

Who is Dr. Bill Pink? Meeting Ferris' presidential search finalist

Jessica Oakes
Special Editions Editor

Motivated by his faith and the opportunity to help others, Dr. Bill Pink is looking forward to joining the Ferris community as president.

Pink was named Ferris' presidential search finalist on March 28, five years into his presidency at Grand Rapids Community College.

Making west Michigan history, Pink is set to be both GRCC and Ferris' first African American president. He hopes this representation is encouraging to Ferris' students of color.

"If I can show African Americans, and just people of color period, my position as president of an institution like Ferris State University, I feel like it lets them know that there are things that they too can achieve. They now know that one day, they may be president of Ferris State University."

Pink's position means a lot to him because of what it means to people in his background. He wants to be a familiar face on campus that students of color feel they can connect with and confide in.

Sociology professor Diane Jackson sees great value in this representation. She believes that, while it is good to see a Black man hold this position at Ferris, it does not mean that the march towards racial justice is complete.

"What it does mean is that [students]

can see a forward star. There are many students of color on this campus that are sometimes limited to what they see in their area... My dad went to Ferris in the 60s, and some of the things that went on in west Michigan are the same things going on right here, right now. That forward star of where you can be is really important," Jackson said.

Pink climbed the collegiate ladder to get to where he is today, working as associate dean and vice president of academic affairs at public universities in Oklahoma before moving to Michigan. He worked in workforce development at GRCC for two years before taking the executive position.

As an involved member of west Michigan, Pink feels confident in his ability to connect with Ferris' students and help them form connections elsewhere.

"I can hit the ground running when it comes to this region, and that's helpful to me and helpful to the institution," Pink said. "I love the fact that I can come into the university having formed a number of partnerships in our region with companies and organizations that I think will be just as anxious to partner with us at Ferris State as they partnered with us at GRCC."

Pink works as vice chairman of the Heart of West Michigan United Way nonprofit organization, and he is a board member of Spectrum Health West Michigan, West Michigan Works!, The Right Place and the Grand Rapids Economics Club.



Photo courtesy of Bill Pink's Executive Assistant, Amy Autsema Bennet

Pink will be leaving Grand Rapids Community College, where he's been posted as President since 2017.

With his work in the Grand Rapids area, Pink got to know current president David Eisler professionally.

"I am delighted with the selection of Dr. Bill Pink as the next president of Ferris State University," Eisler said. "I have worked with Dr. Pink throughout his presidency at Grand Rapids Community College, and he is a great colleague and friend. He is exactly the right choice for Ferris, and I look forward to great things in the future as he leads our university."

Forming healthy relationships in the community is one of Pink's biggest priorities. He plans to attend as many campus events as possible in order to get to know the students and staff in more relaxed, fun environments.

In a word, his wife, Lori Pink, describes him as "personable."

"He will be out there with students," Lori said. "He will be working with faculty. He's just a people person. High energy. He'll be at activities all over. He has a hard time saying no; we have to rein him in."

The relationship between Ferris' administration and faculty has been turbulent in recent years. The Ferris Faculty Association led a tenured faculty strike in 2018 and has been vocal about a lack of transparency from the president's office ever since.

Penny Nichols-Whitehead, the sole FFA member to serve on the presidential

Search Advisory Committee, ensured the Ferris community that Pink has worked "successfully and respectfully" with unions in the past.

Every month, Pink meets with the GRCC faculty union president and representatives from the campus police, support staff and maintenance facilities. They discuss a variety of topics, from campus life to family life. Pink believes that the key to forming a strong relationship with a union is sitting down and listening to what they have to say.

In a comment submitted to the Torch, FFA president Charles Bacon said that he and his fellow union members look forward to "working with Dr. Pink on the challenges and opportunities that Ferris will face in the future."

The board of trustees will vote on Pink's confirmation in May. Looking at how far he has come and his plans for the future, Pink hopes to be the kind of worker that his late parents would be proud of.

"Both of them worked for a university, but they were in custodial services when we were growing up. They were making a lot less money than many folks make today. They just wanted the best for their kids... and this is my way of filling that and hopefully doing them proud," Pink said.

To find more information about Pink and the 2021 presidential search, visit fsutorch.com for previous stories.



Photo courtesy of the Torch archive.

Pink strives to attend as many events as possible to connect with students in a more relaxed setting.

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NEWS

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Torchbearer awards

Glamorous award ceremony held in-person for first time since 2019

Brendan Sanders
Editor-In-Chief

Gathered in the Williams Auditorium dressed to the nines, students and RSOs eagerly awaited the glitz and glamour of the Torchbearer Awards, and its return to the in-person world.

13 awards were given out to over 50 students and advisors, including ten winners of the Torchbearer Award and RSO Gold member of the year. The event had an Old Hollywood theme, and it saw performances from the Ferris' dance team and Madison MacDowell and Rob Malaski.

The event, hosted Thursday, April 21, was put together by Katie Bittner, Paige Abromaitis and Laurie Prentler as part of the Event Management II course. This ceremony was a culmination of a semester's worth of work between the three students and the university.

Senior Paige Abromaitis was not only one of the main people who put the ceremony together, but she also was one of the winners of the prestigious Torchbearer award. This award was given to 10 students. The students represented were leaders either in the classroom or on campus in the past year.

Abromaitis was given the award for her various roles in the Ferris community this year, which saw her serve as student body president for the 2021-2022 school year, vice president for the hospitality management student association, member of the Student Alumni Gold Club, a student representative on the Academic Senate, a student representative on the Strategic Planning and Resource Council, student representative on President David Eisler's Leadership Council Advisory Committee and a student member on the Presidential Search Committee.

"It was an honor," Abromaitis said. "It made me realize all my hours of leadership as student body president, all my hours as vice president of our Hospitality Management Student Association and then, on top of representing clubs, being a student representative on senate councils and on



Photo by: Brendan Sanders | Editor-In-Chief

Ceremony MC Emily Obermeyer jokes in front of the crowd as she opens the Torchbearer Ceremony.

the Search Advisory Committee for our new president. It just kind of made me realize, like, it was all worth it, all the stress and all the extra hours each week were worth it.

Senior Katie Bittner is also a part of the American Marketing Association, serving as their vice president of community service. Additionally, the AMA was the sole Gold RSO for the upcoming academic year, beating out seven nominees to get the award. Being named Gold RSO meant that AMA was considered to be the top RSO of the year.

"I think it was very, very deserving. Our team was kind of short this year... so obviously we had some obstacles... All the

board members worked very hard, and we got new members, and they're also all amazing," Bittner said.

As the ceremony came to a close, a video tribute was played for President David Eisler, who was in attendance on the evening. This video, created in collaboration with the TDMP program, thanked Eisler for his years of hard work and dedication to the university. Eisler then came up on stage to first thank the organizers and then present the winners of the Torchbearer awards.

As organizers, Bittner, Abromaitis and Prentler put the script together, created decorations, set up the catering, found entertainment for the evening, created the

slideshow and booked the auditorium for the event.

Bittner described how the trio split up the work.

"We all had different talents. [Prentler] kind of was very disciplined and told us what days to meet. She kind of made the plans for our meetings with Angela [Roman]. [Abromaitis] got very creative with our PowerPoint and was really good at communicating by emailing people. I would say I was good at decorations as well as getting all the catering and ordering all the food." Bittner said.

For a full list of awards and winners, see the graphic below.

<p>RISING STAR</p> <p>Cassandra Dudlo Ashley Ottjepka Caitlin Fowler Rebecca Bovee</p> <p>INITIATIVE 125</p> <p>Claire Tenbrock Paige Budnick Decarria James Matthew Northup Brianna Klimek Alyssa Sykes</p> <p>VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR</p> <p>Paige Budnick</p>	<p>CHANGING THE NARRATIVE</p> <p>Randy Martinez</p> <p>OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR</p> <p>Journey Ebels Honestie Wright</p> <p>ODK LEADERSHIP</p> <p>Emily Obermeyer</p> <p>CRIMSON RSOs</p> <p>Zeta Tau Alpha Alpha Xi Delta Sigma Lambda Beta Alpha Sigma Tau</p>	<p>GOLD RSOs</p> <p>The American Marketing Association</p> <p>RSO ADVISOR OF THE YEAR</p> <p>Shannon Yost</p> <p>TORCHBEARER</p> <p>Emma Franklin Paige A. Budnick Laurie Prentler Paige Abromaitis Macy Ilmberger Saif Abdulameer Noah Bathrick Haleigh Winkas Chase McGinnis Hunter Ward</p>	<p>PROMESA SCHOLAR</p> <p>Alondra Campos Valeria Gonzelez Gabriela Brito Natalia Monarrez Hilary Sanchez Marisol Benitez Edgar Perez Nolan Valero Priscilla Diaz Alondra Reyna Rogelio Esparza Cynthia Baeza</p>
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- ON THE RECORD -

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

Stop signs still apply at night

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

Stop signs still apply at night
April 20, 1:10 a.m. - A student motorist ran the stop sign on Ferris Drive in front of the College of Pharmacy building. The motorist was pulled over by police and verbally warned.

