



# The Ferris State Torch

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Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of September 14-20, 2022

www.fsutorch.com

## FFA to proceed with vote of no confidence in provost

*'He's anti-faculty, he's anti-union and he's anti-student'*  
-John Caserta



FFA members strike for a fair contract in 2018 during the first week of classes.

Photo: Torch Archives

**Noah Kurkjian**  
Editor In Chief

The Ferris Faculty Association unanimously voted on Wednesday, Sept. 7 to proceed with an official vote of no confidence in Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Bobby Fleischman.

This comes after three consecutive semesters of forced increases to online course sizes, which began just four days before the spring 2022 semester. While numerous grievances have been filed, both individually and collectively by the FFA and its members, these increases were kept up for the summer and fall 2022 semesters as well.

According to FFA President Dr. Charles Bacon, Fleischman has violated the terms of their collective bargaining agreement with these increases, and it's time he is held accountable.

"Well, this [vote] is primarily directed at President Pink saying something he already knows, that the faculty do not have confidence in the provost because the actions of the provost had been working against the faculty governance that we have enjoyed for decades," Bacon said. "[Fleischman] is operating as a bully and an autocrat. We've tried to work with him, but it's his way or the highway."

A vote of no confidence in its most basic form is a vote that shows that the majority does not agree with a policy laid out by a leader or governing body. In this instance, this vote of no confidence asserts that Fleischman does not have the support of the faculty behind him and calls for his termination. After the unilateral increase in course caps, the FFA believes he cannot remain where he is.

"We've filed more grievances in Bobby Fleischman's time here than we have ever," FFA Vice President and Grievance Chair John Caserta said. "When they violate the contract in terms of working conditions, as he did with the online caps or imposing new working conditions, we have to file grievances to protect faculty. He's anti-faculty, he's anti-union and he's anti-student."

These increases ranged anywhere from 50% to north of 100%, according to Caserta. He reported that he saw increases as significant as a jump from 20 students to 50 students for a single class.

These incidents resulted in three collective grievances filed by the FFA, asking the university to fairly compensate the faculty for the increased amount of work they had to do as a result of these increases.

"During the spring, the university made three and a half million more dollars in tuition, and [they] don't want to pay the faculty any extra money," Bacon said.

According to Bacon and Caserta, Fleischman has not made contact with

them or the FFA as a whole since October of 2020, after multiple months of failed contract maintenance meetings.

The Torch reached out to Fleischman for a comment and received the following statement.

"As Provost, I remain deeply committed to working together with the entire University community, including faculty, in a productive and collaborative manner within established processes to reach a mutual and fair resolution on all matters," Fleischman said. "My focus is to continue working diligently for the betterment of Ferris State University students. I fully support President Pink in moving Ferris Forward in unprecedented ways."

*"He's defrauding you. You and your parents are paying good tuition dollars for a class that you were promised was going to be quality."*

The FFA feels he's incapable of doing so.

"He's defrauding you. You and your parents are paying good tuition dollars for a class that you were promised was going to be quality and provide you with good instruction, and when he increased these class sizes, it's all about money," Caserta said.

University President Dr. Bill Pink echoed Fleischman's sentiment.

"I have the utmost confidence in Provost Fleischman and his team and will continue to support them as they oversee the academic programs and goals of Ferris State University," Pink said. "The education of our students remains my top priority. My entire leadership team and I are committed to working collaboratively across the university to ensure that the students of Ferris State University receive the best education possible."

While the FFA agrees that student education should remain a top priority, they don't believe that Fleischman is the man for the job.

"Our concern is about the quality of education—the amount of money that you spend to have a good course—and we're trying to defend the integrity of our curriculum," Bacon said. "And if a faculty member who had 20 students per section now has 40, you have to ask yourself, can they do the same things that they did with 20 students? And the answer is no."

This is a developing story, and the Torch will diligently follow it as it progresses.



# News

Jessica Oakes | News Editor | oakesj3@ferris.edu

## It takes a team Meet President Pink's right-hand women



Administrative assistant Maggie Walcott and executive assistant Terri Cook help President Bill Pink stay organized and connected.

Photo (left): Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor  
Photo (right): Ferris website

### Meghan Hartley News Reporter

It takes a village to accomplish all that a president does in a school year.

From Founders' Day, to introductory speeches and a state-wide tour, President Bill Pink certainly has a lot on his plate, and his new office is always ready to assist in scheduling and communications.

Terri Cook serves as the executive assistant to the president, helping plan campus events, such as Founders' Day, employee picnics and holiday galas. She also sits on the President's Council and the Strategic Planning and Resource Council.

Most importantly, Cook assists the president in scheduling meetings, outings and events.

"Scheduling for the president is a huge part of my job because his schedule is crazy and changes frequently," Cook said. "So many people want to see him, and he is on a number of boards, so he's got a lot of meetings. Generally, we are trying to make his life easier."

