has been president since July of 2021, after narrowly winning a "tightly-contested" run-off election, according to the BBC.

Castillo is nowhere close to being the first Peruvian president to face allegation of corruption, either. In the last 36 years, all seated presidents of Peru have faced similar allegations, resulting in a variety of outcomes, which include removal, arrests and imprisonment.

In 2018, former President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski resigned before an

impeachment trial could conclude and be voted on.

After him, former President Martin Vizcarra was fully impeached in 2020, and in December of 2021 lawmakers tried unsuccessfully to impeach Castillo a first time.

On Sunday, according to the BBC, thousands of protesters took to the streets of the Peruvian capital, Lima, to express their discontent with the seated president.

"Every patriot must support the impeachment because the country is in danger, in the hands of a man who has demonstrated to be not just a liar, but also a corrupt person," Maria Del Solar, a demonstrator participating in the weekend protests, said to Al Jazeera.



- ON THE RECORD -

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

Gas station situation

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

YikYak yikes

March 23, 5:51 p.m. - A student was doxxed via the anonymous, social media app YikYak. DPS closed the case because the anonymity of the post deemed it a civil matter.

Slow your roll

March 23, 9:12 p.m. - A student was pulled over on Ferris Dr. for violating the posted speed. Officers issued the driver a citation.

TDMP tap

March 24, 8:12 a.m. - A TDMP equipment trailer was struck on Knollview Dr., leaving it damaged. The

offending vehicle fled the scene and did not report the incident. The case was closed because there were no leads.

Lost lock

March 30, 3:38 p.m. - A student reported a missing pad lock from their locker at the campus recreation center. The case was closed because there were leads.

Gas station situation

April 2, 2:32 p.m. - A driver was stopped at the Meijer gas station for a suspected OUI. When officers made contact with the driver, they also learned they had suspended drivers license. The suspect was arrested by police, and the case remains open and awaits further investigation.

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Corrections

Last week in the story "The people behind the panel", the quote within the pull box was incorrectly attributed to John Caserta. It should have been attributed to Lilia Caserta.

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



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LANCO comes to Ferris

Entertainment Unlimited brought country band, LANCO, to campus March 30. The auditorium was filled with Ferris students who were standing and dancing through the entire concert.

Photos by: Cassie Jessup | Multimedia Manager

Diversity summit

Continued from page 1

what tomorrow could look like.”

After moving from Kenya to Pennsylvania to study biochemistry and philosophy, Martey-Ochola knows how it feels to be immersed in a new culture. She encourages students to seek unity in unlikely places because “there’s always a home somewhere in them.”

“When [students] go to that other place, everybody might look different from them, might even speak differently from them. But there’ll be a unifying culture somewhere in there... Nine times out of ten, they’ll find something that they love,” Martey-Ochola said.

Martey-Ochola was able to unite with Ferris community members in a discussion about overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. This sparked a rapport between her and several students, including third year communications major Berenise Alvarez.

According to Alvarez, students were drawn to the keynote speaker’s friendly nature and honest communication.

“I think her personality, and what she kind of gave off was very welcoming. And, specifically minorities, we look for that,” Alvarez said.

Following Martey-Ochola’s speech, Alvarez spoke on the breakout panel, “Walking the Talk: Narratives on Inclusion from a Student Lens.” This talk analyzed Ferris’ campus climate, as well as Big Rapids as a whole. The panelists discussed potential

solutions to cultural exclusivity.

“Be willing to learn about other people. Don’t give those nasty stares. We’re human. Just because we look different than everyone else, just because we speak a different language, doesn’t mean that we’re horrible... We just want everyone to be treated equally and be welcoming. A simple ‘hi’ or smile, that goes a long way,” Alvarez said.

Alvarez was one of thirteen students who attended the summit dressed to represent their culture in Greek life. As a member of the multicultural sorority Sigma Lambda Gamma, she encourages students to interact with the Ferris community with an open mind.

The summit was a collaborative effort between the Center for Student Involvement, the Office of Multicultural Student Services and the Kendall College of Art and Design. Assistant dean of student life and director of student conduct Nicholas Campau was one of the many organizers. His goal was to “provide a great experience for the campus and community.”

Campau was pleased with how the summit turned out. He especially appreciated the remarks of the keynote speaker.

“[Martey-Ochola was] incredible in terms of content and [provided] real-life examples that are relatable..., which just [brought] the material to life. It’s not just dry textbook,” Campau said.

For information on upcoming cultural events, visit the Ferris event calendar or the OMSS’s social media pages.

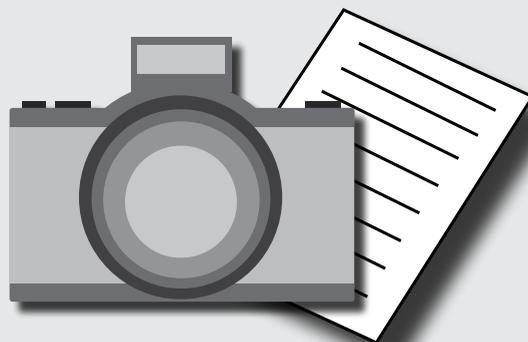


Photo by: Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

Speaker Dr. Christine Martey-Ochola spoke to an engaged group of students, faculty and staff.

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Let's talk about the Museum of Sexist Objects

The Ferris museum that not many seem to know about

Charlie Buckle
Freelance Reporter

Although most people know about the Jim Crow Museum located in FLITE, not many know about the museum living on the third floor of Starr

The Museum of Sexist Objects opened in 2015. It is dedicated to showing the many ways in which sexism permeates society in both subtle and obvious ways.

Associate professor Tracy Busch worked to create the museum and is currently in charge of it. She wishes that more people were aware that the museum exists.

"We'd like to be more visible. Most of the people who come through the museum are our students, and they come with professors," Busch said. "Part of the reason why is because some of the objects could be used for the opposite purpose, promoting sexism as opposed to fighting sexism."

The objects in the museum represent the sexism that continues to exist in our society. There are objects that represent the gender binary, unattainable beauty standards, women at work, intersectionality with other issues and much more. In March many of these objects were showcased in a traveling exhibit in the Fine Art Gallery in the University Center.

