



Two years later, Brennan speaks



After nearly two years away from the public eye, Thomas Brennan speaks to news editor Jessica Oakes

Photo courtesy of Jessica Oakes | News Editor

The “pariah,” “QAnon conspiracist” and line cook

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Former physics professor Dr. Thomas Brennan was fired in 2021 following a series of migraines, alleged harassment and conspiratorial tweets. Today, he works as a line cook in Big Rapids.

Who was Ferris’ “nutty professor?”

Brennan became an infamous Ferris figure early in the COVID-19 pandemic. As he put it, he fell into the “nutty professor stereotype.” His controversial views were first shared with a large group of faculty during a 2020 Zoom meeting for the College of Arts and Sciences. To the concern of several colleagues, Brennan stated in the chat that “the pandemic and riots are a leftist stunt to overthrow the United States government and destroy our [civil] liberties.”

A Twitter account with the handle @ThomasB57121856 was discovered with numerous Tweets including racial slurs, COVID-19 pandemic denial and homophobic language. This led to Brennan being placed on administrative leave for several months before his ultimate firing in February 2021.

Though the story made national headlines, Brennan declined offers to speak directly with the Torch and other news outlets. He posted a six-page defense to his personal website following his release from the University.

“My defense is that I was acting out and speaking out of despair caused by a personal crisis involving extremely painful migraines, [electromagnetic field] sensitivity and a series of repeated break-ins into my home,” he wrote.

With Brennan’s Twitter account deactivated, there have been few updates on the life of the problematic professor. It is understood that Brennan was in contact with Barry Mehler, another Ferris professor who made national news, earlier this year.

This was the end of Brennan’s story until halfway through this summer, when he personally reached out to the Torch. After our editor-in-chief denied Brennan’s request to remove previous coverage from the Torch website, Brennan asked to share the story himself.

COVID-19 Conspiracies and Race: A barge full of clowns

One Torch reader referred to Brennan as a “QAnon conspiracist” in the comments of a previous story, referring to the far-right political conspiracy movement. Brennan offered an illustrative look into his mind and the source of his online “babbling.”

“There’s this thing I call the river of ideas and stuff flowing down [it],” Brennan said. “Sometimes you get a weird barge that has clowns on it. You’ve got to usually just ignore those clown barges... Don’t yell. It’s no big deal. But because of what felt like brain trauma, I just decided to just say whatever.”

These headaches, security concerns and the belief that Brennan’s social contract had been broken in some way, opened the floodgates for countless metaphorical clowns.

“If everything’s going fine, and society is respecting my rights and not breaking in my house or whatever, trying to inject me with something, I’m not going to say the N word,” Brennan said.

In June of 2019, Brennan went to the hospital multiple times to get an x-ray for strange, pulsing migraines. He entered a panicked state because he felt like his “head was exploding.”

“I blabbed and babbled a lot [at the hospital]. ‘What’s going on? Do I have a microchip in my head?’ I didn’t actually believe that,” Brennan said.

While his microchip comments may have been nothing more than a stray clown, per se, what Brennan now attributes his headaches to is still outside the

mainstream. Radio frequency sensitivity to wireless internet, he explained, severely affected his health. He described feeling intense heat coming from his cell phone, and traumatic migraines from spending time on campus.

“I had some equipment, a spectrum analyzer,” Brennan said. “I was able to make measurements of the RF levels on campus, and they’re extraordinarily high. The RF levels on campus are about a million times stronger than they are if you go off into the Canadian Lakes in the forest where I live.”

Migraines were not the only risk of excessive WiFi usage, according to Brennan. On July 29, 2020, he responded to a Tweet with, “It is partly because the homeless don’t have smartphones—the main cause of COVID symptoms I think.”

Before Brennan took to Twitter, he regretfully “babbled” to a Ferris Department of Public Safety Officer.

Late in the fall of 2019, Brennan was deeply concerned about his home security. After noticing that the security rods kept in his windows had been moved multiple times, Brennan divulged to DPS that he believed someone was breaking into his house. This led to a wellness check, which he passed. His relationship with administration did not receive the same bill of health.

“It felt like I was being harassed, somehow,” Brennan said. “At least, I didn’t get any sympathy. I got myself in trouble with the administration.”

Brennan did not feel that his complaints about his health, home security or the pandemic were ever taken seriously. He wishes he could have been put on sabbatical when his issues began. Instead, by consistently “babbling” to the wrong people, he made himself Ferris’ “pariah.”

In Brennan’s words, he “babbled” and found that scientists who share ideas “not accepted as mainstream” encounter “persecution sites.” He continues to defend his comments about potentially harmful vaccines, nanotechnology and RF sensitivity from cell phones. His defenses are weaker

when asked how his scientific views and frustrations were at all related to his usage of racial or homophobic slurs.

“That alt-right extremism that seems connected to racism and conspiracy theory,” Brennan said. “I know that’s a stereotype that exists. It’s a meme... I don’t know what that means. I know what you’re saying, but I don’t know what that was. [That] is all I can say.”

Where is he now?

Today, Brennan works as a line cook for a Big Rapids restaurant which he chose not to name. He would like to one day work in his field of science again.

His previous problems, migraines and security issues, have subsided. He partially attributes this to his quiet life in Canadian Lakes, far from Ferris’ radiation-rich campus. If his problems do return, he plans to avoid repeating history with better communication between himself and his employers.

Visit the Torch’s website to read our initial coverage of Brennan’s tumultuous final year at Ferris.

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News

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Founders' day extravaganza

Hundreds of students joined for free food and fun

Jonathen Hart
News Reporter

Crowds of excited students and an enthusiastic president gathered for the annual celebration of Woodbridge and Helen Gillespie Ferris.

On Thursday, Sept. 1, Ferris celebrated Founders' Day 2022. The festivities kicked off at 11 a.m. in the David L. Eisler Center, where President Bill Pink spoke to an overflowing room of students, faculty, staff and community members about his hopeful plans for the future of Ferris.

Pink's speech began by explaining how he has been getting used to Ferris for the past eight weeks, and he told a story about Woodbridge and Helen Gillespie Ferris and the very beginnings of what is now an expansive university. He then reflected on topics including student enrollment and success, campus development, leadership development and so much more.