Pink is a member of the Higher Learning Commission's board of trustees, the American Council on Education's board of directors and the Spectrum Health West Michigan's board. On top of that, he is board chair for the Heart of West Michigan United Way and the board vice-chair of The Right Place.

According to a profile written on Pink by Ferris, he is also involved in governance and policy development at regional and national levels. Pink was also appointed to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation executive committee by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Currently, Pink has been serving in office for a total of nine weeks. Not only is he starting his first school year as university president, he is also beginning a tour around Michigan.

As mentioned in a previous Torch article, the "Link with Pink" tour is an opportunity for Pink to connect and "interact with Ferris alumni by sharing his plans and listening to their stories in order to shape and build the future of Ferris."

"The alumni group that works under the university advanced marketing reached out for some dates that he would be available," Cook said. "We went through the calendar and saw when there would be availability to do things."

Cook says that all presidents go on tours at the beginning of their new position, as it's important to connect with alumni. However, with as many requests as the president gets to attend events and meetings, it can be a lot to handle on top of the other work he must accomplish. Alongside attending meetings and events, the president is also responsible for making official statements on behalf of the university and responding to colleagues, administrators and the press.

Secretaries are commonly known for reviewing all communication that enters the president's hands and assisting in writing responses to all official correspondence.

Maggie Walcott, who serves as an administrative assistant alongside Cook, assists the president in all that needs to be done, including the numerous messages he receives.

"Oftentimes, when we get emails from somebody that has a concern or a question, we see those first," Walcott said. "Then we'll send them on to the president, and then we'll respond to the students at the president's discretion. We do have a communications director here. Unfortunately, she'll be going to a new position, but we had someone in our office specifically dedicated to that. So communications would be the person that would respond to any kind of public-facing inquiry."

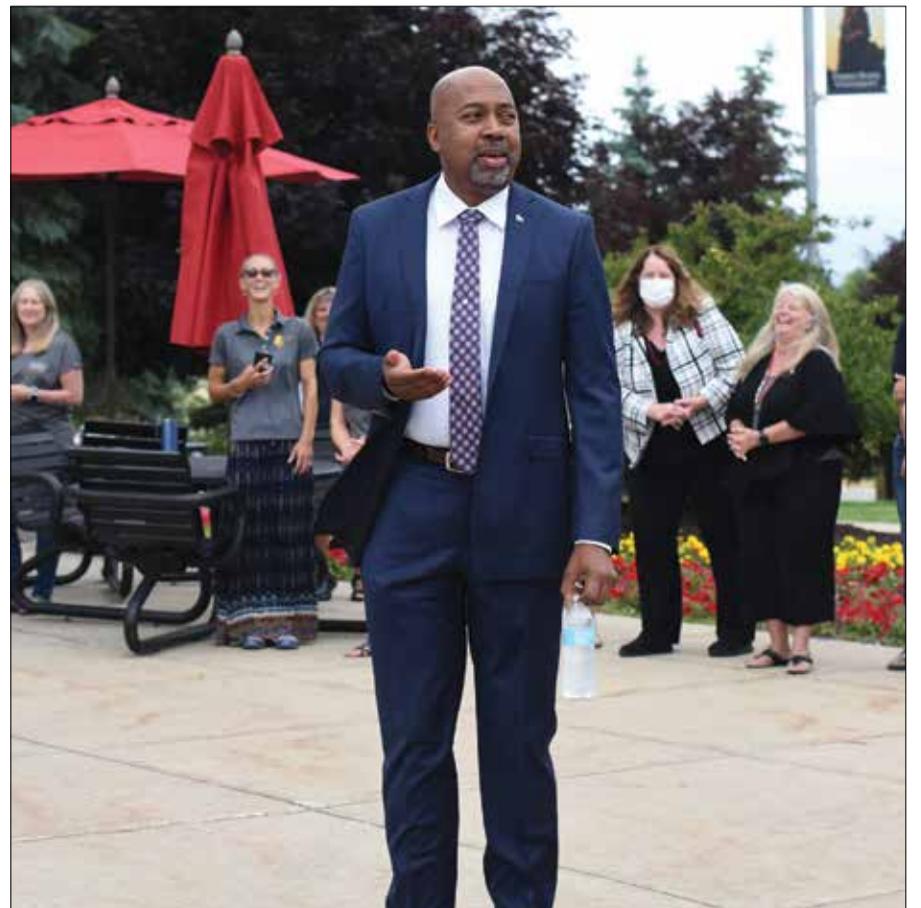
Walcott has had experience in writing statements for former President David L. Eisler. She says getting to know what Pink would like in regards to communication will be a learning process.

"We're figuring out what his preferences are and how he likes to do business," Walcott said. "We're still learning with Dr. Pink, giving him some grace to find his footing and his role, and also giving ourselves the grace to find our footing as well, so that we can continue to best serve him in his position as president because really that's what this role really boils down to."

Everything we do has to support him and make sure that he is the best that he can be at his job."