The exhibit was inspired by the stories that people would tell Busch when they connected with objects in the museum.

"We are really interested in discovering that connection between objects and stories and that's part of what the Museum does, it helps you to relate sexism to your own life experience," Busch said. "By articulating it, we're taking power over that narrative. So, it turns from a museum of sexism, to a museum of empowerment."

The stories have also inspired the idea of what Busch calls a storytelling



Photo by: Angie Rosenthal | Torch Photographer

Tracy Busch is the MoSO's Lead Faculty and has been with museum since it's inception.

community. Director of accessibility and disability resources Julie Alexander helps out with the museum, and she spoke about the group.

"What we're doing is starting a storytelling group that will pilot this fall, where people [can] come and learn how to tell their story, whether that's writing your story, creating a video or, you know, [whatever] that might be. So this is something that we'll start working on," Alexander said.

There is also a desire among those involved with the museum for an

exclusive, expanded space.

"My vision for it is to have a little building like a house on campus, because I feel like the house would be a good structure for a museum like this," Busch said. "You could have the kitchen stuff in the kitchen, a toy room for all the toys, a bedroom for all the sexist wife stuff and you could have a dog house for all the women as animals."

The MoSO is the only museum of sexist objects in the world, yet most of its funding and displayed objects come from donations. This means that visibility

is the best way to grow the museum, yet the university doesn't advertise or market the museum's existence. Throughout April the museum will be accepting donations during One Day for Dawgs, and there's a donation box in the museum room.

Busch would also appreciate it if the museum had more support from the university. She thinks it would be a win-win situation.

"It would make Ferris look good, there is nothing for Ferris to lose in so doing," Busch said. "I think we're ready to go big."

For now, Busch and those who volunteer with the museum will continue to work towards making sure it gets the attention it deserves and to educate those who come in.

Both Busch and Alexander want those who experience the museum to leave with a better understanding of sexism.

"What I want people to walk away with more than anything is heightened critical thinking. As [they] are looking at objects, things that are meant to be funny, think about what message is this sending. How might this be perceived? How does this affect our culture? Does this contribute to rape culture? What is this? What is this doing in our world?" Alexander said.

If you would like to set up a time to take a tour through the Museum of Sexist Objects, you can fill out a tour request form at <https://www.ferris.edu/moso/index.htm>. They can also be reached by email at moso@ferris.edu or by phone at (231) 591-5846.



Photo by: Angie Rosenthal | Torch Photographer

While MoSO is the only museum in the world like this, it relies mostly on funding from donations.

Snapping into a new look

Ferris evaluates this new era of design trends



Photo by: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager

Giuliana Denicolo
Lifestyles Editor

Graphic design and brand identity naturally evolve, but the Ferris design community share distate for today's trends.

"Design plays a role in every aspect of everything we do," Professor Alison Popp Meier said. "Design is everywhere. It's a critical aspect to how we live our lives and how we work."

In Popp Meier's introduction to design class, she assigns her students a project called design emergency. Her students get to pick an issue of design present in any brand and come up with a solution

Popp Meier says that design consults problems, which is why she loves giving students this project. She wants to connect students with solutions and make them think of situations they've been in that could've been solved by tweaking designs.

When it comes to change, Popp Meier is on board. She's an early adapter to updates and new ideas of design, except when they've been poorly executed.

"When a brand changes and it doesn't connect with most audiences and doesn't make sense, usually the problem is [the] design was treated like a veneer and it wasn't a strategic force for the solution," Popp Meier said.

Some brands do follow trends and sometimes change doesn't always work out. Popp Meier said that after a rebrand, sometimes things don't get better, which shows her that that brand didn't have design a part of their core strategy and didn't invest enough into the design process.

"When they didn't bring high-minded or experienced designers into the mix early enough in the process, or they disregard good design advice, that's when you see

the disasters in the rebrand," Popp Meier said. "Good brands don't just react, they lead, and leading with a good brand takes a lot of expertise."

Snapple came to mind when the topic of poorly executed rebranding came up. The brand has evolved every few years, and the new update has introduced a plastic bottle with a regular twist-off cap.

Popp Meier said that Snapple is an example of where she doesn't know what their thinking was. She questions the research done in this rebranding; because, to her, any little bit of audience research would have told them that their classic metal cap and glass bottle were key brand attributes.

"They had a thing, and they [lost] their thing by changing that typography and bottle design. They lost their unique brand positioning by doing that," Popp Meier said, "It's not clear that they were targeting any one particular group, and they were trying to be all things [and] all people, that's a detriment to a brand. You have to have a unique value proposition for a particular audience."

She started working at Ferris mainly because of the uniqueness of the College of Business and the design teaching approach that is offered. She said that there are people here like her that are dedicated to the idea that everyone could be successful if they work hard.

"Ferris is an amazing place. It really has all the elements of an excellent brand, and there's a real opportunity to make the branding connect with students and the community in a meaningful way with a lot of strategy and creativity," Popp Meier said. "[This] generation was really looking for all the stuff that Ferris has. Ferris branding has a lot of potential to connect with audiences and resonate more than ever."

Graphic design junior Katie Shantz

spoke on always being taught to embrace the use of white space and simplifying design. She believes that at some point, especially when it comes to package design, this mindset can make it hard to distinguish and differentiate between brands.

"Snatching away all the spice in the character is making these brands that we all know and love so much less distinguishable, just because everything looks the same," Shantz said.

According to Shantz, this can make it harder for consumers to make a decision on which brand to buy or distinguish what is in line with what they really want. The design similarities make it hard to tell what every brand stands for and who they even are. Switching to this minimalist design isn't a good representation of what certain brands stand for.

Shantz used Chobani's brand as an example of why not all brands should take the minimalistic approach. She believes Chobani has warmth and character behind it, differing from other food branding because it isn't typical food photography or corporate illustration.

"I personally buy products, and virtually everything, based on how it looks," Shantz said. "Even when it comes to cleaning supplies, I pick that out by the packaging, and if everything looks exactly the same, I'm going to pick the one that has a little bit more spice to it."

Brands are more likely to take the minimalist approach because it's trendy and easier. There isn't much work needed to make a logo appear minimalistic and clean.

