

A Torch statement on Patrick Lyoya



Artwork by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

Torch Staff

On April 4, when Patrick Lyoya was killed by a Grand Rapids police officer in a traffic stop, Grand Rapids joined cities such as Sanford, Florida, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Ferguson, Missouri and Aurora, Colorado. Cities whose police departments are responsible for extreme acts of police brutality that resulted in the death of a Black man.

After Lyoya exited his vehicle and a foot chase occurred, an intense struggle ensued that resulted in Lyoya being shot in the back of the head while he was pinned to the ground by an officer. Videos of the shooting were released to the public last Wednesday, showing four different angles of the graphic killing.

Many members of the Torch call Grand Rapids their home city. We have walked these streets, we have friends who live in the area and we have driven past the location where this incident took place. So, seeing an act of brutality take place so close to home has been distressing.

Unnecessary, unprovoked police violence is something that should never happen in the United States. However, time and time again, we see videos of unarmed, BIPOC people being harassed, assaulted or killed by police and very little cause or care from the system committing these crimes.

We keep asking why we see this same violence occur in a different cities all over the country. It's clear now that these incidents can tear entire communities apart. Yet on the surface, no one seems to be learning.

We hope that good can come out of this, maybe in changes to the way officers interact with people. Hopefully

communication lines can remain open between members of the community and the officers who represent them.

The transparency that was shown by Grand Rapids Police Chief Eric Winstrom was a healthy beginning, as he went against the advice given to him, which instructed him to hold onto the videos until the investigation was complete. Yet, the clearest footage should not have been shot by Lyoya's passenger, it should have been shot by the officer's body camera. The camera that was shut off right before the gunshot.

There is still a long way to go in the relationship between the police and the citizens they're meant to protect. Making sure the officer involved in this shooting never works for the Grand Rapids Police Department again would be a start.

Steps can and should be taken to prevent situations like this from happening. The problem can be cut off at the knees if we change the way we educate the police that we send out onto our streets. Alongside this, police deescalation tactics need to be continuously taught, enforced and followed.

For the people here on campus who feel unsafe due to racism in this country, or those who are also shocked by the events that took place in Grand Rapids, believe us when we say we are here for you. We support you. There will never be a closed door to you or anyone on campus who is affected by this or any other violence that has happened around this country. And if we cannot help you, we will point you in the direction that can.

If we all work together, we can solve these issues, and west Michigan will be all the better for it.

Remembering a legacy

President David Eisler reflects on his near two decades of service

Rebecca VanderKooi
Opinions Editor

After a 19-year tenure, President David Eisler is retiring at the end of this school year, leaving him to reflect on his legacy at the university.

Although he is departing from the university as president, he plans to return in a part time capacity as a professor after spending a year off.

Introduction and early time at Ferris

Eisler has a trifecta of music degrees, earning a Bachelor of Music in clarinet performance from the University of Michigan, a Master of Music from Yale University and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan.

Eisler has worked in higher education for the past 47 years. Before his time at Ferris, he worked as the Academic Affairs Provost at Weber State University. In 2003 he took over the presidency from interim President Scott P. Hill-Kennedy.

Eisler explained that his background as a Provost at Weber State uniquely pre-

pared him for his position as the President of Ferris. Additionally, there are similarities between Weber State and Ferris, since they both have associate degrees and technical programs, so Eisler was already familiar with those types of programs.

In 2005, Eisler started Founders Day, which is now the first Thursday of the fall semester. It celebrates the history and legacy of Ferris State University and provides a place for students, faculty and staff to come together.

Provost Bobby Fleischman explained that a reason Eisler has been an excellent match to Ferris has been his respect for the Founders.

David Pilgrim, the Vice President of Diversity, Inclusion and Strategic Initiatives at Ferris explained that in 2003 when Eisler became president, he was the ideal candidate for what the university needed.

"Ferris needed a president who wanted to be here, one who embraced our traditions—and one who saw our potential. This is what President Eisler brought to Ferris. Also, Ferris needed a president who was an untiring, determined advocate for our stu-

dents," Pilgrim said.

Pilgrim's role was created in 2007 by Eisler to help promote diversity and inclusion on campus. Since 2007, various offices have been created that are devoted to serving underrepresented populations, including the Office of International Education, the Center for Latinx Studies, the Veterans Resource Center and the LGBTQ+ Resource Center.

"I think that was very important for our campus because then we had a person [who was] a great expert on diversity, equity and inclusion... You could see the change in our leadership too, because all of a sudden, that was involved in all of our conversations," Eisler said.

Greatest achievements

Over Eisler's 19-year tenure at Ferris, many changes have taken place throughout the university, and it would be impossible to recount them all.

One focus has been reducing student debt. Eisler explained that net costs for students have been reduced by 7% over the past decade. Michigan universities have

seen an average of a 12% increase in tuition costs, so Ferris has a 20% decrease compared to the average.

"I believe that President Eisler should be commended for addressing debt among our students. Several years ago, we were on a frightening trajectory for student debt, but he led the campus to take significant actions to decrease that debt," Pilgrim said.

Besides lowering tuition costs, another focus for Eisler has been fundraising, since it wasn't a priority when he started in 2003.

"[In 2003], our Ferris Foundation endowment was \$18 million. Today, our Ferris Foundation endowment is \$122 million," Eisler said.

Eisler explained that due to something that happened with a state retirement requirement in the fall of 2016, Ferris was one of seven institutions to receive \$18 million.

"I encouraged our board of trustees to give that \$18 million to our foundation. And then I encouraged the foundation to free up \$3 million a year and use that as matching gifts for new scholarship endowments," Eis-

Eisler | see page 2

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NEWS

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EISLER

Continued from cover
ler said.

There have since been over 250 new Ferris Foundation endowments.

Another significant change has been the \$400 million spent in construction and renovation since Eisler took office. Current examples of this are the new Virtual Learning Center and Alumni Renovation. Other examples include the building of the Ferris Building in Grand Rapids, the creation of the University Center and athletic expansions, to name a few of the many projects.

Another positive change has been that the graduation rate increased substantially during Eisler's tenure.

"Back in 2003, when I started at Ferris, I think our six-year graduation rate was like 37%, now it's 62%," Eisler said.

Eisler has been able to connect with the student population by playing his clarinet during the pep band. Eisler explained that he enjoyed the opportunity to travel to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for the national basketball championship, where he played with the pep band. Similarly, he traveled to Tampa in 2012 for the hockey championship.

"It's a way that I can relate to students because music is kind of a universal language and get to know people, and you're sitting there playing with them. And it's just, it's just a great way to know a group of great students," Eisler said.

Student Government President Paige Abromitis explained that this

past year she's had the opportunity to work with Eisler on various projects, specifically centered around the needs and opinions of the student body.

"He has so much school pride that you'll see him at every sporting event on campus and even see him play in the pep band as well," Abromitis said.

What's next

Eisler explained that the decision to move from this position wasn't an easy one, but he is ready to move on to new things. However, he does plan to still be involved in the Ferris community.

"I think it's time for the next generation of leadership to step forward. When you're in this role, no matter how hard you do it, you have to understand that you take this responsibility of working with an institution, you're going to do the best you can. Then you're going to turn it over to the next person, and you're going to hope that they do even better than you," Eisler said.

While Eisler is anticipating a year entirely off in which he will travel with his wife and relax, he is also planning to come back as a part-time professor the following year.

Eisler explained that he believes incoming president Dr. Bill Pink will be an excellent fit for Ferris. There is already a significant relationship between GRCC, where Pink is coming from, and Ferris, which Eisler thinks will help Pink be a natural fit.

"I only encouraged one person to apply for the presidency at Ferris, and it was Bill Pink, I had nothing to do with the selection, but I was very excited [about it]," Eisler said.