After the speech, students, staff and community members gathered on the Robinson Quad for a beautiful day of celebration. One could tell by looking around that it was going to be a pleasant day filled with lots of food, ice cream and free prizes from various registered student organizations.

President Pink explained why students should care about the importance of Founders' day and the Ferris family's progressive philosophy.

"[Founders' Day] has a focus on folks that have come from this area 130 years ago and the vision they had. When you look at what they said and did for this area, we talk about things 130 years ago that weren't advocated for at the time. The importance [of] today is that while these ideas weren't loved by everyone years ago, they are now," Pink said.

Numerous student and local organizations had tables set up with free literature about their groups. Church organizations, sororities and the Student Government Association were among them. Many of these organizations distributed free items including shirts, drinks, coupons, snacks and ice cream.

"Founders' day was one of the first big events I got to be involved with on campus," freshman Elizabeth Ainsle said. "I was able to meet new people, bounce on the bounce house and eat good food. Being a college student, I also loved the free things people were passing out. It was a friendly event, and I can't wait for next year's. It was fun to watch my first college football game as a college student today



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Ambassador for the Mecosta County area chamber of commerce John Milan scooped out mint chocolate chip ice cream for students at Founders Day.

and watch the Bulldogs win.

Pink also spoke about what he plans to do with Founders' day down the road.

"Part of what I'm doing today, and what I'm doing my first year, is I'm seeing what we are doing and [I'm drinking] it in... When [it is] over, [I will] have an evaluation and talk to staff and students, [but] I want to experience it first. That's my way to say

[there is] more to come and stay tuned," Pink said.

Founders' Day ended with the season opener of Ferris State football, starting their Division II Nation Championship defense by destroying Central Washington 36-20.

Back in business

Ferris' Student Government Association reconvenes for the new semester

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Ferris' Student Government Association began the 2022 academic year with hope for growth and collaboration on Tuesday, Aug. 30.

Psychology senior MaeLynn Huhn led her first general assembly as this semester's SGA president last week. She began her SGA journey as a representative for Ferris' Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

"One of my goals for this semester is to increase overall involvement on campus,"

Huhn said. "I joined one organization, which led me to joining another one, then another... And that's honestly what made me stay at Ferris—the opportunity to get involved and make a difference."

Director of public relations, director of philanthropy and director of internal assessment are three vacancies that SGA would like to fill in the coming months. According to Jeanine Ward-Roof, the vice president for Student Affairs, SGA has "plenty of space, plenty of room and plenty to do."

While introducing SGA members and

attendees, Huhn called upon President Bill Pink for "words of wisdom," to which he jokingly responded, "and who will be doing that?"

Pink spent part of his day riding around campus via golf cart, handing out Starbucks gift cards and helping students get to class. He then shared with SGA how much he enjoys seeing students back on campus for the fall semester.

"I have students that apologize for interrupting me on the sidewalk," Pink said. "[Students say,] 'Hey, I'm sorry to interrupt you, and I'm sorry to interrupt your work.' You are my work. You are never an interruption to me."

In order to understand what Ferris student life is like, Pink believes that forming a strong relationship with SGA is of the utmost importance.

Accompanying Huhn were Vice President Cassidy Engles, a junior representing Allied Lab Sciences, and Administrative Assistant Allison Leslie, a pre-med junior representing Phi Sigma Sigma. Representatives from various sororities, registered student organizations and programs were also in attendance.

During executive reports, Engles explained that all SGA members will now be expected to join an external committee. These are smaller, more specialized subcommittees. Other changes were addressed through revisions to the Mandate of Internal Assessment, but they have yet

to be voted on.

In order to expand membership, Huhn proposed reducing requirements in the potential member process. New RSO representatives would no longer need to turn in signatures from their president and nine-tenths of their fellow RSO members to join. Similarly, college program senators would also lose a signature requirement.

Members of SGA are eager to engage with the student body on a campus without COVID restrictions, and they hope to pick up new members along the way. Administrative Assistant Leslie, only one week into her position, has seen other organizations struggle with membership this semester as well.

Being in several RSOs herself, Leslie hopes students do not hesitate to join SGA because of the perceived workload.

"It's definitely not too much of a [time] commitment," Leslie said. "I'm in three RSOs, I have 16 credit hours [and] I'm a pre-med student. So, I keep very busy. [SGA] has made me be more involved in campus than I ever thought I would be, and I really appreciate that."

Looking ahead, SGA will continue to meet weekly in the David L. Eisler Center's Founders' room on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. They will also be joined by President Pink for the "Let's Taco 'Bout Ferris" event on Thursday, Sept. 15.



Photo by: Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor

From representative to now SGA President, MaeLynn Huhn leads her first meeting in her new role.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief

Promote the Vote, a non-partisan voting rights coalition filed a lawsuit on Thursday, Sept. 1 to get their voting rights measure on this fall's ballot.

This measure would allow for at least nine days of early voting in the state, codify the voter ID rules into the state constitution and allow voters to request absentee ballots for all future elections in one fell swoop.

This move comes after a partisan deadlock which has been preventing the measure from being placed on the ballot thus far by traditional means.

This lawsuit asks the Michigan Supreme Court to force the Board of Canvassers who are currently blocking the addition of this measure to yield to Promote the Vote, according to the Detroit Free Press.

Challenger Defend Your Vote alleges that the form that was circulated by Promote the Vote did not clearly state the five provisions in the Michigan constitution that it would impact.

Democratic canvasser Mary Ellen

Gurewitz suggested that this challenge was asking the Board of Canvassers to act as constitutional lawyers and make determinations about how the proposal would be interpreted if it were to be adopted.

Republican Board of Canvassers members claim that the issue isn't with the proposal itself, but the way that it was presented to the signers of the petition.

"If we believe that there is a problem with the form of the petition, what I'm hearing you saying is ignore it," Republican canvasser Richard Houskamp said in a Board of Canvassers meeting on Sept. 1 according to the Detroit Free Press. "We've got all these signatures but I have this fundamental problem that we got the signatures on, what we presented them, what we told them was the story wasn't the full story. There were pieces of it missing."