License to drive, or rather, lack

there of

April 24, 8:12 a.m. - A student was pulled over by officers at the Marathon gas station on South State Street. When officers approached the student, they learned the student did not possess a drivers license. Officers issued the student a ticket and made sure a licensed driver took the student and the vehicle home.

Ferris State Torch Corrections

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MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

GRAND RAPIDS - The name of the officer who fatally shot and killed Patrick Lyoya in a traffic stop was released to the public in a statement from Police Chief Eric Winstorm on Monday, April 25.

The Grand Rapids Police Department identified the officer as Christopher Schurr. Schurr was placed on administrative leave and stripped of his policing power following the April 4 shooting, pending investigation by the state police and Internal Affairs, according to MLive.

Winstorm claimed to have released the name in an effort to be transparent with the community.

"Additionally, while it has been a long-standing practice of the Grand Rapids Police Department to withhold the name of individuals who have not been arrested or charged with a crime—a practice which applies to all public employees, police officers and members of the public— police reform requires evaluating many long-standing practices to ensure our actions are consistent with the best interests of the community and the individuals

involved." Winstorm said in the Monday statement.

According to MLive, city officials intend to review the current practice for future cases.

DETROIT - General Motors President Mark Reuss announced Monday, April 25, that in addition to its current line-up of gas-powered Corvette models, it will soon introduce both an electrified and fully-electric Corvette's.

While GM did not elect to share specifics on the electrified model, they are not the first to introduce a hybrid sports car.

Reuss told CNBC, and then further confirmed on his LinkedIn profile, that an electrified Corvette model could be coming as soon as next year.

GM, like many other auto-makers, has committed to making their entire fleet electric by 2035, with some of their sub-brands, like Cadillac, committing to electrifying the majority of the line-up electric by 2030.

GM has not released a concrete timeline or pricing of either of these vehicles as of reporting.



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Sexual Assault Awareness Month on campus

Exploring events put on by the Ferris Anti-Violence Alliance

Rebecca Vanderkooi
Opinions Editor

81% of women and 43% of men have experienced sexual harassment or assault in their lifetimes. For Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Ferris' Anti-violence Alliance hosted educational events.

April is observed nationally as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Ferris' AVA has had seven events to provide education and resources to students, faculty and staff.

Raven Hills, the AVA Violence Prevention Coordinator, explained that four of the Sexual Assault Awareness Month events have been tabling around campus. The AVA created a campaign on campus with the design project center called, "Don't Skip Consent."

"It's around elements of consent. There were stickers and buttons available at all the tables around campus," Hills said.

Justice Kobish is in his fifth year at

Ferris, and he works as a peer educator through AVA. He was at one of the Don't Skip Consent tabling events and explained the importance of letting people know that resources and education are available to people at Ferris through AVA.

"We would absolutely love to say that this sort of thing just doesn't happen around here, but that's not true," Kobish said. "If you're pretending that it doesn't happen, then we're not doing anything to fix it. So, by confronting the fact that it does happen, we can start to actually do things about it."

Another tabling event is on April 27. It is being held on Denim Day, an international day where people wear denim to raise awareness for sexual assault.

Denim Day came from a case in the 1990s where a woman in Italy was assaulted by her driving instructor. The man was convicted, but the conviction was overturned when the judge claimed that the instructor couldn't have taken the woman's jeans off without consent.

"So, in protest, women in Parliament in Italy wore jeans to Parliament that day. Ever since then, it's become this international day of recognition," Hills said.

Senior Nia Goins has been the AVA staff lead since March 2021. She also founded Sistah Circle last semester with her roommate, Laila Duncan, which is an initiative for multicultural women on campus.

She explained that, while exploring what people wanted to see with the initiative, they learned that many women were concerned with sexual assault, domestic violence and relationship violence.

"We wanted to really raise awareness for what it looks like. It might look a little bit different than how you think that it might look. Especially with the Black community, the culture is a little bit different, so it might look a little bit different there," Goins said.

Goins helped arrange a discussion on these topics on April 12 called, "Sexual Violence in the Black Community with

Sistah Circle."

At the end of the month, on April 25 and 28, the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence is hosting two Zoom educational sessions. The first covered trauma stewardships, compassion fatigue and managing burnout. The second is about the neurobiology of trauma.

"[They're] talking about how traumatic events impact people's behaviors and the way that they respond to events. People will tend to have an idea of what a victim looks like and how they act, and this kind of dismantles some of those myths," Hills said.

Another event looked at sexual assault in pop culture, explicitly exploring tropes that paint a harmful picture of relationships and sexual violence.

To learn about upcoming AVA events, check out their website at <https://fsuantiviolence.org>.

Ferris Nontenured-Track Faculty Organization celebrates 10 years strong

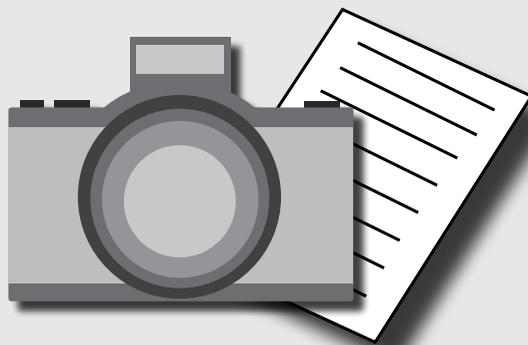


On Friday, April 22, Non-Tenure Faculty celebrated their 10-year anniversary by having a tent outside the University Center where non-tenured faculty could mix and mingle while having light refreshments. Pictured from left to right are Diana Jackson, Charles Bacon, and Paul Zube.

Photo by: Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Thanks for reading

By Brendan Sanders

Wow, my time as the Torch's editor-in-chief has come to a close, and I can't believe it.

As I reflect on the year, many things stick out to me.

In the first weeks of September, when I was starting as the editor-in-chief, there was a two-week period where everything felt like the world was crashing down on me.

I got COVID-19, our office lost power for over a week and we struggled to find a work space and my grandma became very ill, amongst other things. It was the most brutal stretch of my entire college career.

I felt like the entire staff hated what I was doing—they were losing faith in me. So, when I came back healthy, I changed my philosophy. I needed to remind myself that I was not Cora Hall, my predecessor. I realized I could not carry the world's weight on my shoulders alone.

So, I completely took my hands off. I trusted Noah, Brody, Marissa, Rebecca, Jess, Alyssa and Cassie to manage their teams. I trusted them to make this paper as great as I thought it could be.

By October, I believe we consistently put out some of the best content the Torch has ever produced. We were on a winning streak, and we created engaging and interesting content.

We went to Texas for a National Championship win, getting some of the best photos and producing some of the most amazing sports content we have ever created in my time with this paper.

When we covered the Barry Mehler story, we did our research and covered both sides, which is something other news organizations weren't doing.

On social media, for the first time in our Facebook account's history, we saw one of our posts reach over 10,000 people. Then we ended up doing it a second time! We also accumulated 100 new followers this year.

We got direct quotes from President David Eisler, something that hadn't been done in years. It culminated in our first sit-down interview with him in about six years. This was a goal that I had from the moment I took over as editor-in-chief.

Many of you may have seen my face around the campus while I delivered our paper with Ready for Life. I helped start and develop a relationship with Ready for Life,



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor

having their students earn paid work experience by delivering our papers throughout campus. It is the legacy project that I want to exist after I'm gone. They are good people, and they deserve a chance to be successful in this community.