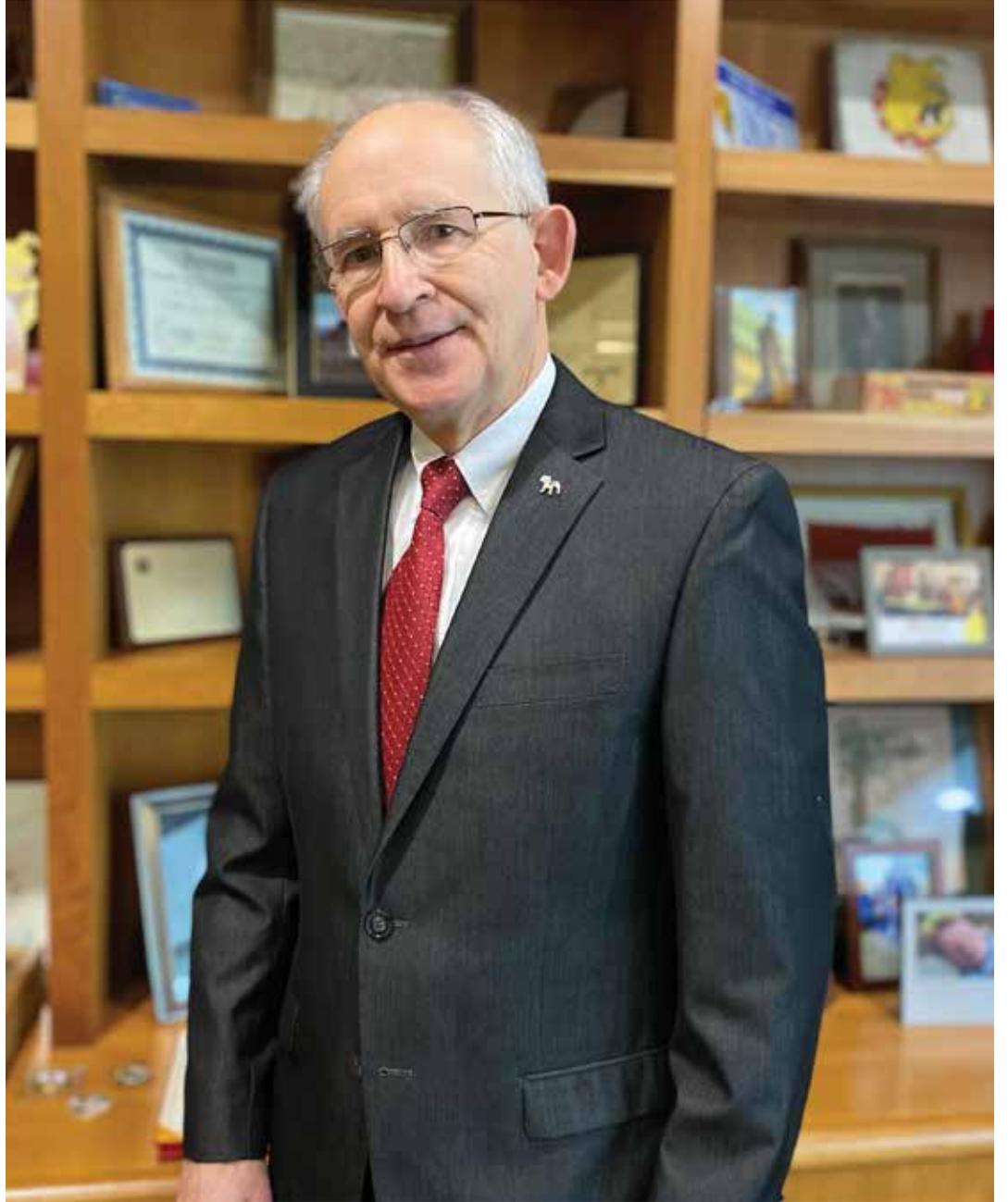


Photo by: Rebecca Vanderkooi | Opinions Editor

President Eisler has overseen a multitude of changes in his 19 years as President of this university.

Ferris State University Scholarship Opportunity for Students

Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship

Applicant must be the child, sibling, grandchild, son or daughter of a Ferris alumna(us), have a 2.75 GPA and successfully completed a minimum of 24 earned credit hours at Ferris State University.

Please note the following: Students seeking an associate degree must have completed 24 credit hours at the end of spring semester and students seeking a bachelor's degree must have completed 56 credit hours at the end of spring semester. In addition, students must submit an application including an essay describing their personal career goals and role an FSU degree will play in achieving those goals, a letter from the FSU alumna(us) describing the effect their FSU career had on their professional career, and a recommendation by an FSU staff or faculty member.

For more information and to apply visit: ferris.academicworks.com

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Application deadline: May 13, 2022

*All submissions must be made on line using MyScholarships.
Visit <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/admission/financialaid/scholarship/Incoming/myscholarships.htm> for more information.

- ON THE RECORD -

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

Take your smoke outside

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

Monitor down

April 6, 3:27 p.m. - Two suspects were referred to the Office of Student Conduct after they smashed a computer monitor and poured tomato sauce onto it in the Swan building. The case was referred to student conduct based on the value and ownership of the destroyed item.

Tumbler troubles

April 9, 12:36 p.m. - A Yeti tumbler was taken from the water fountain at the West Campus Community Center. No charges were filed as the student returned the tumbler to its rightful owner.

Take your smoke outside

April 15, 3:14 p.m. - A pair of students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct after they were caught vaping marijuana in the Brophy Hall lounge.

Ferris State Torch

Corrections

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Sending in the Marine

How one local family joined a volunteer mission to Ukraine

Jessica Oakes
Special Editions Editor

Of one mind

The Busch family household became its own hub of democracy in late February, as a mother, father and their two daughters voted to “send in the Marine.”

History professor Tracy Busch, with a doctoral degree in Russian and European history, is married to US Marine Corps Reserve officer Benjamin Busch. Benjamin was deployed to Iraq to serve two tours of duty in 2003 and served as a team leader in 2005.

After Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine, Tracy and Ben stayed up to date with current events by watching the news or checking social media. They would compare notes and observations on the developing conflict, feeling “tortured.”

One day, Ben’s friend and former Army captain Adrian Bonenberger invited him on a volunteer mission. Bonenberger planned to evacuate his wife’s family from Ukraine and hoped to organize a civilian defense force based in the city of Lviv.

“We are both of one mind,” Tracy said. “We were both tortured by what we were watching and seeing. So, when the opportunity presented itself for Ben to actually do something, I was 100% supportive.”

Tracy and Ben offered their daughters “veto power” before making their final decision. Twelve-year-old Kyrah Busch said the agreement was unanimous.

“At first, we all kind of gathered in a family meeting,” Kyrah said. “It was pretty fast and sudden. We all agreed to let him go, but we were all very worried. [We said], ‘You make sure you’re safe, right? You’re going to be safe?’”

Three days after receiving support and permission from his wife and daughters, Ben boarded a plane and landed in Krakow, Poland.

City of Lions

When Ben and his fellow American volunteers crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border, it was as if the women and children had left and taken the light with them.

On Feb. 24, the day of Putin’s invasion, Ukraine closed off civilian flights from their airspace and entered martial law. With 18–60-year-old able-bodied men expected to stay in Ukraine to defend their land, the Polish border was full of women, children and elders.

“The border was just clogged with people carrying nothing but a suitcase,” Ben said. “I’m talking [about] entire lives consolidated to a single suitcase or two, and children.”

All the lights in Ukraine were blacked out due to air raids. Ben remembers the drive into Ukraine as a quiet one. Suddenly, he was surrounded by a “wilderness” of empty roads and darkness.

“Lviv was kind of like a regular city. It wasn’t under bombardment at that point, it has been since then. But it was a place that felt like a real, living city with a war funneling through it,” Ben said.

Traveling through the night, Ben arrived at his new training facility. An abandoned Soviet-era factory zone and store-bought weapons were all the volunteers needed to teach conventional forces to some irregular soldiers.

The irregular soldiers trained in Lviv represented what Ben referred to as a cross section of the lower to upper middle-class. His group of roughly 60 people included an IT worker nicknamed “Danger Rabbit” and a lawyer dubbed “Law Dog.”

Together, they were the Last Lions of Lviv. “Lviv was named after King Daniel’s



Photo courtesy of the Busch Family

The pictured poster reads “Russian Clown,” hung on a post in the Ukrainian village in Chicago, IL.

son, Lev, which [means] lion. So, it became ‘The City of Lions’... They were there my squad of lions,” Ben said.

Ben was sure to include female fighters, as he wanted to do while training Marines in Iraq. The three Ukrainian squads each included one woman. Ben reminded his men that the lioness does all hunting in the wild.

To start training, Ben always learns as much about his men and women as possible. This begins with learning each person’s strengths and personalities and pressing them to see who the natural leaders were.

“I wanted to make sure I formed a kind of cadre of people who could reproduce what I’d given in training to the rest of the city,” Ben said.

In guerilla warfare, soldiers can only use

“Walking on the actual ground where there were close to 50,000 graves just turned into streets, just pieces of buildings. All of that was one man with a vision who wasn’t stopped,”

--Ben Busch

the materials readily available to them. Ben saw the city itself as a tremendous weapon. He taught his squads that everything can become fair ground. Every house becomes a “fortress to sacrifice.”

“My notes to them after every single training period [were to] imagine fighting your way out of your house,” Ben said.

