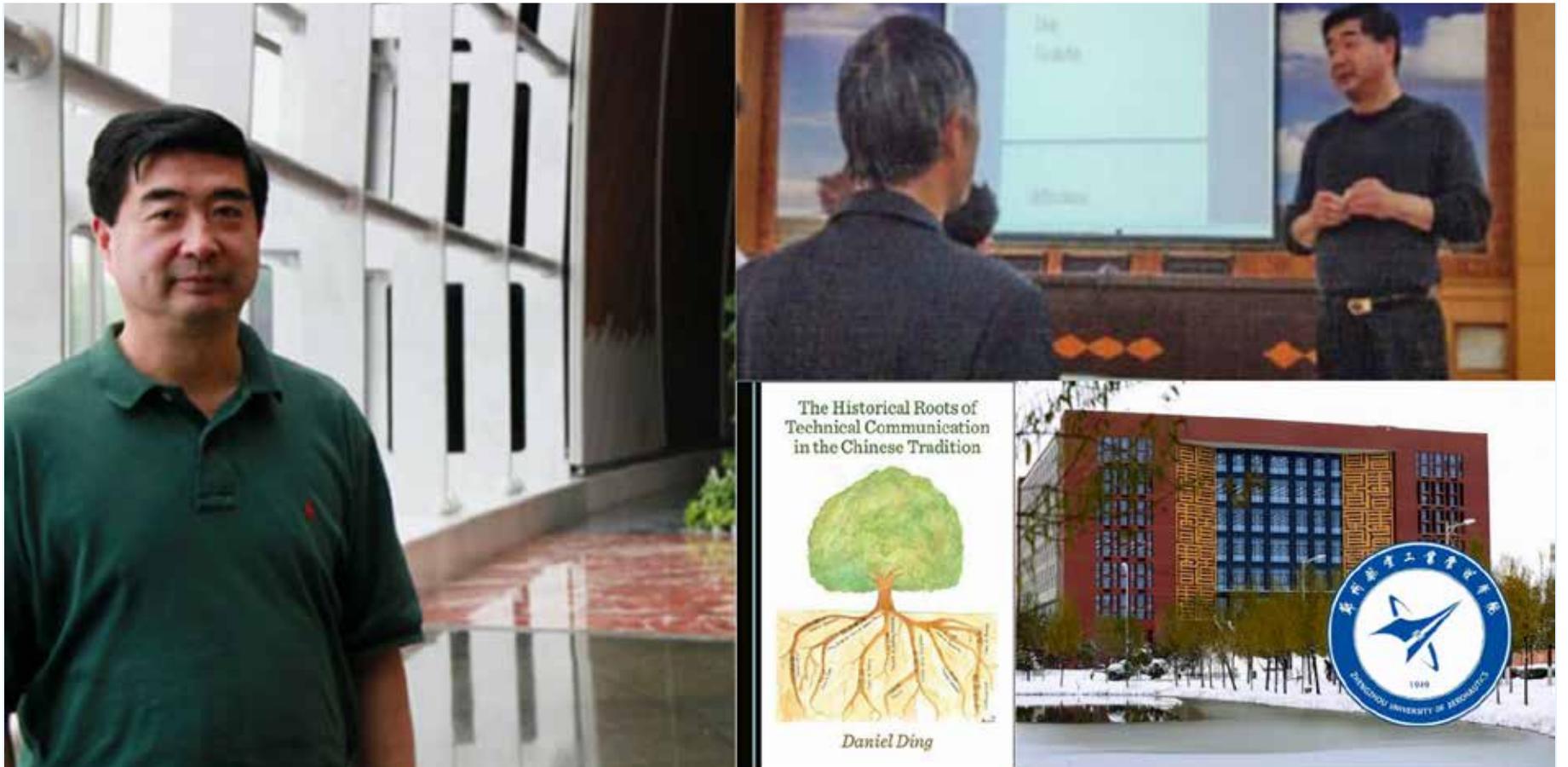


Remembering Dr. Daniel Ding



Photos courtesy of Ferris State University and Amazon.com | Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

From his textbook teaching the history of technical communications to his semesters teaching abroad, Dr. Ding will be remembered for his many accomplishments and contributions to his field of study.

A legacy of commitment, connection and kindness

Jessica Oakes
News Reporter

A supportive co-worker, an insightful researcher, a dedicated multiculturalist and a humble gentleman. This is how English professor Daniel Dingxiong Ding's colleagues remember him after his passing on Sunday, March 24.

Ding joined Ferris' English, Literature and World Languages department in 1998. He taught a range of technical writing classes from business communication to advanced scientific writing. As a researcher of international technical communication and multiculturalism in communication, Ding also extended his professional life abroad.

"Every semester, for days on end, students would line our hallway to meet with him one-on-one to talk about their papers,"

--Dr. Tina Arduini

For one semester in 2008, Ding was an instructor of technical communication at Zhengzhou University of aeronautics in China. He strengthened Ferris' partnership with ZZU with several visits over the years. In 2013, he taught as a senior Fulbright lecturer at Hungary's University of Debrecen.

Fulbright campus coordinator and English professor Dr. Christine Vonder Haar remarked on Ding's ability to bring different cultures together.

"He was absolutely dedicated to all things international," Vonder Haar said. "He was very instrumental in the affiliations with China for educational exchange."

Whenever Ding returned from China, he shared stories about his travels and the culture with his colleagues. Vonder Haar and English professor David Marquard saw Ding and his family members at Chinese New Year celebrations and every ELWL department picnic.

"You could always count on an authentic Chinese meal... he was a true member of the department," Vonder Haar said.

Marquard explained that the loss of Ding was a devastating shock to all his ELWL colleagues.

"For myself and for a lot of us, this loss during this time - I think everybody's kind of still out on their islands... it's a huge blow to this department and to the university," Marquard said.

Lisa Von Reichbauer, the acting executive director of the Office of International Education saw Ding's collaborations with ZZU firsthand. This is a relationship she hopes to maintain as part of Ding's legacy.

Von Reichbauer cited Ding's "quiet persistence" and dedication to his field as his strengths in multiculturalism. He consistently engaged with colleagues and pushed for quality connections between Ferris and other world cultures.

"Because of his dedication and persistence, [our collaborations] really grew, evolved, and I would say blossomed over

the years," Von Reichbauer said.

As Vonder Haar said, Ding "was his work." The dedication Ding had for both technical writing and Chinese culture culminated in his 2020 book, "The Historical Roots of Technical Communication in the Chinese Tradition." His book is an in depth analysis of Chinese technical communication, covering its origin with traditional texts, influential factors and philosophical and historical context.

"It was my pleasure to know Dr. Daniel Ding, and as a university community, we are saddened by his passing... He will be missed by all who had the opportunity to know him,"

--President David Eisler

Ding's legacy will be carried on by all those he supported in the Ferris community. English professor Dr. Tina Arduini noted how kind Ding was, often offering sincere teaching advice for upper level classes.