We produced a product that I am genuinely proud of. I couldn't have done it without the team around me. No matter what my position is, I am not special. What I had around me this year was what was special.

What I learned in September saved me from collapsing in March after I lost my grandpa. That was one of the toughest things I've personally had to experience. He was not only my family, but I also truly saw him as my friend. We talked weekly, and our relationship was still growing.

He didn't get to see me graduate college, and that still hurts. I was his only grandson, and I could not provide him with that last

thing. I know I shouldn't dwell on it, and I've tried not to for the last month, but I miss him. I hope he was proud of everything I've done.

I loved it from the very beginning, even when I needed a few extra pushes from those around me to become a staff member. This was the mountain top for me

And to Noah, our next editor-in-chief, I can't wait to see what you do next.

I wasn't perfect, and I knew I wouldn't be when I took this position. There are a million things that I would go back and change. While I so badly wanted to be Cora Hall, I knew I couldn't be her, both as a leader and a writer. However, I became a better Brendan Sanders by being myself.

It's been an honor and a privilege,
Brendan Sanders

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From one goalie to another

Ferris State goaltender Logan Stein shares thoughts on Dryden McKay's suspension

Logan Stein
Guest Writer

Editors note: Monday, April 18, CCHA goaltender and Hobey Baker winner Dryden McKay was given a six-month suspension by the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

Ferris State goaltender Logan Stein, who has played against McKay, shared his thoughts on the matter.

Logan Stein:

Dryden McKay is arguably the best goalie to play college hockey. What he was able to do over four years is unheard of in college hockey. It was astonishing to watch him perform.

After four years and 140 games with Minnesota State, McKay posted a record of 113-20-4. On top of this, he averaged a save percentage of .931 and had an average of 1.48 GAA.

Minnesota State is in its golden generation, and he is a big reason why. The team is skilled, with many players signing professional contracts after their CCHA regular season. They also finished second in the NCAA tournament.

On April 18, McKay announced he would be accepting a six month suspension from the USADA due to a positive drug test.

While it is easy to read the headlines and make judgements, this story is worth a deeper dive.

To start, McKay tested positive for Ostarine, which was found in a vitamin D3 supplement he was taking to boost his immune system.

Why is he being suspended for accidentally testing positive? Why is he being punished for trying to stay healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic?

I believe the suspension is a very extensive punishment. I understand the USADA's reasons, but they should have recognized why he tested positive and voided the positive test and the suspension.

McKay initially faced a four-year ban, but he appealed the decision and it was reduced to six months. The USADA has a no-tolerance policy, so this sixth-month suspension is the best-case scenario for McKay.

As a fellow NCAA athlete who is subject to drug testing, suspensions like this make me nervous because you never know what substances are hiding in supplements. The supplement industry is poorly regulated, and this is a wake-up call to all NCAA athletes. We need to make sure our supplements are NSF-approved.

When this news came out, I felt terrible for him. I knew he would face backlash and people would question the integrity of his performances over the last four years. Everyone who has heard of McKay knows of his excellence, and this situation gives everyone a chance to damage his legacy.



Photo courtesy of Minnesota State University

McKay capped off his college career with the Hobey Baker award, which is awarded to the best player in college hockey, runner-up to the NCAA champions, and was named an All-American.

This past season, McKay broke Miller's shutout record with his 27th career shutout. McKay went on to set the record at 34 career shutouts.

His resume is a mouthful, and he deserves our respect. His elite play combined with his consistency has made him a household name.

McKay announced on April 18 that he would play professionally in the fall after serving his suspension.

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EARTH MONTH

State Fossil: Mastodon
A near complete mastodon fossil was found east of Flint, near Owosso, in 1944. Mastodon footprints were found near Ann Arbor in 1992.



Mastodon Skeleton

State Bird: Robin
Robins are often the first birds to sing in the morning, and the last birds singing as the sun sets.



Robin

State Tree: White Pine
In the 1800's, Michigan led the country in lumber with white pine in full abundance.



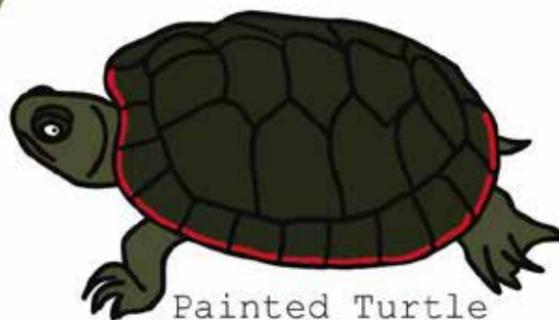
White Pine

State Game Mammal: White Tailed Deer
White tailed deer can run up to 40 miles per hour, swim up to 13 miles per hour and can jump a nine foot fence.



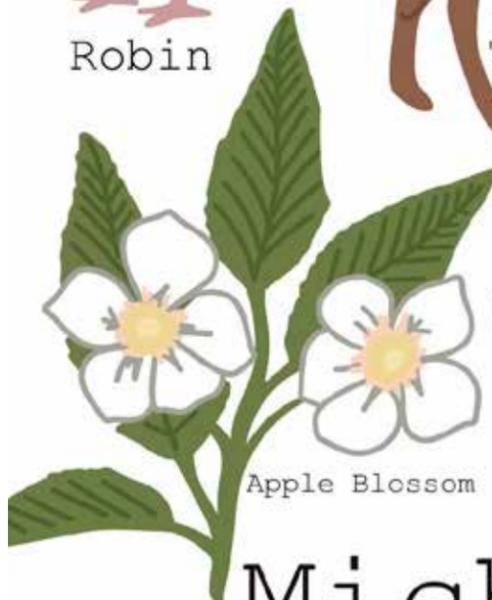
White Tailed Deer

State Reptile: Painted Turtle
The painted turtle was named the state reptile in 1995 when a group of fifth graders from Niles, Michigan noticed that the state did not already have one.



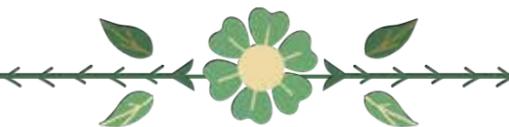
Painted Turtle

State Flower: Apple Blossom
Michigan ranks third in the country in apple production thanks to the apple blossom.



Apple Blossom

Michigan State symbols



Let's learn about climate change Looking at Ferris' conservation initiatives

Rebecca Vanderkooi
Opinions Editor

If climate change remains unchecked, it is projected to push 100 million people into extreme poverty by 2030, according to the MGH Institute of Health Professions.

In response to this problem, Ferris is choosing sustainability.

Defining climate change

Jerry Griffith, a social and behavioral sciences adjunct professor, notes that scientists primarily agree that the average global temperature is increasing, and there have been changes in rainfall, snowfall, drought and other weather events.

"NASA reports that the average global temperature since 1880 has increased by just under 2° F. This may not sound like a lot, but it is significant when you consider the difference in average temperatures between an ice age and an interglacial period is about 6° F," Griffith wrote in an email to the Torch.

There are many factors contributing to the changes that have been witnessed in the Earth's climate. Some of these factors are natural, such as volcanic emissions or cycles of the earth's orbital parameters. However, scientists have found that the

primary factor in climate change is the role humans play in greenhouse gas emissions.

Ferris initiatives

President David Eisler explained that Ferris has done a lot of work with sustainability, especially in recycling and energy conservation. However, he admits that much more can be done at Ferris.

One aspect of conservation at Ferris is recycling. The Physical Plant's staff goes around campus everyday, collecting recyclable material from every bin. The materials are then taken to the Mecosta County Recycling Center.

There are recycling receptacles inside the buildings on campus, and there are also larger recycling containers on the campus' outskirts.

"... At one time there was very little recycling at Ferris. I think that's kind of embedded in the work that we do," Eisler said.

Eisler further explained that energy conservation is another of Ferris' goals, and even the choice of lights used in a building can make a difference.

The goals of energy conservation are outlined on Ferris' website, and they explain the goal is to minimize energy and water consumption at Ferris.

"Efforts to minimize energy and water consumption include the implementation of modifications to mechanical and electrical systems and participation in behavior modification programs," the site said.

The methods Ferris has adopted in regards to how they conduct their building and renovating projects has also allowed them to remain sustainable.