“Imagine organizing your building as a castle. Make sure you have a way to get away. Make sure you understand everything about your community and how to organize it as a fortress.”

Ben always hopes that his trainees will never end up using the skills he teaches. Still, he knew that the land they stood on was more than familiar with conflict. Lviv is a “city built upon cities,” he explained. Many European cities stand on the ruins of former international conflicts.

What set the Ukrainian squads apart from other people Ben trained is a specific mindset. He previously trained men who did not know if they would ever be deployed, and he trained others that were already in combat. He had never before led a force that felt war was imminent.

“There’s a certain amount of disassociation from war [that forms] when you train for it. The Ukrainians did not display any of it. They were convinced that they were going to have to fight, and they knew they didn’t know how. That gave them absolute focus on everything that I was working with them on,” Ben said.

The Ukrainians depended on Ben and the other volunteers for their expertise. Ben depended on his trainees for information. They were personified “primary source documents.” Ben learned about activity near the frontlines when trainees showed what their friends had sent to them on their cell phones.

Ben never needed to watch the news because he was ahead of the news. The same can not be said for his wife and daughters.

Fragments

One Sunday morning in late March, 4,700 miles away from Lviv, Tracy was angrily woken up by Kyrah.

“[Kyrah] went, ‘Mom, you told me he

wouldn’t be in danger. You told me they wouldn’t bomb that far west.’ She was really mad at me because I was wrong,” Tracy said.

Russian airstrikes hit the outskirts of Lviv on March 18. The Busch family’s communication with Ben was limited, in case their calls or messages were watched. They relied on news updates to know what was happening around their husband and father. They relied on each other to stay calm.

“I did bond a lot with my mom,” Kyrah said. “She would have a lot of trouble sleeping [because she] worried about him. So, I would always try to make her go to sleep and stuff... We were both fretting a little bit together, both encouraging one another and trying to keep each other happy.”

Fortunately, Ben and his squads stayed safe during their two-week training period. Before the volunteers made their way back to the US, Ben extended his perpetual support to his squads. He wanted them to know that he was no passing guest and did not plan to abandon them once he left.

[The Ukrainians] really valued the fact that we’d come, and even more so that we weren’t doing it for salary, or anything else... I think that it meant even more to them, that we were an entirely volunteer force. We were peers with the same goal... I think of them every day,” Benjamin said.

March 20 was supposed to be the Busch’s day of reunion. The world had other plans. After two years of staying healthy and cautious, Ben caught COVID-19. Instead of flying home to his family, he would spend the next ten days quarantining in Poland.

Tracy was left to pick up the pieces. After breaking the news of Ben’s illness to her daughters, destruction made its way to the Busch’s home front. A windstorm barreled through west Michigan, taking down their

Tirzah Price speaks

From Ferris graduate to published author

Rebecca Vanderkooi
Opinions Editor

Ferris graduate and published author Tirzah Price spoke to Ferris students on Tuesday, April 12, as part of the once-a-semester literature in person event.

The event, which took place over Zoom, had two meetings, one at 11 a.m. and one at 7 p.m. Between the two events, 50 individuals attended.

The English Literature and World Languages department puts on the literature in person events, and associate professor of children's literature Melissa Smith was in charge of this specific event.

"It's always exciting to bring a novelist or an author to campus, but the fact that we have someone from Ferris who is having commercial success through a commercial publishing house is huge," Smith said.

Price was a 2013 graduate from Ferris with a degree in English. She then received an MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults from Vermont College of

Fine Arts.

Now based in Iowa, Price is a senior contributing editor at Book Riot, a co-host of the Hey YA podcast and she's a published author through HarperTeen.

Price explained that she's always wanted to be an author. Now that she's had commercial success, she wants to help up-and-coming authors, which is a big reason she chose to speak to Ferris students.

"There are real issues of access when it comes to publishing, just because there's a lot of gatekeeping that's involved," Price said. "People from marginalized groups who don't traditionally have a lot of privilege and power sometimes are kept from these types of circles. So, I'm of the belief that anytime we can shed light onto a process and talk about what that actually looks like and help each other by sharing knowledge, I want to be a part of that."

Price is the author of the Jane Austen Murder Mysteries trilogy. The series reimagines three Jane Austen classics as Regency-era mysteries. *Pride and Pre-*

meditation and Sense and Second-Degree Murder are out, and *Manslaughter Park* will be out in 2023.

During her talk, Price walked through the publishing process, from getting an agent to making edits, selling a manuscript and everything in between.

Professor Denise Cospier is part of the advancement committee that helps publicize and staff literature in person events. Cospier first got to know Price when she was an independent bookseller at Great Lakes Books and Supply, and she knew her through the Big Rapids Community Library.

"I'm proud of Tirzah for her drive and her courage in stepping so passionately into publishing and writing. She is a good representative for Big Rapids High School and Ferris State University," Cospier said.

Cospier further explained that she's been following Tirzah's career at Book Riot and has purchased her books as they've come out.

To learn more about Tirzah Price and her books, check out her website at tirzahprice.com.

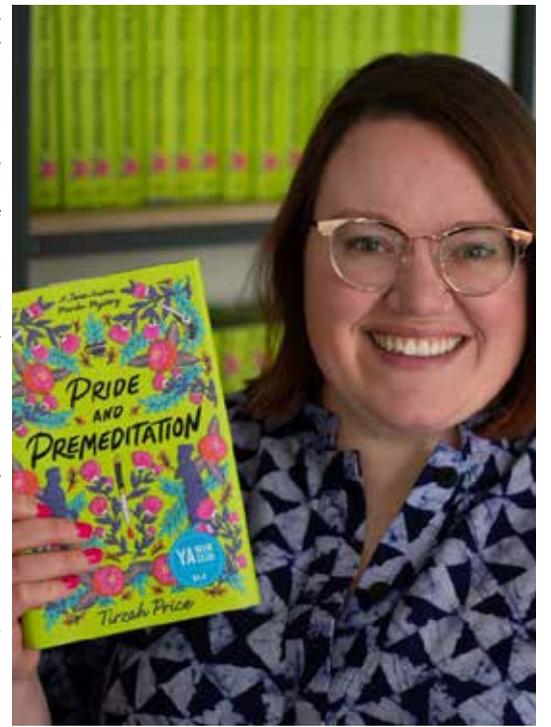


Photo courtesy of Tirzah Price's Twitter @TirzahPrice

Tirzah Price with the first book of her current trilogy.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

LANSING - Michigan lawmaker Mary Cavanagh pleaded guilty to the charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

Cavanagh, a Democrat representing Redford Township, and a third generation politician, faces up to 93 days in jail after Livonia Police reportedly caught her trying to operate a vehicle with two flat tires, according to the Detroit Free Press.

This is the second OWI charge Cavanagh faces.

Her lawyer, Todd Perkins, and Livonia city attorney Paul Bernier confirmed the agreement alongside her plea.

"I was not going to treat her any differently than I treat anyone else, either harsher or easier," Bernier said in a phone interview with Freep Thursday. "The goal is always to try and get them into some kind of treatment program."

Cavanagh is seeking admittance to "sobriety court." If admitted, once she completes the course, she'll be allowed to drive on a restricted license with

measures to prevent future OWI's in place, like a breathalyzer in the vehicle that the driver must blow into to ignite the engine.

Not every applicant to the program is accepted, though. Only those who "actually want to become sober" are admitted, Cavanagh's lawyer noted.

"It's about treatment, really. It's about treatment, counseling and really getting to the point where you're dealing with recovery for the rest of your life," Perkins said.

Cavanagh isn't the only lawmaker this session to get tangled up in the law in relation to substance consumption, either.

State Rep. Jewell Jones, D-Inkster, was sentenced to two years of probation for a variety of driving, alcohol and weapons charges. In 2021, Rep. Brian Posthumus, R-Oakfield Township, was sentenced to 15 days in jail after pleading guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence, according to Freep.

Cavanagh's fate will be decided on May 6.

you know, the roofing... Why are some wars justified and some wars aren't?" Tracy said.

Kyrah experienced the blows of her dad's sickness and the barn's collapse simultaneously. With an old soul, she articulated exactly how she was feeling.

"Two things that were on top of each other, it was a little bit overwhelming," Kyrah said. "My dad always stays away from COVID, then suddenly he has it and he's not here. And then, the one thing that was there my whole life is gone. There's still a little bit of [the barn's] structure and rubble but there's not that much left... But the truth is, I don't think it affected me that much because I'm already kind of used to like different surprises here and there."