It takes a lot to assist a president in all he needs, but with the experience Cook and Walcott have, they will do their best to help Pink accomplish more activities every day.

Pink will be in Grand Rapids on Thursday, Sept. 15, meeting with more Ferris Alumni, hearing their stories and sharing his plans for the future of Ferris.



Bill Pink addresses Ferris community outside Timme Center.

Photo provided by: Sandy Gholston

# MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes  
News Editor

In a 5-2 majority, the Michigan Supreme Court voted to put reproductive freedom on the ballot this November.

The Michigan Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative would alter the state constitution to include "the right to make and effectuate decisions about all matters relating to pregnancy."

These matters include childbirth, both prenatal and postpartum care, contraception, abortion, sterilization, miscarriage and infertility care.

Breaking records, over 750,000 people signed a petition in support of the initiative. This is over 300,000 more than the petition required, and more than any other Michigan ballot initiative ever passed.

Support for the initiative was led by Michigan Reproductive Freedom for All, a coalition of state branches of the American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood and Michigan Voices.

Darci McConnell, communications director for the Reproductive Freedom

for All campaign, said to NewsHour that opposing pro-life claims are "frivolous" and "simply designed to distract from our effort to keep the abortion rights we had under Roe for nearly 50 years."

With equal fervence, spokesperson Christen Pollo of the Citizens to Support Michigan Women and Children calls the initiative "extreme," "mistake-ridden" and "too permanent."

Proposal three, as it will be listed on the ballot, allows the state to regulate abortion after "fetal viability." This occurs 23-24 weeks into pregnancy, when a fetus can first survive outside the uterus.

The state would not be able to ban abortion in instances of protecting "the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant individual."

Michiganders will be able to vote for or against proposal three on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022.

Also on the ballot is proposal one, an initiative to change term limits for state legislators and financial disclosure requirements for state executive and legislative officials. Proposal two would affect voting policies, such as dropboxes and early and absentee voting.

# GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes  
News Editor

Queen Elizabeth II, the longest serving British monarch, passed away on Thursday afternoon at 96.

Elizabeth reportedly died peacefully at Balmoral Castle, the royal family's large estate in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. It was known to be one of the Queen's favorite places.

Many world leaders publicly expressed grief and condolences following the Queen's death.

"In a world of constant change, she was a steadying presence and source of pride for generations of Britons," President Joe Biden said in an official statement.

Elizabeth's eldest son Charles III assumed the role of King of the United Kingdom the moment she passed. The coronation of Charles as king and his second wife Camila as queen consort is not yet scheduled. It may take months for the official ceremony to take place.

Millions are mourning her Majesty across the globe. However, her death

has sparked mixed reactions from the public.

Irish soccer fans at Tallaght Stadium in Dublin chanted "Lizzy's in a box" at a game on Thursday night. After 800 years of British rule, the infamous potato famine and violent uprisings, the Republic of Ireland still holds historical animosity towards the royal family.

South Africa's opposition party, the Economic Freedom Fighters, released a harsh statement.

"We do not mourn...Elizabeth," it said. "Our interaction with Britain has been one of pain... death and dispossession, and of the dehumanization of the African people."



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# “The Office” comes to Ferris for homecoming

## Oscar Nuñez and Brian Baumgartne from Scranton to Big Rapids

Jonathen Hart  
News Reporter

“The Office” co-stars Oscar Nuñez and Brian Baumgartne have been named Ferris’ 2022 homecoming comedians.

The show will take place on Sept. 21, 2022, at the William’s Auditorium. Tickets are now available at the David L. Eisler Center’s information desk. Tickets run \$10 for students and \$20 for non-students.

Nuñez and Baumgartner became household names as “Oscar Martinez” and “Kevin Malone” on NBC’s Emmy-winning, widely popular series “The Office.” Now, they are heading out on the speaking circuit with a new, one-of-a-kind program titled “Everything The Office.”

In this moderated conversation, the two take audiences behind the scenes, sharing stories and details on how the show was filmed, discussing their relationships with the cast and crew and engaging in a Q&A session.

It has been nine years since “The Office’s” series finale premiered, and people still have a special spot in their hearts for the witty comedy.

For the people who don’t remember, “The Office” is the much adored mockumentary about working in the office of Dunder Mifflin, a paper company. It was and remains one of the most viewed shows in television history.

Malone was a lovable but socially-chal-



Image courtesy of NBC

Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

lenged member of the accounting team. Martinez was also part of the accounting crew and was the often sarcastic and impatient gay, Mexican member of the team.

Martinez being gay and Mexican, as well as Malone’s odd and out of sync behaviors were often topics of discussion in the show, which made light of the many uncomfortable conversations people of any ethnic, social or economic background might face at work or otherwise. No one

was spared. It’s part of what made “The Office” revolutionary. The unspoken discomfort was always in the spotlight, and as a viewer you had to share it with the characters.

