

FFA concludes vote of no confidence



Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Last week, 89% of participating Ferris Faculty Association members voted no confidence in Provost Bobby Fleischman.

The articles of no confidence for the vote, which took place from Oct. 24 to Oct. 26, included a violation of faculty rights and shared governance, the undermining of teaching quality through increased class sizes, “autocratic policies” damaging faculty morale and a lack of administrative transparency.

“[With] the vote of no confidence, the faculty are sending a message to students and parents,” FFA Vice President John Caserta said. “We care about the quality education you’re getting. Also, that the provost does not have a right to interfere in... the quality of our classes.”

Tensions between FFA members and the administration came to a head in January, when online courses increased in capacity less than one week before the semester began. This reportedly affected the workload of over 200 faculty members and led to the filing of three association grievances and 60 individual grievances. All of these grievances were filed by Caser-

ta and have been settled between the FFA and members of the provost’s office.

According to a letter given to the Torch’s editorial staff, the administration does not believe that the increase in course capacity violated the Collective Bargaining Agreement, as the class sizes were set through the standard curriculum approval process. However, it was acknowledged that “the timing of when and how the increases happened could have been better executed.”

Out of the 209 FFA members who participated in the vote, 23 did not support the motion. Fleischman expressed gratitude for the “outpouring of support” he has received from campus community members, including some from the FFA executive committee, as a result of this vote.

“I can’t get tied up in what a few people are doing,” Fleischman said. “It’s their prerogative. I don’t think [the vote] helps the institution. It doesn’t move us forward.”

For the first time in Fleischman’s time at Ferris, a Torch reporter engaged in a one-on-one interview with him.

“This is a new day and a new age,” Fleischman said. “And I now have permission that I didn’t have previously... It’s a change in leadership that has led to us being able

to work together.”

In this interview, the provost explained that “despite challenges,” Ferris is still making progress as an institution. He highlighted the fact that the university managed budget cuts without eliminating any filled faculty roles.

The provost was charged with implementing a \$11.2 million in mandated budget reduction in July 2020. Additionally, the office of Academic Affairs managed \$4.7 million in budget reductions in the last academic year, \$2.8 million in the fall and \$1.9 million in the spring. Fall 2022 saw a \$6.8 million reduction in tuition revenue compared to the previous fall semester.

Fleischman contests the assertion that he refuses to negotiate with the FFA. Also included in the letter from administration, the provost’s office remained willing to meet with the union until Feb. 4, 2021, when FFA President Charles Bacon canceled future contract maintenance meetings indefinitely. These conversations resumed in June 2021 with members from the provost’s office.

“We began these talks with Bobby when he first came,” Caserta said. “He didn’t like some of the answers we gave him in

discussion. So, Charles Bacon said that it was no longer possible to be with [Fleischman] because he’s not solving any problems. So roughly for the last two years... he sends Steve Reifert, who’s the Associate Provost, to the meetings.”

After the grievance settlements and release of the vote of no confidence results, Fleischman is more focused on the future of his administrative duties than FFA affairs.

“I don’t know,” Fleischman said. “I’ve got the full support of the president, and I’ve got work to do. I don’t have the kind of time to get involved in people that are making false and defamatory statements.”

President Bill Pink expressed “unequivocal” and “unwavering” confidence in the provost in a letter to the editor.

“I now know firsthand [of Fleischman’s] deep commitment to student academic and social success while empowering our faculty and staff as leaders to champion high achievement for our students,” Pink said.

Both Caserta and Fleischman expressed that their main priority is the success and education of Ferris students. Updated information from the FFA will be reported on as it is released.

Big Rapids activists hold women’s rally

Ferris’ FMLA and AVA gathered for the town’s third women’s march



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Big Rapids community activists gather in Mitchell Creek Park.

Marissa Russell
Multimedia Editor

With abortion rights on the midterm election ballot, Ferris and Big Rapids community members gathered in Mitchell Creek Park to show support for women and reproductive rights.

The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance co-partnered to help organize and promote the event. President Jenna Passfield, Vice President Jennifer O’Connor and secretary Samara Tyus were tabling to promote their RSO, while also expressing their feelings for women’s rights and Proposal Three.