Safe in Poland, Ben had plenty of time to

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

NORTH KOREA - North Korea fired two projectiles into the water off the eastern coast of the Korean peninsula on the evening of Saturday, April 16. This is the 12th test of this kind this year, according to CNN World News.

In a spread of images published Sunday from state-owned newspaper Rodong Sinmun, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is seen smiling and clapping as he watched the test-firing of what the newspaper described as a "new tactical weapon."

The projectiles were launched from the North Korean area of Hamhung at around 6 p.m., according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff in a statement released Sunday. The statement continued on to say that the projectiles flew about 68 miles at an altitude of 15.5 miles. The top speed was reported to have reached Mach 4.0, which translates to roughly 3,069 miles per hour.

North Korean state media KCNA reported Sunday that the launch of a "new-type tactical guided weapon," which was "carried out successfully."

The media outlet continued on to say that the new weapon boosted the country's "frontline long-range artillery

units," and increased efficiency "in the operation of tactical nukes of (North Korea) and diversification of their firepower missions," according to CNN.

Soon after the launch of these projectiles, South Korean officials gathered to assess the situation and discuss if countermeasures need be taken.

According to the spokeswoman Park Kyung-mee, South Korean president Moon Jae-in is receiving real-time updates from various government ministries who are tracking the movements of North Korea.

"We are aware of the North Korean statement that they conducted a test of a long range artillery system. We analyze all activities in close coordination with our allies and partners," a spokesperson for the US Department of Defense said in a statement.



BUSCH

Continued from page 3

family barn.

When Tracy heard that Ben was stuck quarantining in Poland, her solutions-oriented attitude was still intact. She saw it as one more problem to solve as a family. When the barn collapsed, part of her did as well.

Tracy cried as she mourned the loss of their family's barn and everything in it. As she walked through the remains, she tried not to feel sorry for herself. She remembered what people were experiencing on the other side of the world.

"I was thinking about this when I was picking up pieces of the tile off the lawn,

feel the weight of his situation on a world scale. With stonemasonry as his first trade, Ben noticed an abnormality in the stone wall around him. It was Hebrew text.

Embedded in the structure of the wall was a World War II era Jewish tombstone. Decades of military history hit Ben all at once.

"I think that's a great example of why certain things need to be stopped as soon as possible... Walking on the actual ground where there were close to 50,000 graves just turned into streets, just pieces of buildings. All of that was one man with a vision who wasn't stopped," Ben said.

A house united

Ben landed in Chicago on March 25, his

wife excitedly awaiting the reunion. Before heading back to their happy home, Tracy took Ben to the Ukrainian Village of Chicago to "catch the mood and show their support."

"Danger Rabbit," "Law Dog" and the rest of Ben's squads still feel his constant support. Ben thinks about them daily and emails them every few weeks. Though he does not feel like he can provide substantive support from across the globe, he enjoys seeing their responses.

Kyrah feels proud of her dad for helping people and coming home safe. At the same time, this trip fit into the "air" Ben has around him. It's just what he does.

LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

The Jim Crow Museum's new piece adds to history

Museum gets donation from hit television show "American Pickers"

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter

The Jim Crow Museum's latest addition to its collection of thousands of racist artifacts was brought in by Mike Wolfe of "American Pickers."

The Jim Crow Museum is a space where individuals come to learn about racism that has occurred and continues to occur in our country.

Because the museum hosts thousands of artifacts and pieces that share the stories of what life was like for African Americans under Jim Crow, they are unable to showcase everything they have at the moment, including a new piece brought in by Wolfe.

Wolfe, who travels across the U.S. in search of antiques and artifacts, found a black, yellow and white sign saying, "colored lunch counter."

Wolfe contacted David Pilgrim, vice president for diversity, inclusion and strategic initiatives, about the piece he had found.

"I told him, 'you know we are probably not in a position to pay you'," Pilgrim said. "He sent me an image of the picture and when I saw it, I knew it was worth 1,000 dollars... He said 'don't worry about it, I want to donate this to the museum'."

Wolfe agreed to donate the sign at no cost, including transportation fees. In a statement made to the university, Wolfe said, "I've always believed that it's our duty to preserve history so that we can learn from it. I knew this piece needed to be donated to the Jim Crow Museum in Michigan, who uses objects of intolerance to teach tolerance. This sign will now take on a new life to educate us, to remind us and to inspire everyone toward greater understanding, acceptance and unity."

Pilgrim said the sign is a very rare piece and that it will become one of the museum's featured pieces when the new building is in place.

The Jim Crow Museum is expected to have a new home in the coming years, as the university has approved ideas to create a building so the museum can stand alone, share and expand stories, display all of the items they have and allow individuals to educate themselves.

Ann Breitenwischer, a research and instruction librarian, says this museum is important for students to understand, no matter their major.

"Particularly, it doesn't matter exactly what program they're in because everybody's affected



Photo by: Hannah Crouch | Courtesy of Ferris State University

David Pilgrim inspects the sign donated by American Pickers host Mike Wolfe.

one way or another," Breitenwischer said. "You can be studying pharmacy and there's some impact but obviously if you're in a program like social work, social justice or education, I think it's going to be a bigger impact. There's always the impact from the business side of a coin."

As new pieces are brought into the museum, they contribute to the stories that are a big part of history that allow individuals to learn and, as Pilgrim says, "to be a part of a better America."

"I believe a better America is possible, and I believe all of us can be a part of that," Pilgrim said. "This museum, my life's work, is my attempt to be a part of that."

The museum, which is currently on the ground floor of FLITE Library, was placed there in 2012 to not only accommodate the growing number of artifacts being collected, but also so the public could more easily access the museum.

The inspiration to create a museum showcasing objects, signs, pictures and more, discriminating African Americans began with Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Strategic Initiatives, David Pilgrim.

Pilgrim came to Ferris as a sociology professor

in 1990, bringing with him around 3,000 artifacts he collected over the years, using them as teaching tools in his courses.

"Jim Crow was a name for the racial hierarchy in America that had whites on top and people of color beneath them," Pilgrim said. "A lot of people, when they think of Jim Crow, they think of the laws, the signs 'whites only', that kind of thing, but really, Jim Crow was a way of life. It was a racial caste system."

In the mid-1990s, the museum was originally set up in a 500-square-foot room on the third floor of the Starr Building, which now hosts the museum of sexist objects.

The decision to move the museum from the Starr Building to FLITE Library was to expand the stories visitors came to see.

"The room we had was visual storage," Pilgrim said. "But you couldn't tell the stories that you needed to tell, you couldn't expand the stories. Right now we have more than 20,000 pieces, so obviously we couldn't still be in a small room. It's actually one of the reasons why we need to move to a new facility."



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A public eye on Ferris' MCO program

A look into one of Ferris' most demanding programs

Giuliana Denicolo
Lifestyles Reporter

Ferris' Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris offers an extensive program that educates and prepares students for taking their careers to the next step.

This graduate program is four years long and consists of clinics, labs, lectures and more.

During the first year, students are required to take lecture and laboratory courses. The lectures usually take place in the morning for about three to four hours. Their labs take place in the afternoon and are about two to four hours, three days a week.

The second and third year of the graduate program is when students start to see patients in clinic, while still taking lecture classes in the morning. They either take labs or clinics along with the lectures. Clinics usually are four hours, three afternoons a week, and their labs are still about two to four hours for at least one afternoon.

"The time commitment, as far as the time that you're spending in the building working, definitely ramps up as the program goes up and as you're seeing patients in the clinic. And then beyond that, of course, [students] are studying in the evening hours too." Optometry professor Dr. Sara Bush said.

In the spring of their second year, students start in primary clinic. They start off taking care of 20–40-year-old healthy adults who are ideally the easiest patients for them. They stay in primary clinic throughout the rest of spring and summer, working with a partner.

The fall semester of their third year is when they start to see specialty patients, like children or patients with contact lenses. They also continue to work in primary clinic, which gets more advanced as they start to see older patients. All three of these clinics are taken for about four hours apiece. Because students get the opportunity to work with all kinds of patients, they become versatile optometry students.

"I think we do an excellent job producing clinical optometrists because our students start in specialties early on in the program," Bush said. "They leave the program very clinically savvy, well experienced in multiple areas and are very well-rounded clinicians."

The program is small so that students can get one-on-one attention from their professors, which is something that the faculty prides themselves on. They purposely keep the faculty-to-student ratio as low as possible so they are able to provide help and preparation for their students.

Because the program is so time-consuming optometry students try to make it fun by having community events and activities. The program throws an optometry school prom called "the eyeball" as well as a scramble golf outing, beach volleyball tournament, broomball tournament and a talent show. These events help the students take a break to have a good time and give them all a chance to get to know each other better.

