



The Ferris State Torch

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Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of September 21-27, 2022

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A summer of innovation

The 2022 Summer Research Fellows present student research

Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief

Rather than relaxing and soaking up the sun for four months, the 2022 Summer Research Fellows spent their break rolling up their sleeves and getting to work.

The SRF program promotes the diversity of the student body by offering research opportunities to underrepresented students in a vast array of disciplines. This year that mission was hallmarked by a day of student presentations led by only women, a first in the program's history.

Gathering in the Founder's room on Friday, Sept. 16, eight of the summer research fellows took the physical or virtual stage to show off what they worked on this summer.

To start the day of innovation off, University President Dr. Bill Pink took the stage to share his excitement and enthusiasm for what these students have accomplished.

"I'm always in for a party," Pink said. "If we can celebrate each other and we can celebrate what we're doing. Count me in. I'm here... At this university, it's not just about the incredible education that we provide. We also have that focus on research and finding out the why."

While STEM fields did make an appearance, that wasn't all the day had to offer. Presentations ranged from the building construction technologies program to communication, business administration, architecture and sustainability and social work.

Zaria Dankins, a junior studying building construction technologies presented a lab she piloted over the summer. Dankins saw a hole in her education and decided to take that into her own hands and create a lab to fix the hole.

"The whole purpose of the project was to create a beautiful transformation and to gain hands-on construction experience,"



Photo by: Jessica Oakes | News Editor

Junior building construction technologies major Zaria Dankins presents her summer home renovation project.

Dankins said. "That's why we came up with the renovation and restoration investment lab pilot."

Dankins saw that her curriculum was primarily commercial based and didn't spend time talking about renovation, something she'd love to know how to do herself.

STEM wasn't left out, though. Caitlin Coppess, a junior studying applied mathematics, managed not only to reach her goal of extending an existing methodology from 1D to 3D but to do so with a .01% relative error rate.

"It's super hard to get a relative error that low," Coppess said. "I was using their methodology, but to be able to extend it and work with it and then be able to get good results on it was super satisfying."

After the morning of presentations concluded, guests were ushered to the nearby ballroom to see all of the work done by the fellows. This also gave the presenters some time to reflect on what it meant to be a woman in their fields.

Brooke Meheny, a recent graduate of the architecture and sustainability program, presented her research on various methodologies for social impact on communities. Meheny was thankful for the opportunity to gain experience in her field so early on.

"It was beneficial being a woman out in the field, getting real-life experience doing architecture, especially since in architecture women are coming up in it... but it's a male-dominated profession," Meheny said.

Jessica LaGrand, a returning student in the communication studies program, first attended Ferris 40 years ago. She was excited to see the full panel of female presenters and loves what it could mean for the future.

"At this university, it's not just about the incredible education that we provide. We also have that focus on research and finding out the why."

"It's so impactful for me... to be able to come back and help out with a project like this, that's keeping the students at the forefront, is really important," LaGrand said. "Forty years ago, I didn't really have a voice. This opportunity, coming back after so long, makes me feel like I have a voice because of this type of research that Ferris has taken, this discourse analysis, and trying to figure out what we can do better with relationships between the faculty and students, is something that wasn't present when I was here before."

Those interested in learning more about each and every SRF project can find more information here, and anyone feeling inspired to take their shot can start applying for the 2023 session in January.

News Editor Jessica Oakes contributed to the reporting of this story.



Photo by: Noah Kurkjian | Editor in Chief

Architecture and sustainability graduate Brook Meheny gained real life experience as a Summer Research Fellow.

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News

Jessica Oakes | News Editor | oakesj3@ferris.edu

WEDNESDAY, 21ST

21

Everything 'The Office'

7 p.m. Brian Baumgartner and Oscar Nuñez tell stories from their hit show in Williams Auditorium.

9 p.m. Brian Baumgartner hosts a 'Seriously Good Chili Cookbook' book signing in Williams Auditorium.

THURSDAY, 22ND

22

Ferris Outfitters Fall Fashion Show

11 a.m. See new fall fashion and a custom t-shirt presentation over light refreshments at the David L. Eisler Center. Attendees have the chance to win a \$25 Ferris Outfitters gift card or an Apple Watch.

FRIDAY, 23RD

23

2022 Fall Reunion

5:30 p.m. Golden Eagle class of 1972 celebrates their 50th Class Reunion at the David L. Eisler Center in room 202.

Black Alumni and Student Mixer

7 p.m. OMSS, FSU Black Alumni Association, Black Greek Council and students mingle and network over games in David L. Eisler Center 016.

Homecoming Pep Rally

8 p.m. Students gather for games, food and giveaways in lot 6G.

SATURDAY, 24TH

24

Homecoming Tailgate

11 a.m. Ferris state Greek life, OMSS, Ferris Outfitters and the College of Arts, Sciences and Education are among the numerous tents set up to celebrate Homecoming 2022 in the IRC parking lot.

Homecoming Parade

12 p.m. Grand Marshals Matt and Melissa Bissett are featured in the annual homecoming parade, kicking off on Michigan Avenue.