“Yeah, that’s one thing I hate, the signs all around Big Rapids [that say Proposal Three is] ‘too confusing, too extreme,’ when it’s not at all confusing or extreme,” Tyus said. “I came from Saginaw, which is a very diverse, very liberal town. It’s so different for me. And it’s kind of it’s sad, honestly, to see how many people don’t want us to have our basic human rights, but it’s something that I’ve gotten used to unfortunately.”

Lead rally organizer Julie Alexander was affiliated with every table at the rally. She explained how the march is a group effort; the people here represent their own organization, but the marchers share a common goal. Alexander hopes that the march will show that there are people in Big Rapids who are fighting for the rights of women. Alexander clarified that their cause is a human issue, not simply a woman’s issue. It is an issue that concerns the individual and their access to health care and the sovereignty of personal choice.

When Roe v. Wade was overturned, abortion became subject to the discretion of state governments, instead of the federal government. Michigan voters will be voting on this issue on Nov. 8, when they vote on Proposal Three, a proposed amendment to the Michigan Constitution that would protect people’s reproductive rights.

Nurse practitioners Emily Nelson and Katie Piippo brought their medical expertise to the march. Piippo worked as a sexual assault examiner for

WOMEN’S MARCH | See page 3

News

Jessica Oakes | News Editor | oakesj3@ferris.edu

With or without a director

How the LGBTQ+ Resource Center is working hard on their own



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Jacky Gembe works at the LGBTQ+ Resource Center and works on making media posts for the center's social media.

Meghan Hartley
News Reporter

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center has gone into this new school year with no director, leaving the work to the student workers.

In May, former LGBTQ+ Resource Center Director, Sarah Doherty, left the position, leaving the tasks and day-to-day operations to the center's student workers. Now, near the end of the fall semester, no new director has been hired, leaving the student workers to continue the work of the director as best as they can.

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center is a space where students who identify as LGBTQ+ or allies can feel accepted for being their authentic selves. The center has hosted many memorable events such as Drag Queen Bingo and FriGay Games. They also have a closet filled with clothing for all genders to allow students to shamelessly discover who they are.

Public relations junior Faith Oom is a student worker that helps with things that comes up in the office. She says she has done a multitude of odd jobs, including assisting the Drag Queens that come to the center's event nights and helping keep the resource center staffed during the day.

"I grew up in an environment that was very loving towards the LGBTQ [community]," Oom said. "It just always was a place that I felt very safe, and I wanted to make [it] safe for other people."

While Oom enjoys working at the resource center, not having a director has been tough. At the moment, Oom works alongside three other students in the center. Bryce Logenberger is currently acting as the stand-in director. Oom says Logenberger gives the workers directions, but when he can't, it's up to them to figure out what needs to be done.

"Logenberger is a student as well," Oom said. "He is handling so much at once and... also trying to direct three student employees. It's not an easy task. He's juggling a lot, and then has to also try to run the center. It's a lot on him, and, unfortunately, a lot of the work has kind of fallen onto the three student employees."

Running the center takes a lot of organization, planning and time. Oom said it can be difficult when each worker has other responsibilities to attend to alongside fulfilling the needs of the resource center.

"I definitely feel bad for Logenberger [because] he has to take a lot of that on with all of his other responsibilities,

but he has been amazing through it all," Oom said. "He has never snapped us. He'll be stressed, and you can tell he's stressed, but he is chipper and great... Without someone being a higher-up, it definitely is very hard to organize things, get things done and get the things that we [need]. Being students, we're not taken as seriously as someone that works for the school. It has made things extremely difficult, but we're trying to... get through it the best that we can."

Oom said she wished there had been a director present when they held their pride bingo event. The four student workers did not expect as many as 200 students to attend. Oom said the event would have been a lot easier if they had "[a director] and they didn't have homework, classes and a social life."

Social work sophomore Al Alley has been coming to the LGBTQ+ Resource Center and attending its events since the beginning of the year. They said the student workers have been doing really well.

"Especially for not having a director and everything. It seems like they're kind of on their own, and they're always so sweet," Alley said. "I come in here and do my homework, and they're always just so nice

and willing to talk or willing to be quiet. So it's definitely like a safe space here, and they make it that way."

Biology senior Venessa Kwan agreed that the interns have been doing a great job running the center while also having their own responsibilities and obligations to attend to.

"For me, I feel the resource center has opened up," Kwan said. "From what I know, they're doing great at their job."