The Michigan Secretary of State must certify the contents of the Nov. 8 ballot by Sept. 9, and the Board of Canvassers is scheduled to convene on that day as well to hear the results of this lawsuit.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief

The United Kingdom has officially replaced Boris Johnson as their Prime Minister. Their Conservative Party elected Liz Truss, 47, a diplomat and free-market champion to guide the country gravest economic crisis in a generation according to the New York Times.

Truss' victory was an expected one after she took a significant lead in the polls leading up to the election. She won by a margin of 57.4% to 42.6%.

Her election marks Britain's fourth Prime Minister in six years, and the third woman the country has seen in this seat, succeeding Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May.

Like the women that came before her, Truss is seated while the country is facing massive issues. Everything from double digit inflation, rising energy costs, a possible recession, labor unrest, a possible gas shortage before winter and a deeply divided party after Johnson's turbulent three-year tenure.

Truss, most recently foreign secretary,

won among a packed race of eight candidates with the platform of lowering taxes and reducing the size of the government.

This election comes just as the Bank of England forecasts a long recession beginning as early as later this year as a storm of stagnant wages, rising food and energy costs and looming tax cuts press on the UK's economy.

She also must temper these issues with the lasting results of the Brexit deal which closed earlier this year, this deal withdrew the UK from the European Union.



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Nursing to the rescue

How the School of Nursing's new cohort will help the nursing shortage



Ferris has added a third cohort to their nursing program to help bolster the rise in demand for nursing staff.

Photo courtesy of Sandy Gholston | Ferris News Services

Meghan Hartley
News Reporter

This past summer, the School of Nursing announced that they added a third cohort to their clinical nursing program to combat the nursing shortage.

A cohort is a name for a class of students studying the same major. Students in a cohort will stay together throughout their time in the nursing program, which is typically a year and a half. This allows students to study together, learn together and lean on one another when the classes get tough.

"We previously only did two cohorts," Wendy Lenon, the School of Nursing's chair, said. "We would admit in the fall semester and the spring semester, and now we admitted our first third cohort in the summer of 2022. We have gone from 64 students to 96, and that was really in response to meeting the needs of our students, as well as meeting the needs of the healthcare and nursing workforce."

According to the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, there is currently a nursing shortage across the U.S., and it is expected to last until 2030.

To visualize the shortage of nurses in the country, the study took the population

of every state and compared it to the number of registered nurses currently working to calculate the number of RNs available per 1,000 residents. In 2019, Michigan's population was at 9,987,000, and in 2020 there were 137,500 working RNs. Meaning, there are roughly 14 RNs for every 1,000 Michiganders.

Although the statistics are a few years old, the demand for nurses is not. In fact, it has increased drastically, and nursing has become the fifth most-demanded job in the U.S. Lenon says the shortage of nurses is due to multiple reasons, such as the strain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, retiring nurses and an increase in the number of individuals that need nursing assistance.

"This is something that we knew was coming, and we're just working to respond to that as quickly as we can," Lenon said. "So all schools and universities are looking to do our part to be able to help impact them."

Illinois State University is another university that is trying combat the shortage. In a news report done by ISU, they announced they would be collaborating with Memorial Health to open a new nursing location under the university's Mennonite College of Nursing.

The report also explained that a recent report from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing says 80,407 qualified nursing applicants have been turned away from baccalaureate and graduate programs in 2019 due to the inadequate number of faculty, clinical sites and classroom space. This contrasts sharply with the growing demand for nurses.

At Ferris, Lenon believes that with the addition of more students and the faculty they have, students will be prepared to carry out their duties well when they enter the medical field.

"The program is pretty much all-encompassing, as far as covering things that nurses do," Lenon said. "We do a good job of giving the students kind of a little glimpse of the multiple roles that nurses are able to carry out during the practice. [We] do a good job preparing our students so they are quality nurses when they're out in practice as well. Our faculty are great. They're dedicated to the success of the students."

Rebecca Welsh is a current nurse who graduated in August of 2022. Welsh says she enjoyed her time in the Ferris nursing program, and it was all thanks to the faculty helping her reach her goals.

"The professors in the nursing pro-

gram are so supportive," Welsh said.

"They understand that we have lives and things outside of school. They are really understanding when things happen. I had COVID, and they were very supportive in helping me get my assignments and giving me extensions."

Welsh currently works with Spectrum Health Facilities and owes a lot of her preparation to the coursework her professors assigned to her during her studies.

"We had a lot of hands-on labs at Ferris, and we did a lot of clinicals at Spectrum," Welsh said. "It was nice to know the Spectrum policy, and we're able to be familiar with the Epic system, which is how we do all of our documentation. That was really helpful with my transition into my new role as a graduate nurse at Spectrum."

Welsh says having these experiences in and out of the classroom helped her the most in being prepared for all that she has to experience in the facilities she now works in.

With a combination of more students being added via a new cohort and faculty ready to teach them, the School of Nursing believes they are ready to form the next generation of nurses.

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Campus craze The joys of wearing a hijab

Giuliana Denicolo
Culture Editor

Editors note: This is a new feature brought to the culture section called Campus craze. Where we find people on campus with a unique aesthetic that ties together their personal style and culture.

Some Americans may view wearing a hijab as limiting. This Ferris student uses it to express her personal style and womanhood.

Belsem Aldiney, a pharmacy graduate student, proudly wears a hijab to break the stigma behind it. She began to wear a hijab early in her life because she was too excited to wait until her first period, as is tradition. Today, she incorporates her hijab into her everyday personal style. The meaning behind the hijab is important to Aldiney and she uses it as a way to look at and live her life.

"I wear the hijab because, in the Islam religion, you are supposed to be showing your beauty through your actions," Aldiney said. "I like to think that people like me because of my personality and what I do, not just because of my looks, but I still fashionize the hijab and I think it's pretty."