Nuñez and Baumgartner have worked closely throughout the years since “The Office” ended. Nuñez often joins Baumgartner on his podcast “Off the Beat,” where they talk about behind the scenes stories from “The Office,” which is the reason they

started touring the country together.

Freshmen Madi Hart has been watching “The Office” for a long time and can’t believe that this is happening in her first year.

“When I saw the poster, I internally screamed. I couldn’t believe it. These are people that I grew up watching, and now I get to see them in person. I can’t wait,” Hart said.

General business freshmen Kariss Selby has been watching the show for a few years now.

“I started watching “The Office” my freshmen year of high school. I like it because of [the] unmatched, witty comedy that the show provided me when I felt sad or lonely,” Selby said.

Last year we had Whitney Cummings, the co-creator of the hit show “2 Broke Girls” as our Homecoming comedian. Her performance at Ferris was a part of her “Touch Me” tour, which was the first in person comedy show Ferris has hosted since the COVID-19 pandemic started.

In the past we have had comedians from all different brands of comedy, from John Mulaney, via a pandemic-era virtual format, to the singer and comedian Bo Burnham, as well as Marlon Waynes. To say the least, Ferris knows how to pick their Homecoming comedians, and the audience is rarely disappointed.

# Bright day for Bulldog Bonanza

## Registered student organizations and local businesses recruit new members

Jonathen Hart  
News Reporter

Bulldog Bonanza returned to Robinson Quad for another round on Wednesday, Sept. 8, giving students the chance to get acquainted with the campus community and a wide variety of freebies.

Bulldog Bonanza is an opportunity for Ferris students to get involved on campus and off. Everything, including admission to the event, was free. Many of the organizations in attendance had handouts for students, which ranged anywhere from product samples to door prizes. There was also sign-ups and information about many different student organizations.

There were roughly 30 tables set up for this event. Tables ranged from political groups to different fraternities and sororities advertising their rush events, as well as Sports Clips giving out coupons for free haircuts.

Bulldog Bonanza also had many club sports out for students to learn more about their teams.

Dakota Young, a senior biology student and president of Special Olympics, was among the many leaders who used Bulldog Bonanza as an opportunity to educate and recruit new members.

“[Special Olympics does] a lot of different events, from social events and supporting the athletes to actually playing games with them. Our goal on campus is to promote campus-wide inclusion,” Young said.



Kaylee Beaudoin (left) and Emma VanDongen (right) tabled for Ferris’ Bowling Team.

Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Isaias Rivera, treasurer of historically Latino fraternity Sigma Lambda Beta, explained the group’s philosophy at Bulldog Bonanza.

“We are a young group of gentlemen looking to change the world with our core principles: community service, cultural awareness, brotherhood and scholarship,” Rivera said.

SLB’s sister group, the Sigma Lambda Gamma sorority, was also in attendance. They pride themselves on being Ferris’ first and only multicultural sorority.

Freshman Jashala Boxx enjoyed spending her afternoon at Bulldog

Bonanza.

“It was nice. Everyone at the tables [was] nice and respectful,” Boxx said. “I also got a lot of free stuff, which in college is nice because I don’t have to worry about buying them. They advertised different events the organizations were putting on this month. Overall, it was fun to see the different groups that Ferris has to offer.”

Sophomore Payton Silk was able to talk to groups that she hadn’t seen around campus yet.

“I was able to talk to the different sororities, which could be scary because of how they seem in [the] media, but they

were extremely nice to me. I thought the event was well put together,” Silk said.

In university life, students have to balance their valuable time and money between many things, so it can be quite refreshing when organizations on campus and surrounding businesses come together to save students a little of both.

News Editor Jessica Oakes, Culture Editor Giuliana Denicolo and Multimedia Editor Marissa Russell contributed to the reporting and editing of this article.

# Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

## RSO spotlight

Learn more about the  
Asian Student Organization



Photo by: Kylah Robinson | Torch Reporter

The lanterns held by Becca Barkley (left) and Maddie Stevens (right) represents family coming together and rejoicing.

**Kylah Robinson**  
Culture Reporter

The Asian Student Organization celebrated the Mid Autumn Festival on Sept. 7 in the Robinson Quad.

The Mid Autumn Festival is traditionally celebrated in Asian culture at the end of the rice harvest and fruit harvest. The festival is a time for families to come together to worship the moon and thank it for the harvest it has given people.

ASO President Nicole Ly recreated this event to teach people about the festival. They also passed out mooncakes because they are sweet, round and look like the moon, plus they made lanterns that represent family coming together and rejoicing.

The event had a good turnout. Many students engaged in decorating their lanterns and ate different flavors of mooncakes. People also reached out to Ly, stating that they loved the event and would like ASO to do more events like it.

Ly joined the ASO when she first came to Ferris and noticed that there weren't a lot of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American students. Ly felt lonely and isolated on campus, especially with COVID restrictions in place at the time.