Eisler explained that, when the Ranken Center was replaced by the University Center six years ago, two residence halls were knocked down in the process. Instead of throwing away all the products from the destroyed buildings, Ferris chose to grind up the bricks and blocks and use them as the base for the University Center's parking lot.

"... Fifteen years ago, all that stuff would be thrown away. Now, you can grind that up. So, the work we are doing with the asphalt paving across campus is important," Eisler said.

Where do we go from here?

While climate change may be daunting and seem too large to change, Griffith has some suggestions for ways to make a difference.

First, he explained that being educated on the topic is incredibly important, and

NASA's climate change webpage (climate.nasa.gov) provides many great resources and information.

Reducing individual carbon footprints can also be important. Some suggestions are to carpool, use public transportation and make homes more energy efficient.

"However, while it is a good thing to reduce one's carbon footprint, let us not forget who is really to blame, Griffith wrote. "The main culprits for greenhouse gas emissions and the current climate crisis are the coal, oil and natural gas industries and the large multinational corporations whose supply chains of resource extraction, manufacturing and transport release huge amounts of greenhouse gases. Shifting the responsibility of the climate crisis to individuals has been a strategy of theirs to deflect responsibility away from them."

Because of this, it is essential for students, faculty and staff to vote. Voting gives people the opportunity to help put leaders whose priorities include addressing climate change and holding institutions responsible for their detrimental impact on the environment in office, which will allow real change to occur.



Climate change made trendy



The reality of fast fashion

Giuliana Denicolo
Lifestyles Reporter

Fast fashion is the process of creating high-end fashion designs as cheap and quickly as possible in order to reach a whole new audience. It is problematic in today's fashion world because of how abundant and wasteful the industry is, increasing pollution and carbon emissions.

Before the 1980s, clothing came from a very elevated and expensive place. Women went to supercenters like Walmart to purchase their basics because the prices were so low. Walmart kept lowering their price margins to adhere to their customers and because manufacturers had to cut down on production time and costs.

"That's when we switched from having labor that was here in the United States to inexpensive, unregulated, non-union labor in places where it [cost] pennies to manufacture..." Lori Faulkner, Kendall College of Art and Design's fashion studies chair, said.

Fast fashion has gained popularity over the past few years, and social media has had a great influence on the trend. Consumers love how inexpensive these items are.

"With our social media, people want new content every day," Faulkner said. "So, why shouldn't the fashion industry? The fashion industry has always been on the forefront of creating new content, getting you in the store the next month with something new. We used to have something come in at the beginning of August, and it would stay till November. With wanting new content, we want new fashion."

Producing new fashion trends so frequently calls for constant consumption of new materials. A fast fashion trend goes out of style as quickly as it was produced, which teaches people that clothing is disposable. This has an incredibly damaging effect on our planet.

A recycling company called Roadrunner reports that the annual amount of clothing waste has doubled in the last 20 years, from seven million to 14 million tons.

"We just don't have the space in the landfills anymore," Faulkner said. "Sometimes [clothes are] incinerated, put on barges and [they] just sit in the middle of the water because nobody wants it or can accept it..."



Fatou Thiam, president of the Ferris fashion alliance, has had to analyze her clothing consumption in the name of sustainability.

As a college student, Thiam knows how difficult it can be to purchase high-quality sustainable clothing. She has found other ways to reduce her impact on the planet, such as continuing to wear older clothing, donating instead of throwing items away and even wearing homemade dresses from her father.

Additionally, there are plenty of ways to be sustainable on a budget. Instead of buying a ton of poor quality, cheaply made and cheaply priced shirts, it is better to have a few more expensive ones of higher quality.

Faulkner recommends that students ask themselves what items in their closets are truly important to them.

"What do you want [your clothing] to be made out of?" Faulkner said. "How do you want it to look? How do you want it to represent you? Do you want seams that are falling apart, buttons that are falling off, buttonholes that are improperly made, zippers that break? Or do you want lasting pieces?"

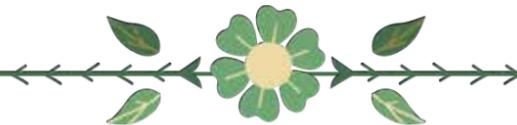
Thiam, like plenty of other college students, has had bad experiences with the fast-fashion brand Shein. The low-quality products become unwearable soon after being delivered.

"I bought two jeans from Shein. I put them on, lifted the belt [loop] to try to pull them up and they [both] ripped right there," Thiam said.

Resisting fast fashion trends not only benefits the environment, but it also helps consumers maintain their own personal styles. The alternatives to fast fashion are endless. Some options are investing in your clothing, spending a little more money on some items so that they will last longer and thrifting, which gives clothing more than one life.

"Style comes from all of those things together. You want to make sure that your clothing reflects a personal style, not the trend on the magazine page," Faulkner said.

By imagining what we want the Earth to look like, and paying more attention to how our clothing is produced than what the price tag says, Faulkner believes that the average person can make a positive impact. Being more critical about clothing consumption is a step in the right direction towards climate justice.



Protecting the world around the world

International approaches to climate justice

Protecting the world around the world:

United States:
Rejoined the Paris Climate Accord in 2021.

South Korea:
Plans to retire 24 hour coal power plants by 2034 and eliminate all coal related electricity consumption by 2050.

Germany:
Intends to become greenhouse gas neutral by 2045.

Netherlands:
The 2019 Climate Act laid out plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 95% by 2050.

Graphic created by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

The call of the wild is coming from just down the hall

Ferris' own wildlife conservation center



Photo by: Mariana Searl | Torch Photographer

Katherine Kroll uses recycled cans as pots for plants at an event held at the Card/Rylie Conservation and Wildlife Education Center.

Noah Kurkjian News Editor

Unbeknownst to almost all students, two world records sit nestled in the front right corner of level zero of the Arts and Science Commons.

The Card/Rylie Conservation and Wildlife Education Center, originally the Card Wildlife Education Center, was born in 2000 after a generous donation from engineering technologies alumnus Roger Card.

When he wasn't running his Mount Pleasant-based construction business, Card, a hunting and fishing enthusiast, decided to donate his personal collection once it outgrew his office.

"He decided that it would make a really good museum and educational tool, and he, of course, approached Ferris," director of the Card/Rylie Center, Carrie Weis, said. "And Ferris really saw the value in it."

With contributions from a variety of donors, Card's initial donation has grown into a museum that includes over 300 specimens from 52 countries and five continents.

"The center allows people to observe these animals they may not otherwise have the opportunity to see realistically displayed, not just as a picture in a book," Card said in an interview with the university. "Ferris students are able to see the animals up-close, and we've supported opening the center to students from local elementary and high schools."

The center currently hosts two world record animals. A record-breaking male lion bagged by Roger Card himself, which he details in his book, 'A Hunter's Journey' and a record-breaking moose, which was

hunted by Card's late wife, Debra. The moose in question is an Alaskan moose, the largest moose species native to North America, which clocks in at 39 points, has an outside angular spread of six feet and measured in at 731 1/8-inches. She gained this record in 1999 near Cordova, Alaska.

In late 2019, the center recently received a substantial donation from the estate and personal collection of George F. Rylie. This estate brought animal mounts, trophies, artifacts and artwork to the center.

Community Education

Additionally, in late 2019, Ferris also received a large endowment to broaden the educational aspects of the center and do some remodeling to its plant collection. The endowment and later educational expansion allowed the Card/Rylie Center to expand their educational outreach beyond the Ferris community.

"It's one of our missions to provide educational outreach to our community. We have a bussing program that allows K-12 students from the Mecosta Osceola Intermediate School District to come in, and we give them guided tours," Weis said. "We also try and meet some Michigan Science Standards so that [the tours are] enhancing what they're learning in the classroom."

The environmental education doesn't stop within the center's four walls, either. Weis shared a number of projects she has championed as the director of the center that get kindergarten through fourth-grade students out, active and learning about the environment.

"Our final big project [before COVID-19 hit] was to plant over 2,000 pollinator plants on Clay Cliffs, a natural area of Big Rapids. We bussed in all the fourth graders to Clay Cliffs and just spent the day planting pollinators." Weis said.

The center's projects vary in scale. Weis recounted an initiative to bring monarch butterflies back to the city.