"It's a really stressful and rigorous program and so [the events] give them a chance to kind of let off some steam and bring a lot of them together," Bush said. "Just going through the program together is a bonding experience."

Bush describes the hardest part of the program as, "taking all of the information that you learn and applying it to a patient." Learning the facts and infor-

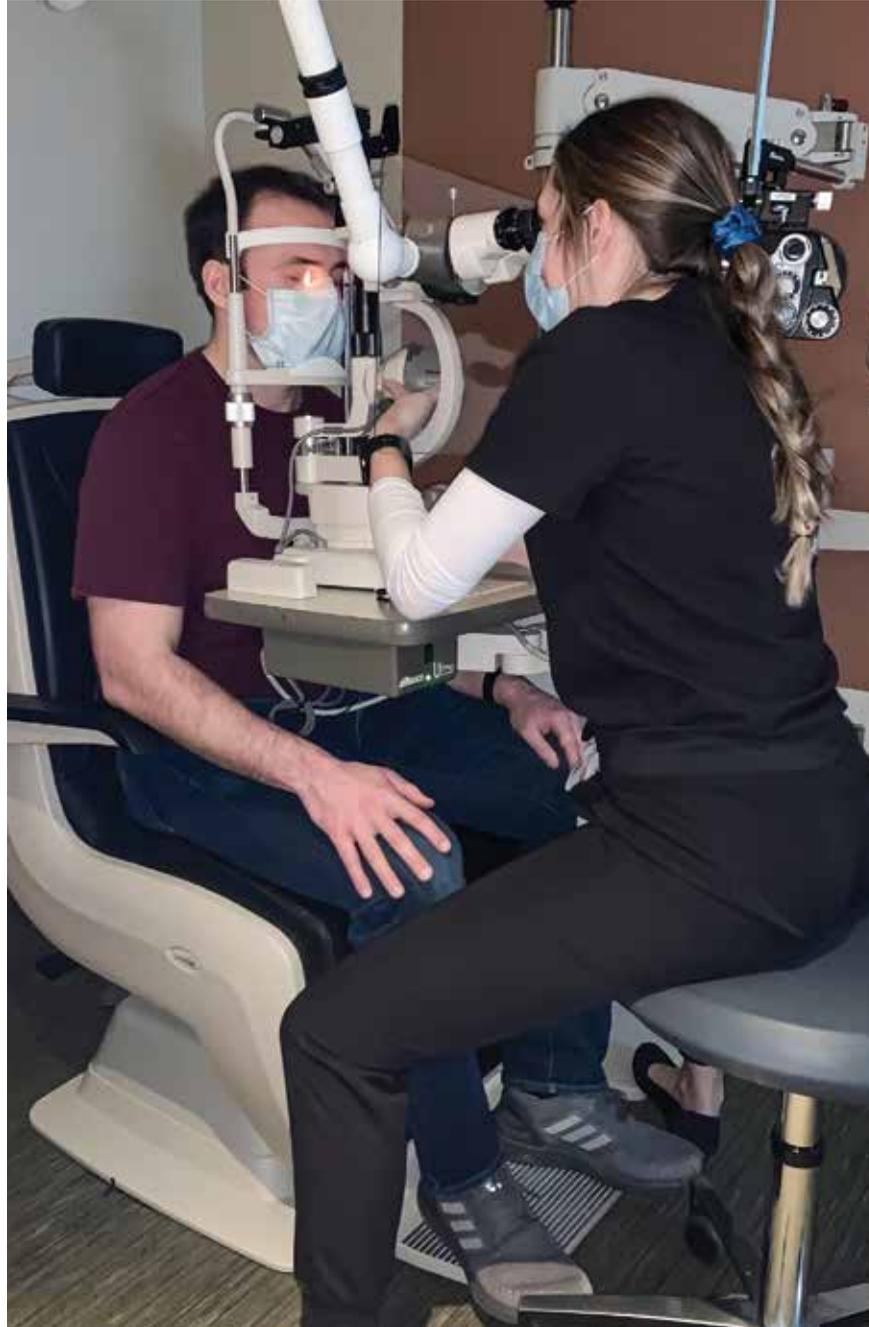


Photo submitted by Sarah DeVries

Students get more one on one advisor time due to DeVries only having 37 students in her class.

mation through a textbook, where it's explained cleanly and perfectly, versus applying it to a real-life situation is a different skill set, which is why she believes that the student's early experience in clinics is so important in their education and future careers.

The best thing for her is the small community of the program, which creates a positive learning environment. Bush believes that working in a non-competitive atmosphere helps the students lift each other up and work together, which are crucial aspects of the program. She and other professors work hard to keep the program as friendly as possible.

"They all have to work together. They're each other's patients when they're practicing different techniques in lab, so they need to be able to have a good working relationship with each other. Creating a competitive environment would be contradicting that," Bush said.

Third-year optometry student Sarah DeVries won student of the year, voted by underclassmen. The award is given to the third-year student who they felt positively impacted their time at MCO and has gone above and beyond as a leader and student.

As a third-year student, DeVries had all the responsibilities previously mentioned, including being a full-time student and having to study and prepare for the first part of the board exams in March. To become a certified optometrist, students are required to take three different board exams, the first one being the largest, longest and most intense.

DeVries' last three semesters will consist of rotations in which she will be around other optometrist students from different programs. She is interested in comparing the differences between how MCO prepared her and how the other programs prepared the other students.

"I feel like I have definitely been prepared for the future," DeVries said. "All of the faculty at MCO really treat us as colleagues instead of being superior to us because we really will work alongside them one day, so they have that mentality going into it and they give their all, they truly do."

A huge part of being in this program is the relationships that are formed between the students and the faculty. DeVries said it was a good thing that she was able to connect with her professors in the way that she did because she was able to feel comfortable when having to ask questions. The learning opportunity only grew because there was no wall between anyone in the program.

There are only 37 students in DeVries' class, which is why she feels they have become so close and have helped each other with their education. They are comfortable enough to ask each other questions and study together. DeVries believes that undergraduate courses lack the personal connection that you form with your peers and professors in graduate school.

"My class has gotten extremely close. We have definitely become a family," DeVries said. "There's no one else on the entire planet that knows what you're



Photo submitted by Sarah DeVries



Photo submitted by Sara Bush

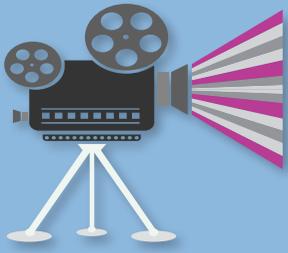
going through, except for those 37 people."

The best and easiest part of the program for DeVries was the bonds she made. She formed these strong friendships quickly because of how much they all have in common. She struggled the most with time management, especially in her third year. She's learned that there has to be a balance.

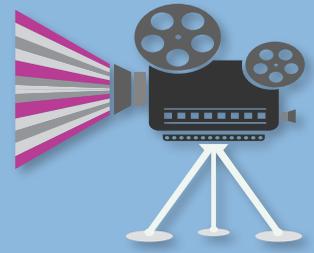
"For every single exam in optometry school, you could study a lifetime. Forcing yourself to split up the time because it's so easy to get stuck in the books and stuck studying. Fortunately, you're holding your friends accountable as well. That's been what my colleagues have helped me with," DeVries said.

According to DeVries, her professors have gone above and beyond to make their students feel comfortable. Students spend a lot of time with their professors because one professor will teach multiple classes and clinics. Therefore, they spend a lot of one-on-one time with each other.

"The professors are truly amazing," DeVries said. "I think that what they've done that has helped us the most is truly just making us feel comfortable to come to them. You do form a pretty close relationship with them which opens the door to asking questions and to continuing your education with them."



Media Minute



Freedom of tweet?

Charlie Buckel
Freelance Reporter

When it was announced that Elon Musk had acquired the largest percentage of shares of Twitter stock, people on the platform had a lot of opinions. Many believed that Musk, the self-described free speech absolutist, can rid the platform of unreasonable censorship.

Twitter users were hopeful that Musk could influence the platform when his appointment to the board of directors was announced. According to a tweet from Twitter's CEO Parag Agrawal, Musk turned down this appointment.

Everything came to a head in April, though, when the news that Musk was attempting to buy the entirety of Twitter in a hostile takeover came out. Musk once again made it known that he wanted Twitter to be a platform for free speech.

In a message to the Twitter board, Musk wrote, "I invested in Twitter as I believe in its potential to be the platform for free speech around the globe, and I believe free speech is a societal imperative for a functioning democracy."