"I found out that there was an Asian Student Organization, and I immediately was interested," Ly said. "I wanted to join the girls [in ASO] at the time, and they were very warm... I just loved the atmosphere that they gave, and I really wanted to carry the impression that they gave me for other APIDA students who want to join ASO."

Ly has seen the growth the ASO and other student organizations have experienced in the past two years. This year has given her time to reflect on herself as an Asian student in a predominantly white institution. Her experience has also given her many perspectives on other APIDA identifying cultures.

One thing that Ly and the rest of the ASO want to make clear is that you do not have to be from an Asian background to be a part of the organization or attend their events. People from all backgrounds are welcomed and encouraged to take part.

"We want to keep ASO a safe place that people feel comfortable coming to and expressing themselves... I feel like that's really important... because [people can feel] so easily silenced or overshadowed by other opinions..., but it's really important that everyone [is respectful] of other people's opinions," Ly said.

The ASO will be having a lot more upcoming events that focus on the cultural aspect of ASO, rather than only the social aspect of it.

If you would like to join the ASO, or get to know more about the organization, they will be having their first bi-weekly meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 14 in the IRC at 7 p.m.

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# Opinions

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

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## EDITORS COLUMN: *You'll never know if you don't ask*

To: Professor

Subject: Homework

Can you help me?

Graphic by Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

### Noah Kurkjian Editor in Chief

Last semester I found myself in a predicament: I was expected to write a paper on a rhetorician, and I was hitting wall after wall in my research. I couldn't locate copies of her most significant work for a variety of reasons, and I was struggling to collect basic information about her as well.

That lasted until I just asked her for help. I swallowed my nerves, drafted an email—on Easter weekend no less—and sent it off, expecting to hear nothing back.

Boy was I wrong.

Not only was she thrilled that I had taken an interest in her contribution to the field, but she was also more than happy to share any and everything I needed to

complete my assignment. I got access to things that one could only dream of being published for the world to see. All just because I took an interest and asked.

I have also experienced this in the professional world as a journalist. While it may not look like it from the way it's portrayed in modern media, with journalists often going it alone, journalism is very much a team sport. We share data, contacts, statements, leads and anything that could help a fellow reporter out.

While sharing like this is becoming second nature to me, I had to consciously rid myself of the fear of negative feedback. Whether it be a flat-out refusal or annoyance for the ask in the first place, this fear of professional rejection was burnt into me from a young age.

We were taught in our K-12 education that this journey to gain knowledge was one we had to take on our own. That we could only rely on ourselves to push forward. We experienced this through testing, assignments, homework and reports. Virtually every aspect of my formative education was designed to make me do education alone, but at the end of the day, while we need to be self-sufficient to some extent, we can get so much further together.

Higher education affords us the opportunity to nurture our curiosity in an environment where we all have common goals: to learn, grow and discover. For most, this opportunity lasts only four short years, so use all the resources you have.

At Ferris, we have a wealth of

qualified faculty just waiting to share their craft and knowledge with you. Whether you're in one of their classes or not, I promise they're elated that you're taking an interest in the material they're passionate about. It doesn't stop there, either. FLITE gives you access to not only one of the best research databases we could have asked for, but also a brilliant staff that will teach you exactly how to use it to its fullest potential.

I'm all for exploring what's out there and trying to figure it out on my own, but through that I also learned the power of a question. It can be the difference between complete confusion and total clarity. The only thing you need to do is gain the courage and the humility to ask.

# MEDIA MINUTE: *The Rehearsal*

## Reality television or a social experiment gone too far?

Sienna Parmelee  
Production Assistant

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you could rehearse life events before they happened? Well, that's the exact question that Nathan Fielder's docu-series "The Rehearsal" sets out to answer.

While we all have experience in playing out scenarios in our heads, whether it be a joke or a serious discussion with a peer, Fielder takes this to a whole new level. While HBO has not released the budget for the show, it's clear it was not a cheap endeavor. Using full-scale models of buildings, 3D scanning and paid actors trained to study people's behaviors and reactions, the rehearsals come as close to reality as possible.

In the first episode we meet Korr Skeet, a member of a weekly trivia group who has been lying to his friends about his education, claiming he has a master's degree. Korr rehearses in a full-scale model of the trivia bar with a trained actor who has studied his friend, Tricia, to gauge her possible reactions. When Korr finally meets with the real Tricia, he goes beyond the topic of his education, sharing insight into his relationship with his family and his childhood experiences.