Football vs. Waldorf

3 p.m. The undefeated Bulldogs play the Waldorf University Vikings at Top Taggart.

SUNDAY, 25TH

25

Homecoming Alumni and Student Brunch

11 a.m. OMSS and FSU Black Alumni Association host a free, RSVP only brunch buffet in the David L. Eisler Center ballrooms.

Ferris Homecoming Week Schedule



Libby Montgomery

Meet the ambassadors

Students can vote under
"forms" on Bulldog
connect

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Secondary education junior Libby Montgomery is representing Ferris' Zeta Omega chapter of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

"It's all about pride," Montgomery said about being the first Zeta homecoming ambassador candidate in recent years. As the ZTA Sunshine Chairman, she sees this as a fun opportunity to represent the organization that helped her gain confidence and become the person she is today.

"I think this is a really great honor," Montgomery said. "I would love to represent Ferris students because I am diehard Bulldog."

A graduate of Big Rapids High School,

Montgomery has childhood memories of attending the very parade she will be in this Saturday. This full circle experience shows her that "you never know where life will take you."

"I was looking through photo albums with my mom the other day, and there were pictures of me and my cousin and my little brother in first grade at the parade," Montgomery said. "We're in front of the old JC Penny building and here comes all the people, the cars, the band and the cheerleaders."

Aside from the parade and football game, Montgomery is most looking forward to becoming friends with her opposing candidate.

Dental hygiene junior Hazelle Williams is representing Ferris' Delta Zeta chapter of the Sigma Gamma Rho sorority.

"We are back and we're ready to make a great impact here in Big Rapids," Williams said about representing her chapter after its 21 year absence from campus. As chapter president, Williams truly feels that she has been given an opportunity to be a "voice for change."

In order to be the best candidate she can be, Williams pays close attention to her public image. She wants to represent her organization in a positive light. She believes Ferris wants a student who is involved on campus takes the time to establish connections.



Hazelle Williams

Through her work with the Office of Multicultural Student Services and the Real Life Campus Ministry Worship Team, Williams has formed a strong network of people in the Ferris community.

"It's only together that we can achieve greatness," Williams said. "Everyone gets to come together under this multicultural umbrella and strive for greatness together."

Williams is most excited to ride in a convertible in this Saturday's parade. She hopes to keep the connection she has formed with her opponent, saying they can "call on [each other] for anything."

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

More than 1,000 alleged sexual abuse survivors are set to receive \$490 million from the University of Michigan.

The university finalized the settlement on Friday, requiring consent from 98% of claimants who alleged they had been abused by the late U-M physician and team doctor Robert Anderson.

Board of Regents Chair Paul Brown said in a statement that the university hopes the settlement "helps the healing process for survivors."

"Our work is not done until U-M is considered the leader in creating a campus environment that is safe for everyone," Brown said.

The released statement also explained that U-M has no role in how the \$490 million will be divided. This process is left to claimants and their lawyers.

Anderson worked at U-M from 1966 to 2003. His positions included associate physician, team physician, director of University Health Services and senior physician.

Complaints about Anderson's conduct began in 1975, when team wrestler Tad DeLuca sent a letter to coach Bill Johannesen and Athletic Director Don Canham, saying "[Anderson] always makes you drop your drawers."

An attempt to fire Anderson in 1980 was overruled, and he became senior physician in 1981. No additional survivors came forward before Anderson's retirement in 2003 or death in 2008.

It wasn't until 2020, two years after DeLuca's second letter, when the university asked former students who may have been abused to reach out to a compliance hotline.

Five months later, the first female survivor came forward publicly. In May 2021, WilmerHale law firm released a report with information from over 800 people, 600 of which were former patients, revealing that U-M officials knew of Anderson's abuse.

According to a U-M campus safety report, nearly 1,200 rapes reported to the university last year were somehow tied to Anderson's abuse.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Last Wednesday, billionaire Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard announced his plan to give away the company to fight climate change.

While the company will still function as a for-profit business, every dollar it receives will be used "to fight the environmental crisis, protect nature and biodiversity, and support thriving communities," according to an official statement.

Patagonia is an outdoor clothing company worth \$3 billion. With an estimated net worth of \$1.2 billion, Chouinard, 83, declared, "Earth is our only shareholder." The Chouinard family donated 2% of Patagonia's stock and decision-making powers to the Patagonia Purpose trust in order to maintain the company's mission and values. The remaining 98% is set to go to the Holdfast Collective non-profit.

"Instead of 'going public,' you could say we're 'going purpose,'" Chouinard said in the statement. "Instead of extracting value from nature and trans-

forming it into wealth for investors, we'll use the wealth Patagonia creates to protect the source of all wealth."

Charles Conn, Patagonia's board chair, wrote in Fortune magazine that the company is "turning shareholder capitalism on its head." As a 501(c)(4), Holdfast Collective can make unlimited political donations and does not receive income-tax deductions. The transfer of shares will cost Chouinard \$17.5 million in gift taxes.

Some believe he is not fully altruistic. Devon Pendleton and Ben Steverman wrote in Bloomberg that Chouinard "skirted" the \$700 million in taxes he would have owed if he sold the company traditionally.