As long as the logo is able to be translated just as effectively to other media. It needs to stand together like a "branded experience" and be concise for it to work as a simple, yet effective logo.

Shantz thinks that some of the certain

typefaces Ferris uses in their branding only works sometimes because they lack warmth and voice. A brand doesn't need to create a busy logo in order for it to be effective.

"Something that Ferris takes pride in really is just all of the different facilities and organizations they have to offer, as well as the diversity among students and different experiences. I do not feel like their logo is super representative of that," Shantz said.

Marketing junior Evan Nowak thinks that the trend of a more modern design is based on demographics and a "cultural switch." Companies are changing their design so that they can reach a new audience as they make their products look more stylish and appealing. He believes that the new modern designs makes consumers feel new and fancy, but he enjoys diversity within his products.

"I feel like [color is] an eye-catcher, and a lot of companies are sacrificing that just to look modern, but bright colors can get a customer's attention too," Nowak said.

This change in design is a trend. Brands are all racing to achieve a new look for their own company. Nowak said if everybody tries to race to be different, everyone is going to end up looking the same.

The design that this generation grew up on was once new. There's another change because when people get used to one thing, it loses the interesting edge it had before. A lot of people like change because things get old, and they crave something new.

"For our generation, the products that we loved were the previous generations change. If you keep something around too long, it loses a customer's attention, [and] it's bound to change," Nowak said.

Graduation ins and outs

Everything you need to know about upcoming graduation

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter

Every semester, a graduation commencement ceremony takes place. Seniors are ready to finally close the doors on their university years, but are they ready to graduate?

At Ferris, graduation is a technical and detail-oriented process that must be completed with accuracy before students can walk across the stage.

Because of how much there is to remember and check off, students can at times be lost in what needs to be done.

Jennifer Stevens, an administrative assistant to the dean of enrollment services and commencement coordinator, receives many questions about the graduation process from students.

“The [questions] that we primarily get [are] ‘When do we apply? Do we have to apply?’ because a lot of them focus on their MyDegree,” Stevens said. “In order for us, as a university, to process the graduation, they actually have to have an online graduation application completed.”

Applying for graduation is typically done two to three semesters prior to

students completing their requirements for their degree or certificate.

Students also have the option to apply to graduate, specifically to attend and walk at commencement, even though some of their course requirements might not be completed just yet.

“For the commencement purposes, students can select ‘Yes’ to walk because we have some that will be off-campus for clinicals, internships [or] practicums... and won’t be back on the main campus. We have allowed them, if they apply at the beginning, to walk a little early before the requirements for their degree.”

Stevens says the commencement ceremony is more of a celebration of students’ accomplishments versus the degree they have earned once all requirements have been met.

James Prince, a television and digital media production senior, says he will be able to attend commencement and walk this May, but he won’t receive his diploma until his internship requirement is met.

“With TDMP, you don’t graduate until six months after you’ve actually walked at commencement,” Prince said. “It’s because we need to do our six-month internship. The reason they do that is

so that you have that experience of working at a company, getting to know the environment and getting to know the culture.”

It can be a long process to obtain a diploma for those whose program requires them to have an internship after they have finished their classes.

Graduating at the university level can be more like checking off a list than simply walking across a stage, smiling and receiving a diploma holder.

At Ferris, there are multiple steps a senior must take in order to be ready to not only walk during the ceremony, but also to ensure they get their degree.

According to Prince, students should be checking if they have all their required classes finished by the time they apply to graduate.

“There might be students that might think that they have all their classes done,” Prince said. “Then they find out that they need to take this one class.”

Prince says students should be trying to find individuals, such as academic advisors, who can clear them for graduation, as it becomes difficult to process any part of a student’s application when classes are uncredited.

After a student’s classes have been

completed and an application has been submitted to graduate and attend commencement, there is still more for a student to keep track of.

Connor Jubnville, a business administration senior, says after a student has submitted their application, they should continue to speak with their academic advisor and check MyFSU regularly to see if there have been any changes.

“You’re not going to know what’s happening unless you go and check,” Jubnville said. “They’re not going to tell you...”

According to Jubnville, it takes six weeks for a student’s graduation application to be processed. During this process, three different people check the application to see if everything is correct.

If it is, students will then receive multiple emails informing them on how they can get their cap, gown and tickets, when the ceremony is scheduled and everything else.

When senior year begins, students will want to stay in close contact with their academic advisors, check their MyFSU and My Degree and keep track of what is left to do as to not miss anything and potentially have to delay graduating.



Photo by: Sienna Parmalee | Production Assistant

Mixed Feelings about Ferris graduation

Jeremy Wolfe
Freelance Reporter

For seniors graduating this spring semester, mixed feelings are in the air as preparations for graduation begin.

With Ferris’ mask mandate being lifted and things returning to normal, graduation is set to be a lot more like earlier years. With this in mind, seniors are reflecting on their time at Ferris.

Trey Laven, an information security and intelligence senior who is graduating in the spring, feels that his experience at Ferris was cut short as a result of the pandemic and also some poor experiences in some classes. However, he feels with graduation coming soon as the weather changes and with COVID starting to become more of a memory than a reality, the prospect of being done is still surreal.

“I’ve been looking forward to being finished with school for quite a few years now, but the reality is overwhelming,” Laven said. “Even through all of this, I was still able to hold my ground, [and I] am happy that I’ll be graduating.”

However, Laven’s opinion on his time at Ferris State is less than enthusiastic when it comes to discussing the years after COVID-19. With many of his classes going online, a lack of socialization with friends and teachers

struggling to keep up with the new format of school, Laven found his time to be less than ideal and that the whole package of college had a sour note.

“I believe that my college experience was mostly ruined by the pandemic,” Laven said. “I wish I could have experienced college in its fullness, but I made do with what I was given and tried my best to enjoy what I could.”

While Laven is graduating on time, there are others who will find themselves walking but not graduating until the summer semester is over. Senior Katie Bittner feels, much like Laven, that the experience of being in school was somewhat hampered. She also felt that walking was kind of pointless regardless, of her classes being complete.

“I don’t want to walk...” said Bittner. “I am glad that students are able to have a ceremony this year. I know a lot of my friends were bummed that they couldn’t walk.”