Kwan said last year the center was closed due to COVID-19, and due to such a small space, no more than two people could be in the room at a time. While their Discord channel was still active during this time, having the center reopened with people coming in has felt normal again. Kwan said anyone can come to the resource center and attend their events. It is a safe space for people of the LGBTQ+ community and straight allies.

For more information, students can head to LGBTQ+ Resource Center, which is across from the Center for Student Involvement or find them online on Bulldog Connect.



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Members of Ferris' FMLA promote their group while educating the community on what is on the ballot for the midterm election.

many years before becoming a nurse

WOMENS MARCH

Continued from the front page

practitioner. She spoke about the challenges survivors have to face after they are assaulted, such as evidence collection and reporting the crime, which can be as traumatic as the actual event.

“You try to make it as empowering of an event as you can, but it’s still invasive, and hard and intrusive, and there’s no way to make it less so,” Piippo said.

“Above and beyond all these things, I’m a mother, I’m a daughter, I’m a sister, I’m a friend,” Piippo said. “As a woman, I have value beyond my reproductive ability... It shouldn’t be a controversial position. It shouldn’t be controversial to say those things. Access to health care is already difficult in our area and in the surrounding rural communities.”

Piippo asked the crowd, “So what do we do?” Her answer: vote. Make sure our loved ones are getting out there and voting, and then talk to family members and shine a light on this topic. Piippo reminded the crowd that this topic is not far away, it is right here in our communities, and it

affects people you know and love.

“My abortion was not a tragic story,” Piippo said. “It wasn’t a horrible, traumatic situation. It [just wasn’t] the right time in my life, and birth control [failed]. I am so grateful that at that point I had the option, and I had access to safe health care because my life is more valuable than my reproductive ability. Our lives matter. Your vote matters. So let’s vote like our lives depend on it because they do.”

While Nelson wasn’t a sexual assault examiner like Piippo, that doesn’t mean she hasn’t seen a lot of horrible things in her time. Nelson was raised in a conservative family but “came out of the womb a feminist.” Nelson shared that working in the medical field for a long time helped her understand the importance of abortions as healthcare. In contrast to the opposition, she doesn’t consider abortion to be murder because an embryo is whatever the mother sees it as, and she does not need to support a pregnancy if she does not want to.

Nelson continues to fight this fight because she doesn’t want anyone to be deprived of their reproductive rights.

“I cannot imagine that my daughters... are at risk of not having the same rights

that I had,” Nelson said. “I was a sexual assault survivor, and I also ended up in a very... violent relationship. [When] I ended up pregnant..., I was able to go to Planned Parenthood, and I was able to have an abortion, which allowed me to separate myself from that violent relationship. If I did not have that, then who knows where I would be... I want everyone to have this choice to make forever because a politician should not tell us what should grow inside our wombs, absolutely never.”

Mariah Phelps came from Kalamazoo to speak at the women’s march on behalf of Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood in Big Rapids closed its doors in Sept. 2020. The closest one to Ferris is in Grand Rapids.

Educating the Big Rapids community was another important goal of the Women’s March. One of the organizations present was the Anti-Violence Alliance. This Ferris organization focuses on education surrounding domestic violence. The AVA hoped to bring light to the issues women struggle with regarding sexism and violence.

Criminal justice student and AVA representative Hannah Francis spoke of the sexism she herself has faced. You are

made to believe “you shouldn’t do things because [you’re] a woman,” she explained. Francis has been demeaned and urged to “change [her] major into something more woman based.” This was just one example Francis gave of the ways sexism has bled into the life of women; even in our own community at Ferris.

“Women view things as normal that they should not,” Francis added. “People believe that woman should be quiet and submissive, and that is simply not true.”

Many of the organizers pointed to Ferris’ Museum of Sexist Objects as a good way to learn about these accepted misconceptions.

“[The museum] shows how our culture promotes sexism,” Alexander said. “Whether it’s through jokes, or memes or social concepts.”

The midterm election will be held on Nov. 8. For more information on the proposals and how to vote, go to Michigan.gov or planmyballot.com

Nolan Harris helped contribute to the reporting and writing of this story.