"His sincerity for my success made me feel more at home in the department," Arduini said.

This support was felt by Ding's pupils as well as his colleagues. In the office across from his, Arduini overheard the many in-

depth conversations Ding had with his students.

"Every semester, for days on end, students would line our hallway to meet with him one-on-one to talk about their papers," Arduini said. "I enjoyed listening to those interactions as he offered succinct and helpful advice on everything from what kind of research to cite to font and margin size."

One student grieving Ding is mechanical engineering senior Sydney Prancing. Prancing was busy making meals for a local church when she heard that her advanced technical writing professor passed away. She now finds it difficult, or even inappropriate, to complete assignments for the class.

"I haven't really processed everything... I did not work on my paper for him for several days, because opening it reminded me of the fact that he was no longer teaching my class and that felt wrong to me," Prancing said.

Though her class is fully virtual, Prancing was still able to appreciate what a helpful instructor Ding was to all his students.

President David Eisler commented on Ding's passing to the Torch on behalf of the administration.

"It was my pleasure to know Dr. Daniel Ding, and as a university community, we are saddened by his passing. In his career, he influenced the lives of many students. He will be missed by all who had the opportunity to know him," Eisler said.

The Ferris community is planning a memorial potluck for Ding on Thursday, April 21.

Got news? Let us know.

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NEWS

Noah Kurkjian | News Editor | kurkjin@ferris.edu

Back with a splash for fall semester

Rumors surrounding the rec center pool finally washed out.



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor

After nearly two years of closure, repairs and renovations, the pool will be open for the fall semester for all to enjoy.

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter

Rumors of a crack and expensive upkeep of the Student Recreation Center's pool led students and community members to believe the waves were gone for good.

Since the spring of 2020, when the university shut down due to COVID-19, the rec. center's pool has been closed.

Many believed there was a crack in the foundation and the up-keep of the space was too expensive for the university, leading individuals to believe the pool would stay closed.

Justin Harden, the Director of University Recreation and Wellness Programs, says there was no crack and they had just emptied the pool of its' water because no one was using it.

"We were very limited in what we could do inside our facility," Harden said. "Once we were able to open up our facility a little bit more and lessen the restrictions inside the Student Rec. Center, we decide to start the process of opening the pool."

The process of re-opening began last

fall, at the beginning of the school year. Harden says that because the pool had been empty for such a long time, with its pumps and other mechanics not being utilized, the center had to take its time making sure everything ran properly again.

Alongside the pumps and mechanics essentially being restarted, the rec. center decided to add minor adjustments to the pool.

"We wanted to take the time to fix some of the foundations of the pool," Harden said. "It is a very old pool, it's original to the facility. We wanted to fix some foundations and clean it, we wanted to redo some tile work that we were going to do prior to the pandemic. Now, we are in the process of making sure everything runs smoothly before we open it back up to the public."

Harden says President David Eisler was in full support of bringing the pool back for students to use in an updated condition, stating the University provided funding to help support the project.

According to Stoney Hart, associate director of the rec. center, a company needed to be hired to complete the work before a physical renovation could be done.

Finding the right company took some time as the University was looking for experts in repairs, tilework and mechanics for pools within their budget.

"The University looked into companies to come in and take care of these maintenance needs," Hart said. "When all of that happens, it takes a long time for companies to come in and do their specific projects. That's what led it to be as long as it was. It's just time-consuming to get all the pieces back in order."

Pre-optometry freshman Emily Gilbert is looking forward to getting back into the rec. center's water with the swim club as their president.

The swim club used the rec. center's pool for practices, preparing for meets against other schools like Grand Valley State University and Notre Dame. Since the closing of the university pool, the club has had to practice 40 minutes outside of campus.

"We were able to find it in the budget to get memberships to the YMCA in Cadillac," Gilbert said. "So, we did for a few months have practiced there, but because it's a 40-minute drive, it's hard for a lot of stu-

dents to fit it into their schedules."

While the club was no longer using the recreation facility in any capacity, Gilbert said Harden and Hart have been supportive because the situation is so unique for them.

Gilbert said the two had all of the communication with the YMCA in Cadillac settled, and have been encouraging fellow bulldog swimmers to participate in the club.

"[Hart] introduced me to all the other clubs so that I knew who I could talk to about possibly getting new members," Gilbert said. "He also gave my information to anyone that inquired about the team or the pool in general."

For this fall, Gilbert said she and the 20 other swim club members are feeling relieved that they will be able to practice in their home pool again and encourage other students with an interest in swimming to join them.

The pool is set to be reopened this coming fall, at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. Students and community members will be able to return to the water and enjoy swimming just like before.

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Big turnout at BIG Event

Read the full story at fsutorch.com



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Event organizer Douglas Verellen directed the approximately 400 student, faculty, staff and community volunteers.

Berenise Alvarez is doing yard work at one of the over 100 homes served.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

LANSING - Gov. Gretchen Whitmer filed suit with the Oakland County Circuit Court Thursday, April 7, that asks the Michigan State Supreme Court to declare a 1931 law that criminalized abortions unconstitutional within the State's Constitution.

If the court were to rule in Whitmer's favor, this would allow abortions to remain legal no matter what happens to Roe v. Wade in the United States Supreme Court.

There are approximately 2.2 million women of childbearing age currently residing in Michigan Whitmer told the Detroit Free Press.

"A woman must be able to make her own health care decisions, with the advice of a health care professional that she trusts. A politician shouldn't be making these decisions for her," Whitmer said in an exclusive interview with Freep. "And, frankly, if we fail to act, and abortion becomes illegal in our state for virtually any reason — including cases of rape and incest — we

will have one of the most extreme laws in the country. It's critical that we push forward."

While the law was never repealed, it was deemed unenforceable by a 1973 US Supreme Court decision that disallowed states from having individual bans on abortion by deeming these measures unconstitutional.

Whitmer is positioning this as preventative legislation as if the US Supreme Court deems Mississippi's recent law that bans abortions after 15 weeks constitutional, this could again legalize abortions in Michigan according to Freep.

State Attorney General Dana Nessel has stated that her office will not be seeking any form of persecution for doctors who perform abortions or women seeking them, however, all three of her Republican opponents for the midterm election happening this fall oppose abortion.

Planned Parenthood of Michigan as filed suit Thursday, asking the Michigan Court of Claims to block the AG and county prosecutors from enforcing the 1931 law.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

SANTIAGO - Over six million citizens are facing a strict water-rationing plan in Chile's capitol city as they are entering year 13 of a record-breaking drought.

"A city can't live without water," Claudio Orrego, the governor of the Santiago metropolitan region, said in a press conference according to Reuters News. "And we're in an unprecedented situation in Santiago's 491-year history where we have to prepare for there to not be enough water for everyone who lives here."

This plan features a four tiered alert system utilizing a color-coded system from green to red. In its most modest tier, public service announcements will go out to residents to remind them to conserve water. From there, the tiers increase to limiting water pressure and at its most aggressive, rolling water shutoffs to aid in the conservation efforts.