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Let's taco 'bout Ferris

SGA and President Pink interact with students over walking tacos

Jonathen Hart
News Reporter

On Thursday, Sept. 16, Ferris students were treated to free walking tacos and the chance to talk with President Bill Pink.

Student Government Association President MaeLynn Huhn created this event for the students to get more people familiar with Pink.

"This is an event to get students acquainted with the president and student government and to get more information around campus on what we do throughout the year," Huhn said.

During this event, students learned a myriad of things about the president.

"In interviewing Pink, we ask him a few fun questions, and he said his favorite foods were Mexican and tacos, so this was two birds with one stone. We also liked the play on words," Huhn said.

Huhn and Pink enjoyed collaborating for this event, but right now there aren't any future events in the works.

"Look forward to more events with Dr. Pink and SGA. It is a possibility you could see us work together again soon. Right now, we are wanting to give more information on what SGA is as a whole," Huhn said.

Staff Sgt. Maxwell Neubauer and Staff Sgt. Bradley Plaska were also able to have a meaningful conversation with Pink.

"He is doing outstanding. I like that he's on the scene," Neubauer said. "It shows that he is invested in the school, and he doesn't shy away

from anyone. [That is] something Ferris has lacked in my opinion for a few years."

Being a member of ROTC in his youth, the program means a lot to the president.

"We were talking to him about the ROTC group and about him coming out and talking to the recruiters," Plaska said. "Pink used to do high school ROTC, so he wants to continue the tradition of bringing more people into the program for the sake of our country."

Pink has enjoyed being present at events and interacting with students throughout his first weeks at Ferris.

"I do these events because I want to be a social president," Pink said. "I want to be a president people can connect to. I have gotten to meet so many students the past three weeks, and it has been exhilarating."

One way he meets students is via golf cart, which he often rides through campus.

"Every time I end a conversation with students, I tell them if you see me on the go cart and need a ride, let me know I will take you there," Pink said. "I also love giving people Starbucks gift cards because I know most of our students survive on caffeine to get through the day."

Pink isn't stopping the fun anytime soon.

"I told my team we are going to drive kids to class in the winter also because that's when they are going to need it the most, and if we have to we will bring a mini heater," Pink said.

View the campus calendar for future SGA events.



Photo by: Mariana Searl | Torch Photographer

Students made walking tacos provided by the Student Government Association.

Local bar showcased in art gallery

A "humanizing" exhibit in Ferris' Fine Arts Gallery



Photo by: Meghan Hartley | News Reporter

Artist Jason Swearingen presented his "Last Call" photo gallery.



Photo by: Meghan Hartley | News Reporter

The Big Rapids community viewed Swearingen's work in the Fine Arts Gallery.

Meghan Hartley
News Reporter

Jason Swearingen's "Last Call, Schuberg's Bar & Grill" photo gallery encapsulates the stories of workers and patrons as the night closes.

Swearingen, an audio/visual technician for Ferris' Information Technology Services department, opened the exhibit in Ferris' Fine Arts Gallery on Sept. 5. The photographs display the last few hours of work during the last call at Big Rapid's own Schuberg's. The last call is an announcement made shortly before the bar closes for the night.

Swearingen has been taking photographs of those "small moments" since he was 16 years old as a creative outlet. He says he enjoys taking "the candid shot" in tableau, when people are able to find their light, and Schuberg's offered him just what he needed.

Schuberg's is also Swearingen's third place. Swearingen describes the idea that everyone has three special places to them. The first place is their home, the second is their work and the third is a place to not deal with stress.

"The idea of a third place is that it's so egalitarian," Swearingen said. "Anybody can participate in it. It's based on conversation. There's a lot of psychology involved in it, and it doesn't get any more nostalgic than Schuberg's in Big Rapids."

Swearingen said the great thing about third places is that you can go a week without stepping into the place, and once you return everyone is happy to see you again, like no time was lost. He jokingly said that if he didn't show up at home or at his job, he would end up divorced and jobless.

Swearingen has found Schuberg's to be

the place where the community gathers together, even noting that Ferris Alumni mention the bar and grill when they come back into town. Third places, like bars, have always interested Swearingen. For Schuberg's, he says it doesn't matter what your social status is. It's a place that's open to everyone.

"That's the great thing about third places, it's like a concept," Swearingen said. "There's a thing that gives us a tie to the community, and Schuberg's has been that tie for so many people."

Swearingen talked about how the bar has become a place where anyone is welcome and how it's a great place to chat because the topics are endless.

Kaleb, an English undergraduate student, attended the exhibit and found the photographs humanizing. He said the photos allowed viewers to think about the individuals who work in restaurants and the hardships they go through.

"Personally, I really don't like working at restaurants," Kaleb said. "The people in these photos, they're willing to do the work that nobody else is going down to do. Why do you think they do it? That's the kind of question going through my head. Why would you want to work? That also makes you think about the kind of atmosphere that people can create."