"We convinced the city of Big Rapids to become monarch mayors, which means that the city will, in perpetuity, consider keeping some native natural areas in the city for pollinators." Weis said.

She went on to add that the Card/Rylie Center then partnered with Save Our Monarchs, an international organization, to provide educational programs for local elementary school science classes to supplement the city initiative.

Campus Education

While the Card/Rylie Center offers a variety of daily educational experiences, the center also hosts events to get the campus community involved and educated.

In partnership with the John and Rhea Smith Greenhouse, the Card/Rylie Center hosted an event called "Soda Can Succulents for Earth Day." This event intended to not only recycle some cans and give out propagated plants to attendees, but also to educate them on the benefits of simple house plants, such as improvements in their home's air quality.

Jay Kennedy, a student facilitator at the event and Card/Rylie Center employee, spoke on his contributions to the event and what made him want to get involved.

"I work at the greenhouse as well, which is what made the connection," Kennedy

said. "I was able to facilitate and help plan. I got the plants ready and mixed up different soil types depending on what kind of plant a student [wanted]."

What's next?

A goal of the Card/Rylie Center is to provide a digital, interactive experience.

"The next phase is to get some technology in the center. We would really like to have an interactive format where you can be on your phone and use either QR codes or downloads," Weis said.

This modernization goes hand in hand with their goal to improve the signs in the museum. Weis noted they had completed phase one, identifying all the specimens in their collection, and they are just embarking on phase two.

"The next phase is going to be talking about the environments. I really want to focus on the concept of balance in nature, how precarious that is, and how critical it is," Weis said.

Weis closed with an invitation to students to visit the center.

"It's the most unique experience you're going to have on campus, I think. You can stand inches away from an African lion, or, you know, [a] leopard or a hammerhead shark," Weis said.

Weis suggested that those interested in visiting the Card/Rylie Conservation and Wildlife Education Center should seek out their hours of operation on their Ferris web page. Since the center employs students, their hours vary depending on the day and semester.



Protect water, protect life

Caring for the Muskegon River seven generations at a time

Jessica Oakes
Special Editions

After years of logging and damming, west Michigan naturalists are committed to protecting the Muskegon River for generations to come.

The Muskegon River, spanning 216 miles, has given the city of Big Rapids more than its name and a good view from the balcony at Gypsy Nickel. The Muskegon River watershed includes the ecosystems involved in over 60 streams, or tributaries, that flow into the Muskegon.

Scott Faulkner, director of the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, collaborates with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and members of the Ferris community to protect the local watershed.

“We need to learn to protect the things that protect us,” Faulkner said. “Water is critical to life... Care about the watershed if you care about yourself.”

The Seventh Generation Principle is based on a traditional Iroquois philosophy that focuses on how choices made today will either help or hinder the next seven

generations. With help from the LRB01, the MRWA try to visualize how their work on the river will affect people years down the line.

Early Michigan settlers used the river to transport logs. This damaged the riverbed tremendously, destroying wildlife habitats.

“When we look at a project for the Muskegon River, we try to see how it would affect the generations to come, because I can tell you the loggers did not... We want to do better this time around for your generation,” Faulkner said.

Luckily, nature was able to use its “amazing ability to heal itself” after the logging boom. The river has four major dams, Reedsburg, Rogers, Hardy and Croton, which may pose more permanent problems for local ecosystems. With the water being diverted by dams, fish that once swam from Lake Michigan Higgins Lake are now obstructed.

Jonnie Sam, director of historic preservation for the LRB01, explained how the Seventh Generation Principle was used in restoring the sturgeon population.

“The sturgeon we planted when we first started probably wouldn’t be available for

at least three generations for harvest or for actual other use,” Sam said. “So, it was planned, knowing that continually doing it until it gets to be self-sustaining will provide sturgeon as a resource again to the folks or people within that Seventh Generation thinking.”

While collaborating with local Indigenous communities is important in sustainability efforts, since they were raised with some traditional beliefs, Sam also believes that collaborating with anyone who is willing to work and learn will produce great benefits.

“[Native Americans] start with the big picture and work backwards to you,” Sam said. “You learn early on that the circle that everything is on has all the parts. You have to understand those who went ahead of you left stuff for you now, and those that are coming behind you on the circle deserve to have the same thing.”

Sam recognizes that this long-term thinking, asking how decisions made today will affect one’s grandchildren, is hard for young adults who are still trying to get on their feet in their own lives.

People do not have to be environmental experts in order to help the local watershed. Same explained that an average Ferris student can do their part by analyzing where they have gaps in sustainability in their daily life.

“That’s tough to do in today’s world,” Sam said. “Because, of course, all the pressure of trying to get through from one period to the next. A lot of folks don’t have built up resources, but they could build up the resource by sitting down and thinking through and getting advice from people who are doing what they want to be doing in the future to see how to get there.”

Both Sam and Faulkner have great hope in Generation Z and their ability to leave the Earth better than they found it. Faulkner has observed how today’s students are not afraid to “get their hands dirty” and truly connect with their ecosystem.

“If you’re doing the work well enough, other places will pick it up. You’ll be able to expand the program. And perhaps, as I like to say, your process of Seventh Generation thinking will reverse the process, and maybe we’ll accidentally save the world.”



Photo by: Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

The Muskegon River runs directly through downtown Big Rapids and carries centuries of traumatic environmental history.

Is Earth Day still important?

Have we forgotten its true meaning

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter

April 22 was Earth day, and my Instagram feed was filled with pictures of my friends enjoying nature. Some would just post on their stories “happy Earth day!”

On Google, they showcased images from across the world being affected by global warming. You would be shown a picture, some dating as far back as 1996, to the present day. All of the pictures were heart-breaking, as they each showed the slow death of life occurring on our planet.

Seeing the happiness my friends and other large companies have for Earth on social media and then seeing the effects of global warming makes me wonder. Is Earth day still relevant? Have we forgotten the true meaning of it?

From my perspective, people live two lives when it comes to the environment. They say they care about saving trees, saving the turtles and reducing their carbon

footprint, but they continue to print sheets of paper for classwork that could have been submitted online, they continue to use one-time-use plastic cutlery and they don’t recycle.

According to the Oxford’s “Our World in Data” webpage, the world produced 34.81 billion tonnes of CO2 from the burning of fossil fuels. It states that, prior to the Industrial Revolution, emissions were super low, and then they grew at a steady pace until the mid-20th century. In 1950, the world produced six billion tonnes of CO2. By 1990, the number quadrupled. At the moment, the world produces over 34 billion tonnes of CO2 every year.

The number of emissions being put into our atmosphere grows every year at an alarming rate. Politicians seem to be making small steps in the right direction by cutting their country’s effects on global warming, but it doesn’t seem to be enough.

We don’t see many companies cutting their carbon footprint, or doing anything

to help the environment after they have hurt it.

I personally have not seen individuals in my life be conscious of their imprint on the environment.

I continue to see them use one-time-use products, shop online excessively and drive constantly to places that they could walk to. Even when I mention small actions they can take to be a bit more eco-friendly, it seems as though I am brushed off.

Do we really care about the environment as we say we do, or are we saying we do just to save face? Earth day is a day in which people demonstrate support for environmental protection, but all we see are social media posts about the tree leaves and the squirrels that live in them.

We don’t see any real steps taken to actually protect the environment. So, is the true meaning of Earth day gone? Is it just another holiday like Presidents Day, where we say we care, but we really don’t?

As Gandhi once said, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” If we want to see a change in the world, we need to be the change we are all saying we are. Which means no more posts about how pretty the water at the lake is. Put the phone down and start being a friend to Earth by picking up the garbage you see in the sand.

Being eco-friendly doesn’t mean tossing your phone away and living in the woods, living off of grass and berries. It means recycling your cardboard, washing out your plastic containers and bringing them to the recycling center. It can also mean using a water filter, instead of continuously buying a jug or bottle of water. The biggest step each of us can take is reusing the items we have right now in our homes and waiting until the item breaks or needs to be refilled to get a new item.

Society believes being eco-friendly difficult, but it isn’t. It just takes a listening ear, an open mind and thoughtful, intentional actions.

LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

Football, basketball and marketing, oh my!

After years of being known as 'Amarr the football player', Amarr Blake branches out.