This system was based off the capacity of the two rivers near the capital city, the Maipo and the Mapocho. These rivers supply the capital with most of its water, however, they have both seen decreasing water levels as a result of the drought.

The government estimates that the country's water availability has decreased 10% over the last 30 years down to only 37% according to Reuters.

The rivers will be continually measured to determine the frequency of water shutoffs. They could happen anywhere from four, six or 12 days apart.

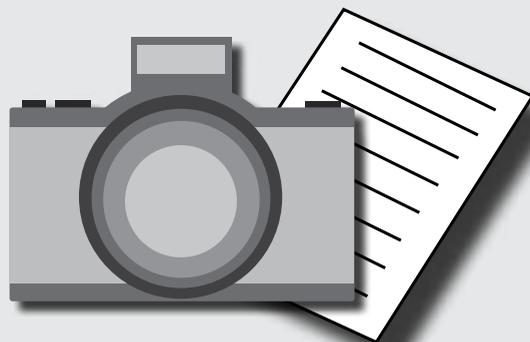
"This is the first time in history that Santiago has a water rationing plan due to the severity of climate change," Orrego said. "It's important for citizens to understand that climate change is here to stay. It's not just global, it's local."

Certain areas of the capital will be exempt from these water shutoffs due to their high concentration of residents and those who are fed by sources other than the rivers will be exempt as well.



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21st annual Ferris Media Festival

Festival returns in person after two years

Rebecca VanderKooi
Opinion Editor

The annual Ferris Media Festival returned in person on Friday, April 8th after the two years off due to the pandemic.

The event, now in its 21st year was canceled in 2020 and in 2021 it was online only. This year the festival was co-sponsored by Ferris State University College of Business and Media Communications Association (MCA).

Six media industry professionals came to speak at the festival which took place in the University Center. Kim Rozner, Mary Wall and Eric Wojtanik all spoke to the festival attendees, sharing their experiences and advice. Colby Witman, Robert Evans and Matthew Vaughn are three Ferris graduates working in media and entertainment who spoke at the event.

Glen Okonoski, the Coordinator for the School of Digital Media explained that this event is open to anyone. High school students who may be interested in a media career were also invited.

"It's a great opportunity for students to hear from professionals in the industry. Some of the professionals are from outside of Ferris, but sometimes, some of our speakers are alumni from the program," Okonoski said.

Okonoski added that as a professor and program coordinator it's exciting to have former students come back to share what they are doing within the industry.

Jessica Osmun, a senior in the digital animation and game design program has been coming to the Ferris Media Festival since high school. Now, she is the social media chair of MCA, and she promoted the festival on social media for the

RSO.

"It's been special for me because it's finally back to what I knew it could be whereas the last two years it's been so sad because it was something I loved coming to as a high schooler. That's why I'm involved with MCA because I knew that that was such a cool event," Osmun said.

Caroline Jasin, a junior in digital animation and game design, and the President of MCA explained that the goal of this event is to get students excited about their futures by talking to people who are currently working towards their dream job.

She also noted that due to COVID-19 it's been harder than ever to network with peers. Because of this, the festival is great not only for connecting with the speakers but also for connecting with peers in digital media programs.

Robert Evans is a graduate of the digital animation and game design program and one of three alumni to speak at the festival. Today he is a senior character artist at Crystal Dynamics, where he makes video game characters.

He explained that Ferris has helped his career both through the content taught as well as the networking connections he was able to form.

"[Ferris] gave me experience with adjacent disciplines as opposed to just character art, I also had to learn effects, lighting, modeling, rendering, and all of those other things which are infinitely beneficial in a pipeline because that means I can help my fellow co-workers as well," Evans said.

Evans also added that if he could give one piece of advice to students it would be to try new things.

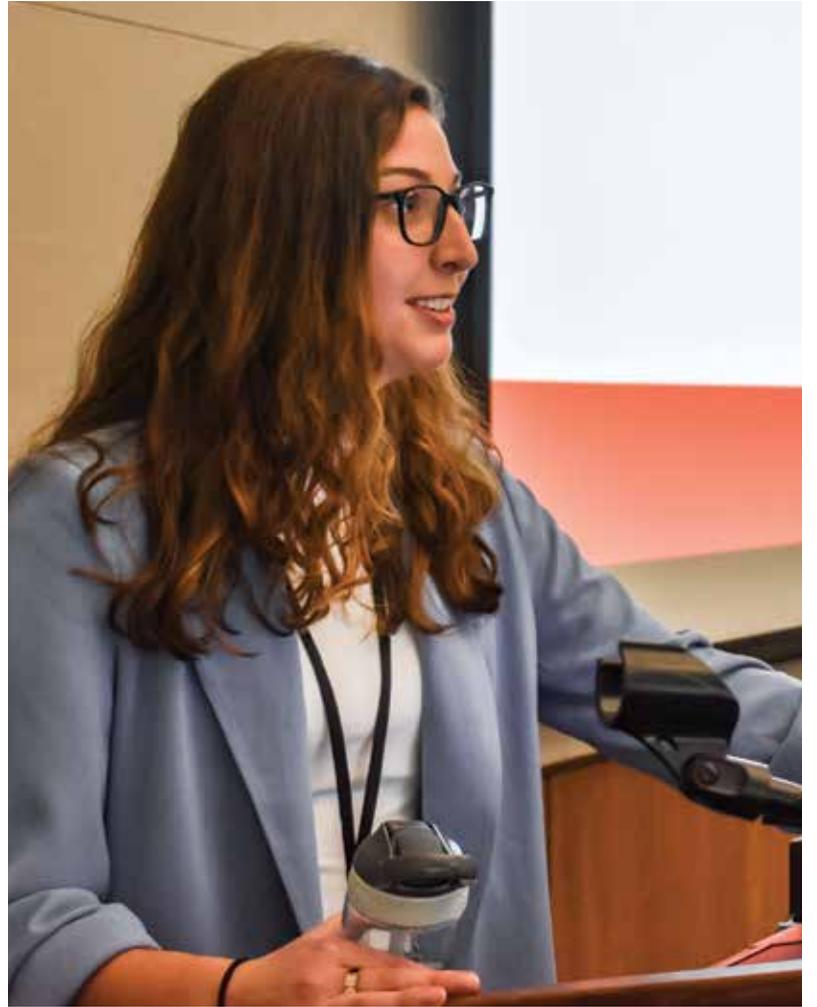


Photo by: Cassie Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Caroline Jasin, president of the MCA strived to get attendee's excited about their futures.

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LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

Energizing for Stress Awareness Month



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor

Rebecca Barkley works out at the Student Recreation Center for a healthy body and a clear mind.

The importance of physical and mental health working together

Giuliana Denicolo
Lifestyles Reporter

April is recognized as National Stress Awareness Month, and students must find ways to stay collected and motivated as the semester draws to a close.