Aldiney is proud to wear her hijab because she gets to follow God's orders and respect herself and her beliefs. She likes that she gets to show her beauty in other ways and she "takes pride in people liking [her] without having to show [her] body,"

The rule for the hijab is that skin can be shown from the wrist and ankle down. Areas like your neck, hair, shoulders, arms and legs are supposed to be covered. However, it is up to the woman to decide how or if she wants to wear it. Wearing the hijab is "between you and God and no one else can judge you for it." In Islam, it's haram which means it's against the religion to force somebody to wear it.

Aldiney likes to express herself through fashion because covering up can sometimes make her feel insecure. When she dresses herself up, she feels pretty and in control. She also likes to show other Muslim women that wearing a hijab can be cute and not oppressive.

She uses accessories like purses and press-on nails to add to her outfits and sense of style. Press-on nails are a very "Islamic way to wear nails," according to Aldiney.

"When you're praying to God, you want

to make sure you're clean and presentable. So I will wear press-ons so that I'm able to wash my hands because you're supposed to get water on your nails," Aldiney said

The outfit with the yellow blazer is one of her favorites. Her uncles have a store in Iraq and over the summer styled and tailored the outfit for her to keep. Aldiney has also gotten many purses from her uncles store and she uses them in her everyday attire to spice up a look.

She gives credit to her uncles and her mother for inspiring her to dress how she does now. Her uncles were a part of her inspiration because they picked those outfits for her. Her mother is the "biggest fashionista ever" and since she grew up around that, getting dressed up was and always has been the norm for Aldiney.

"I wear the hijab because in the Islam religion, you are supposed to be showing your beauty through your actions"

In college in Iraq, you are never supposed to wear sweatpants. Dressing up professionally and fancy is a part of the culture. When Aldiney was in undergraduate school, she didn't follow that rule and her family didn't understand it. When her uncles came to visit, they desperately wanted to give her a fashion makeover. Now that she is in graduate school, she takes part in dressing up because it is what she was brought up in.

Aldiney likes to shop at stores like Marshall's, Burlington and Macy's. She loves her personal style and believes that beauty shows whether you're covered or not.

To see more of Aldiney's styled looks, check out the gallery linked in the online version of this article!

CAMPUS CRAZE



CAMPUS CRAZE

OUTFIT BREAKDOWN

Hijab
Belsem chooses her hijab based on her outfit of the day.


Yellow Blazer
To dress professional for the pharmacy program, Belsem wears bright colors to stand out

Gold Buttons
As a fan of gold, Belsem prefers pieces with a touch of gold detailing.

Belsem's Style

- Fancy
- Press-on nails
- Professional
- Stand-out
- Colorful
- Purses
- Heels

High Heels
To further her professional vibe, Belsem commonly wears heels with her outfits.



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant, Photo courtesy of Belsam Aldiney



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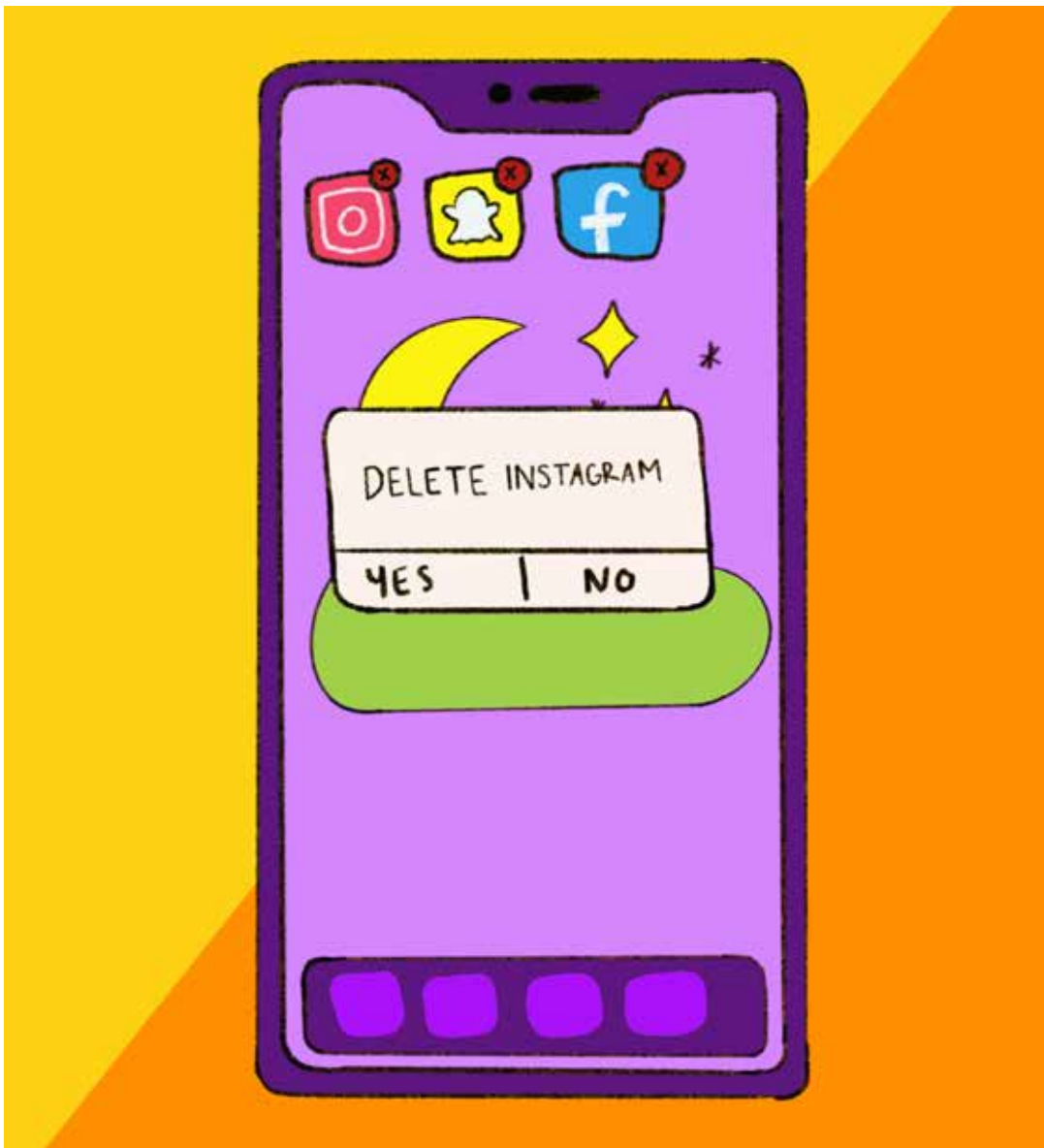
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Shutting off the screen

Charlie Buckel
Freelance Reporter

Social media is a constant in the lives of young adults. Coincidentally, this is the same age group that most Ferris students belong to. As high amounts of social media consumption become normalized, there is the question of how it affects users.