Marissa Russell
Lifestyles Editor

As graduation is only days away Amarr Blake prepares to return to his first love: basketball.

Senior Amarr Blake is a Ferris business administration senior who has spent his college years playing defensive back on the football team, but he has always wanted to be remembered as more than a football player for the Bulldogs. With his proven skills in marketing, he has found a new team to represent: the Atlanta Hawks.

Blake first came to Big Rapids in 2017, when he chose Ferris over Davenport, Saginaw Valley State, Morgan State, Northwood and Fordham. While one of the reasons Blake chose Ferris was because of the scholarship, he was offered to play football. Another reason was that it would be a good family environment. As a bonus, the school had the program he wanted and good class sizes. Blake came to Ferris with his twin brother, Amere, who also played defensive back for the Bulldogs.

As football took hold of the majority of his time here at Ferris, Blake lost out on many opportunities afforded to students who had more time to work with.

"I always felt discouraged in my classes," Blake said. "I would talk to other people in my class, and they were like- I did this internship, I did that internship. I had this opportunity to have that opportunity. Because I knew football was gonna stop one day, and I was like, I've never had these opportunities to explore like what I wanted to do other than football."

Everything changed when Professor Jina Jackson Rockwell picked him to compete in a marketing competition called the National Collegiate Sports Selling Competition (NCSSC) in Atlanta,

Georgia, in February. After competing in a preliminary round in November, he was invited to attend the main competition in Atlanta alongside two other students.

After Blake finished in the top 16 in the competition out of 64 students, coming one point away from the top 8, Blake's phone began blowing up from teams interested in having his services. This competition brought in different companies looking to fill positions for their June sales jobs. The companies that reached out to Blake included teams such as the Detroit Pistons, Washington Commanders, New York Mets, NASCAR, Pittsburgh Penguins and Atlanta Hawks.

In the time after the marketing competition, Blake accepted a job offer with the Atlanta Hawks as their inside sales representative which allowed him to go back to being around basketball.

"My first love is basketball, especially coming from Flint," Blake said. "We have a lot of basketball legends that come out of there. I grew up down the street from Berston Field House, and anyone who knows knows they have the blacktop court."

Blake explained that living in Michigan made basketball a year-round thing even after the season was done, whereas football was played just in the fall. Allowing Blake to spend more time on the hard court than on the football field.

In high school, though, Blake's focus would turn to football, where he earned more interest from colleges. Blake would play defensive back for Ferris football time since 2017. In that time, he was able to go to the NCAA Division II championship in 2019 and 2021.

While Blake had an opportunity for another year of eligibility to play football, due to the Covid-19 year, he decided not to return. If Blake came back, that would mean he would have to go to graduate



Photo provided by: Amarr Blake

Amarr Blake poses in front of the Atlanta Hawks court at the NCSSC competition in Atlanta.

school, and there are no programs Ferris offers that he is interested in.

"We won a national championship, and this past football season, I'm not gonna say I lost the love for football, but I know it was coming to an end," Blake said. "I was more than a football player the whole time I was playing."

Blake was supposed to graduate last semester but because two classes he needed were only offered in the spring he had to wait until May to graduate. This

combined with the struggle he faced of becoming more than "Amarr the football player" solidified his decision to start a life outside of football. With this decision he will also move away from "Amarr the twin" and move away from his brother for the first time in their life.

As a twin, Blake explained, people liked to group the two together, even as kids they hated being dressed the same. At Ferris even though they were roommates the entire time they started branching off into their own groups. One of Blake's best memories at Ferris was seeing his brother crossed into his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha. Crossing into a fraternity is when an associate member becomes an active member. Blake said it was good seeing his brother doing something he is passionate about and starting to differentiate themselves.

"Don't get me wrong, but football to me is a lot of camaraderie. There is no game like it," Blake said. "There's no game where you can physically go through things with your teammates and then come out of that with a great expectation, with great heights and with great goals. I met so many new people from all over the country. I don't think I would have got that melting pot I got playing basketball. I made the connections I made through football, the places we traveled in football. I really wouldn't trade it honestly, I wouldn't. If I had to go back, I would still play football."

Brendan Sanders contributed to the writing of this article.



Photo provided by: Amarr Blake

Amarr Blake (13) makes a tackle against rival team, Grand Valley, in the last season.

Alumni Spotlight: Paola Mendivil

2017 Alum goes through her time after Ferris

Giuliana Denicolo
Lifestyles Reporter

Paola Mendivil won the 2021 Pacesetter Award as an alumna at Ferris. She is the first Latina to have won the award. She was born in Mexico and moved to Grand Rapids when she was 16 years old, where she then finished high school. She was originally going to go back to Mexico after graduating high school, but then she was offered a scholarship to Grand Rapids Community College.

She attended GRCC for three years and obtained her associate's degree. After graduating in 2010, she took some time off. During that time, she interned for the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and became a U.S. citizen. In 2014, she started her bachelor's degree in business administration at Ferris.

Before attending community college, she and her family had started a small, family-owned Mexican restaurant. This helped her decide what she wanted to major in. Helping care for their business, having a family and a part-time job and being a full-time student was a lot to juggle for Mendivil.

"When I graduated, I was so proud to bring my son to my own college graduation to inspire him and hopefully make sure that he also wanted to follow and pursue higher education with time," Mendivil said.

During high school, she would go on field trips to different colleges, and Ferris stood out to her. The campus felt friendly and familiar, though she ended up taking classes online. During the time between graduating from community college and



Photo courtesy of Paola Mendivil

Paola Mendivil is the first Latina to win the Pacesetter award.

starting undergrad, she got married and had a son.

"When it was time for me to return to my higher education and pursue my bachelor's degree, I already had a home, a husband and our son, so it was feasible for me to [take classes] online, Mendivil said. "I didn't have that campus experience, unfortunately, but at the same time, it was great education. I really value the teachers, the classes and the

projects."

After she graduated from Ferris in 2017, her first act of business was helping her family remodel their restaurant. She met with the architect for the plans and community development for the permit, and she got them a loan for the remodel. Last Thanksgiving, they all celebrated 10 years in business.

She knew that she had a lot of potential that could not only help her family,

but also help other business owners as well. The idea of becoming a business consultant was brought to her by having experience and a background in business. Her family didn't feel prepared to start their own business at the time, but they managed, succeeded and overcame their struggles.

"I wanted to make sure that other businesses didn't go through the same struggles that we did," Mendivil said. "And I wanted to be a coach for them."

In 2020, she participated in a program at Ferris. The program is specified in Latino Business and Economic Development. The initiatives are entrepreneurship training and leadership. Mendivil worked within the program as a student and as an alumna. Due to the pandemic, she decided to drop the program so that she could focus on her family and her business.

Though it was a tough decision for her to make, she believes it gave her the perfect space and time to think about what was next in her career. Last October, she was hired by an organization called Grow. She works in community development and financial institutions.

"I've been doing this job where I get to meet clients and potential new business owners talking about their ideas, their project and their ambitions to pursue a business for themselves," Mendivil said. "And it's just been wonderful. I know it's my calling. I'm just really passionate about seeing others succeed."

Being the first Latina to have won the Pacesetter award, she feels honored and grateful for all she has achieved.

Basketball for acceptance

The upshot of the Heart to Heart, Hand in Hand fundraiser

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter

On April 19, the Sports Career RSO and Area 5 held their annual Heart to Heart, Hand in Hand basketball fundraiser.

The Heart to Heart, Hand in Hand fundraiser is an event in which the Ferris State basketball teams get to play in a tournament with athletes from the Special Olympics Michigan Area 5 organization.

At the end of the night, \$1,726.53 was raised to help Area 5 buy equipment, travel and support their athletes.

For the past 15 years, the Sports Career RSO has taken it upon themselves to create this collaborated event to help raise funds for Area 5, which oversees the special athletes in the Mecosta, Osceola, Oceana and Newaygo Counties.

Sports communication junior Kai Serviss says the event takes around two months to plan, with different teams within the RSO taking the lead in getting sponsors, advertising and involving each basketball team.

"We have certain groups in our class like a sales team, a media team, a management team and an operations team," Serviss said. "We work together as a real athletic department."

Serviss says planning the event is different every year.

"It means a lot," Serviss said. "I think Big Rapids is a great community. We're very tight-knit, especially relating to Ferris State University. As an athlete here, you just know that the community is always willing to support."