Ian Lawson, leadership development leader of Career and Professional Success, created an event called “Energize!” which is an exercise that encourages you to take frequent breaks to keep the flow of ideas going. The event is supposed to help keep energy up, offering tips on the use of snacks, water and physical activity to help achieve this objective.

“Where we’re talking about energizing, this [event] is more like inspiring or keeping the flame alive,” Lawson said. “Because if you’re a leader, and you have a team, you have to be able to keep things rolling. You can’t have people getting down.”

No one has shown up to the recurring event, but Lawson comes every time and waits just in case. He wants to be able to teach the participants how to be that “driving force” in the workplace.

The point of this event is to maintain energy and motivation in order to be a positive presence in places that feel draining.

“[Energize] was a workshop that was designed to keep up the motivation and to keep the ball rolling. It wasn’t about celebrations, but it was about recognizing others and being able to kind of show

up and put your best foot forward,” Lawson said.

There are many ways to stay motivated, and this event discusses one that many students’ use as an outlet to staying healthy physically and mentally. Freshman Alison Reinig is a Student Recreation Center fitness coach who started working out to build her confidence and cope with her emotions.

Reinig feels that working out is the only way to get her through a long day. Afterwards, she feels energized and motivated to finish her homework and other responsibilities. Reinig started training others because she wants to help them achieve their goals and feel as good as she does.

“If other students are struggling, I want to help them and be able to encourage them, keep them motivated to keep going,” Reinig said. “I know a lot of people struggle with confidence. And I’ve been the most confident I’ve ever been now and that’s through working out and being hard on myself to get to the point where I’m at. I know you can do it as long as you put the time in, and I want to help others achieve their goals.”

It’s always important to have something other than school to do, and for Reinig and a lot of other people it’s working out. The Energize event gave tips on what snacks to eat and the amount of water intake needed to have a healthy, energetic relationship with exercising.

These tips are important while ex-

ercising and working on assignments because they help you stay focused, motivated and energized. Having a full stomach and taking breaks while working is beneficial. To Reinig, without following these tips, getting her work done would be impossible.

“Taking little breaks here and there helps you to concentrate when you are working. If you just go consistently the entire time, you’re going to have mess-ups,” Reinig said. “But if you take the time and then go back to it, then the probability of you doing better is greater.”

Reinig believes that physical and mental health work together. If one isn’t doing so well, the other is going to start declining. Some of the people she has trained have never been into working out before and she says that now that they are physically active, they are feeling better mentally and that they feel like their life has changed since.

“If you’re just sitting around doing nothing all day and eating unhealthy food, your physical health is going to go down. And if your physical health goes down your mental health follows it. Once you get both of those on track, you’re more likely to succeed,” Reinig said.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography sophomore Alexis Bauman is one of Reinig trainees. Before this semester, she would work out occasionally, but never fully got into it until she started working out with a fitness coach.

She said that after she learned to prop-

erly work out and be comfortable in the gym, it became more enjoyable. Working out makes her feel confident, energized, and motivated.

“I’ve seen a huge impact, I feel better emotionally, and school has been a lot easier for me. I’m not dreading homework as much as I was before,” Bauman said. “And physically, I can do more things. I never felt any motivation to [walk to class] and now I don’t like to drive anywhere.”

Exercising has been told by many that it helps your mental health. Everyone Bauman knew that worked out would tell her about the vast improvement in her physical and mental wellbeing she would feel if she exercised, but she never believed them until she tried it herself.

Bauman explains that it makes her feel less stressed out about her agenda, making her feel more prompt to get things done. To her, everything felt like such a big task, and it was hard for her to complete simple things. That changed tremendously since she started working out. It has helped her manage stress and anxiety, too.

“I think it’s more of a mental thing. I don’t feel as trapped in my mind, which makes me more motivated than I normally would be. And I think clearing my mind is a big thing for my motivation,” Bauman said.

Seeing Gil's Emmy

Alumni Gilbert Bransford brings SportsCenter Emmy to Ferris



Photo by: Brendan Sanders | Editor In Chief

With his Emmy planted in front of him, Gil Bransford speaks to students about his job at ESPN.

Brendan Sanders
Editor In Chief

For many people, being within inches of an Emmy is a dream many are unable to fulfill, yet on Monday night many students were see one up close.

On Monday, April 11, Ferris State alum and current ESPN Senior Researcher Gilbert "Gil" Bransford returned to Ferris State to talk to students about his career at ESPN and his job producing statistics for a multitude of shows and sports across ESPN's platform.

With the trophy sitting on the table in front of him, Bransford started his presentation by giving a quick rundown of his life at Ferris State and how he got his initial job at ESPN. This included working for Bulldog Radio before going to a conference that allowed him to network with ESPN.

After being given multiple tests to test his sports knowledge, the company offered Bransford a part-time job in the stats and analysis department. He would work two jobs in Bristol, Connecticut before earning a full-time job in that department.

As Bransford explained, in 2019, after

spending his first nine years in the stats and analysis department, Bransford transitioned to the research department.

This transition allowed Bransford to create graphics for SportsCenter and give research to on-air talent such as Kevin Negandhi. In 2020, during the pandemic, Bransford's work for SportsCenter helped earn the show its first Emmy award since 2004 by winning Outstanding Studio Show - daily.

Bransford described his feelings after learning he had won an Emmy.

"It was just honestly a surreal experience, I always talk how important my granddad is, he's literally been there for everything. And for him not to be here specifically for this kind of thing sucked. But yeah, it was a surreal day, because I've only been a researcher for three years."

During the evening, Bransford described the many events he helped cover. During which, Bransford showed students clips of some of the graphics that he helped create, including graphics presented during SportsCenter, Coach Mike Krzyzewski's last game at Duke, and the College Football Playoff.

Once everything was done, students

were allowed to come to the front of the room and get a picture next to the Emmy alongside Bransford.

The event was held by the Sports Careers RSO and the Sports Communication program as a part of the Sports Speaker Series, a program that brings in successful figures in the sports field to talk to students about their jobs and what it takes to get to their positions.

For Sports Careers RSO President Niko Lagreca, it was important for the RSO to present these speakers to students to show them that with hard work they could do in the sport field.

"I think us bringing in somebody like Gil or anybody in the sports industry is an integral part of the Sports Careers RSO." Lagreca said. "To have somebody who's made it this far, to come in and share their story to hopefully get young and inspiring students to follow in their footsteps or create their own paths to ultimately success is very important."

Sports Communication professor Dr. Sandra Alspach has been leading the Sports Communication program since its inception. She explained that the Sports Speaker series allowed for students to meet prominent sports figures and cre-

ate a large splash on campus, but as Alspach explained, the sports speaker series evolved.

"So, it was an idea at the beginning of the program that that reshaped itself around what Ferris students need to hear. Having a flashy person wasn't what they needed to hear. Having the promise, they could do it too. That's what they needed to hear."

Bransford was happy to come back to Ferris and present in front of students.