Much like Laven, Bittner had some important takeaways from her time at Ferris, one regarding the social aspect. With both busy work and a pandemic taking over much of that aspect of students’ lives, the precious time spent with people and friends became important for her.

“From freshman year to senior year, I have learned how important it is to get involved and meet as many people as possible,” Bittner said. “I met my best friends

at Ferris.”

Bittner plans to move forward into the Disney College program after graduation. Those who are graduating in the near future, such as KCAD senior Emily Gudzinski, feel that while the prospect of being out of Big Rapids is exciting, there is still some frustration left over from how the years have went and the struggles that came as a result.

“I struggle with my own personal learning disabilities from ADHD, and online classes made learning the information I was being taught harder, which made me perform worse than I would’ve liked,” Gudzinski said.

Gudzinski maintains a positive outlook for her future graduation, and the way Ferris is handling the upcoming one makes her think that things are finally looking up for campus and for future students, even if there is still some regrets from those who are leaving this year. While reflecting on the time she has spent here, she felt there were two major takeaways that came from all of this.

“I feel like I’m with everyone when they say they’re experiencing their ‘midlife crisis’ because there is too much to come when it comes to looking for jobs, paying off debt and having an overall ability to support myself in the real world,” Gudzinski said. “My closing thoughts, however, are refreshing. I’m looking forward to my own hopeful success from going through college and having the whole experience.”

OPINIONS

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Keep the Torch out of your excuses

By Brendan Sanders

During my time at the Torch, there has been a running joke about how many people and organizations on campus would prefer to not speak with us.

We know it is a rule that RAs cannot go on the record to speak with the Torch because of the regulations outlined in the contracts or agreements that they sign. We get that. While it makes issues found within the dorms a little harder to talk about, it is something that everyone must follow.

I understand why some departments are unwilling to speak with us. They figure that the best way to stay in a comfortable spot marketing-wise is to have the only publicity be what the university tries to spoon-feed students.

Many departments and organizations do not talk to us for fear that we may put something negative out. So, instead of trying to explain their side of an issue, they leave us to speak to people who are willing to complain about the potential problem.

Personally, I don't understand the practice. For one, it seems cowardly. If an issue arises, wouldn't it be wiser to explain your side of the story instead of putting your head in the sand? Either way, it seems to cover themselves enough just to let us find whatever we're looking for with as little cooperation from them as possible. It also leads to more embarrassment for that organization when we find something negative about these departments.

I'm afraid I have to disagree with this lack of transparency. I think it is a joke. But I can't make these departments and organizations talk with us. This is their decision. While I think it is a misstep, I can at least respect this decision. Plus, I know I have qualified people on my staff to overcome this lack of transparency.

I draw the line, however, when I have a student coming to me because some departments are turning students away when they attempt to speak with them as they try to work on class assignments. To make matters worse, they are using this paper as the reason for them denying students.

I had a student come to me last week talking about how one department stated that because this student could not prove they were not with the Torch, they refused to speak with him about an issue. Even when the student proved that they were not with the Torch, the organization was still unwilling to speak with them.

This situation tells me two things. First, these departments are amazingly lazy with their excuses. It is effortless to figure out who works for the Torch and who does not. Just take a look at the bottom corner of this page and you will see a column naming every person who works on this staff. We even have a staff directory online; it is easy to figure out if a student is associated with us.

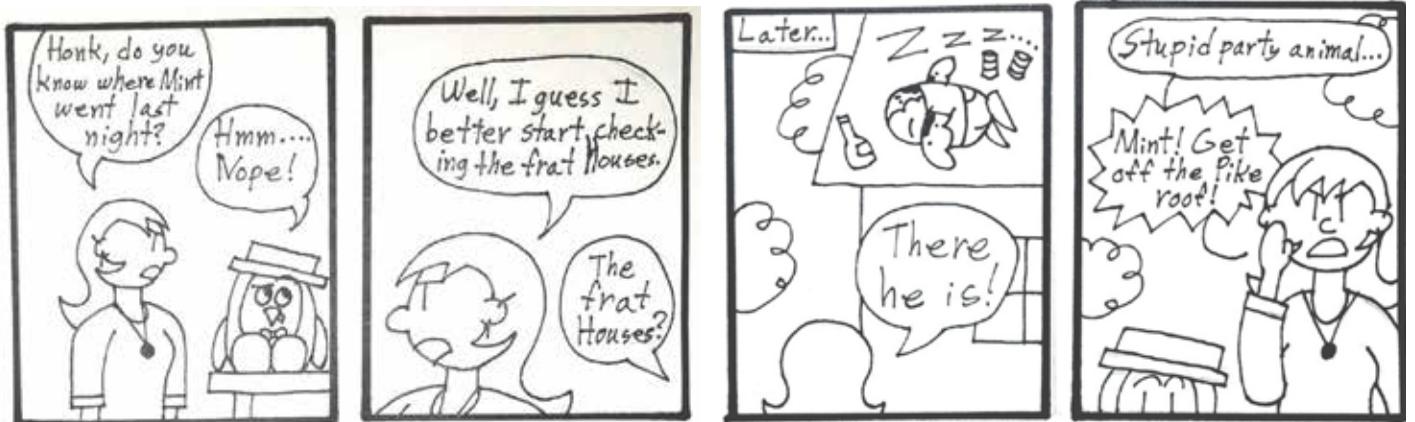
Second, even when this student did that simple task, he was still denied. This tells me that no matter what this student said, the departments would deny them any access to information to help solve their issues.

I now understand that the university will not be transparent with the student population and the Torch. Using the Torch as the university's scapegoat is one reason students' education is being hindered. Please keep my organization's name far away from denying these students the access they not only require, but deserve.

That excuse is just cowardly. I do not approve of anyone soiling the Torch's name and using it as an excuse for poor policies.

party animals

Angelica Rosenthal



GOT AN OPINION?

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Deadline for submissions every Friday by 5 p.m.
Rebecca VanderKooi | Opinion Editor | Email: vandr122@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!

NFL new overtime rules

Why the Tennessee Titans' proposal was the best option

Jeffery Walker
Freelance Reporter

Among the NFL's options to change overtime rules was the Tennessee Titans' interesting proposal.