ON THE RECORD

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

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Bond Hall cyberbully

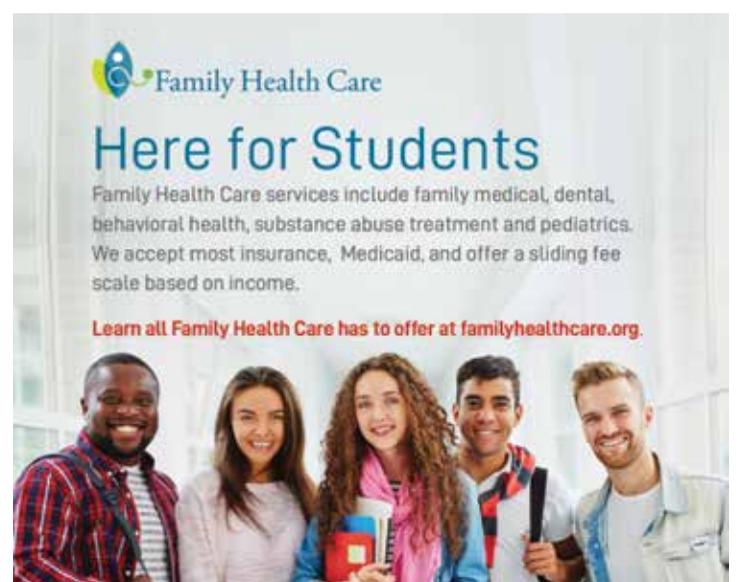
Oct. 24, various times - A resident of Bond Hall arrived at Ferris DPS to report instances of online social media harassment. Because both people involved were students, their case was moved to the Office of Student Conduct for Judicial Review.

Assault at the Rec

Oct. 26, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. - An instance of physical assault, which took place at the Student Recreation Center, was reported to Ferris DPS last Wednesday. The suspect has been identified, but the next course of punitive action is still being processed by the university.

Marijuana in Mc Nerney

Oct. 28, 10:15 p.m. - A student was issued a minor in possession charge after being caught smoking marijuana in their Mc Nerney dorm room. The case was referred to the Office of Student Conduct for judicial review.



Bulldogs network at career and internship fair



Photo by: Ember St. Amour | News Reporter

Alycia Boersma and Megan Justice inform students about Mill Steel, a supply chain-based company headquartered in Grand Rapids.

Ember St. Amour
News Reporter

Students were lined up along the sidewalk last week, dressed to impress and waiting for a chance to form connections.

Last Thursday, students from all programs were invited to gather at the Student Recreation Center to meet with companies about internship and career opportunities. The fair was organized in a way that allowed students to register on tablets when they arrived. Then, they were able to fill out a name tag, which were color coded by college, with their name and major before heading off to meet employers.

Employers were lined up throughout the main floor and around the track on the upper floor, with tables providing information about their companies, as well as freebies, complete with the company's logo, for students to have. Each student

was able to make their way around the building, visiting employers to learn about their companies.

SDK Engineering is an engineering company in Southfield, Michigan. SDK engineers are experienced in fusion welding, resistance and other methods of welding. They also have engineers trained in robot programming and controls engineering.

Ferris engineering technology alumnus, Nicholas Berchert, who graduated in 2021, attended the career and internship fair with SDK Engineering in hopes of recruiting students. Berchert explained how attending the fair all four years of his college career helped him.

"The first year [I was] just getting my name out there," Berchert said. "The second year helped me get an internship, and [the] third year helped me get another internship. And then... my final year just helped me get my name out there too."

In addition to explaining how the fair

helped him, Berchert also listed ways that students can impress potential employers. Berchert explained that the best things that students can do is dress professionally and make sure that they show interest. This lets employers know that students want to be there.

Mill Steel is a supply chain-based company with headquarters in Grand Rapids. Mill Steel offers a range of internship options from forecasting to purchasing to coding. They focus on communication, collaboration and improvement to help stay successful.

Megan Justice attended the fair as a representative for Mill Steel. Justice explained her motivation behind coming to Ferris to recruit.

"We've been big fans of [Ferris] for many years," Justice said. "Last year... I recruited about... three [Ferris] students to work at our headquarter office in Grand Rapids, and they have just been incredible

interns, and so we had to come back and do it again."

TDMP senior Amadi Frost attended the fair with the hopes of finding an internship. Frost described her experience at the career fair as a potential opportunity.

"So far it's actually [been] surprising," Frost said. "I found a great place [at] 24G, and they're even looking for a video intern, so it actually worked out great. I am super excited now and a lot more hopeful than I was before."