While Korr experienced a positive outcome from the rehearsal, this is not the case for everyone participating in the

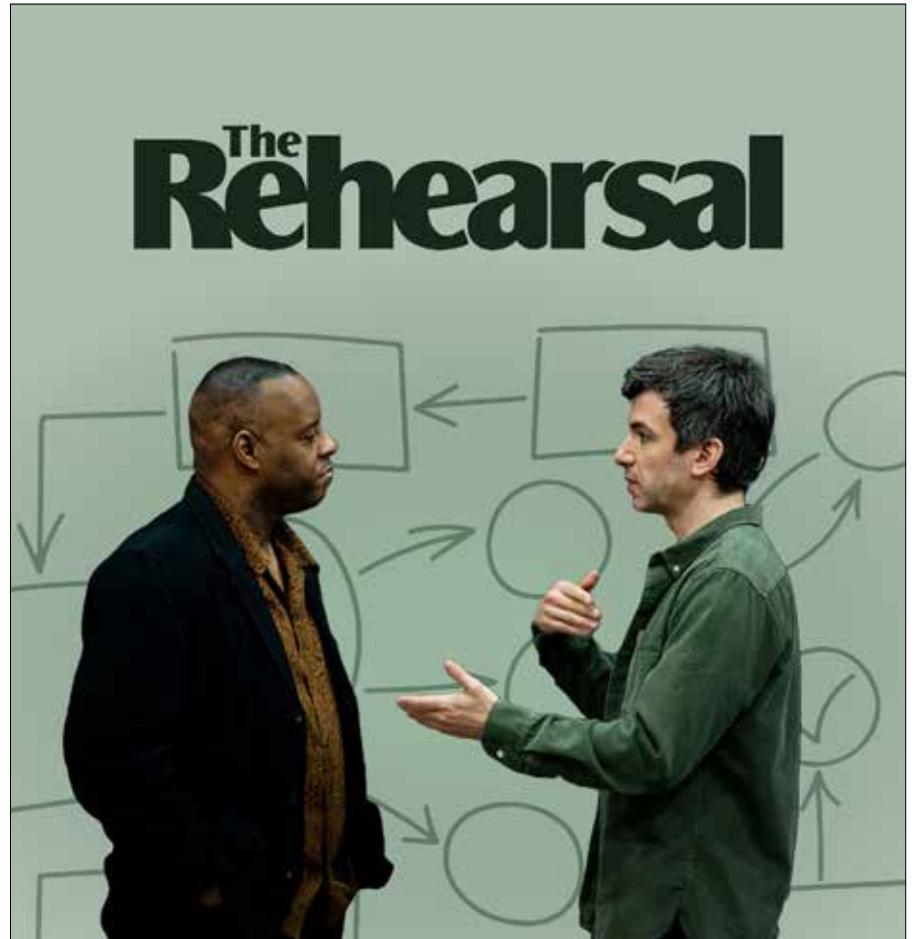
show.

Two participants left the show before their rehearsals were complete. The most notable participant was a child actor participating in Angela and Nathans's rehearsal of parenthood. Remy, a six-year-old actor playing the pair's pretend child, Adam, struggles to understand the difference between "playing pretend" and reality.

Angela left the rehearsal before it was complete, and "Adam" has now progressed to an older age, meaning it was time for Remy to leave the show.

In the finale, we learn that Remy does not have a father figure in his life, so leaving Nathan caused him to break into tears and question why he had to leave his "daddy." The show seemed so natural to him that he couldn't understand why the man who had been acting as his father was not actually his father.

It's difficult to say whether or not the show crosses an ethical line, since it was made for entertainment. It is not a reality tv show capturing people in everyday life; it's one with meticulously crafted scenarios. Both the viewer and members of the show are a part of multiple fabrications, so it becomes challenging to understand who is in on the joke and who falls victim. However, in the case of Remy, the show has already proven that a rehearsal can go too far and cannot plan for every variable.



Graphic by Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant  
Photos courtesy of HBO Max

# Sick of perfect attendance

## Attendance policies and burnt-out Americans



Jessica Oakes  
News Editor

Class time is important, but not enough for my friend's professor to say, "You guys are in college now. You shouldn't be getting COVID anyway."

Syllabus week has cursed me with colds and COVID for the past two semesters, making me wonder how anyone can have perfect attendance anymore. Every college class I have ever taken had all the needed information in the Canvas shell, so insisting that students come to class when they are sick is unnecessary.

As a young try-hard, I would muster through middle and high school classes in a daze of illness. My mom's young students were told to go back to her classroom unless they had a fever or were throwing up. This not only encourages people to spread disease, but it also tells them to place productivity over health.

I believe that this trend of pushing through illness, or even injury, for the sake of attendance continues throughout adulthood.

It is well known that the paid time off offered in Europe dwarfs that of the United States. America is "the only advanced economy that does not mandate any paid vacation time for workers," according to a study done by the Center for Economic and Policy Research. Benefit News also reports that Americans take two weeks off per year, while the average European takes 24. It's not only Europeans, either. Aside from sick days, French workers are guaranteed five weeks of vacation time per year.

I often think of this when I hear someone spout off about how "nobody" wants to work anymore. It was not inspiring to see news stories about a teacher giving lesson plans from her hospital bed in 2020. It was absurd.

With no more quarantine instructions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, I know my peers will soon be coming to class and their jobs with COVID. This reflects a toxic, unforgiving and arguably selfish work ethic, and I struggle to see a way around it. Within my program, I have all the tools I need to complete my work and studies without sacrificing the health of those around me.