The initial change in the rules came from the controversial overtime ending to the AFC Divisional round between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Buffalo Bills.

At the time, the NFL's overtime rules stated that the first team to score a touchdown wins the game, or, if a field goal is made, the other team has a chance to score. If the game is tied by the end of overtime, that will remain the final score.

After the Chiefs won the coin toss, the game was over when they went down the field and scored a touchdown. The Bills never got a chance to get on the field and tie the game back up. Things should not end like that in a playoff game where stakes are high.

Since that playoff game, the NFL has been pressured to change the overtime rules. In response, multiple teams presented the NFL with new proposals.

The Philadelphia Eagles and the Indianapolis Colts proposed a rule that would allow both teams to possess the ball in overtime. The NFL clearly liked this idea, and they

ended up changing the NFL overtime rules so that each team gets the ball, regardless of what happens. If both teams score, the game is moved to sudden death. These new rules only apply in postseason games.

However, I believe there is a better and more exciting option.

The Tennessee Titans proposed that each team should be given an opportunity to possess the ball, unless the first team to score also converts a two-point play. In that case, the game will be over.

This idea is the perfect solution to fix the NFL's overtime rules. Giving each team a chance to possess the ball fixes the issue of both sides not getting equal opportunities. The Titans' proposed rule still did not take away from defense.

Lately, the NFL has been changing to high-powered offense and less defense. NFL rules are more beneficial to the offensive side of the ball to protect quarterbacks and wide receivers. So, the defense is already at a disadvantage with that. But the defense still must matter in the game of football. The defense has always been known as an important factor to win a championship. If the NFL changes overtime rules where all the pressure is put on the offense, why would teams build good defenses?

The Titans' proposal is the perfect way to still put pressure on the defense. If a team elects to go for two after their initial touchdown to end the game, the defense must step up and get a stop to keep the game going.

With the Titans proposal, coaches will also be under more pressure when they can either make the decision to go for two and win the game, or kick the extra point and give the other team a chance to win.

This proposal brings more excitement to the game of football. It should be implemented for the whole season, not just the postseason.

But what fixes the issue of a tie if both, or neither, team scores during overtime? In any overtime rules, what changes the issue of a tie in the NFL?

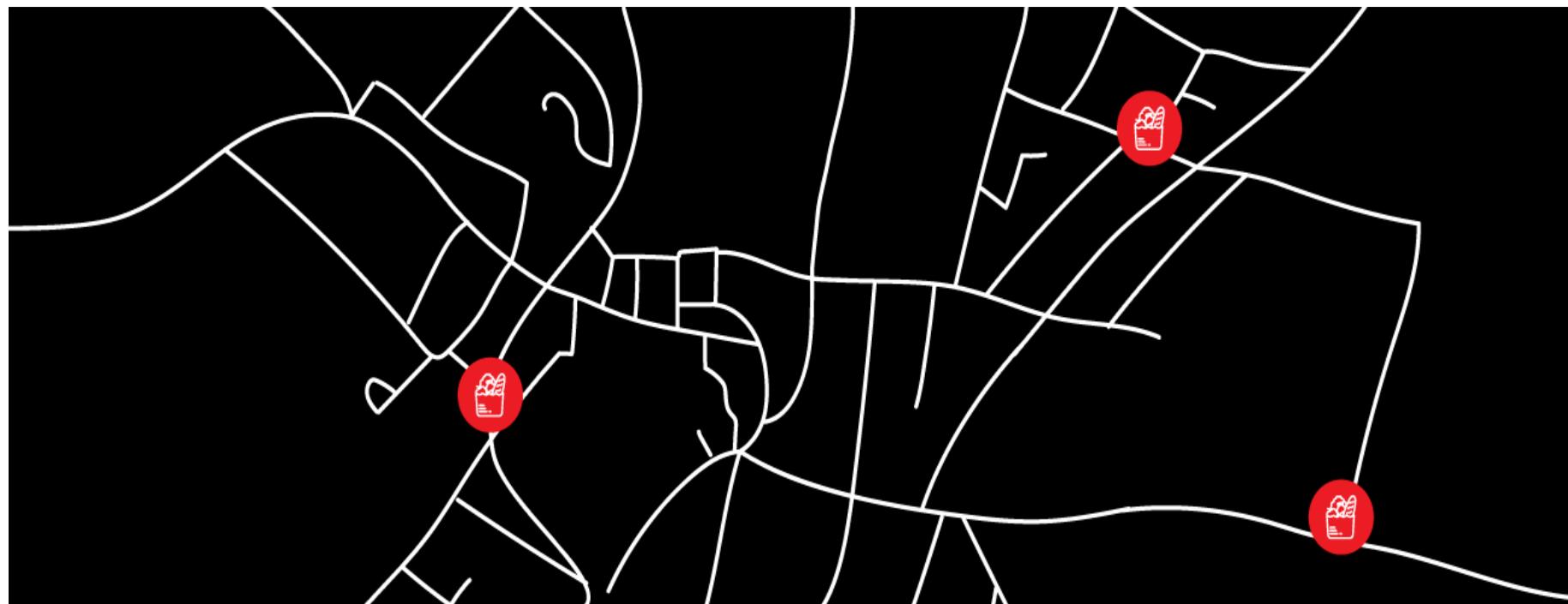
My proposal is a field goal shootout. Each team must kick a 55-yard field goal. If both teams make the field goal, they must kick again. The next field goal miss will result in a loss.

That's an interesting way to create excitement in the game of football in the NFL.

Only time will tell if the new overtime rules work out or if the NFL will have to make more changes. But we can at least be happy they have changed the rules from what they were before the iconic Bills and Chiefs game.

High and dry in food deserts

Why the 'fat American' trope is classist



Graphic by: | Sienna Parmelee, Production Assistant

Jessica Oakes
Special Editions Editor

Americans are sloppy, overweight, slovenly binge-drinkers who love McDonalds' hamburgers. This is how AirTalk describes the European perception of us.

When researching "American stereotypes," it does not take long for all discourse to devolve into two-dimensional fatphobia. While a reasonable diet is important, I believe that these stereotypes are offensive, as they tap into something more systemic.