"We didn't necessarily have students that will come back and show their progress and show that there is a career out there. From a small school in Big Rapids, Michigan, you hear about people that go to broadcasting schools and different things like that, and they have careers in sports. So, it's kind of to show that just because you go to a small university, it's not necessarily a deterrent for you advancing and to have a career."

Bransford was the final Speaker in 2022's Sports Speaker Series, but next year will see several former Ferris alumni in sports return to Big Rapids.

Torch Tunes:

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

A mix of old hits and future classics to kickstart your cleaning mood! While I only discuss six of the entries here, there are lots more for you to enjoy!

Put Your Records On – Corinne Bailey Rae

I chose to start the playlist with this song as it feels very interdictory, like a natural start to the playlist. Throw this one while you're putting up your hair,

pulling out your cleaning supplies and opening the blinds.

Best Friend – Sofi Tukker, NERVO, The Knocks, ALISA UNEO

Up next is Best Friend, this is a high energy song by an artist most don't know. I chose it for second slot, so you start dancing early on.

Walking On Sunshine – Katrina & The Waves

For #3, Walking On Sunshine felt like a natural next step. I wanted to keep the

A spring cleaning playlist to blast while picking up and getting down

energy high with a power ballad of yesterday. This is something you can belt out and is my mom's submission for this playlist.

+1 – Club Mix – Martin Solveig, SAM WHITE

This one might tick off your neighbors, +1 is a bass-ey club banger to put on for the tasks you don't want to do. Queue this one up and pull out the old toothbrush, your toilet is waiting. At least you can scrub to the lively beat.

Old Time Rock & Roll – Bob Seger

It is time to channel your inner Niles from "The Nanny" with this one. Slide in on your socks, use your broom as a mic and sing your heart out. Just make sure your roommates aren't home first.

Jesus Freak – Jackfruit

Rounding out the descriptions, I chose to end with Jesus Freak. Sit back and take a quick break and soak this one in. I know the task at hand is grueling, but you've got this!

An “unexpected” art exhibit

Students have free access to a temporary art exhibit on campus

Rebecca Witkowski
Freelance Reporter

Ferris is hosting a gallery exhibit in the University Center's Fine Art Gallery now through the end of the semester.

The exhibit, titled “Unexpected Choices”, opened on April 11. The exhibit features art spanning across five decades. It was a collaboration between the West Michigan Graphic Design Archives and Ferris.

“The work on display was curated by [Professor] Popp-Meier and her students, from thematic concept to installation,” said Carrie Weis, the gallery’s director. “The work represents ad imagery dating from the 1940’s – 2010’s that have been collected by Ferris Graphic Design [retired faculty] Barbara Loveland and Linda Powell.”

The Archives is housed at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. It receives art submissions from both artists and clients to be housed in the archives. The art is available to be viewed by students, educators, professionals, and others.

The Archives has two former Ferris faculty helping to run it. Loveland was an assistant professor of Visual Design and Web Media from 1989 to 2005. Powell was an associate professor in Graphic Design from 1991 to 2009.

In addition to their work on the exhibit, Ferris students are also involved in the managing of the Archives website. The Design program helps to maintain the digital archives and developed websites for both the Archives and the “Unexpected Choices” exhibit. According to a statement on the exhibit’s website, the students are learning about the importance of design in the business world by managing the website and putting on the exhibit.

On their website, the Archives provides viewers with information about the artwork as well. The date, designer, size, paper used, and technique used are all available. The website features logos, posters, packaging, and magazine covers.

The “Unexpected Choices” exhibit also has its own website, although it does not contain as much information as the Archive’s website. The “Unexpected Choices” website features some of the artwork seen in the exhibit as well as information about the source of the art. It also includes information for visitors about getting to the Fine Art Gallery.

The exhibit will be open until Saturday, May 7. Information about parking and hours of operation for the exhibit can be found at www.unexpectedchoices.com. More information about the West Michigan Graphic Design Archives can be found at www.graphicdesignarchives.org.



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor

Graphic designers created fresh and innovative mediums that engaged viewers with complex ideas made visually clear.



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OPINIONS

Rebecca VanderKooi | Opinions Editor | vandr122@ferris.edu

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Empathy in tragedy

By Brendan Sanders

Last Saturday, I woke up to sad news as both a Buckeyes fan and a Steelers fan.

Dwayne Haskins, a star quarterback at Ohio State in 2018 before being drafted in the first round of the 2019 NFL draft by the Washington Commanders who then played for the Pittsburgh Steelers, died after being hit by a dump truck.

It was devastating enough hearing that the QB that I loved in 2018 was killed in such a tragic accident. Then I saw what two influential sports media members had to say. First came Adam Schefter, ESPN's Senior NFL Insider.

"Dwayne Haskins, a standout at Ohio State before struggling to catch on with Washington and Pittsburgh in the NFL, died this morning when he got hit by a car in South Florida, per his agent Cedrick Saunders. Haskins would have turned 25 years old on May 3," Schefter said in a tweet.

Now, upon first reading, this tweet may not appear very bad, but let me ask you this: what do his struggles in the NFL have to do with anything? No, he did not live up to the lofty expectations presented to him early

in his career, but the man was 24 years old, and he still had a lot left in him. When announcing somebody's death, there is no reason to disparage them.

Why couldn't Schefter say, "Dwayne Haskins, a standout at Ohio State before playing quarterback with Washington and Pittsburgh in the NFL, died this morning when he got hit by a car in South Florida."

Then here comes NFL podcast host and former NFL executive Gil Brandt. This 90-year-old man shouldn't have had a platform to speak on in the first place. Nowadays, he's not even controlling what is presented to him. Nevertheless, Brandt didn't wait until Haskin's body was cold to release a load of disparaging remarks about the quarterback.

The three main comments from Brandt:
- "He was a guy that was living to be dead."
- "It was always something," with Haskins.
- "Maybe if he stayed in school a year, he wouldn't do silly things [like] jogging on a highway."

Brandt's PR team quickly realized how horrible these comments were and tweeted

on his Twitter account saying how sorry he was for such awful words.

The comments from these NFL pundits show the true nature of what NFL players have to go through if they don't live up to expectations. Suppose they make one mistake while in the public eye, not only will it follow them for the rest of their life, but it will be used to disparage them even in death.

It's dehumanizing to these players to only be seen through what they have accomplished. Dwayne Haskins was not "living to be dead." The only reason he was in South Florida was to train with his Pittsburgh Steelers teammates.

He was trying to become a better player and an even better person, yet that did not stop the media from trying to embarrass him.

When tragedy happens, empathy should be the first thing a human should feel: empathy for the person, their family and the people close to them. If you can't even show empathy moments after a person's death, then you should not have a platform to talk about people who are living.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor

Dylan Rider

I joined the *Torch* soon after starting here at Ferris. My decision to join the *Torch* has been very fulfilling. Since I am majoring in sports communication and minoring in multimedia journalism, I have found the perfect balance in writing for sports.