24G is a company focused on digital transformation located in Troy, Michigan. 24G helps companies market, communicate and train digitally, both in-person or virtually. The company focuses on collaboration among employees to complete projects successfully.

After the fair, students were able to leave with connections and internship and career opportunities to help them prepare for life after college.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief

GRAND RAPIDS – Residents of the 25-mile parcel of Kent County affected by PFAS contamination to their water supply protested against the former CEO of Wolverine Worldwide receiving a role model award from the Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes.

Former CEO Blake Krueger was inducted as a laureate into JAMGL's Business Hall of Fame at an event hosted at Fredrick Meijer Gardens on Oct. 24, sparking protests.

JAMGL annually presents this award to a business person that "possess a record of outstanding business achievements in West Michigan, have earned the respect of the local community and who serve as a role model, particularly to local youth," according to MLive.

Tobyn McNaughton, one of the pro-

testors outside the Michigan office of Junior Achievement, is the mother of a six-year-old who may have the highest levels of PFAS in his blood in the country at 484,000 parts per trillion.

"The health ramifications are scary," McNaughton, a Belmont resident where PFAS seeped into the drinking water of her son, Jack, said in a statement to MLive. "A lot of the unknowns are very scary. So, we've been highly impacted. We have a lot in our bodies; who knows how much we have in our tissues and organs."

President of the Junior Achievement chapter William Coderre countered that Krueger was considered based on "his entire history." This decision outraged activists, according to MLive.

"As long as you end up at the top of the heap, it doesn't matter who you've trampled it below," Sandy Wynn-Stelt, a Belmont psychologist turned PFAS activist who was also personally touched by the crisis, said.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief

MEXICO CITY – Lawmakers in Tamaulipas voted on Wednesday, Oct. 26 to legalize same-sex marriage, marking the last of Mexico's 32 states to legalize it, making these unions legal nationwide.

Of the 37 voters, there were 23 yay's, 12 nay's and two voters abstained. Those both for and against this change chanted their opinions from the balcony in the legislative chamber, eventually making the lawmakers move to another room to conclude their debate and vote, according to the Associated Press.

"The whole country shines with a huge rainbow. Live the dignity and rights of all people. Love is love," the President of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation Arturo Zaldívar-said said in a tweet.

The southern state of Guerrero

made a similar move the day earlier to get the country's laws in parody before the end of the week.

Mexico's Supreme Court declared in 2015 that any laws prohibiting same-sex marriage was unconstitutional, but states across the country took time to adopt and update their laws to reflect this change.

Mexico marks the 33rd country to legalize same-sex marriage since its first legal provisions since 2000.

Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

A preview of ‘Kinky Boots’ Ferris’ upcoming musical



Photo by: Harmony Goodman | Culture Reporter

“Kinky Boots” opening night is on Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m. and will run through the weekend.

Harmony Goodman
Culture Reporter

With show dates approaching, the Ferris theatre department is hard at work putting together their performance of the Broadway show “Kinky Boots.”

The show is about a boy named Charlie Price who ends up inheriting his father’s shoe factory, which just so happens to be the last thing he wants to do. The shoe factory has been in his family for generations and is now facing major bankruptcy.

When Charlie comes across a famous drag queen, who goes by the name Lola, he is quickly convinced that the only way to save the shoe factory from bankruptcy is by making boots for drag queens. With Lola and the rest of the factory’s help, Charlie might just be able to save his father’s dream. The show has a positive message and a good mix of comedy.

“The show tells people that they can do whatever the heck they want with their lives and be happy,” pre-optometry freshman Lydia Mervar said.

The cast includes a variety of students, and they work incredibly well together. There is so much that goes into a show that doesn’t cross the mind of a typical audience member that’s inexperienced in theatre.

An example of this is the production’s props and set pieces, which need to be moved throughout a show, both on stage and off, and placed in specific spots in

order to for the actors to perform their scenes properly. This entire process requires teamwork and communication, but with a cast like this, the process goes smoothly.

To put together a show in a matter of months, however, is a challenge.

“The biggest struggle [is] scheduling,” marketing freshman Tegan Rosas said.

Being part of a show like “Kinky Boots,” or any show in general, is a huge time commitment. Usually, the cast has weekly three hour practices Monday through Thursday. Even with such long practices, the cast has continued to put their all into the show.