Days before Musk was announced to become Twitter's largest shareholder, he tweeted a poll. The poll asked the question of whether Twitter adhered to the principle of free speech. Over two million people voted, and 70% said no.

One small issue with that is what someone can and can't say on Twitter has nothing to do with

a functioning democracy. Policies are not made on Twitter. You can't march in an influential protest on Twitter. You can discuss things with others, but those discussions won't have any effect on how democracy functions.

Twitter has terms of service, and those terms of service have specifically said what things are not allowed on their site. Similarly, there are laws in the real world about the consequences of our words. We can't legally walk into a movie theater and yell that it's on fire, nor can we threaten someone. Doing that has consequences.

Think about what happened with Ferris' own (former) professor Thomas Brennan. When he was

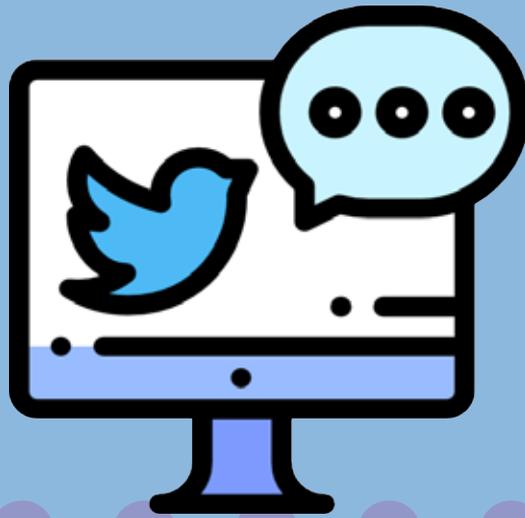
found to have a Twitter account that had posts containing COVID-19 denying rhetoric, as well as racist and antisemitic language. He was suspended, investigated and fired. The firing he ironically announced on the same Twitter account used to say racial slurs.

The consequences of Brennan's tweets had ramifications in the real world. There was probably a more extreme reaction to things that were said on social media, not undeserved.

What happened with Brennan, and what happens when someone's account gets suspended for harassment, bullying or abuse, is not censoring free speech. Censorship, in speech at least, happens when people are prevented from saying something. The consequences that come after speech are just that, consequences.

So the next time Elon Musk and those who want him to bring free speech to Twitter decide to go on a tangent about how people are being censored on the platform and that it's wrong, and shouldn't be allowed, they should think.

Think about the fact that they do still have free speech, but just maybe, they need to learn how to think before they exercise it. Twitter might be a better platform if they do.



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OPINIONS

Rebecca VanderKooi | Opinions Editor | vandr122@ferris.edu

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Takeaway's from a tragedy

By Brendan Sanders

Witnessing last week's situation unfold in Grand Rapids has opened my eyes to several different realities about police violence in the United States.

When watching situations in Minnesota or Ferguson, I thought that there was no way this type of situation could occur so close to home. Watching footage of an unarmed Black man being killed by police in an area near where I played Thanksgiving football last year caused me to realize that this can happen anywhere.

I desperately wanted to understand why and how this could have happened. While the situation is still under investigation, I hate making assumptions. Still, from my viewpoint, this incident should have never escalated to the point where a gunshot was needed.

While the investigation is still pending, the footage makes it appear that Lyoya never threatened this officer's life; it didn't seem like the situation was out of the officer's control. Yes, adrenaline was in the air between both men. Yet an officer's training should be to use his gun as a last resort or if they feel their life is threatened.

The officer had the upper hand, yet he still felt threatened enough to pull the trigger. According to the Washington Post's Police Shootings database, Lyoya joined 30 unarmed Americans who police have killed in the last year.

The more I read and watched, I debated about where I stood with officers. I 100%

respect the job they do; I know that I could never step into their shoes. Many officers witness horrific events and have to respond to terrible crises'. When violence takes place in our country, they are usually trying to protect us. Yet, a few officers have caused a significant level of distrust of officers in the eyes of the public.

This incident came up as I debated with family members who asked me how it is fair for officers to be viewed negatively when only a few situations showed apparent unneeded violence. I responded with this:

It isn't fair, but it is also not fair that groups of people are often stigmatized by society, though most groups of people are good. Yet, many people in this country are mistreated because of long-standing stigmas. It is shocking and sad, yet it will surely happen again if the correct actions aren't taken within the police force. I'm hopeful that GRPD is taking the proper steps.

I applaud the police chief for being open and transparent about the situation. The chief could've held everything close to his chest and prayed that this would blow over. He chose the more difficult route, which impressed me, especially for a chief that has been on the job for a little over a month.

The only issue I have about the transparency is the officer's body camera. I still do not understand how the body camera on the officer registered enough pressure to shut off. Of the 30 unarmed people killed in the last year, 20 of these incidents did not

have body camera footage. While we see the majority of the incident, if we did not have the footage shot from a cell phone, we would not know with a clear view what happened.

As I reflect on this situation, I believe there needs to be a study on improving de-escalation and communication tactics. This officer should not have been escalating the situation. There is no reason this needed to be a close-quarter wrestling match. The officer had the car and the friend already close if the man ran. The officer could have fired the taser from a distance. This situation should not have resulted in an execution-style shooting.

There are ways to have these interactions without gunfire. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, countries like England and Wales statistically have .5 individuals killed by police per 10 million people in a given year. That statistic rises to 33.5 people per 10 million people in the United States. While I fully understand that the difference in gun laws between countries allows for different policies among individual countries, there has to be some training and knowledge that we can gain from these countries to help create policies that lead to more de-escalations.

I want to clarify that this is not an attack on our police force. Many officers do a fantastic job protecting us, yet there is always room to improve and learn. Hopefully, the GRPD will take this as an opportunity to learn how better to handle situations such as this in the future.



GOT AN OPINION?

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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!

The American dream is circling the drain

The impact of inflation, student loans and inequality is taking its toll

Rebecca VanderKooi
Opinions Editor

According to the Library of Congress, the American Dream is “that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement... and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of fortuitous circumstances of birth or positions.

But is that dream feasible? According to a 2014 CNN poll, 59% of those polled agreed that “the American dream has become impossible for most people to achieve.”

A big problem is that most Americans cannot get ahead financially, and with inflation on the rise, those struggles are only increasing. According to a report by PYMNTS and LendingClub, New Reality Check: The Paycheck-to-Paycheck Report, 61% of individuals were living paycheck to paycheck in December 2021. The results have been broken down, showing that 70% of millennials (ages 27-38) were living paycheck to paycheck, alongside 65% of generation Z (ages 7-22), almost 60% of Gen X (ages 39-54) and about 54% of baby boomers and seniors (ages 55+).

Another critical factor causing financial challenges for Americans is student loans. Investopedia outlined that student loans have reached a record high, with nearly 1/3 of all students going into debt to complete their education. Furthermore, the average student debt is \$40,904 per person, with a collective debt of \$1.75 trillion.

Debt is seeing a record high alongside college costs that are similarly increasing, since 1980 average tuition costs have risen by 180%. According to Forbes, the average price to attend a four-year college with tuition, fees, room, and board was \$10,231 annually in 1980, and now the average is \$28,775.

Millennials are the first generation in recent history to be financially worse off than their parents. Many millennials took to a Reddit thread where they shared their frustrations and how they feel they've been cheated or dealt a lousy hand in life.

“I’m 36, married, with a toddler. I make minimum wage as a CNA. My husband makes a couple of dollars over minimum with a bachelor’s, master’s, and a two-year medical certification. Neither of us would be able to afford our 1-bedroom apartment on our own. We each only work on the days each other is off because we cannot afford childcare and ‘make too much’ for childcare subsidies. It would cost more than I make per month to put my kid in a daycare so that I can work,” one Reddit user said.

While this may seem like complaining to some, it’s valuable to see how inflation, student loans, and other aspects affect the financial status of individuals, specifically younger Americans. Even when doing ‘everything right’ many young Americans struggle financially and no longer aspire to the American Dream.

There is another major flaw within the very idea of the American Dream; just like American society as a whole, it emphasizes the role of the individual as they strive to reach their goals. While goal setting and being motivated can be incredibly beneficial, it’s also important to acknowledge certain social constraints and their role in individuals achieving their goals. For example, socioeconomic, racial, or gender inequality can impact individuals and groups, making it harder to reach their goals. While numerous people can have the same dreams, the playing field is far from equal.

The American dream has become nothing but a fantasy that feels impossibly out of reach to many hard-working Americans.



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

Going against the mother norm

The taboo topic that needs to be discussed

Marissa Russell
Lifestyles Editor

What is it like having children you don't want?