It is true that the average American's diet does not meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's standard for nutritional quality. However, this generalization ignores the fact that low-income communities simply lack convenient access

to affordable, healthy food. The Annie E. Casey Foundation reports that nearly 20 million Americans live in what's called a "food desert."

A food desert can be simply defined as a region without easy access to fresh, healthy food vendors like grocery stores. This may sound unrealistic if you live in a place with a Walmart in every town. I have even had someone try to convince me that food deserts are a myth because there are apple trees in big cities. But these numbers do not lie.

Medical News Today breaks down the numbers in their article "What are food deserts, and how do they impact health?" This is an ongoing problem. The USDA first identified over 6,500 food deserts between 2000 and 2006, a problem that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It

is also true that, when compared to affluent, white communities, neighborhoods with a high population of low-income, ethnic minorities have more limited access to quality supermarkets.

So, if there are places without a grocery store, where are people shopping? In urban areas where the nearest supermarket is over one mile away, or rural areas where that distance increases to ten miles, people will buy their meals from convenient stores or fast-food restaurants. I do not believe that this makes those shoppers lazy or bad homeowners.

If I was struggling to support a family, I know my options would be limited in a food desert. Hypothetically, four dollars (over half of the federal minimum wage) can get me one bag of apples from a far-away Walmart or an entire meal from the

Wendy's across the street. If I do not own a car and have no reliable public transportation near me, my choice is already made.

Obesity in America is not a mere reflection of personal failure. It is a failure of income inequality, public transportation and care for minority communities. Fortunately, there are solutions.

The CDC is working to improve food service guidelines in places like schools and food pantries. They are also attempting to increase access to healthy foods by working with states in their industrial partnerships. You can personally alleviate the problem by donating quality food to those who need it, or by supporting local food stands.

SPORTS

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

Storied success



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

Head coach Andy Bronkema (left) celebrates following Ferris' overtime victory against Michigan Tech on Feb. 24. The win was the 200th in Bronkema's career and gave Ferris the regular season GLIAC title.

A look at men's basketball's 2021-2022 season

Joe Nagy
Sports Reporter

Some may say it was an off year for the men's basketball program, but 22 wins, a conference championship and a trip to the national tournament say otherwise.

It says a lot about a team's success when a resume like that can be considered less than what the team is used to, but the program that head coach Andy Bronkema has helped build makes Big Rapids a breeding ground for success.

Pre-season projections hinted that this could be a down year for Ferris. However, the Bulldogs silenced critics early on, pulling off two upsets in a pre-season tournament against Drury and Ohio Dominican.

"We had a long pre-season, and then we challenged ourselves at a high major level," Bronkema said. "We grinded through."

Since Bronkema took over the program, the Bulldogs have had 20 win seasons in seven out of the last eight years. This season included their fourth GLIAC championship in a row and another NCAA tournament appearance.

Senior Walt Kelser led the Bulldogs heavily through the first half of the season. He had multiple thirty-point games and gave a forty-point performance for the first time in his collegiate career against Drury. Kelser jumped to the top of the GLIAC scorers with just over 20 points a game, but a slump near the end of the season slowed down the senior's scoring efforts.

The Bulldogs had one of the more impressive benches in the league this year. Sophomore Ben Davidson held his title as the sixth man dear to his heart.

"Coming off the bench is usually viewed as a negative in modern day basketball,"

Davidson said. "I tried to view it as a positive and just tried to do whatever I could to help the team reach our goals."

Davidson gave the Bulldogs a big lift off the bench. Being a threat from the arc opened up the middle of the court for isolation opportunities, which he would take advantage of with effective mid-range jumpers.

A big change from last year was implementing freshman Jimmy Scholler into the point-guard position, which gave Kelser a chance to focus more on scoring. Scholler's pass first mentality led him to be a league leader in assists, averaging 4.6 over the course of the season.

"We got a nice group of unselfish young men that will play good basketball in front of you," Bronkema said.

The Bulldog frontcourt had some changes this season as well. Senior center Logan Ryan often traded minutes with redshirt sophomore Vejas Grazulis. Bronkema was comfortable playing either big man, which was especially nice if one player got into foul trouble.

Minnesota-Duluth gave Ferris one of their hardest tests of the year. The top-25 showdown in Wink Arena on Jan. 2 saw 10 players score in double digits and four over 20 points. Ferris ultimately fell in double OT 109-107.

Just two weeks later, the Bulldogs beat Grand Valley in Allendale. They matched that performance later in the season when the Lakers came to Big Rapids. Ferris won in another nail biter in front of 2,212 fans, one of the biggest crowds in Ferris history.

"The environment just helps us, you see. We pulled out the close one with the crowd," senior forward Dorian Aluyi said.

At the beginning of the season, the team

was blessed with the addition of Lee Higgins, a graduate transfer standout from Concordia-St. Paul University. Despite coming from a program struggling to find their place in the conference, Higgins blended with the team right from the start. Averaging 13.2 points per game in conference play, Lee became a high-value asset that would start each game.

"I will say that it was a journey to remember," Higgins said. "Knowing how much I have been wanting to achieve something like that and finally getting there and experiencing it was great."

A conference championship for the team gave Higgins his first taste of success, beating MTU in an incredible overtime comeback. Kelser hit a game-tying three to force overtime and allow Ferris to pull out a 76-72 win.

The win was number 200 for Bronkema, putting him third in Bulldog history behind coaching legends Jim Wink and Tom Ludwig.

"We have history on our walls here," Bronkema said. "I remember how I got the job, and we've been fighting every day."

A trip to the National Tournament was in their future, but a loss in the last regular season game to Northern Michigan squandered the hopes of playing host to the regional games. Ferris traveled to Walsh University for the opening round against Findlay.

Findlay topped the Bulldogs early in the season, but Ferris got redemption this time with an 87-81 victory. The win sent them to the second round for another rematch against Hillsdale College. This time, the Bulldogs came up short, losing 90-74 in a poor shooting performance.

"I wouldn't of changed it for anything,"

Kelser said. "That's not the way we wanted to go out, but I want to go out fighting with these guys."