It is not uncommon to hear about celebrities, especially those around the college age, taking breaks from social media for their mental health. On Aug. 13, actor Tom Holland announced his break from social media, which he stated was due to the comments he read about himself online. The same principle can be applied to Ferris students.

In April, news broke about how harassment on YikYak, a social media app, led one Ferris student to attempt suicide. While this is an extreme case, it is an example of how what is posted and seen on social media can negatively affect one's mental and physical health.

Senior Rebecca Cole took a step back from engaging in social media because of how it made her feel.

"[Before], I would get a lot more upset about stuff, and then I realized that I needed to, like, take a step back sometimes," Cole said. "Sometimes it gets me upset, but I'm a lot better at realizing that and taking a step back now."

Cole isn't the only student who realized that, although it has some benefits, social media can make you feel negative.

"I think social media can be negative in a way. [For example], if you're seeing others having fun—let's say they're out in Florida or something—that can be sometimes hard on others," senior Adam Jason said. "But I think for the most part it's enjoyable, seeing what others are up to."

The way social media makes students feel can also be a bit of a distraction.

"I would still get, like, all my stuff done, and I was still doing everything that I needed to do, but I just wasn't as happy. I would let stuff get to me... when it didn't need to and honestly had no right to," Cole said.

Cole also said that social media sometimes made good days feel like they weren't actually good because social media "cast a cloud."

When it comes to dealing with social media's negative effects on one's mood and mental health, the best option seems to be to step back and focus on other things.

"I just turn the phone off and just kind of occupy myself with something else other than staring at the screen," Jason said.

Cole takes a similar approach.

"If social media is making me feel bad, I'll just turn it off and I'll go watch YouTube videos or read a book or something like that and not engage with [it] anymore," Cole said.

In May 2022, Healthline reported that just one week spent off social media could significantly improve one's mental health, citing a study done at the University of Bath. This study found that those who took a week-long break from social media had improved moods, improvements in symptoms of anxiety and depression and a better overall sense of well-being than those who did not.

So, while it may be tempting for students to spend their freetime scrolling through Twitter, TikTok or Instagram, it may be better to keep your mental health in mind and take a step back once in a while.



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The life behind college musicians



Maxwell Trotter (left) and Rob Malaski (right) will be playing at the homecoming tailgate on Sept. 24.

Photo by: Marissa Russel | Multimedia Editor

Openers for LANCO discuss modern day stardom

Marissa Russell
Multimedia Editor

A natural setting for most people would be going to work a job for eight hours. For Rob Malaski and Maxwell Trotter it is standing out in the parking lot of a tailgate playing music.

Ferris music entertainment seniors Malaski and Trotter started playing music together long before coming to Ferris. Malaski decided to come to Ferris when he heard about the music entertainment program which then influenced Trotter to come too. Trotter started out on the drums and Malaski on guitar and vocals but through the years Trotter started getting more diverse in playing instruments and he picked up singing along the way.

Since high school the two have played in various bands. It started with them playing with a friend of theirs where they called themselves The Flock. During their time at Ferris they had a band with an old roommate called Ives because they lived in a house on Ives St. When it comes to music the pair doesn't care who they play with as long as they get to play.

Opening for LANCO was one of the biggest shows the two have ever. The country band came to Ferris back in March for the yearly spring concert hosted by Entertainment Unlimited. Family and friends came out to watch the duo perform.

"We were in the back for like a half hour before the show started..., and we weren't nervous at all," Trotter said. "And then it was 10 minutes before we went on, and we're both sitting there not talking to each other, shaking. It was an experience. Normally when we play we don't get nervous, it's just what we do. But that was like one of the few times where we were like 'Oh my goodness. This is weird'."

Malaski explained that one of the reasons it was so weird for them was because it was a different setting than what they are used to. Normally people are walking around or sitting and having drinks. This was an actual show where people were sitting down and watching them because they were the entire entertainment.

The musicians get a lot of support, not only from friends and family but from their program also. Whenever the pair needs equipment for their shows or any other kind of help the music entertainment program is quick to jump in and help. This help has allowed these two to perfect the balancing act when it comes to school.

The biggest struggle they have had with school and music is finding time to be

able to record music because it takes a lot more time and effort than playing shows. Being picky is another issue they face. Trotter said they can record something one day and love it but hate it the next day.

Trotter added that they don't really rehearse much. If they don't have a show coming up, the two would rather spend their time focusing on their solo stuff.

When it comes to musical inspirations, Malaski's first choice would be his dad. Growing up Malaski watched him play everything. It was his father who started Malaski's music journey. After that Malaski looks up to Eric Church, Bob Seger and Johnny Cash.

Trotter had a different beginning in the music world.

"[Malaski] is one of my biggest influences just because like he taught me guitar and all that. He put me into like playing music and stuff like that," Trotter said.

It's tough to put Trotter and Malaski's music into one genre. Their style depends on where they are playing and the type of music the crowd is into, they play anything from country to rock to today's pop.

"Whenever anybody asks me that, I like to say I play anything between Johnny Cash and Beyoncé," Trotter said.

Exposure, authenticity and originality are all issues Trotter said they face as college musicians. College is a transitional time in people's lives, and it can be hard to zero in on what you want to do, how you want to sound and what ways you want to get out there. Even as a senior, Trotter is still working on trying to figure it out.