The connections I have made during my short time with the *Torch* have been nothing short of incredible. I'm a massive hockey guy, and being able to talk to others who live and breathe the sport has fulfilled me to my core.

The staff I work with here are amazing. All members are supportive and some of the finest people I've met in my time with Ferris.

Before I came to Ferris, I grew up in the village of Sparta, Michigan. At Sparta High School I was an anchor for my school's daily news show.

I never had too much of an interest in journalism before my job with the *Torch*. My past jobs were the usually dead end retail or fast food service jobs. Neither of those businesses were spectacular. Being at the *Torch* has re-awoken my love for writing.

When I finish my time at Ferris, I'd like to work in a large sports market. Ideally, I'd like to work for a sports team or a sports network.

GOT AN OPINION?

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Deadline for submissions every Friday by 5 p.m.
Rebecca VanderKooi | Opinions 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!

Creating an audience out of nothing

How one of the largest social media companies is offering opportunities to small artists

Evan Hibbard
Freelance Reporter

It's no secret that TikTok has become a social media giant, but many people still don't know the importance of the platform for musicians. Seventy percent of the polled Ferris community said that they have found new music from TikTok.

For bands like Vundabar, playing to a small group of avid followers may have seemed like their only option due to a lack of radio coverage and recognition. Then TikTok came along.

I was introduced to the band Vundabar last summer by a friend of mine who had discovered them on his own. I was blown away listening to their album "Gawk" and captivated by the frenzied skill of drummer Drew MacDonald and the distinctive singing style of guitarist Brandon Hagen.

Then, at the end of last year, one of their songs from "Gawk," "Alien Blues," suddenly blew up on TikTok, earning them a much larger fanbase and a television spot on "Late Night with Seth Meyers," in which they dazzled the audience with an electric performance of "Alien Blues."

So far, 126.6k videos on TikTok use this song, massively trumping the limited success they had experienced from playing small club shows around the U.S. in the past years.

Another story that would prove the importance of social media platforms for musicians would be the story of Jawsh 685, a producer from

New Zealand. He started his music career by creating beats and songs in his bedroom, which led to pop singer and songwriter Jason Derulo contacting him and singing over a beat from the New Zealander.

I believe that another reason that TikTok is a great resource for musicians is the connection it gives them with the fans. Over 138 million Americans use TikTok, and a good portion of young people use TikTok and find new artists through it.

It also is important to note that the app has revitalized hits from years prior, like Matthew Wilder's bouncy 1983 pop hit "Break My Stride," which was a big hit at the time of its original release. It had not seen success until some of the video app's users began posting videos that included the song, allowing for another unexpected surge in popularity.

I have found many songs by smaller artists through TikTok, like "Love You So" by The King Khan & BBQ Show and "Jealous" by Eyedress. I would have never found these if not for the unique opportunity that TikTok presents to its users.

As someone who generally doesn't engage with social media due to the sometimes-aggressive nature of interactions between users, I feel that TikTok has found a process unique to its platform that doesn't just highlight its users, but also gives the spotlight to the musicians providing content.



Photo by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

The misuse of carbon footprint

Billionaires and corporations are mostly at fault

Jeremy Wolfe
Freelance Reporter

The carbon footprint is an often repeated measurement of people's usage of carbon and how it impacts the environment. This measurement is taken as the percentage of carbon used by a person, usually within a year, and how carbon is expended, whether through driving a car, living in a house, building things or manufacturing goods.

The concept of the carbon footprint is useful in the sense that measuring people's usage helps keep the amount from spiraling out of control, but far too often it is used in the wrong way: shaming those who do not have the luxury of forgoing their vehicles or essentials, rather than focusing it on the corporations and billionaires who take private flights, own multiple yachts and drain resources while creating pollution for everybody.

A 2007 study from MIT found the average American used roughly 16 tons of carbon in a year. This number is almost four times the global average of a person, and as such, this is a point of contention for ecologists and scientists, of which many accredited ones are saying that urban and developed American lifestyles, along with other First-World countries, are not sustainable and will soon experience a regression in the quality of life, rather than a continuous increase, which has been the norm for the last 200 years.

According to Ecowatch, billionaires' carbon footprints are about a thousand times greater than the average American. For example, Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich used roughly 33,000 tons of carbon, the majority of which came from his superyacht,

Of course, wealthier people who own businesses will expend more carbon than the average person. This is the give and take of using carbon in the idealistic con-

cept that those with money invest in communities and create business and manufacturing that average people will use. However, the problem with using the carbon footprint as a measurement in terms of its social impact is that nearly all parts of this campaign target individuals' usage, rather than billionaires as described above.

When I was a kid, I was told that climate change was because of everyone's decisions, and it was drilled into my head that I need to reuse, recycle and not waste energy or things to hold onto them for the future. While this is a good message for people, it is difficult for the average person not to use their "allotted" amount of carbon. Relative to a billionaire's consumption, a working-class person is not even making a dent in the environment, whereas billionaires and companies use completely needless expenditures like yachts and private jets that worsen the problem of using too much carbon, while ignoring better options like public transportation.

This also becomes a problem when corporations use their power to destroy ideas, bills and other avenues of reducing carbon. For example, public transportation in the U.S. is barely viable anywhere except in a few major cities. Another example is General Motors and their streetcars being monopolized by the companies rather than being a public good, which helped contribute to dependency on car usage in America and created a lack of trust both in these corporations and in public transit as a whole.

With avenues like this being cut off from people, and with the majority of Americans who work being roughly two paychecks away from living on the street, carbon footprint and worrying about the average person's consumption in the face of a greater usage by those in power seems to be a misuse of the measurement, and, indeed, only places blame on those trying to get by, not those trying to hold onto power and maintain their status quo.

SPORTS

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

The great tennis melting pot

How an outstanding mix of cultures helps propel the Ferris' tennis teams to success

Joe Nagy
Sports Reporter

Success in college athletics depends on establishing a winning culture, but for Ferris' tennis programs, it's also about molding many cultures into one.

Eight countries are represented across both the men's and women's tennis teams, creating a blend of both talent and cultures. Many collegiate players have difficulty building relationships with teammates from different states, but Ferris' tennis players have to build relationships with teammates from different countries who might not share the same first language.

Spain, Germany, France, Sweden, New Zealand, Canada, India and the U.S. make up the eight countries that are represented on the teams. This brings an interesting perspective for all of these players, who might have more in common with each other than they first realize.

With multiple athletes coming from the same country, it can be easier for them to transition to a life far away from home. But for senior Patricia Martin Gomez, it was a tougher road for her, being the only person on the team from Spain. She came onto the team knowing little English.

"Traveling to a whole new country by myself without speaking the language was the bravest and best thing I've ever done," Gomez said. "I've met people from all around the globe and made forever friendships."

Coming into a tennis program that one is unfamiliar with is a challenge in and of itself, but pursuing an education while not knowing the language makes it that much more impressive. This challenge has helped Gomez grow as a person, improving her ability to create relationships with people with differing perspectives.