“All of these people are doing this out of the goodness of their hearts and the craziness of their brains,” Katherine A. LaPietra, Ferris’ area coordinator of directing and acting, said.

Ferris’ theatre department is very excited to put on “Kinky Boots” this fall. Rights to the script have just recently been released, which only adds to the excitement.

This show is different from previous shows that Ferris has put on.

“What differs is the type of music,” Courtney Keirse, the show’s music director, said.

Keirse has seen the dedication of this cast, especially when it comes to vocals. Every actor has strong solo vocals, which makes for even stronger group numbers.

All of the cast members and directors are so excited to put on the show next

week. They have definitely worked hard, and they will continue to polish the show during show week.

With such a meaningful message, plus lots of comedy and great scenes, “Kinky

Boots” is certainly a show to add to the calendar. The show’s opening night is Thursday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m. It will play throughout the weekend, ending that Sunday with a matinee at 2:30 p.m.



Photo by: Harmony Goodman | Culture Reporter

Ferris students commit a lot of time to be able to put Kinky Boots together.

Take care of yourself



Photo by: Maddie Epps | Torch Photographer

Speaker Darnell Lewis addressed his audience on mental health awareness and self-care.

Mackenzie Griffin Culture Reporter

Assistant Director of the Office of Multicultural Student Services and social work instructor Darnell Lewis spoke about mental health and the importance of self care with students on Oct. 25.

Lewis got his bachelor's degree in social work and his master's of social work degree from the University of Michigan. He has also worked as a clinical therapist, a social worker in a boy's foster care home and in a boy's juvenile detention facility.

Because of his experience in this field, he takes mental health very seriously.

"I do what I can to spread awareness to remove that stigma around mental health because it is very very important," Lewis said.

A video about how important mental strength is to your physical strength was shown to the audience for them to reflect on. Eric Thomson was the speaker in the video, and he emphasized that "mental health is motivation."

Lewis related mental health relevance to his audience, who were all college

students. He believes that during this age, there's a lot to juggle, and it gets difficult to handle it all. In order to succeed, students have to pay attention to their mental state.

"You have to prioritize, have that balance and know your limits," Lewis said.

This was an eye-opening moment for some members of the audience who realized how much they were taking on and how it is affecting their mental health.

"[I will] actually limit down what I'm doing... and take those breaks [to improve my mental health]," pre-pharmacy freshman Rachel Hossler said.

Lewis shared his personal experiences with taking on too much with his audience. He emphasized the need to say no to certain things and not take on too much at one time. The whole group spent time talking about their feelings and relating with each other.

Self care is a healthy way to better your emotional and mental state. Lewis suggests taking a mental health day when you "need a break from everything." He takes his own advice by clearing out his schedule to grab something to eat, listen to music and spend time with his loved ones.

During this event, students were able to

learn from each other and discover more ways to take care of themselves. It worked as a healthy outlet to get those feelings out there.

"It is important to be healthy in all aspects of life... You [have] to be healthy mentally [in order] to be able to be healthy in every other way," criminal justice freshman Adam Ziots said.

Students in attendance were able to

"It is important to be healthy in all aspects of life... You [have] to be healthy mentally [in order] to be able to be healthy in every other way"

take away Lewis' final piece of advice, which was to find a motivator to help with your mental health. This will help them find "something that you can utilize to push through when times get hard."

Lewis highlighted some available on-campus resources for anyone who is struggling with their mental health. You can call the Personal Counseling Center at (231) 591-5968, or visit the upstairs of the Birkim Health Center.

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Ferris Bulldogs!