This question sparked a viral thread on Reddit. BuzzFeed took 24 replies where parents confess the hardships they've faced because they decided to raise the children they had. These parents aren't the ones you hear about on the news for neglecting their children or the ones you see screaming at their young ones at the grocery store for acting like a child. These people are seen as grade A parents, the model parents everyone wants to be

The thread has various anonymous posts from parents who share their heartbreaking tales. Reddit user u/ChristiOnionstrings said, “I have three. I really thought I wanted kids because that's what I thought I was supposed to do: be a wife and have kids. I love them, and I

want the best for them. But I don't have the same connection to them that other moms seem to have. I don't miss them when I have to go on a long trip. I just feel relief. Having them home because of the pandemic has been really hard for me. I have a lot of guilt about it. Even though I'm surrounded by family, it feels pretty damn lonely. I don't feel like I belong in my own life.”

On paper, I would be a perfect mother. I know how to communicate with children, play with them and comfort them when they need it. I am a teacher of kids any age from Kindergarten to 7th grade. The kids I work with amaze me every day, and they make me want to go into teaching. I am the mom friend in the group, and some friends even refer to me as “mom.” It seems that I am meant to be a mother.

As of right now, I am in a battle about whether or not I want my own children. How can I be sure I am capable of taking on that

role? I can barely take care of myself, let alone a tiny human that relies solely on me to live. The scary thing about it is that there is no one to judge me on my capabilities. If I ended up pregnant, the doctors and hospital staff would wrap up a helpless tiny human, send them home with me, and hope I could step into the mother role.

A new trend with the younger generation is the lack of wanting the “luxury” of parenthood. According to New York life a baby costs anywhere from \$20,000 to \$50,000 in the first year of their life. Between car payments, rent and paying students loans, I will not have enough money on a journalist salary.

While it's comforting to hear other people my age say they don't want children, I still feel alone. Whenever I say something to my parents about not giving them grandkids, they say, “that will change when you're older.” No one talks about the family members that had children that

didn't want them and treated the kids horrendously. We expect everyone who has kids to be prepared and happy with the life they are forced to have. Nobody talks about the parents who count down the days till their child's 18 birthday so they can send them out on their own.

Maybe my family is right; maybe one day, when I am older, I will realize I want that special bond with a tiny version of myself. But right now I have to focus on my own mental, physical and financial wellbeing. I can't risk being the reason why there is someone out in the world who feels unloved and not wanted, because children are smart and pick up on subtle cues.

As someone who came from a parent who didn't want children and wasn't ready to have that responsibility, I vowed not to become like that. A child is a lifetime commitment, and you don't get to choose when you want to parent.

SPORTS

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

Earmuffs and blinders



Photo courtesy of Thomas Hursey.

Thomas Hursey has been a huge part of the success for Bulldog men's golf since his arrival at Ferris.

How Thomas Hursey quiets the outside noise for continued success

Joe Nagy
Sports Reporter

Thomas Hursey has a target on his back.

Unfortunately for his competitors, he performs best under pressure.

The sophomore has jumped to the top spot of the Bulldog roster, leading the team into the first rounds of tournaments with low scores while improving his own scores. He helped the team grab top three finishes in the past two tournaments.

On April 5, Ferris made the podium by a convincing 23 shots over John Carroll University. Hursey shot a 71, 69 and 68 in the three rounds of play, finishing eight-under par. With a final scoring of 208 shots, Hursey took home first place honors for the first time this season.

"The feeling was great. I definitely felt very comfortable at that golf course, so going in I knew I had a good game plan," Hursey said.

Feeling comfortable has been his key to success this year, especially with the expectations that come from his performance last year. Being last year's GLIAC Golfer of the Year put a target on his back, but remembering what brought him to the game of golf helps ease the tension.

When he fell in love with the sport as a child, it was his father that helped him improve as he aged. But a more unconventional approach to learning the game is the reason why Hursey is strong under pressure when the spotlight is shining.

"[My father] introduced me to the

game and really taught me how to think through the game, rather than how to swing the club," Hursey said. "He instilled the mental aspect of the game of golf before he taught me the fundamentals of swinging the club."

Golf is a mentally draining sport. From the average Sunday golfer to Tiger Woods, from the first tee to the 18th green, it's a battle between the ears. As a collegiate golfer who has already experienced winning to the extent that Hursey has, it's easy to get lost in all the outside noise.

The accolades that he's already accumulated throughout his time at Ferris are impressive and lengthy. He was named 2020 GLIAC Golfer of the Year, 2021 Dean Davenport Men's Athletics Bulldog of the Year, 2019 GLIAC Freshman of the Year and received multiple all-conference honors.

"Golfer of the year is a cool honor that comes along with a good season, but my main focus every year and every tournament is on the team," Hursey said. "When the team is playing well is when I'm most excited to be out there. Outside noise is at the end of the day, just noise. You're always going to hear it but it's whether you choose to let it affect you or not."

Before Hursey became a Bulldog, he had the opportunity to go to Saginaw Valley State. However, he chose Ferris and has helped propel Ferris in the GLIAC standings, where the Cardinals currently sit in fourth.

It was love at first sight when Hursey came to campus.

"The recruiting process was great

for Ferris. I loved it as soon as I arrived and knew it was the spot for me," Hursey said. "I was also recruited by Saginaw, but at the end of the day, I knew Ferris was for me. I've been happy ever since."

However, Thomas' experience with coaching is different than a lot of other collegiate athletes. Having a coaching switch early on, the changing of cultures wasn't always easy.

Head Coach Sam Stark took over for the Bulldogs in 2019. Leaving a tough task ahead for him and the Bulldog squad, but a culmination of hard work and chemistry led to a desired culture within the team. And being one of the veterans on the team, Hursey has helped his teammates with the skills that he's learned a long the way.

"Thomas is our most relentless competitor throughout practice, competition, workouts," Coach Stark said. "He pushes our players every day, and is always the one getting the extra work in, but is one of the most humble and genuine players I've been fortunate enough to coach."

Hursey and the Bulldogs have had an interesting time preparing for this season. The unpredictable Michigan weather has given them 70-degree days, snow in April, stretches of rain for days at a time and days where the temperature dips below freezing.

Since Katke Golf Course has struggled with opening the course this year, the golf team has had limited opportunities to play outside. It was only last week that the team was able to make it on the course.

Luckily, the program is blessed with the state-of-the-art Ken Janke Golf Center,

which houses multiple swing simulators and practice greens. This is a valuable training aid that not many Division II programs have.

"It's been massive," Hursey said. "It gives us such an advantage over teams, especially when we get into regionals and nationals."

An facility like the Ken Janke Golf Center allows for Hursey and his teammates to have a place to improve their craft in the winter months.

Another tough part of the student-athlete life is the difficult task of balancing school, athletics, a social life and one's health. All this is made more difficult with a challenging major.

There are also differences in Hursey's eligibility. Academically he is a senior, but athletically he still has a few more years left to compete. But the real question is whether he will stay a Bulldog for those remaining years.

"I am still in the process of deciding my future," Hursey said.

Hursey and the Bulldogs made a splash in the GLIAC tournament, beating Grand Valley in the semi-finals of the tournament 3-2 but falling in the final medal match against Davenport 2-3.

Now, Ferris and Hursey will look toward the NCAA Regional beginning Thursday, May 5.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Track and Field

Danae Fledpausch 24th in 1500 meters, Bison Outdoor Classic
Brandon Wirth 28th in 3000 meters, Bison Outdoor Classic

Men's Tennis

April 15 - Ferris 4, Northwood 3
April 16 - Wayne State 7, Ferris 0

Women's Tennis

April 15 - Northwood 7, Ferris 0
April 16 - Wayne State 6, Ferris 1

Runner-up



Men's golf team finishes this spring:

- BrownGolf Intercollegiate: 13th place, score of 623
- SVSU Spring Invite: 7th place, score of 606
- Findlay Spring Invite: 7th place, score of 876
- The Cav Classic: 3rd place, score of 878
- Bill Blazer Memorial: 3rd place, score of 590

Men's golf individual finishes this spring:

- BrownGolf Intercollegiate: Shayne Beaufait (8th overall)
- Saginaw Valley State Spring Invite: Thomas Hursey (8th overall)
- Findlay Spring Invite: Joshua Jeffords (9th overall)
- The Cav Classic: Thomas Hursey (1st overall)
- Bill Blazer Memorial: Nathan Kraynyk (3rd overall)

Photo by: Dylan Bowden | Multimedia Editor

Men's golf finishes second in GLIAC tournament

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

The chance for a second-straight GLIAC tournament championship title came up just short for men's golf after falling to top-seeded Davenport in the final round.