"Studying at Ferris and playing for the women's tennis team not only has shown me the American culture, but also many other cultures from teammates and people I've met along the way that are from different parts of the world," Gomez said.

On the men's team, senior Josh McDermott has been through a lot. Transferring from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, McDermott's journey to Big Rapids looks a lot different than the other players on the team.

Through Platform Sports Management, he was able to find a place in UMSL's program. But when transfer time came around, he only spent a week in the portal before he got in contact with head coach Mark Doren.

"Within like a week, I was already in touch with Coach Doren," McDermott said. "We hit it off straight away on that first call, so I was pretty much ready."

The success that he has been part of in the program gives him great memories to look back to. And in his last year as a Bulldog, senior day gave him a chance to reflect on the accomplishments that he's achieved, as well as how far the teams have come since he's been at Ferris.

A year that sticks out to him specifically was his first year with the team, a season that was cut short due to COVID-19. However, the extended off-season gave the team more time to better themselves on and off the court.

"We also sort of matured a little, and we just have a great team culture and work ethic now," McDermott said.

The work ethic among teammates is a big reason for both teams' winning records. Add that to Doren's focus on motivating the teams and staying positive, and you have a recipe for success.

Doren himself is an alum of the Ferris tennis program. As a 2006 graduate of the professional tennis management program, he took over the program as

an interim head coach in the 2018-2019 season. He directed practices, traveling, scheduling, recruiting and he served on the GLIAC Player of the Week committee.

That first year he made an impact, helping the men's team to a late season run to the NCAA regional final. He also coached the women to a GLIAC tournament berth, and two league place improvements from the previous year.

"When I first started here at Ferris, my number one goal was to maintain the success the men were having, but also bring back women's tennis to the success it had in the 80's and 90's," Doren said. "To get here, the culture I wanted to create was one of confidence and team-work."

A big task ahead of him was to bring Ferris tennis back to the success it once had, but focusing on getting the players to buy into the team was the first key. With his extensive background in team sports, Doren knew building on their confidence as a whole would set the foundation for the future.

Prepping for the future also means securing recruits to fill the spots that are left open by the departing seniors. Division II athletics proposes an interesting challenge for coaches and players when it comes to recruiting.

A lower budget means coaching staffs rely heavily on film, phone calls and relationships with coaches on the prep level. Not to mention an unwarranted stigma on DII athletics held by high school seniors who focus their energy on going to the Division I level.

"Recruiting for college tennis and especially Division II is a bit of a gamble," Doren said. "We don't have the resources to fly not just all around the country, but around the world."

On the bright side, recruiting outside of the United States gives the team a chance to find talent that has gone unnoticed. Doren has done very well getting recruits from outside the U.S.

Both teams are full of skillful players who can do damage from court one to court four. And when matches are pushed to the final sets, Doren is able to give valued advice for the teams to finish strong.

"Although in college tennis we win as a team, the players are often out there on their own. So I wanted to create an environment where they put the team first," Doren said.

A group like the Ferris team is a rare sight. With so many different personalities and cultures coming together, it would seem impossible they would be able to get along. But the established culture in the program eases the intimidation that the incoming players face when coming into new scenarios.

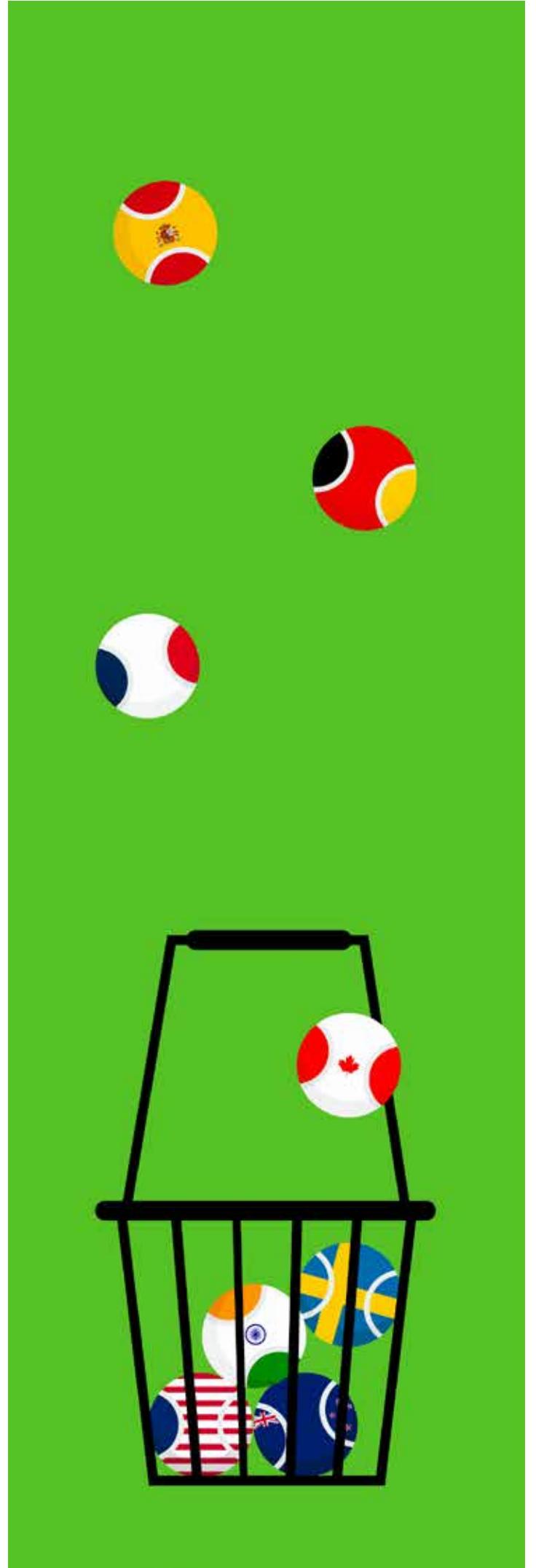
"I came to college in the U.S. without knowing anyone here, which was a little intimidating at first, but the team was very welcoming, and we quickly built great relationships with each other," Jan Koupil of Sweden said.

A combination of the shared love of tennis, Doren's coaching ability and being able to find commonalities with each other help make these teams great. Especially with the latter part of the season underway, it's no better time than now for them to rely on one another to have another deep post-season run.

With the men's team sitting at 14-2 and the women's team at 9-5, they've both locked a spot in the championships. However, the teams know to never settle, and striving for a high-seed in the tournament is what they are working towards.

"For the men's team, it's all about committing to our game styles and trusting we can win with them. For the women's team, we need to get healthy and focus on the middle parts of our game," Doren said.

Adversity this late in the season is welcomed by the team. Compared to moving across the globe to pursue a career in college athletics, tennis is the easy part.



Graphic by: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager

Softball split

Bulldog softball splits series with Purdue Northwest

Dylan Rider
Sports Reporter

Ferris softball ended a three game losing streak with a split against Purdue Northwest on Sunday, April 10.