With the off-season here, there's a lot to look forward to for next season. With the senior group of Higgins, Aluyi, Kelser and Ryan leaving the program, it gives a chance for younger players and reserves to fill the gaps.

Freshman guard Ethan Erickson showed promise this season. With strong shooting talent and an ability to create space off the dribble, it'll be exciting to see what he does with more playing time next season.

Additionally, the freshmen pairing of Mykel Bingham and Reece Hazelton give the Bulldogs some versatility in the frontcourt. Davidson should continue to be a strong player for Ferris, but whether he will move into the starting lineup is still in question.

Bronkema has high hopes for next season, despite the loss to Hillsdale to end the season.

"I believe we can win one again, and hopefully it's next year," Bronkema said. "Maybe it's the year after that, or the year after that. It's the pursuit of these championships that develops the character we want in the young men."

The Bulldog frontcourt will also be boosted by the incoming Claerbaut brothers, Nathan and Brandon. The 7' and 6'5" siblings will offer a new presence on the boards next year. Combined with another year of development for Grazulis, the Bulldog frontcourt looks to be strong.

Ferris gave the fans another exciting season, and although it ended shorter than what the team was anticipating, it gives everybody a reminder not to sleep on Ferris basketball.

WEEKEND SCORCARD

Men's Tennis

April 1 - Ferris 6, Davenport 1
April 2 - Ferris 7, Purdue Northwest 0

Women's Tennis

April 1 - Ferris 6, Davenport 1
April 2 - Ferris 5, Purdue Northwest 2

Softball

April 2 - GVSU 3, Ferris 1
April 2 - Ferris 8, GVSU 3
April 3 - Ferris 11, Davenport 3
April 3 - Davenport 6, Ferris 2

March memories



Photo Courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

Adrienne Anderson pins the Bulldog logo onto the GLIAC Tournament board following Ferris' championship victory over Grand Valley.

Women's basketball finished season with miraculous month

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

Ferris' women's basketball won six games in the 2020-21 season.

They won 22 games, a GLIAC North Division title and their first GLIAC tournament title in the 2021-22 season.

How did they put together one of the most improved seasons in Ferris' women's basketball history? They stayed healthy.

In 2020, after season-ending injuries to Adrienne Anderson and Chloe Idoni, the Bulldogs relied on a young core of underclassmen. Four of the eight primary players were freshmen in their first season of college basketball. This season, Idoni and Anderson returned, and a year of experience for other players gave the Bulldogs confidence going into the season that they could return to winning.

"Last year there were so many twists and turns," head coach Kurt Westendorp said in the season preview. "Now, we have a lot of added depth with players off injury and the freshmen class."

Coming into the 2021-22 season, Ferris was projected to finish second in the GLIAC north division, despite the low record from

a year ago. The Bulldogs won 10 of their first 11 games, including a crucial win on the road against the team ranked above them: Michigan Tech.

The offense was much improved this year. They began this season averaging 77.0 points per game. While this number would dwindle to 71.7 by the end of the year, the Bulldogs still showed huge strides from their 62 points per game last season. When asked about the jump in offensive production, junior guard Mallory McCartney pointed to the experience from the front-court.

"I think that was a big key to help us score," McCartney said. "We were able to establish an inside and outside threat."

The Bulldogs went 9-7 over the latter part of the GLIAC schedule after the new year. With struggles from Michigan Tech and third place Wayne State, Ferris still clinched the North Division title thanks to a senior day win over Northern Michigan in their home regular season finale.

"It's hard to fully encompass how it feels knowing where a program has been to where it is now," Zoe Anderson said. "To have everyone buy into the mindset that Ferris basketball is capable of winning

championships, that's pretty awesome."

The Bulldogs earned the number two seed for the GLIAC tournament and beat #7 Saginaw Valley State at home, #3 Wayne State on a game-clinching shot with under 30 seconds to go and #1 Grand Valley on their home floor. The five day stretch earned Ferris their first GLIAC tournament title in program history and earned Westendorp his third 20-win season as a collegiate head coach.

"He's done a great job leading us," McCartney said. "He brought in his system, and we all bought in."

This success granted the Bulldogs a berth in their sixth NCAA tournament appearance. In their initial matchup against #1-seeded Ashland, the Bulldogs came six seconds away from a victory over the top-seeded Midwest team in Division II. After the game, Westendorp gave nothing but praise to his team on their work through the whole season.

"This was definitely a special team," Westendorp said. "I couldn't be more proud of their effort."

Ferris showed its excellence on the stat sheet all season. The Bulldogs finished the season as the GLIAC's top team in assists

per game (16.6), steals per game (10.1) and lowest turnovers per game (11.5).

Sophomore Kady Blanchard paced the Bulldogs in scoring this season at 14.6 points per game, followed by Adrienne Anderson at 13.9 and Idoni with 11.8. Idoni led the Bulldogs with 5.5 rebounds per game, and McCartney tallied 4.8 assists per contest. Defensively, Adrienne Anderson recorded 2.4 steals per game, and Ellie Dykstra matched Idoni with 0.8 blocks.

The Bulldogs were awarded six individual honors for their performance on the season. Adrienne Anderson sported the All-GLIAC first team award, while McCartney, Blanchard and Idoni earned second team honors. Adrienne Anderson and McCartney also both received All-Defensive team.

"This year was a journey," Westendorp said on the Ferris Sports Update tv show. "This team showed when their backs were against the wall, they stepped up and showed their character. That's the legacy this program leaves behind."

The Bulldogs will look to build off their winning experience when the 2022-23 campaign begins next November.

Record setting performances

Ferris track and field athletes set personal records at MSU Invitational

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

The Ferris track and field team traveled to East Lansing to compete in the Spartan invitational that hosted 18 teams.

The Bulldogs competed outdoors for the first time this season and saw many athletes beat their personal records.

On the men's side, there were a few athletes who performed well in their respective events.

In the 100-meter dash, Ray Lee finished with a personal best of 11.01 and came in third place out of 29 participants. Moving on to the 800-meter dash, senior Andrew Yaworski also set a personal record of 2:07.44 and came in second place. The Bulldogs had another strong performance from freshman Noah Griffith, who set his personal best at 4:01.80 in the 1500 meter.