The Bulldogs began the tournament with the third best team score of 584 (+16 overall) in Friday and Saturday's opening rounds. This gave Ferris the third overall seed going into the semi-finals in Sunday's tournament, slating a rubber match of last year's championship vs. Grand Valley State.

"We knew that going into GLIACs we needed to win it in order to make it into regionals," Josh Jeffords said. "Once we made the medal match and saw we would face Grand Valley, we knew we had to play some of our best golf."

Thanks to early victories in the head-to-head matchups from Jeffords and Andrew Proctor, the Bulldogs only needed one more victory to clinch a trip back to the championships. While Grand Valley snuck in two wins, Nathan Kraynyk's six-shot win in the number four pair closed the deal.

In the following title match, the Bulldogs faced the number one-seeded Panthers. After a tightly contested match going into the final two holes, Davenport held on

and edged Ferris by a score of 3-2.

"(I'm) gutted for this group," Stark said via Twitter. "They worked extremely hard to put themselves in position to win a championship. There's no better group to represent our program and school."

While they didn't earn a second straight conference title, the Bulldogs have still put together a quality season that isn't finished yet. Before the conference championship, the Bulldogs had turned in some quality regular season performances, including several top 5 and top 10 finishes for both individuals and the team overall.

Men's golf team finishes this spring:

- BrownGolf Intercollegiate: 13th place, score of 623
- SVSU Spring Invite: 7th place, score of 606
- Findlay Spring Invite: 7th place, score of 876
- The Cav Classic: 3rd place, score of 878
- Bill Blazer Memorial: 3rd place, score of 590

Looking back at these spring tournaments, Coach Stark believes the team has improved tremendously since the fall.

"We played way below our capabilities

in the fall," Stark said. "We all took some time over the winter to reassess our processes and how we approached each day. We had an excellent off season, and the hard work has paid off with some solid results this spring."

One of the biggest boons for the men's squad this year has been the ability for lower ranked players on leaderboard to step up. Throughout the five tournaments prior to the GLIAC Championship, Ferris saw four different players hold the top team spot. This included Nathan Kraynyk, who finished an impressive two-under par to take podium honors at the Bill Blazer Memorial.

"My ball-striking felt very good throughout the whole round," Kraynyk said on his hot second round. "I was lucky to have some putts drop late in the day to help the team make a charge."

Men's golf individual finishes this spring:

- BrownGolf Intercollegiate: Shayne Beaufait (8th overall)
- Saginaw Valley State Spring Invite: Thomas Hursey (8th overall)
- Findlay Spring Invite: Joshua Jeffords (9th overall)
- The Cav Classic: Thomas Hursey (1st overall)

- Bill Blazer Memorial: Nathan Kraynyk (3rd overall)

When reflecting on this beneficial shift, Stark said his team's response has negated a common problem with other programs.

"I tell our teams that the spring is always the time with the most turnover in the lineup. Our team has done a good job of being prepared to step up when called upon, because that's by far the most important factor when you get to the postseason."

The Bulldogs now hope for a selection into their 18th trip to the NCAA regional round since 2003. The men's squad finished 10th overall in the midwest/central Super Regional round last season, only six spots away from reaching the National Championships.

"If we do end up making it to regionals, we are going to focus on keeping our games sharp," Jeffords said. "A few of us struggled on driving accuracy as well as putting and short game, so putting more focus on those areas to improve will be key for us to be playing our best games."

For more information on the men's golf team and regional selections, visit the "Men's Golf" tab at ferrisstatebulldogs.com.

Sports Speculation

Promising season in store for the Detroit Tigers

Jeffery Walker
Torch Reporter

The Detroit Tigers should be an entertaining baseball team this year, as they have their eyes set on the postseason.

The Detroit Tigers have gotten off to an even start sitting one game below .500 and tied for second in the AL Central after nine games.

After steady improvement over the past five seasons, there is a lot for Tigers fans to be excited about. In 2017, Detroit finished last in the AL Central, 64-98. In 2021, they finished 77-85 and in third place in the AL Central.

"It's not going to be easy this year," Javier Baez, the Tiger's new shortstop, said in a Tigers postgame interview. "But it's going to be fun, we need your support. Let's go Tigers!"

Baez was one of Detroit's key pickups in free agency, and they need him to become a true focal point for the team. They will need his powerful bat and great defense to help them reach the postseason.

The Tigers will also need their strong core of young players to put together a solid season if they hope to make a playoff push.

The Tigers are looking to get back to the playoffs for the first time since 2014, when they lost in the AL Divisional series, which ultimately lead to the Tigers hitting the reset



Photo from flickr.com.

button.

Now the Tigers have a chance to see if their young prospects such as Akil Baddoo, Casey Mize, Spencer Torkelson. There are also hopes that Riley Green will break out and help the Tigers get back to the post season when he comes back from injury.

After a rough couple of games to start the season, Torkel-

son seems to have gotten more comfortable. In the past five games, Torkelson has six hits, five RBIs and two home runs. If he can continue to develop throughout the season and remain consistent, he will be a dangerous player for the Tigers not only this season but for years to come.

As one of the best hitters in MLB history, Miguel Cabrera's veteran leadership is an essential piece for the Tigers' desired success this season.

Cabrera is expected to become the 33rd player in history to reach 3,000 total career hit. Fans at Comerica Park have a counter in the ballpark, and they anxiously anticipate Cabrera's next milestone.

Heading into their series with the Yankees, Cabrera's hot start at the plate this season has him five hits away from 3,000.

He is batting .308 on the season, with three RBIs so far through nine games.

The Tigers are looking promising this year for the first time in a while, and that's something for fans to be excited about.

The season is early, but if you are a Tigers fan, you should have some faith in them this year.

Check out the Tigers at Comerica Park this season or follow them online. For more information, visit mlb.com/tigers.

Onto the postseason



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

The Bulldogs prepare for the Bulldog Invitational at Katke during the fall, the last time they competed on their home course.

Women's golf ends regular season, GLIAC tournament on the horizon

Dylan Rider
Sports Reporter

With the GLIAC championship beginning Friday, April 22, the women's golf team is gearing up for a run.

The Bulldogs' spring season has been underway since March 11. Since their start, they've played in four outings, three of which led to top 10 finishes.

Women's golf finishes since March 11:

- BrownGolf Intercollegiate: 1st place, score of 940
- Findlay Spring Invite: 9th place, score of 968
- The Cav Classic: tied for 10th, score of 654
- NC4K Classic: 11th place, score of 671

"We've had some ups and downs," head coach Sam Stark said. "We just have to get some momentum here over the next week or Easter... I know they're going to put in work as we get ready for the championship."

Stark noted that the team hasn't been able to practice outside at Katke golf course due to the weather.

With better weather as of late, the team is excited to be able to finally practice outside.

"Across the board with our team, we're just really excited to be able to have some practices outside because it's been a little tough," sophomore Alayna Eldred said. "We have a great facility at Katke for indoor golf with the track lands and everything like that, but it doesn't quite compare to being able to see the golf ball fly."

Eldred has been the top performer for Ferris throughout the season. In the four outings since March 11, Eldred came in first among Ferris players and has had three top 20 finishes.

Eldred's top performance is something she'd like to carry into the GLIAC championship.

A close second to Eldred's performance is that of Dani Staskowski's. In three outings, Staskowski has finished second among her teammates twice.

"I've been struggling with my

short game this spring season," Staskowski said. "The rest of my game is right where I want it to be. But I think if I can get my short game to where it needs to be, I can really get a good score that can help the team."

Going into the GLIAC championship, the team carries the belief that it'll be easier on them. The championship will be held in Augusta, Michigan, and the Bulldogs

are familiar with the course, as they played there during the fall at the Davenport Panther Invitational.

"[We're a] little closer to home, so that's nice as well," Stark said. "Being in the state of Michigan will be nice for our team as well. We'll be a little more rested."

The team has played throughout the the midwest and the south. They've played in Ken-

tucky, Ohio and North Carolina. They've yet to have an outing in Michigan.

The GLIAC tournament will start Friday, April 22, and go until Sunday, April 24. The women have a chance to advance to the NCAA regional round with a top placement in the championship.



UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 21:

- Softball vs. Grand Valley at 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Friday, April 22:

- Track and Field at Al Owens Classic in Allendale
- Women's Golf, GLIAC Tournament in Augusta, MI
- Women's Tennis vs. Saginaw Valley at 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 23:

- Softball at Purdue Northwest at 2 and 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 23:

- Softball at Wisconsin-Parkside at 1 and 3 p.m.



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