The Bulldogs (12-21, 3-7 GLI-AC) were supposed to play Wisconsin-Parkside on Saturday, but those two games were canceled due to inclement weather.

Ferris came away with a 4-1 win in the first game on Sunday before dropping the second 12-4. Junior pitcher Kristie Gray led the way with a strong pitching performance in Game 1.

"It's just focusing on me and being really zoned in when I'm pitching," Gray said. "[I'm] doing it for the team at the end of the day. These girls go so hard in practice every day. This is a big one for us."

Gray replaced freshman Kristina Baar after the first inning and only allowed one run through six innings.

Scoring began in the bottom of the first inning. With two runners on base, junior first baseman Kaitlyn Orme doubled into left field, allowing senior outfielder Paige Kortz to score.

The Bulldogs added to their

lead in the second inning after a triple from sophomore third baseman Kacey Bouche drove in senior catcher Ali Magiera to take a 2-0 lead.

Purdue Northwest cut into the Bulldog lead with a run in the fourth inning. However, Gray went the rest of the game without allowing another run.

The Bulldogs finished their scoring after Purdue Northwest failed to field a pop-up from Magiera with the bases loaded. Orme and sophomore first baseman Evelyn Blood scored and gave Ferris a 4-0 lead.

"When I hit it, I kind of was like 'Oh darn,'" Magiera said. "But, once you hit it, you always think to just run it out. If you put the ball in play, bad things can happen or good things [can happen]."

The 4-1 win started the day off strong for the Bulldogs. However, they could not carry that into the second game.

Pitching struggles plagued the team early. The Bulldogs gave up six runs in the first and went through three pitchers. Sophomore Aryn Gallacher started and was relieved by Baar. Then first baseman Orme came in to pitch.

After two more runs allowed in

the top of the second, the Bulldogs opted to change pitchers again. Gallacher, who started the game, returned to the mound.

"We struggled the first two innings on the mound," head coach Kristin Janes said. "I do give props to Aryn Gallacher, who went back into the game. She came [back] in and threw three more really good innings. It's easy for somebody who has struggled to collapse, but she rose to the challenge."

The Bulldogs were held scoreless until the third inning. Kortz cut into the seemingly insurmountable Purdue Northwest lead, making it 10-1.

At one point in the fifth, the Bulldogs were able to make it a 10-4 ball game with hopes of a potential comeback. However, Purdue Northwest kept adding on to their tallies until the game ended in a 12-4 blowout.

Despite the loss, Janes looked at Sunday's split positively. She believed her team played well and that even in a loss, it's always good to play well.

The women look to Friday, April 15 for redemption, where they'll take on Davenport in a two game series.



Photo by: Mariana Searl | Torch Photographer

Evelyn Blood looks to hold a runner at third base during Ferris' 4-1 victory over Purdue Northwest on Sunday, April 10.

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Men's tennis dominate for the win

National 19th ranked Bulldogs are on a seven game win streak

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

The Bulldogs dominated Wisconsin-Eau Claire in a non-conference matchup on Sunday, April 10.

The men's tennis team had eight days off between matches, but the team showed no rust on Sunday.

The Bulldogs performed well in the matchup against Wisconsin-Eau Claire, which was a break from conference play. They collected a clean sweep as a team, winning all nine matches, which lead to a 7-0 victory.

The Bulldogs started with a sweep in the doubles competition. Mathis Guerre and his doubles partner Jan Koupil defeated Demetri Bush and Kole Kolinski 7-5. Benjamin Lortie and his partner Alessandro Santangelo defeated Hunter Roseth and Tyler Grosz 7-5. Ayush Deswal and his partner Josh McDermott also defeated their opponents John Foley and Matt Gilbert 6-4.

Ferris carried that energy from those doubles wins and dominated in singles competition. Guerre defeated Bush in two sets (6-3, 6-0). Koupil defeated RJ Griffiths in two sets (6-1, 6-3). Yannic Mader defeated Roseth in back-to-back sets (6-4, 6-2). Benjamin Lortie defeated Foley in two sets (6-1, 6-1). Santangelo defeated Tyler Grosz in two sets (6-1, 6-1). McDermott defeated Kole Kolinski in two sets (6-4, 6-4).

The Bulldogs needed this matchup against Wisconsin-Eau Claire to keep them warmed up and ready, so when GLIAC play resumes next weekend they will be ready.

"Our weekend for the GLIAC was off," head coach Mark Doren said. "I really didn't want us to have an off weekend. I wanted to keep the momentum going, and the guys are healthy. So, we really wanted to have a day to play some tennis. Ideally it was supposed to be outside, so we could start to get prepared for the GLIAC championship that is played outside."

The Bulldogs haven't had many chances

to play outside, but they have had great success inside, and they will be hoping for the weather to warm up so they can get outside.

Ferris' success this season has made them one of the best teams in the nation for Division II tennis. They are currently ranked 19th in the nation and boast a seven-match win streak.

"We're ranked in the top 20," Doren said. "So, you can get a little bit of a big head so I'm glad the guys had a match like this to kind of settle down and still stay focused."

With only two matches left before the start of the GLIAC tournament, staying focused is important for the Bulldogs, as they look to continue their momentum.

McDermott had a really good performance on Sunday, winning his doubles match with his partner Deswal and picking up a singles win.

"I think I just need to keep going for it," McDermott said on how he can continue his success. "Practice hard and just focus

on the little things that I personally need to work on and [I] should hopefully find success."

With two matches left before the beginning of the GLIAC tournament, now is the right time to be playing well. Ferris will face two tough GLIAC teams in Northwood and Wayne State.

"We just really need to buckle down," McDermott said in regards to the last two matches... You can't overlook [Northwood], you know. They're a solid team. And then ... we've got [Wayne State] the next day. They're having a phenomenal season. So, I think... we're capable of beating them too... As long as we stick to what we know plays well, we'll do well."

The Bulldogs will be back in action when they travel to Northwood on Friday, April 15 at 1 p.m. and Wayne State on Saturday, April 16 at 10 a.m.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Men's Golf

April 9 & 10 - Third place finish at Bill Blazer Memorial

Women's Track and Field

April 8 - Brianna Copley, first in shot put
April 8 - Hanna Brock, first in 5000 meter invite race

Men's Track and Field

April 8 - Jason Keena, first in javelin



UPCOMING SPORTS

Friday, April 15:

- Track and Field at Bison Outdoor Classic
- Men's Golf in GLIAC Championship in Augusta
- Men's & Women's Tennis at Northwood, 1 p.m.
- Softball vs. Davenport, 1 and 3 p.m.

Saturday April 16:

- Track and Field at Bison Outdoor Classic
- Men's Golf in GLIAC Championship in Augusta
- Men's Tennis at Wayne State, 10 a.m.
- Women's Tennis at Wayne State, 3 p.m.
- Softball vs. Grand Valley, 10 a.m. & 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 17:

- Men's Golf in GLIAC Championship in Augusta

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