"It feels good to be having a strong start to my freshman season," Griffith said. "I think it's good for my confidence, which helps me keep having better races and improving my times."

Despite a successful first race, Griffith has more goals to accomplish.

"My new goal time is probably to run under 3:58 for 1500 meters," Griffith said. "I feel like I can do it after what I ran today if I keep on training hard and having good workouts. To run my goal time in the 1500 meters and try to make the 1500-meter final at the GLIAC championship meet."

On the field side, Forrest Akers had a strong performance setting PRs in both the shot put with 13.44 meters and in the discus with a 41.06 meters throw. Jason Keena

also had a good showing, placing sixth in the javelin with a 44.49 meters throw.

The women also had a good day for the Bulldogs, as eight Bulldogs set personal records.

In the 800-meter, Kaylee Huey placed third and set a personal best of 2:31.80. Layla Creed placed eighth in the 1500-meter relay and set her record of 5:32.90. In the 5000 meter, the Bulldogs had three athletes in the top 10 with Sydney Kubiakin in fourth, Melanea Strauss in eighth and Callie Delaney in ninth. Each Bulldog also set personal records in the event with Delaney posting 18:51.35, Strauss posting 18:51.32 and Kubiakin posting 18:07.59.

"For most of the race I had a group of three right in front of me," Kubiakin said. "I knew I was coming in fast for each lap, but I didn't really process what the overall time would be. I was focusing more on how my body felt and to keep pushing, especially during the last mile, and I was super happy with the outcome of the race."

Like Griffith, the women are happy with the race results, but they strive to achieve more.

"After running a new PR, my goal for the season is to break 18," Kubiakin said.

On the field side for the women, Brianna Copley was impressive in both the shot put and discus, placing in the top 10 and setting new personal records in each. In the shot put she threw a 13.55-meter throw and in the discus a 44.47-meter throw.

The Bulldogs track and field team will be back in action next weekend at the Jim Vargo Invite in Louisville, Kentucky on Friday, April 8, and Saturday, April 9.



TRACK UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9:

- Jim Vargo Invite in Louisville, Kentucky

Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16:

- Bison Outdoor Classic in Lewisburg Pennsylvania

From Bulldogs to Bolts

Dylan Rider
Sports Reporter

The Stanley Cup is regarded by some as the hardest trophy to win, but Derek Lalonde and Brian Garlock have won it—twice. In back-to-back fashion.

Garlock worked with Ferris Athletics and Lalonde was an assistant coach for the hockey team. Now, they both work with the Tampa Bay Lightning: reigning NHL champions.

On Feb 19, Garlock brought the Stanley Cup back to Big Rapids for the community to see. Ferris hockey head coach Bob Daniels and the hockey team were able to view the cup after the showing had concluded.

“Well, I know for the guys, they were thrilled,” Daniels said. “You know, many of them maybe have seen [the Stanley Cup] at the Hockey Hall of Fame, but I think very few have seen it that close and been able to touch it and look at it.”

Garlock’s climb to video coordinator for the Lightning began at Ferris.

“[I was] driving the Zamboni and knew I could work because I was going to be around all summer, and they always needed people in the summer,” Garlock said. “That was the segue to actually not just being the Zamboni guy when the [Texarkana] Bandits were in town, but actually meeting and getting to know Jon Cooper.”

Garlock met Cooper, the current head coach of the Lightning, while the Texarkana Bandits, now the Minnesota Wilderness, of the NAHL came up to Ferris and held their training camp.

Garlock joined Cooper when the Bandits moved to St. Louis in the 2006-07 season. Garlock and Cooper climbed the league ladder, working for the Green Bay Gamblers

of the USHL, the Norfolk Admirals of the AHL and then the Syracuse Crunch of the AHL, the Lightning’s AHL affiliate.

During the 2013-14 season, Cooper was hired as the head coach of the Lightning. Garlock was brought up as the video coordinator the next season.

“I’d say it’s one of the best, if not the best, franchises and all-pro sports,” Garlock said. “I think our ownership group is incredible at just making sure we have the resources we need and giving us the support we need to succeed.”

In the last ten years, the Lightning made eight Stanley Cup playoffs and three finals, with two championships.

“It’s extremely gratifying when you finally

get over the mountain,” Garlock said. “It’s the sense of relief that everything we’ve been working towards was actually right. It’s relief and it’s validation that you were on the right path the whole time.”

Lalonde, who is currently in an assistant coach position with the Lightning, also felt relief.

“It’s not the old days where you can keep a team together,” Lalonde said “We knew we were in a window, and we wanted to try to maximize it. And I think winning that first one was probably kind of a relief, feeling that we got it done with the quality core we had.”

“Going to Ferris was my first opportunity to be a full time [coach],” Lalonde said.



Graphic by: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager

“That’s probably the crossroads. I was just very fortunate. When I came here, we were able to win our first CCHA championship with the Chris Kunitz team. And at the time, that was really special. We’ve never won [the championship]. I think we’d only had maybe three or four winning seasons prior to that. [It was] always a respectable program.”

The last Bulldog to win the Stanley cup was Kunitz with the Pittsburgh Penguins in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons.

Following Ferris, Lalonde went to the University of Denver as an assistant coach. He then climbed the league ladder and took on a head coaching role with the Green Bay Gamblers of the USHL. He kept his status as a head coach when he went to the Toledo Walleye of the ECHL and soon after the Iowa Wild of the AHL. After two years in Iowa, Lalonde got a call from Cooper.

“In 2018, Tampa Bay lost to Washington in game seven of the Eastern Conference Finals. Jon Cooper actually called me the very next morning, and he said, ‘We’re going to make some changes on our staff. Is this something you’d be interested in?’” Lalonde said.

Lalonde initially declined the offer. However, when the Iowa Wild general manager was fired, Lalonde received another call from Cooper and he accepted the job.

Garlock has been with the Lightning for nine years now, and Lalonde has been with them for four. Both are still very grateful for Ferris.

“It means a great deal,” Daniels said. “If we played a small part in Lalonde’s development, I take great pride in that.”

Both Lalonde and Garlock’s time at Ferris may have been quick in the bigger picture. However, both will forever be Bulldogs.

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