Trinity Williams, Swearingen's wife and Associate Dean for the College of Arts, Sciences and Education, has been involved in the gallery for the past 18 years. Although Williams can not speak directly for students, she hopes there is an impact on them when they come to see the art on display.

The Fine Arts Gallery brings in new exhibits a few times a year for both the public and students to enjoy for free. The current exhibit featuring Swearingen's photographs will be on display until Oct. 28.

Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

College success skills

Six skills you need to navigate your way through college

Kylah Robinson
Culture Reporter

The Office of Multicultural Student Services invited Kappa Alpha Psi member and college success coach Jahquan Hawkins to present a chapter called “How Strong Is Your Squad” from his book “Finding My Way: A Practical Guide to College Success” on Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Business Building.

OMSS Assistant Director Darnell Lewis created this event to help students learn strategies that will help them navigate their college journeys.

“Knowing your squad helps you evaluate who’s on your team because your team can help motivate you or your team can hinder you from growing as an individual,” Lewis said.

During the event, Hawkins took a different approach to his presentation by first going around the room and asking for every student’s name, major, year and their

reason for coming to his event so that he could engage with them all.

Something that Hawkins wanted the audience and all college students to remember was that if they leave with questions, then he hasn’t fulfilled his purpose.

Hawkins then started to present his key to getting through college, which was his list of six college success skills. Hawkins learned each of these skills during his time in college, and he wanted to share the information with other college students.

The first one is to remember your why. This question lets you ask yourself why you chose the college path. When going through hard times during the semester, remembering this question is a way to make you feel better.

“Nobody’s why is silly because it’s yours, and the degree is going to have your name on it... so you might as well own this process,” Hawkins said.

The second skill is to make smart deci-

sions when choosing your college. Think about the school that is best for you and works with your preferred major, instead of the ones with the parties or popularity. The third college success skill is to manage your squad. A squad represents the important people in your life.

According to Hawkins, a way to evaluate your squad is to figure out what needs to be sold, bought or traded.

“What selling and trading means is that the relationship you might have with that person evolves and you put that person in their proper place with or for you,” Hawkins said. “... Buying is figuring out what players on your team are you going to buy more stock in to play on your team.”

The fourth and fifth skills are to be active on campus and to pay it forward. Be apart of something that is bigger than you. To leave your mark on campus, you must share information and experiences with other people to empower or inspire them.

The last skill that Hawkins wanted

everyone to leave with is to let yourself be great. According to Hawkins, students often do not give themselves the opportunity to be great because they blame others for their lack of greatness.

Hawkins gave this advice on how to let yourself be great.

“Despite the things that don’t work out in your favor, you still have to take that as an empowerment opportunity that allows you to be great,” Hawkins said. “That’s what defines you because we don’t learn from perfect people. We learn from imperfect individuals who took a lesson that looked like a loss and turned it into a positive.”

Hawkins’ life goal is to advise students on how to overcome themselves, their doubt and fear. He always strives to help students become the best versions of themselves. To do that, you have to take every opportunity there is, and use it to the best of your ability.

SIX
TIPS FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS

1. Remember your why.
2. Make smart decisions when choosing your college.
3. Managing your squad.
4. Be active on campus.
5. Pay it forward.
6. Let yourself be great.

Graphic by Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

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POP CULTURE: *Take a joke*

Twitter's habit of turning jokes into lectures



Charlie Buckel
Freelance Reporter

It is inevitable that when something catches the attention of those on Twitter, people will make jokes about it. It is also inevitable that some people will react negatively to that joke. This often results in debates that draw in online spectators and more commenters.

Witnessing these debates is sometimes the highlight of my time on Twitter.

Most of the time, these debates are over trivial matters, but it's not uncommon for this to happen around serious topics, starting meaningful conversations in the process. This was apparent after the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

When the Queen passed away, I saw countless jokes about how she wasn't going to heaven, or about how Princess Diana was waiting for her to arrive so she could fight her. Honestly, I laughed at a few. One tweet even showed an Irish stadium singing, "Liz-zie's in a box."

Of course, there were also those who took issue with such statements, saying that the dead should be respected because she was a good person who did her job well.

Those who rushed to the Queen's defense were often met with the fact that Queen Elizabeth II was the figurehead of a nation that has colonized more than any other nation on the planet. While she had no direct ability to enact laws or make decisions, the Queen never advocated for the independence of any of the lands that were under British influence during her reign.

I also witnessed controversy over the casting of Halle Bailey, a Black actress, in the new adaptation of "The Little Mermaid." Many people on Twitter were saying that the role should have gone to a white actress, since the character in the animated movie was white.

This led to many others making jokes saying that those who were mad about the casting were arguing about the race of a fish and that mermaids weren't actually real. The backlash against these jokes was met with examples of many non-white characters who were played by white actors. Twitter users brought up Johnny Depp, who played Tonto, a Native American in "The Lone Ranger," and Scarlett Johansson, who played a character who was originally Japanese.

Closer to home, earlier this year

when former Ferris professor Barry Mehler went viral on the internet, there were jokes by those on Twitter about how he was on drugs or that he was going crazy.