"It's a lot of just trying to figure out what the next step is too," Malaski said. "You get stuck doing certain things for a long time that you just, you want to expand, you want to get

better and do bigger opportunities and stuff but you have to be very patient."

With eight songs currently out, Malaski is a verified Spotify artist and has been publishing music on streaming services since 2020. His newest one, "Faded White Converse," came out March 27 right before their opening show for LANCO.

Most people that listen to Malaski's published work are the people closest to him. Very rarely will someone come up to him and say something about his music since not many people know he has music

out.

Trotter is hoping to be able to release some of his own music soon.

Ideally, both of them want to perform a career but at this time neither of them have any substantial plans after college other than to keep playing music on the side. Malaski will be graduating at the end of this semester and moving away so playing together will be tough. The pair has already started making plans for different events and places they will be able to play together after Malaski leaves.

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Opinions

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EDITORS COLUMN: *Find the fun in Big Rapids*

Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief

When I started at Ferris three scarily short years ago, I was here for the journalism program. I loved the small class sizes, the hands on opportunities at the Torch and the dedicated faculty that were bubbling with excitement to share their knowledge and experiences with me. The one thing I did not like, however, was Big Rapids.

What I once thought was a drab and boring town is now a place I find charming, and I'm proud to call it my college home. While we may not have every luxury that residents of larger towns like Grand Rapids may be accustomed to, Big Rapids has begun to modernize and adapt to the wants and needs of the college students that call it a temporary

home and to the residents who have put down roots here.

So far we've gotten services like DoorDash, Instacart and Bird Scooters, all of which make this town more welcoming and accessible to those who don't drive. DoorDash makes the interesting cuisine of the town accessible to all, while Instacart gets your groceries for when you feel like staying in for dinner.

Bird has given this car focused town something extraordinary: convenient, low-cost, zero emission transportation that's as easy as, well, riding a scooter. This service provides those who cannot drive, or just prefer not to drive, the access to town that they deserve. Bird scooters also make great urban exploring transportation!

Now that we've got some tech forward ways to access

the restaurants in town, what's actually out there? Big Rapids offers a wide range of cuisines that are all within a few miles. From Mediterranean, Chinese, Mexican, American, fast casual or fine dining, all can be found in town.

Once you're full and looking for something to do, Big Rapids has you covered there too. We are blessed to have the Muskegon River run right through town. This gorgeous water way offers not only a wide variety of recreational activities, but solitude in many of Big Rapids' luscious green parks. Whether you're dropping tubes in at Northend Riverside Park, or just catching some rays by the water at Hemlock Park, go enjoy our natural beauty.

If you're in the mood to go to some locally owned businesses, Big Rapids has many to offer. If

you're after an experience, The Purple Door has got you covered. Opening just over a year ago, The Purple Door is one of only 20 places to go axe throwing in the state. They offer eight different throwing stages and take everyone from first timers to seasoned pros.

If you're after something a bit less physically involved, Artworks is for you. Artworks is a jack of all trades, hosting a gift shop, gallery and teaching studio. Here you can view, buy or learn how to create magnificent art.

Don't dread your homework free weekends in Big Rapids, go explore the town Ferris calls home. We're going to be here for awhile, so why not take some time to slow down and fall in love with the town.

The problem with Ferris move ins

Ferris needs to allow students to move in sooner

Jonathon Hart
News Reporter

As an incoming freshmen, last week was overwhelming to say the least.

I had to move in, find my classes, meet new people at social events and figure out what I could and couldn't do around campus. This has been a big change for everyone in my position, as this is much different from what we all know, which is simply living at home and going to high school.

Every college has different availability for students to move in. Some have a full week or more available for students, while others only offer two or three days. Then, there's a select few that allow students to only move in the day before classes start.

Ferris gave students a few move in options. If you are playing a sport this fall, you were able to move in early, as practices began before move in weekend. Special circumstances could also warrant an early move in if housing was contacted. They would

then let you move in on Aug. 25, while everyone else had to move in on Aug. 26-28.

A drastic change like starting college is complicated enough, the last thing you want to do is rush it, which is exactly what such little move-in time does. Ferris had specific time slots for move in that students had to choose from, which may have caused more stress for people, especially those who live further away.

It can be challenging to move to a new place for some people. There's a lot one has to adjust to, such as a new bed, schedule, appliances and even new roommates or neighbors that are basically strangers. Some students will need more time than others to transition into the college lifestyle and living arrangements.

As I've mentioned, the time slots for move-in provided by Ferris can be crushing and very difficult to schedule around.

I think there could be some all around benefits for an extension for move in.

If Ferris allowed us to move in even just a week sooner, that

would give us a full week to settle in and meet people under calmer circumstances. Also, the RA's would be able to set up more events and get more participation from their residents.

Believe me, I loved all the events Ferris did during move-in weekend. But because so many of them were going on at the same time, you had to pick and choose what

you wanted to do most. If the events were spread out just a little more, it would give everyone more time to check out all the different activities Ferris has to offer.

As things currently are, some students already feel like they have too much pressure on them, and classes just started.



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production assistant

Unnecessary revisions



The updated sign outside of the newly named David L. Eisler Center.

Photo by: Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor

Why the re-naming of the University Center is rushed and controversial

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

On June 29, the board of trustees voted to rename the University Center the David L. Eisler Center after David Eisler, Ferris' longest tenured president, retired.

The use of Eisler's name on a campus building, part of campus or some facet of Ferris was inevitable, however, the immediate renaming of the University Center right after his retirement is unnecessary.

Eisler became somewhat of a controversial figure in his twilight years at Ferris. His elusiveness from the media, lack of communication with faculty and the fact that it was his administration's substandard performance that caused the Ferris Faculty Association strike in 2018 are loud examples of him not deserving this.

In a Facebook post, one displeased individual described the change as a "smack in the face" to the professors and faculty who went on strike in 2018.

As previously reported in the Torch, Professor John Caserta raised his concerns with Eisler during the 2018 strike.

"The faculty are very angry that we have a president who will not negotiate and forces us to do this," Caserta said. "We're not asking for a lot of money; what we are asking for is a fair wage. We have faculty who live paycheck to paycheck. This is really detrimental, it hurts our families, it hurts students."