According to Area 5 co-Director Terry Ann Lawton, the support they are given from Ferris has been amazing and she loves Ferris for all they have done.

Lawton also says Ferris has become a big part of their organization, as some of their athletes work on campus and because she believes the university understands them.

"Some of these athletes, you can't tell that there's something wrong with them," Lawton said. "They want to be a part of sports so bad. They just love being a part of it."

Once the tournament finishes, Lawton says athletes always ask when their next opportunity to play with the Bulldogs is.

Rob Young, a Law Enforcement Torch Run Member for the Special Olympics and coach for the special athletes, says the event is always wonderful and the athletes in particular love it.

"It's like a culmination of the year," Young said. "Athletes love it, but I think the Ferris athletes really love it. You get to play with folks that are there to support them all year."

For 10 years, Young and his family have participated in the events Area 5 and the Sports Career RSO have hosted.

Young says the Ferris State Bulldogs have become real role models, people the special Olympic athletes can look up to.

"The idea that they can see value in themselves," Young said. "The athletes really support them, it's not just a show. The Ferris athletes just love our athletes. They feel like they're on the same team and playing together."



Photo by: Mariana Searl | Torch Photographer

Mens basketball center, Vejas Grazulis, looks to get a rebound from three Special Olympics players.

SPORTS

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

Celebrating as champions



Photo by Brendan Sanders | Editor In Chief

Dezmin Lyburtus makes a catch on the sideline during Ferris' annual spring game.

Football celebrates National Championship during spring game

Joe Nagy
Sports Reporter

The last time Ferris football played a game, they walked off the field as national champions.

On Friday, April 22, the Bulldogs took to the field again for their annual spring game and to celebrate their Division II national championship win over Valdosta State on Dec. 18.

Austin Edwards, Tavierre Thomas and Malik Taylor, former Bulldogs who are now in the NFL, returned to Big Rapids to celebrate. Former NFL players Jason VanderLaan and Jake Lampman also attended.

"It's incredible for them to feel that kind of allegiance to us," head coach Tony Annese said. "And still they feel like they're still part of the team. This ring was won because of people like them."

The intersquad scrimmage brought fun and games to the Big Rapids community. There were special events at halftime, interviews with coaches and players and a legislative tribute from Sen. Rick Outman.

Fans eagerly awaited the Bulldog's return. Before the game, they tailgated in the parking lot, where they knocked the dust off their grills and cornhole boards.

The game saw both teams engaged in tough contests, especially since there was a special scoring format. In addition to the traditional scoring that we see in official games, teams could earn one point for a

first down and ten for a turnover.

The festivities continued after the kickoff, where team crimson started with the ball at their own 25. With the absence of the recently graduated Jared Bernhardt, both teams incorporated more passing in this game.

The end of the first half concluded with a strong effort from both teams, but the gold team faced a 36-11 deficit. Their answer came shortly into the third quarter, bringing the game within 11 points at 36-25. In the end, team crimson claimed victory 47-33.

"I don't even really know how the teams were split to be honest," sophomore quarterback Mylik Mitchell said. "We'll just all go celebrate tonight and enjoy it as a win for everybody really."

While fans got to enjoy a great game of Ferris football, halftime brought additional entertainment. One event was a field goal kicking competition between members of the soccer team and men's basketball team.

Jimmy Scholler and Vejas Grazulis of the men's basketball team put up a solid performance through the uprights, but couldn't match the kicking prowess of Nikki May, Lindsay Cole and Katie Nesco. All three nailed kicks from 30 yards out, but couldn't make the mark when the ball was moved 10 more yards.

The kicking competition was followed by a football passing relay, consisting of three teams who raced the length of the football

field, all while having to pass, catch, run and repeat. The women's basketball team won it convincingly, thanks to Kady Blanchard, Grace Sullivan and Jolee Houle.

"The events were an awesome addition to the game, making it more enjoyable and giving it entertainment," sophomore offensive lineman Kai Serviss said.

After, the football coaches fired up the punt machine to test the catching abilities of the coaches and football players. From the back of the endzone, the ball was fired high into the air, leaving the participants scrambling to make the catch. Tesfa Smith got the players jumping when he pulled down the first catch for the coaches.

Serviss stepped up to the fifty-yard line, and it looked like he got a bad jump on the ball. But a quick adjustment led to him hauling the ball in, causing the players to go crazy.

"My favorite part about the game was just being able to have fans back in the stadium and seeing all my old teammates who are now alumni," Serviss said.

After the 3rd quarter, Outman and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer presented Annese and the members of the football team with legislative tributes because of the success of the team.

For a lot of the players, the spring game was the first time they could suit up and get out on the field. Chris Cezik, an offensive lineman who recently walked-on to the team, got to see the work that he put in to

get onto the team come to fruition.

"It was overwhelming at first, especially me playing at this level for the first time," Cezik said. "All the guys treated me as one of them and I couldn't have asked for better teammates to go through this journey with."

With all the commotion at the game, the party stayed alive later that night, as the ring presentation ceremony took place in the University Center. Not only were the rings given to the coaches, players and staff members, but offensive lineman Dylan Pasquali officially received the Gene Upshaw award. It was a crowning achievement he earned for being the best linemen in all of NCAA Division II football and a testament to his hard work.

President David Eisler, Athletic Director Steve Brockelbank and Annese spoke during the ceremony. Their speeches further cemented the reality that the Bulldogs are champions who are ready to get back and continue winning.

"Our work ethic has been better since we won the national championship....," Annese said. "Our guys have been just unbelievable in the offseason. Preparation and spring ball has been the same."

Although business was finished in McKinney last December, the hunger and drive to get back is that much more prevalent in the players.

It was a great day to celebrate the success of the Ferris football program.

SCORECARD

Softball

April 23 - Purdue NW 6, Ferris 4
April 23 - Purdue NW 2, Ferris 1

Softball

April 24 - Ferris 14, Parkside 10
April 24 - Ferris 6, Parkside 5

Women's Golf

April 23 - 5th place in GLIAC Championship

Kaitlyn Orme remains resilient

From broken arms to broken records, Kaitlyn Orme's journey to Ferris

Dylan Rider
Sports Reporter

Kaitlyn Orme has a knack for breaking things. First, she broke both her arms. Then, she broke her jaw. After that, she broke Ferris' single season triples record.

When Orme was ten years old, she broke both of her arms at once. Years down the line, her jaw was broken due to a line drive in a practice. Neither setback kept her from eventually breaking the next thing on her journey.

The junior first baseman broke the Bulldog single-season triples record as a freshman in 2019 with eight. In just one season, she tied for ninth on Ferris' career triples list. Then, as a sophomore, she led the Bulldogs in home runs (3) and slugging percentage (.566).

Orme hails from Grandville, Michigan, which is where her success began. In her time there, she assisted the team to two conference championships, one district championship and one regional championship. Unfortunately for her and her team, they fell in the state championship.

"It was the craziest game," Orme said. "We went into extra innings. It was 3-3 going into the eighth inning. Our pitcher threw a wild pitch, and there was a runner on third and she scored the winning run to lose the state championship my junior year."

Orme stayed a Bulldog and decided to come to Ferris in 2018. Since joining, Orme has taken on new roles for the softball team. She is a co-captain alongside senior outfielder Paige Kortz and is known as "Mama Orme" by her teammates.

"Orme is a very empathetic person," Kortz said. "So if anyone ever is struggling or [anything] like that, it could be in softball or in school or just life, she's always the first



Photo by Sandy Gholston | Courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Kaitlyn Orme bats during the Bulldogs' 4-1 victory over Purdue Northwest April 10.

one to reach out and ask if you're okay and ask if you need any help."

Kortz also attested to Orme's captain role as she mentioned how closely they work with the coaches to relay information and solve any issues that come up.

Orme's journey to where she is today wasn't always easy. Like many athletes, she has had her fair share of injuries.

Orme's father, Chris Orme, told the story of how she chipped her tooth the day of prom and had to be rushed to a dentist to have her teeth fixed before she went to the dance.

Neither Kaitlyn nor Chris Orme could put an exact finger on when her love for the

game began. However, her father does remember a moment where he believed she might have a future in the sport.