The reaction to those jokes turned into a debate on how professors should act. Some said that he could've critiqued university policy without cursing at students, while others felt this was a good, teachable moment and that students would pay more attention to grand gestures, rather than something toned down.

Twitter, and if we're being honest social media in general, has this way of making people want to argue. Whether it's because they actually want to be right about something, or because they think it will help them gain attention and followers. Usually, it just makes them look stupid.

There are also times when the arguments turn into learning experiences. Maybe, with all of the time we spend on social media, we should sit back and read that thread about how unnecessary monarchies are, even if it did start with a joke about Princess Diana locking the gates of heaven before the Queen could get there.

Graphic by Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

T-shirt press
demonstration.

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The life of an RA

Get to know the people living down the hall

Jonathen Hart
News Reporter

The life of a residential advisor can be a crazy, yet fun, experience for all, but don't let the fun fool you, being an RA is a lot of work.

While students are enjoying the last few weeks of their summer, RAs are here on campus, preparing everything and getting ready for incoming students.

RAs normally move in during the second week of August, usually on a Wednesday or Thursday. They get a weekend to unpack, relax and get to know the other staff members before their training begins.

The next Monday they start training from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. They don't finish up training until the day before move-in weekend. On this weekend, they get to work on their forms and halls and do self care. While working on their halls, they have to decorate themed bulletin boards that let residents learn about them and other campus resources.

RAs also have a special task called Duty Nights, which is when two RAs have to stay in their hall from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. While on duty, they are responsible for handling any noise complaints or other serious issues. Each RA has to pick one day a week to be available for duty. RA's also

have Duty Weekend, which is one full weekend where they have to put on a social event for their residents. The events center around the month's pillar ice cream social.

When RAs aren't on duty, they are mainly found manning the front desk. While working the desk, they answer any questions residents have, answer phone calls, handle mail and pass out other miscellaneous items, such as kitchenette supplies and games.

Criminal justice junior Faith Faille is a RA in North Hall, and she has worked in housing for three years. She became an RA because she wanted to bring her leadership experience from high school to Ferris.

"I was in a leadership role in high school, so thought it would be cool. It's really fun. I get to meet a lot of kids, some of which I'm still friends with to this day. My favorite thing about being an RA is interacting with the students and [getting] to see them grow into adults," Faille said.

Criminal justice senior Anakah Williams is also an RA in the North Hall building. This is her first year as an RA, and she has loved her role thus far.

"I feel as if this position gives personal gain unintentionally," Williams said. "I like the independence and responsibility the RA position forces me to have. I have enjoyed working

through on hand experiences as well as building a community with the residents of my hall."

Williams believes that she is a good fit for the program because of how she can approach situations.

"...I have the ability to react and conquer [the] situations thrown at me in a professional way. This job has given me the opportunity for personal gain in areas that could use more practice," Williams said.

Williams didn't have good experiences with her past RAs, and she wants to make sure her residents don't have the same experience she had.

"I chose to become an RA because I personally never felt a good connection between my RA and I in previous years. I experienced a lack of support and interest from my RAs in various buildings around campus, so I wanted to take this opportunity and make it the complete opposite for my peers," Williams said.

If you are interested in becoming a RA for the next semester, you can apply through the "MyHousing" portal on MyFSU. The link will be under "Contracts, Applications and Forms" and "Student Staff Recruitment." These Applications will remain open until Nov. 18, 2022, at 5 p.m.

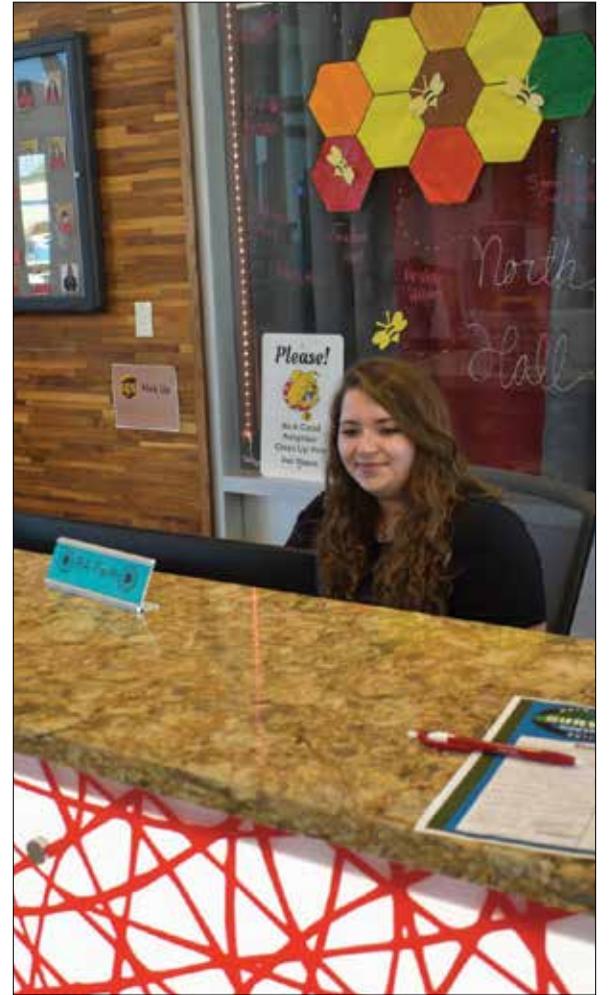


Photo by: Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor
Faith Williams chose to be an RA because she wanted to make good connections with her residents.