I hope professors understand that even the most dedicated students are not immune. Missing class as soon as the semester begins is disorienting. I am always appreciative of those who show understanding and remember that I am not perfect. I am simply a young student trying to learn in a historically tumultuous time.

Graphic by Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

# Sports

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

## Volleyball dominates Parkside



Chelsie Freeman (#8) had a .455 kill percentage to lead the Bulldogs against Parkside.

Photo by: Mariana Searl | Torch Photographer

### Bulldogs collect 9th straight 3-0 win against Wisconsin-Parkside

Dylan Rider  
Opinions Editor

The Bulldogs have played Wisconsin-Parkside nine times since the Rangers joined the GLIAC in 2018. Parkside has not won a single set in any of those matchups.

The Bulldogs (4-6, 2-0 GLIAC) extended both their win streak against the Rangers and their 2022 season win streak. After starting the season 0-6, the win against Parkside was their third in a row (Ferris would go on to beat Wayne State Sunday to extend the win streak to four games).

With just three upper classmen on the roster, head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm discussed the youth of her team following their victory over the Rangers.

“Our whole team is new and young, but it’s an incredibly gifted group of young women,” Brandel-Wilhelm said. “They work really hard. We’re excited with the progress we see. We’re always that team that tries to get one percent better every day, and I feel like this team gets better three percent every day.”

In the first set, the Bulldogs fought for the lead. Once they secured it, the set was on cruise control as they took it 25 - 16.

Coming off the first set win, the Bulldogs dominated

play by taking a 20 - 4 lead. However, the team slipped and allowed Wisconsin-Parkside to gain some ground as they fought for a 21 - 10 lead. Ferris regrouped and took the set 25 - 14.

With a 2 - 0 lead, the Bulldogs capped off their dominant win with a 25 - 14 victory in the third set.

Leading the team in kills and points was sophomore Syann Fairfield.

“We’ve been working on our offense,” Fairfield said. “I think that all the things that we’ve been working on in our practices are really starting to come into our play. The way we ran the offense tonight kind of opened things up for us middle-hitters.”

In their first six games, Ferris lost 11 sets where they were within five points of their opponent.

With the Bulldogs riding a three-game win streak, they seem to have found that offensive finishing power.

Brandel-Wilhelm was happy to play back at home following eight games away to start the season.

“It’s really, really nice to play at home... It’s really great to have all that support here,” Brandel-Wilhelm said. “Our first game in our temporary arena, so it’s just really nice to have that flow.”

Ferris won’t stay home for long, as their next home matchup will be Sept. 30 against Northern Michigan. They will travel to Michigan Tech on Friday, Sept. 16.

#### Game Stats:

**Set 1:**  
**Ferris won 25-16**  
Kills: 13  
Errors: 4  
Total Attempts: 22

**Set 2:**  
**Ferris won 25-14**  
Kills: 16  
Errors: 9  
Total attempts: 33

**Set 3:**  
**Ferris won 25-16**  
Kills: 14  
Errors: 5  
Total attempts: 35

#### Individual stats leaders:

**Led team (kills, points):** Syann Fairfield (10, 14.5)  
**Led team in kill %:** Chelsie Freeman (.455% kill %)  
**Led team in errors:** Syann Fairfield and Oli Henneman-Dallape (4 errors)  
**Led team in aces:** Kaylee Maat (36 aces)

## SCORECARD

### Cross country

Ray Helsing Invitational (women) - Hanna Brock, 3rd place  
Ray Helsing Invitational (men) - Brandon Wirth, 1st place

### Football

Sept. 10 - Ferris 27, Lenoir-Rhyne 5

### Soccer

Sept. 9 - Ferris 0, Grand Valley 0  
Sept. 11 - Ferris 1, Davenport 1

# 40 straight

## Caleb Murphy and Carson Gulker lead Bulldogs to another win

Joe Nagy  
Sports Reporter

On Sept. 23, 2017, the Bulldogs traveled to Ashland. That was the last time Ferris football lost a regular season game.

The nationally top-ranked Ferris State Bulldogs traveled to Hickory, North Carolina to face Lenoir-Rhyne on Saturday, Sept. 10 with 39 straight regular season wins. The Bears became their 40th.

The Bulldogs triumphed through the early season test and came out with a 27-5 victory. Big performances from junior defensive end Caleb Murphy (five sacks) and freshman quarterback Carson Gulker (three rushing touchdowns) propelled the Bulldogs to victory.

However, the offense struggled to find success at the start of the game. An injury for junior quarterback Mylik Mitchell caused him to miss this game entirely, meaning the offensive responsibilities were handed to senior Evan Cummins and Gulker.

Although the offense started slow, a lockdown defensive effort held the Bears to only 94-yards of total offense. Ferris also registered seven sacks, two influential third-quarter turnovers and several tackles for loss. With one of the best defensive performances that the Bulldogs have shown in the past few seasons, the team lengthened their regular season win streak to an even 40 games.