"Kaitlyn was at third base, and a ground ball came to her," Chris Orme said. "At third base, at the T-Ball level, there's no way anybody's gonna get that out. She fielded that ball and threw it perfectly to first base."

Chris coached her as a child and made the decision to put Kaitlyn Orme, a lefty, at third base. According to Kaitlyn Orme, lefties can't play third base because "they have such a bad angle."

On top of her resilience and incredible love for the game, Orme also carries a heavy amount of competitiveness.

Kortz told the story of how the softball team holds a timed mile every year. The team's best runner was speeding through. However, that didn't stop Orme from "killing herself" trying to keep pace with the leader.

Orme believes she has struggled at times throughout this season. Her numbers reflect this, as they are slightly lower than other years. She believes this has to do with the in-depth scouting reports opposing teams have.

Despite all the injuries throughout her career, Orme doesn't label them as the biggest conflicts she's had to face. Instead, it's the slumps she has faced.

"This year I had a slump that I really struggled with because I was just like, 'I hate softball, but I don't hate softball,'" Orme said. "So we always say that it's a love-hate relationship. You can like softball one day and you can dislike it another day, but you'll always love it."

Through her ups and downs, Orme has stayed resilient and has had her love of the game remain steadfast.

Outside of her family and teammates, the coaching staff even raves about Orme's character.

"She is that type of person that if she doesn't feel that she is either performing to the best of her abilities or that she's being the best leader that she can, she is going to go and do something," head coach Kristin Janes said. "She's going to be proactive and take the initiative to make sure that what she's doing is the best that she can, [even] when nobody is watching."

Orme plans on returning to Ferris next year and playing for the Bulldogs for her senior season. Her performance will remain to be seen. However, her character and the resilience that she's accrued throughout her entire career is certainly set in stone.

Women's tennis dominates in regular season finale

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

Ferris' women's tennis (10-7, 5-3 GLIAC) dominated Saginaw Valley State 6-1 in the last match of the regular season.

It was a big win for the Bulldogs' momentum after losing the previous two matches. The Bulldogs were hunting for a big win that could have them moving in the right direction as the GLIAC tournament approaches.

"This was an important weekend for our team," head coach Mark Doren said. "It was great to get a win before we head to the GLIAC championships. Our past two losses hurt, but it gave us stuff to work on."

The work the Bulldogs put in paid off this weekend, as they were able to get this huge win that meant a lot to the team.

"It definitely was a big and important win," sophomore Sophie Daavettila said. "I think it was a good confidence boost as well, going forward into GLIAC's next weekend. That match also took place on senior day, so that meant a lot to our team to end that special day off with a win."

In addition to it being Senior Day for the Bulldogs, they also dedicated a court to former coach Eddie Luck.

"We started the weekend off with a wonderful tribute," Doren said. "We named court #1 'Ed Luck Court.' We had a huge crowd filled with ex-players who came back to remember and celebrate Coach Luck."

The Bulldogs started with a perfect performance in the doubles play. Parker Nolan



Photo by Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

Morgan Waller returns a shot during Ferris' 6-1 victory over Saginaw Valley State on April 22.

and her partner, Agata Klak, defeated Sara Neves and Joanne Gao 6-4, Sam Stephenson and Morgan Waller defeated Elizabeth Stuart and Chelsea Dzenga 6-2 and Daavettila and Brittany Lavenant defeated

Nicole Johnson and Adiya Young 6-0.

The Bulldogs carried that energy to singles competition, as they won five out of their six matches.

Daavettila defeated Neves in two sets

(6-3, 6-0), Klak defeated Gao in two sets (6-1, 6-0), Lavenant defeated Johnson in two sets (6-0, 6-4), Stephenson defeated Alexis Anthes (6-1, 6-2) and Patricia Gomez defeated Stuart in three sets (6-4, 2-6, 10-7).

It was a great performance by the Bulldogs and Daavettila, who has had a strong season in both doubles and singles competition.

"In both our practices and our off-court training, I try to focus more on the progress, rather than solely on the results. That has helped me with my confidence and in pressure situations," Daavettila said regarding her performance this season.

Daavettila will be a big part of the Bulldog team heading into the GLIAC tournament, where the goal is to win the GLIAC championship.

"The key to us being ready for next weekend is staying focused on the things we can control," Doren said. "Mental toughness, commitment to the style we play and believing we can win it all. We have to remember that, although the team scores showed a couple losses last weekend, we were in a lot of individual close matches. Clean a few things up, and we can turn those individual matches into a team win."

Ferris will be back in action in the GLIAC tournament next weekend on Friday, April 29 in Midland, Michigan.

Donation domination

Ferris athletics benefits from record-setting fundraiser

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

Imagine if over \$200,000 was deposited into your bank account one day every year. For Ferris Athletics, this dream has become a gracious reality, thanks to its One Day for Dawgs annual campaign.

On April 13, 17 sports teams and various athletics staff groups looked to raise funds for their programs. Each team had its own specific goal. Not only were individual program goals set, but the overall goal for Ferris was to raise over \$300,000. This included all the money raised for academic, athletic and scholarship funds.

"After blowing the \$250,000 mark out of the water last year, we set the \$300,000 mark as a 'pie in the sky and see what happens,'" Coordinator of Corporate Sales and Advancement Jake Daugherty said.

"After blowing the \$250,000 mark out of the water last year, we set the \$300,000 mark as a 'pie in the sky,'"

--Jake Daugherty

Using both text and online donating options, Ferris reached its goal by raising a grand total of about \$305,000.

Daugherty knows how important the community outreach was in the effort.

"I played offensive line, so being a former student athlete myself has set me up for understanding the dirty work that has to get done. It's pretty cool when the community is 'bought in,' and I think that speaks volumes to what kind of a special place Ferris State is."

Individually, many programs stood out as exceptional fundraisers. As the overall athletic leaders, hockey brought in the most at just over \$20,000, thanks to a generous match by the Blueline club.

Soccer's initial start sparked huge attention by reaching their \$10,000 goal before the afternoon. The team would then go on to reach even further and raise \$15,000.

"It was a very successful event for us," head soccer coach Greg Henson said. "We not only hit our main goal, but even our supplemental goal."

With the gracious donations, Henson said the team's main investment will be towards GPS tracking technology for the players.

Using Sport Performance Tracking's vests and smart devices, each player will be able to monitor health data, such as heart rate, intensity readings and heatmaps during practice and training sessions.

"We'll be able look at data and use it to manage the load weight on our players on a daily basis," Henson said. "It will also be huge for us to work with our athletic train-

ing staff and conditioning coaches to see how quickly we can get athletes back from injury based on what they do in practice."

Like soccer, softball also used the fundraiser to upgrade their team gear. Head coach Kristin Janes said their funding will be used to replace old bat bags and helmets.

Many of the donations for all the teams came from former Bulldog alumni, parents and Ferris faculty, but support from the Big Rapids community was vital.

"I don't think we can give this community enough gratitude for the financial support," Janes said.

Players also appreciated the fundraiser, especially as Ferris upgrades the Center of Athletic Performance.

"All the support we get here is truly a blessing," football player Marshawn Lee said. "Other universities don't get this type of support system."

As a leader of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, Zoe Anderson is glad to see the support from the campus and community.

"We really pushed our members to talk about it with their teams," Anderson said on the committee's involvement. "We made sure we were getting the word out and using social media as a big platform."

Since its beginning in 2018 when \$100,00 was raised, the One Day for Dawgs Campaign has taken huge strides. The program originally began as an opportunity to engage the community and young alumni to donate. Each year, Ferris has topped the previous donation record.

Daugherty believes the university can raise even more in the coming years.

"Other institutions who are doing similar programs, like Bowling Green, have raised close to a million over the 24-hours," Daugherty said. "You don't want to over set a major mark, but for us, the small [increases] and growing organically is what will help us achieve our goals."

"People can look at it as a cliché but it's truly a brace with us as one team,"

-Kristin Janes

The fundraiser is part of the "Rise with Us" campaign, which started years ago to encompass the support of all 17 sports at Ferris as one large team.

"People can look at it as a cliché, but it's truly a brace with us as one team," Janes said. "When it comes to the support our athletes get, having faculty, staff and other athletes show up to games is really neat. It's being a part of an athletic department where everyone is in support for everyone else."



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