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Opinions

Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

The Ferris State Torch is published on 27 Wednesdays throughout the academic year. This student-run newspaper is printed by The Pioneer Group.

Our Location:
Arts and Science Commons 1016
820 Campus Drive
Ferris State University
Big Rapids, MI 49307

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EDITORS COLUMN: *iThink we've hit a wall*

Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief

It's apple season folks. From honey crisp to fuji, to iPhone and Apple Watch, fall is here.

As we've come to expect over the last decade, the arrival of September means Apple will bestow upon us their latest and greatest versions of their most popular products: the iPhone and the Apple Watch. Just like every year for the last decade, I eagerly awaited the event and the tl:dr for 2022: minimal evolution in lieu of revolution.

Sure, the iPhone 14 standard now comes in a Plus version instead of the Mini of previous years, the cameras saw slight upgrades with the primary rear shooter inheriting the camera of the iPhone 13 Pro and the front getting a better selfie camera with auto-focus, plus the blue and purple colors got paler, but that's really all that changed.

I wish I were pulling your leg, but I'm not. The most notable lack of change? They still retain the processor of the iPhone 13 lineup.

This decision led me to reflect on where we are with technology right now, and it seems we've hit a wall. While Apple isn't the only guilty party, they are a repeat offender, so I thought it appropriate to examine them to best show my point. When is the last time Apple has done something revolutionary with the iPhone? Or even something that would really drive a consumer to upgrade from last year's model?

Looking back at the last several years of releases, less and less is changing. The last revolution we got was with the iPhone X, but ever since it's been more or less the same. From the iPhone X, the XS and 11 Pro after it, they were minor, uninspiring upgrades that gave consumers little reason to make a change.

That cycle repeated itself with the iPhone 12. Yes, it got a new design, but the iPhone 13, and now 14, followed the same three-year "revolution cycle," and it doesn't stop at this product line either.

Enter the Apple Watch Series 4, the first redesign the Apple Watch has seen. It retained this

design with minimal improvement for the next two generations, only gaining a millimeter in size when the Series 7 launched. Processor upgrades in the meantime were nearly non-existent as well, leaving little reason to upgrade for as many as three years.

I'm about as big of an Apple fan as they come. I've been using an iPhone for nearly a decade and an iPad for a true decade. I've been using a Mac since I got a computer, and when I decided to pick up a smartwatch, I kept up the Apple tradition. But these days I am just finding it harder and harder to justify upgrading anything at all.

My iPhone 12 Pro Max from 2020 is still running like a champ and has many of the same features as the newly released iPhone 14 Pro Max because it has iOS 16. My Apple Watch Series 5 is nearly indistinguishable from the new Series 8, and I could just keep going down the line with all the products I already own that are singing the same tune.

I find it incredibly hard to justify spending another \$1,099 on a

new Pro Max iPhone when so little has actually changed. While I should be rejoicing like my wallet is, I'm just left wondering why they keep this cycle up. A wall has been struck. Technology was improving so quickly a few years ago, even at Apple. The iPhone 4 to 4S was quite literally a 100% increase in CPU performance and a 900% GPU performance improvement in one year.

Then, just another year later, they doubled that again with the iPhone 5. Now they're lucky to squeeze a 20% improvement out year over year, that is if they even upgrade it at all. While a 20% increase in performance isn't nothing, it's not worth a minimum of \$999 this time around.

I'll hold onto my iPhone 12 Pro Max until it makes financial sense to let it go. Same story with my Apple Watch Series 5. Gone are the days I long for the next generation. I'll be content with what I have until Apple, or any smartphone manufacturer, really, gives me an actual reason to upgrade.

The looming future

Examining the fear and stress related to the future

Brody Keiser
Sports Editor

With just eight months left before I graduate, my mind is racing.

There is so much uncertainty in my very near future. The looming truth of entering the "real world" is slowly becoming more and more real. Ever since I arrived at Ferris in 2019, I've thought that graduation was so far away. That it would never get here. That I have plenty of time.

That could not be any further from the truth.

You'd think that I'd have learned by now that time flies. I had the same thoughts about high school graduation, middle school ending and leaving my elementary building. All these milestones in my life were things that, at some point, seemed so far away that they would almost never arrive. But they all did eventually.

Don't get me wrong, I am thrilled for my future. I've worked so hard to get to where I am now, and I have been involved in so many things. I know I'm ready to

embrace the change and enter my future, but it's still scary.

Change is something that I have always had difficulty with. I am a very structured, scheduled person who thrives in such an environment. Going with the flow has never really been my strongest suit. Research from The Journal of Anxiety Disorders explains that a fear of the unknown is a fundamental fear, essentially meaning that this fear is normal. Fearing the unknown is natural in humans, and change invokes all sorts of unknowns.