Head coach Tony Annese credited his defensive players after the game, but made sure to get back to work through the week.

"We had to grind out some things," Annese said. "Some bad things that happened to us early, but one consistent thing was that our defense was stellar all game. Totally dominant. From the D-line, to the linebackers, to the secondary, just a really good performance by the defense."

Of their seven quarterback sacks, five of them came from one player. Murphy found himself at home in the backfield of LRU's offense, quickly becoming the impact player of the game. The pressure led to a stagnant run game for the bears, only produc-

ing 16-yards the whole game.

The scoring opened up on the first-drive of the game. Ferris was backed deep into their own territory and was forced to punt, but a high snap made the ball wobble its way into the back of the endzone. The safety gave a quick 2-0 lead to the Bears at 13:44.

A slow and rainy first-quarter finished with some excitement with a 75-yard deep slant pass to Xavier Wade from Cummins.

"I thought [Lenoir-Rhyne's] defense really played hard. I thought their team, for the most part, [is] very disciplined and work very hard," Annese said. "I'm just proud that our guys showed the heart that they showed. To have the slow start and to have it end resoundingly."

Lenoir Rhyne opened the second quarter by marching down the field in a lengthy drive. But before they could punch their ticket to the endzone, a strong defensive push forced the Bears to settle for a field goal. LRU's kicker, Johnathan Medlin, drilled the 36-yarder to bring the game within two at 10:44 in the second quarter.

Despite the lack of production in the first quarter, after the Lenoir-Rhyne field goal it was all Ferris State. At 4:34 in the second quarter, Gulker fought his way into the end zone for a two-yard rushing touchdown, bringing the score to 13-5. It would stay the same when the teams headed to the locker room, with the game still in reach for the Bears.

The scoring both ramped up and ended in the third quarter. Gulker scrambled another 10-yards at 6:27 to lengthen the lead by two scores for the Bulldogs. He recorded the hat trick with his third touchdown shortly after a Murphy sack forced a fumble deep in Lenoir-Rhyne territory, and leaving him with only one yard to push his way through with 1:30 left in the third quarter.

"Offensively we got a lot of younger guys playing, so [I'm] very pleased," Annese said.

Both teams were scoreless in the fourth quarter, but the final horn left the Bulldogs with a 27-5 victory in Hickory. The

three quarterbacks for Ferris, Cummins, Gulker and sophomore Jesse Rivera, combined for 300-yards of total offense. 15 different Bulldog players recorded a rushing attempt.

Murphy led the team in tackles and tackles for loss (12 and 6, respectively), leading to 38 yards lost for LRU. Major Dedmond and Jordan Jones joined the party with one sack a piece. Dedmond had four tackles and Jones had three.

On 56 plays, Ferris' defense allowed less than 100 yards in total offense, an average of only 0.5 yards per play.

The compelling win sends the team into the bye week with ample time to recover and recuperate for when Waldorf comes to Top Taggart on Sept. 24 for Ferris' homecoming celebration.



Xavier Wade led the Bulldogs with 75 receiving yards.

Photo: Courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

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# All tied up

## Soccer ties GVSU and Davenport

Jeffery Walker  
Sports Reporter

Ferris came inches away from beating the #3 team in the country, but they had to settle for a 0-0 tie.

Ferris (1-2-2, 0-0-2 GLIAC) hosted #3 Grand Valley on Friday, Sept. 9 to open GLIAC play with a scoreless tie. Senior Katie Nestico attempted to break the tie with four shots on goal in a six minute span late in the second half. She appeared to have done so with a shot that hit the crossbar and went straight down into the net, but play continued, as the officials did not signal for a goal.

“Just a little unlucky today,” head coach Greg Hanson said in regard to Nestico’s shot attempts that did not find the back of the net.

The Bulldogs had 12 shots, five shots on goal and three corner kicks. Sophomore goalie Darya Mosallaei had three saves.

Ferris will face Grand Valley again in Allendale on Oct. 16.

In the second match of the weekend, the Bulldogs faced Davenport, which ended in another draw, but this time the score was 1-1.

Before Sunday’s contest against Davenport, Ferris held a ring ceremony to celebrate the Bulldogs’ 2021 GLIAC championship.

Davenport engaged Ferris in a tough and physical game in the rain that featured 23 combined fouls between the two teams.

The Bulldogs had 12 shots, five shots on goal, seven corner kicks and two saves.

Davenport scored on a long shot from Sarah Possett that went through Mosallaei’s hands. Minutes later, Payton Price recorded her first goal of the season at 21:15 in the first half. Ella Wolf assisted.

The Bulldogs will look to get back into the win column when they face off against Northern Michigan in an away game at 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16.



Grace Pratt passes a ball during Ferris’ tie against Grand Valley.

Photo by: Mariana Searl | Torch Photographer

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