For a long time as well, the only communication the FFA could get from Eisler came from his lawyers.

On top of this, many forget that Eisler nearly left Ferris in 2012.

According to MLive, Eisler was seriously considered for the president position at Northern Kentucky University. Eisler withdrew his bid to Northern Kentucky, but it doesn't exactly look great now when you name a building after someone who was publicly thinking about an exit ten years ago.

There is also some outrage towards the board of trustees, rather than Eisler.

Before it was the David L. Eisler Center, it

was the University Center. Before that, it was the Rankin Student Center. Multiple individuals, seemingly from the Rankin family, were upset with the change.

One notable claim comes from Robert and Don Rankin.

"After the renovation [of the University Center], my brother Don and I visited President Eisler and asked why [our father's] name was removed," Robert Rankin wrote. "He said it was now policy not to name buildings after people. I guess that policy has changed."

Robert Rankin added that it was his father's "greatest honor in his life."

In a separate comment, Don confirmed Robert's story while questioning the character of Eisler and the board of trustees.

The Rankin name would've been removed in late 2014 when the center's renovations finished. That "policy" was

seemingly more of a "rule of thumb," considering the thumb was broken a convenient eight years after it was allegedly established. If the Rankin's testimonies are true, it makes no sense on Eisler's behalf. The choice to remove the Rankin name, while not touching any other buildings, is particularly damning.

Under Eisler, the FLITE library and North Hall were constructed. The "policy" is intact for those buildings. In 2014, the Rankin Center was under renovations, not a full-on build.

So what gives? They renovate the center and drop the name, but eight years later find it a good retirement gift for Eisler and decide to put a name back on it?

The name change of the University Center stands as incredibly rushed at best, but the man it was named after is seemingly undeserved at worst.

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Sports

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Football begins title defense



Quarterback Mylik Mitchell led the Bulldogs in rushing with 34 yards and a touchdown during their 36-20 victory over Central Washington.

Photo: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

The Bulldogs beat Central Washington to begin 2022 season

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

As reigning national champions, Ferris football entered the 2022 season in unfamiliar territory.

Their first ever title defense game pitted them against a 2021 playoff team in Central Washington. Ferris beat the Wildcats 62-28 back in 2019.

On Thursday, Sept. 1, the Bulldogs accrued 13 penalties for 119 yards, the most penalties in a game for Ferris since they had 16 in Week 6 against Grand Valley last year. While the game was not as clean as the Bulldogs had hoped, head coach Tony Annese made sure to give credit to their opponents' tenacity.

"There are 28 teams that make the playoffs in Division II, and they were one of them last year," Annese said. "I thought they played really hard and made it tough on us."

Unlike last year's scheme that emphasized the run game, the Bulldogs focused on throwing the football early and often in the contest. After three scoreless drives to begin the game, Mylik Mitchell delivered

a pass through the hands of a Wildcat defender and into the arms of senior receiver Xavier Wade for a 64-yard touchdown.

Central Washington responded on the following drive with a touchdown pass of their own, which was set up by a personal foul on Ferris to give the Wildcats a first down. The Bulldogs finished the game with four 15-yard personal foul penalties.

On the ensuing possession, after going down 10-7, Ferris settled in offensively with an eight play, 78-yard scoring drive, which was capped off on an 11-yard jet sweep for a touchdown by Marcus Taylor. The defense forced a short Wildcat punt, setting up a run-heavy drive, resulting in their third touchdown of the night eight plays later. It was Evan Cummins who found the endzone on a third-and-goal quarterback run, but freshman Eddie Jewett missed the extra point. The Wildcats added a field goal before the half to cut Ferris' lead to 13-10.

Ferris forced a punt to start the second half, and the offense took over. Mitchell completed all three of his passes for 54 yards, James Coby added 13 rushing yards and Mitchell ran a two-yard touchdown in

to give Ferris a 20-10 lead.

"They were playing two high safeties most of the game, so we got some RPO's going to get guys in space," Mitchell said on the second half adjustments. "We just took advantage of what they were giving us."

The Bulldog defense locked down the Wildcats the rest of the way. Central Washington finished with 115 yards and seven points on eight drives in the second half. Ferris registered seven plays for negative yards, including four sacks.

"I think we didn't play up to our standards, starting off the game as a defense," Olarere Oladipo said. "We came out in the second half and brought pain to Central Washington."

Ferris added an insurance touchdown later in the fourth quarter, courtesy of a fourth down run by redshirt freshman quarterback Carson Gulker.

Mitchell led the Bulldogs with 339 yards passing, completing 19 of 29 attempts and adding one touchdown. Mitchell also led Ferris with 34 yards rushing and a score on 18 attempts. Taylor added 31 yards and a touchdown, while Emari

O'Brien and Coby added 30 and 24 yards, respectively. Tyrese Hunt-Thompson paced the Bulldogs with 97 receiving yards on six catches, followed by Wade with four catches for 94 yards and CJ Jefferson with 87 yards on three receptions. Jewett went 0 for 1 on field goal attempts and converted four of five extra points.

"We had the ball a lot, having 83 plays to their 58. We had a lot of negative yardage plays, but I'm not discouraged by our offense," Annese said.

On the defensive side, Konnor Near led Ferris with six total tackles, followed by Major Dedmond with five and Caleb Murphy and Jason Williams who each added four. Tayvon Hughes registered 1.5 sacks on the night, and Dedmond added the other 0.5. Oladipo and Jovan Bayless added one sack each. Jacarvis Alexandre registered two pass break ups, while Vince Cooley and Ade Kilpatrick added one.

"This defense should be lights out for us," Annese said. "We will lean on them until we feel comfortable on offense."

The Bulldogs will travel to Hickory, North Carolina to face 22nd-ranked Lenoir-Rhyne on Saturday, Sept. 10 at 1 p.m.

Rookie no more

Bradley Marek was destined to be a Bulldog

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

Bradley Marek and Ferris hockey were seemingly destined to meet ever since Marek started skating back when he was a child.

Since then, he's won CCHA Rookie of the Year and a spot on the CCHA All Rookie team.