I faced those milestone changes I mentioned earlier with the same sort of anxiousness that I feel now. The reality is that each transition went smoothly, though, and I had nothing to worry about.

So why do I still feel that embracing change is not a strength for me?

I think this can be partly explained because I know that changing from college to a full-time job in my career path is the biggest change I will have faced so far. Going from middle school to high school, or high school to college, were big shifts, but each

were essentially transitions from school to school. I'm about to go from school to true adulthood.

The rest of my susceptibility to change is more related to that fear of the unknown. The National Library of Medicine explains that stress causes us to play out the worst-case scenario in our heads, furthering our feeling of stress. I feel this is especially true for me because I have worked so hard and dedicated so much time and effort to that incredible moment eight months from now that any sort of setback would be devastating to my morale.

I have to remember all these thoughts are normal. Graduating college is a huge deal, and something that can be extremely stressful, but I'm ready. I am so ready.

Amidst all the stress, nerves and anxiousness is this overwhelming feeling of excitement and energy. After all, graduating college and entering a career in sports has been my dream for years. I've dedicated a large part of my life, vast amounts of time and tireless energy to paving my way for success.

Instead of focusing on the stress and worry, I have chosen to let the excitement reign supreme. I know the exact details of my future are cloudy, and I don't know where I'll end up or what I'll be doing, but I'm damned sure that I'm going to give it my all and ensure that my past 15 years of hard work pays off.

So, to my future and any further challenges that come my way: I'm here. I'm ready. Bring it.

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Hanging up the skates



Graphic: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

The Ferris hockey team has seen many players transition to professional hockey, but that level of success doesn't accurately represent the reality of what happens to most after a college career.

Former Ferris players like Gerry Mayhew and Chris Kunitz have carved out a career for themselves in the National Hockey League. However, Kunitz and Mayhew represent a very small minority. According to the National Collegiate Athletic Association, only 2% of all student athletes play professionally. The number shrinks to 1% when isolated to men's ice hockey.

Former Ferris hockey player Nate Hennig is an example of the majority.

"When we finally lost, I was eager to go home, and then someone happened to tell me that there was a job fair at [Wink Arena]," Hennig said. "I was on the way out of town, and I'm a senior thinking, 'I'm going to hang up the skates, I should probably go to this.'"

Hennig played for the Bulldogs from 2007 to 2011. It was at that job fair at Wink Arena that he connected with Hilton Hotels & Resorts. Hilton Hotels approached Hennig and asked him if he'd want to work for them in New York City. Following his stint in New York, Hennig worked his way up to the title of complex director for the Palmer House, a hotel in Chicago.

"It's a tough decision because, essentially, what you're saying is the thing I've done pretty much daily for the last decade will never happen again," Hennig

said. "You could play in a men's league [or a] beer league and drop in whenever you want to play, but it's not in the same regard."

Hennig notes that he misses playing in games, the behind the scenes aspect of the sport and the camaraderie he shared with his teammates. Since his last game in 2011, Hennig has only been on the ice five or six times. Of all the reasons that pushed Hennig out of the sport, losing love for the game was not one of them.

"What people don't realize is that it's not all fun and games," Hennig said. "They see us play Friday and Saturday night, but what they don't see is we're waking up at 5:30 in the morning on Monday to go run that staircase along that river—I mean that thing is from hell."

Despite his hatred of the Riverwalk's stairs from hell, Hennig values what he learned from hockey, and he says he applies its core values to his current work.

Hennig believes leaving hockey after college was the right decision, and becoming complex director at the Palmer House is something he is very proud of. Hennig noted that some of his teammates are just now getting to the top levels of their careers, while he's a decade removed from college hockey and very satisfied with his position.

To former Ferris hockey player and current medical school student Joe Rutkowski, the feeling about having a time advantage is a little different.

"With medical school it's a long road," Rutkowski said. "Four years of medical school and then four to six years of residency. It'll be interesting to see [how I feel]

in a couple of years and if I can have the same viewpoint as Nate had."

Rutkowski played for the Bulldogs from 2016 to 2020. After playing two professional games with the Rapid City Rush in the East Coast Hockey League in 2020, Rutkowski was traded to the Reading Royals in the offseason. Originally, he had plans to play for them, however, the start date of the season kept being pushed back until the Royals' season was cancelled altogether.

"I'm retired," Rutkowski said. "So it's done. I've only skated probably a handful of times since those last two games after my senior year. I trained in the offseason in hopes of another season during my gap year, but the season had been canceled due to COVID-19. I got into med-school and found out right around the same time that it all happened."

Rutkowski defined stepping away from hockey as bittersweet. But with everything seemingly lined up perfectly, he was excited for the future. Now, in his freshman year of medical school, Rutkowski is enrolled at Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Mississippi.

"Looking back, I don't think I would have picked anywhere else to go," Rutkowski said. "They really do stress the importance of academics as well as the game of hockey, which I liked. It's hard to say if other coaches throughout the NCAA might be as serious about the academic side of school as our coaches at Ferris are."