Marek, a Big Rapids native who is entering his second season with the Bulldogs, had many hockey influences growing up. His father played hockey for Ferris, and his cousin played junior hockey in British Columbia.

"Hockey has been around my life forever," Marek said. "It's always something that just came kind of second nature to me, and it's been a huge part of my life. Whether it's been through school and just getting away and clearing the head or just realizing you have a dream."

Marek's hockey journey began when his parents put him in the sport at the age of four. Later in his career, he traveled down to Grand Rapids to play travel hockey until he was 15. After travel hockey, Marek began his stint in the United States Hockey League (USHL). He moved around from Bloomington, Illinois to Youngstown, Ohio. Eventually, he returned to Michigan to play for the Muskegon Lumberjacks.

After his time in the USHL, Marek got the offer he had been waiting for.

"He had the opportunity to play at other universities and declined because he was really waiting for the opportunity for Ferris

to come forward with an offer. He was incredibly thrilled that they did," Marek's mother, Danielle Martin, said. "He signed his letter of intent on what would have been his grandfather's birthday. Everything about it felt right, and we've been so happy with his experience here and what he's been able to accomplish."

In his first year with the Bulldogs, Marek tallied 19 points in 36 games. He also led the team with seven power-play goals.

Marek established a strong connection with all his teammates, but he specifically mentioned how senior forward Brenden MacLaren took him under his wing.

MacLaren described Marek as humble and very inviting, and he told a story that demonstrates Marek's pride as a Bulldog.

"We were playing Canisius in Buffalo last year," MacLaren said. "We had lost Friday night's game, and we were on a little bit of a skid. Our leadership group and us all had a meeting together at the hotel, and he was the one and only freshmen that spoke up during that meeting. He was saying how we all have to play with more passion and actually want to be there and represent Ferris as a winning team and that we shouldn't be okay with losing. He said that all he wanted growing up was to play for Ferris."

As an unexpected first round exit from the CCHA playoffs dashed any hope for a run, the Bulldogs entered their offseason. For Marek, the offseason included an invitation to the Arizona Coyotes' development camp.

"It was a great experience," Marek

said. "I learned a bunch from each one of their coaches... From the nutrition side of things to different skating styles from their skating coach."

Marek was very honored and thankful to those who helped get him to the development camp. Marek also added that, although he was used to everything hockey, he couldn't help getting giddy from being at a professional rink and seeing NHL players.

Marek spoke heavily on the support he received growing up, mentioning that his mother worked more than one job to make sure he was able to keep playing hockey.

Marek's mother was taken aback by the fact that he had even mentioned the work

she put in.

"The fact that he even mentioned [me] speaks to his caliber of a person and his appreciation for what others have done for him along the way," Martin said. "He could have just said, 'Oh, I worked hard,' but the fact that he didn't makes me really proud as a mom."

Marek's humility and pride distinguishes him as a Bulldog. On top of this, he maintains a level of competitiveness. If the entirety of the CCHA was in a room with Marek, he tell them to, "Just be ready. We're coming."



Bradley Marek is entering his second season with the Bulldogs after a promising freshman season.

Photo courtesy of Bradley Marek



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Soccer records first win

Joseph Nagy
Sports Reporter

The Bulldogs ended their two-game losing streak to start the season with a win over Walsh on Sunday, Sept. 4.

Ferris (1-2-0, ranked #17 nationally) recorded a 2 - 0 win. Both goals came from Isabella Zamborini in the first half of play.

"It just feels great. I know the team's been waiting to put one up there," Zamborini said. "It was a good one for us. I think we're ready to come in strong next week."

Zamborini described the game as "rough and tough" and noted the battle did not end until the match did.

Ferris put 21 shots on Walsh's goalkeeper while also playing a strong defense, allowing only five shots from Walsh.

"It's a game that we came out wanting to establish the pace and keep possession," head coach Greg Henson said. "I thought we did a really good job with that in the first half. It resulted in us getting a couple of goals on the board which was huge."

Henson noted there were some things the Bulldogs needed to clean up in what he deemed a "sluggish" second half.

"We got that monkey off our back. We got the win today. Now we have to focus on the conference," Henson said. "We get Grand Valley right off the bat. It's a big test for us but we have them here and we look to come out strong and give them a good showing and a good game."

Before picking up their first win of the season, Ferris lost to Ashland in their home opener on Friday, Sept. 2.

A hard-fought, defensive slugfest left the

Bulldogs on the wrong side of the scoreboard in a 1-0 game against the Eagles.

After coming home from what should have been a three-game, season-opening road trip (only one game was played due to weather), the Bulldogs faced a challenging opponent in Ashland, who, like Ferris, made it to the national tournament a year ago.

Ferris had no problem letting the ball fly, adding 16 shots before the final whistle compared to 12 for Ashland. However, of those 16 shots, only three were on frame, which gave Ashland's goaltender Brianna Rogers little adversity in front of the net.

"We just have to get more shots on frame. I don't think we tested their goalkeeper at all today," Henson said. "We have to figure out how to make the possession turn into offensive chances."

Despite the defense holding the Eagles to fewer total shots, it did not take long after halftime for the scoring to open up. Ashland's McKinley Meddenhall found the back of the net after a scrambling sequence of shots just five minutes into the second half.

The Bulldogs were unable to even the score at the final whistle. Eight players from Ferris found themselves on the box score with at least a shot a piece. Senior Brinley Bell led the team with four shots on her own, followed by Jessie Bandyk and Avery Comartin with three shots each, and Zamborini ended the contest with two shots.

This early season test gave the Bulldogs a chance to find their footing before conference play. Not to mention a network of players who can make a difference once



Nikki May throws the ball in during the Bulldogs' victory.

Photo: Mariana Searl | Photographer

they return healthy from the injured list. "Hopefully we can get a few more legs back and a few more players back off of the Injured Reserve list. But really the focus for us is really just to move forward and take steps forward," Henson said. Ferris will take on its biggest rival in

Grand Valley at home next week Friday at 4 p.m.

Opinions Editor Dylan Rider contributed to the reporting of this piece.



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