Ferris hockey head coach Bob Daniels agrees with how much Ferris supports its athletes' education. Daniels recalls a time when the program, alongside the Blueline

club, had to work around Rutkowski's premed schedule.

"There were times where he would have an exam on a Friday morning, but we were playing up at Michigan Tech. He would stay behind, and our Blueline club would help us by paying for a one way flight [to Michigan Tech] and pick him up in the afternoon."

Both Hennig and Rutkowski share the common fate of leaving the game of hockey in favor of a different future. Unlike their choice to move on, when asked what they would tell a player in the same position at the end of their career, their answers differed.

"What I'd say is, 'Where do you want to be in 10 years?'" Hennig said. "If you're not going to leave hockey a multimillionaire, what I would say is, 'It's worthwhile to consider jumping into the professional industry.'"

Where Hennig's response offered a more critical view of the sport, Rutkowski's was a bit more supportive.

"If someone did have the potential to play a couple of years and really felt like they wanted to, I would [encourage them to] pursue that," Rutkowski said. "You can always go into medical school or go into a graduate program later on down the road."

Both men made the choice to step away from a game they had a passion for. Their choice reinforces the belief that "you only know you love it when you let it go," and it shows that anyone can be due for a career change.

SCORECARD Cross country

Sept. 16 - Men's and women's both finished 12th place finish at MSU Invitational

Soccer

Sept. 16 - Northern Michigan 3, Ferris 1
Sept. 18 - Ferris 1, Michigan Tech 0

Volleyball

Sept. 16 - Ferris 3, Michigan Tech 0
Sept. 17 - Ferris 3, Northern Michigan 0
Sept. 18 - Ferris 3, LSSU 0

Family first

Zoe Anderson's path to Bulldog volleyball

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

For Zoe Anderson, life is simple: faith, family, Ferris State.

The former Rockford standout has achieved much in her time as a Bulldog student-athlete, both on and off the floor. However, her plan wasn't originally to pack her bags for Big Rapids.

"When I first came as a [high school] sophomore, I didn't fall in love with Ferris," Zoe said. "I thought it was too close to home, and it felt like a gloomy day."

While Anderson continued her success on the hardwood in volleyball and basketball, she led the Rams to a state number one ranking in volleyball, while also registering an all-state campaign in basketball. As she continued to look for options in both sports, Anderson found herself back at Ferris a year later. This time, she felt a new heart to join the Ferris athletic program.

"When I went back my junior year and met the girls, I knew it was the place I needed to be," Anderson said. "It was a home away from home."

Anderson would then sign on to join the basketball team under former coach Kendra Faustin, where she began her collegiate career. After a few years of learning the system, Anderson became a starter for the Bulldogs under newly hired coach Kurt Westendorp.

During her four years, Anderson scored almost 500 points and helped her team reach two NCAA tournament appearances and two conference championships. While she may not have racked up record-breaking stats, Westendorp said her character and leadership were pivotal to the team's success all around.

While she had another year of eligibility, Anderson had plans to continue on the hardwood but with a different kind of net.

She found herself staring down an opportunity that she was never able to experience during her high school career. With her little sister, Alina, having committed to Ferris to play volleyball for the upcoming fall season, Zoe saw the limited chance that she could play a sport with Alina for the very first time.

"I never got to be her teammate in high school, and she means everything to me," Zoe said. "I love her so much, and I felt like God was saying this is a chance to be able to do some-

thing that many people don't ever get the chance to do."

With Westendorp's and volleyball head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm's permission, Zoe transitioned to volleyball following the 2021-2022 basketball season.

For Alina, the transition to college instantly became easier.

"She is probably my biggest role model in every aspect of life, so to be able to step on the court and play with her means a lot," Alina said. "I'm learning so much from her."

Growing up, Alina looked up to her older sister in many ways. When asked about one thing that separates Zoe, Alina said it's her driving work ethic.

"She's someone who sets a goal and will accomplish that no matter what she has to do to accomplish it," Alina said. "She was finishing her senior basketball season and trying to join the volleyball team, all while being in nursing school. I give a lot of credit for what she has done."

Success at Ferris spans far more than just on the court for Zoe. While studying nursing, she also participates in clubs, such as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and serves as the co-president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

In appreciation of all her impact and hard work, Zoe was awarded the Willie Bouyer Leadership Award this past year. This honor is given to a standout student-athlete that shows strong inspirational leadership and dedication to Ferris. She is the fourth women's basketball player to win the award.

While this reward will certainly be tabbed to Zoe's name forever, the fifth-year senior has many things she wants to be remembered for.

"I want people to remember me as someone who always had a smile on my face," Zoe said. "I love to win and hate to lose, but I believe life is much bigger than sports. I hope to be a strong leader and empower the people around me."

The Bulldogs took their first match at home this season in a 3-0 win over Wisconsin-Parkside. While both Anderson sisters registered playing time, they will await their first points playing together for the next home match on Sept. 30 against Northern Michigan. Opening serve is set for 7 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Zoe Anderson.

Zoe Anderson (white jersey) decided to play volleyball for Ferris so she can compete with her sister, Alina.

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