Students share their stories for Disability Awareness Month

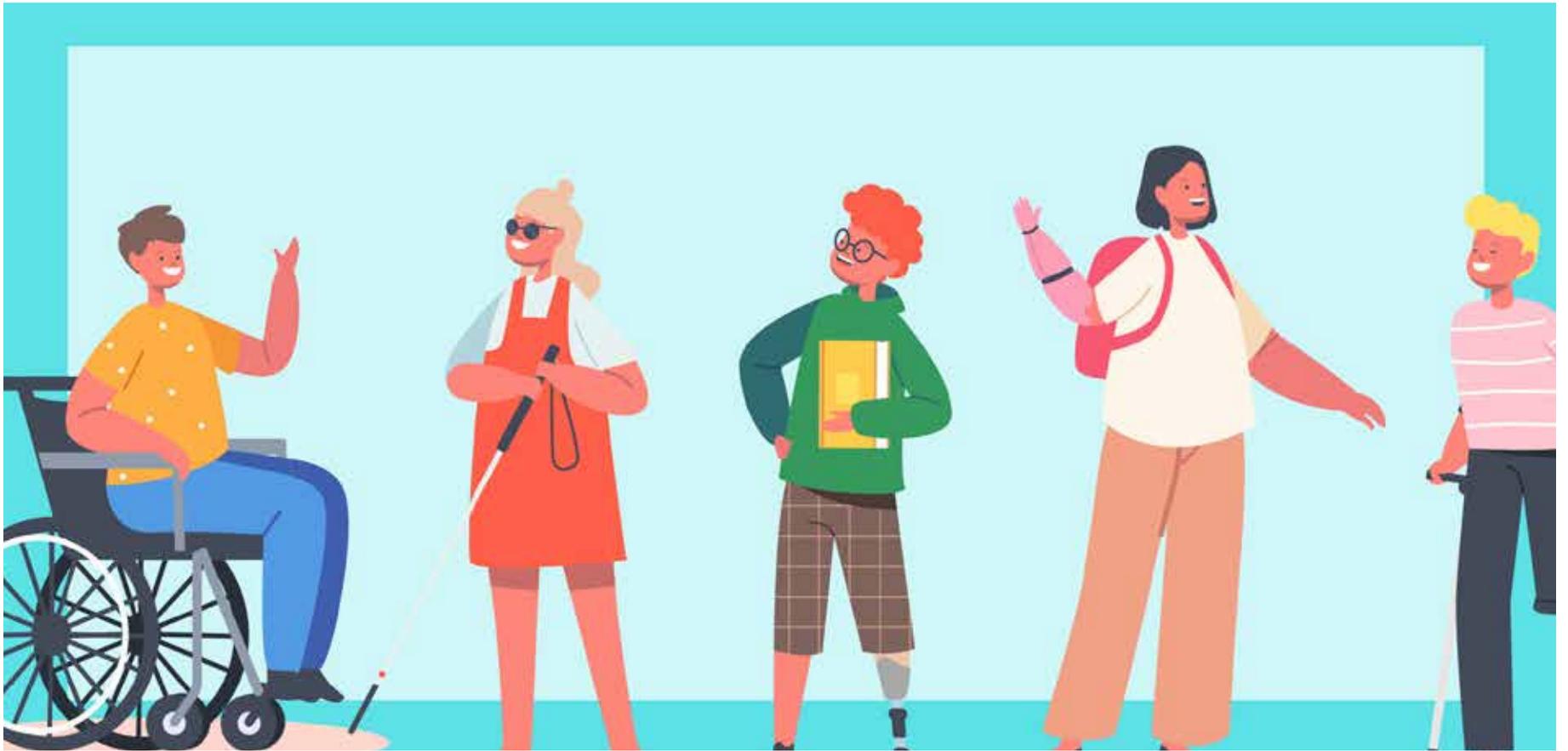


Photo by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

Ferris community members join to learn about visible and invisible disabilities

Jonathen Hart
News Reporter

Ferris decided to put on a few events last week to show awareness for visible and invisible disabilities.

The biggest barrier people with disabilities encounter is other people. Disability awareness means educating people on disabilities and giving people the knowledge required to carry out a job or task, thus separating good practice from poor. It is no longer enough just to know that disability discrimination is unlawful.

On Tuesday, Ferris hosted a panel where students discussed their different disabilities and the high and low points they have encountered while attending school with their disabilities.

Digital animation and game design senior Valerie Guerra has Spina Bifida, a condition that affects her spine. She spoke about the discomfort she experiences when navigating the halls of the Starr building and the three other connected buildings.

“If you go into a building using one floor, the next building will be a different floor,” Guerra said. “It’s extremely hard and frustrating having to navigate buildings of this magnitude.”

During the panel, the students were able to talk about anything they wanted, whether it be explaining their disabilities or sharing their experiences.

Social work senior Autumn Wutz has been diagnosed with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome, which is a heart condition that constricts blood flow during physical activities. Wutz is currently going through the process of getting diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, which is a condition that causes the nerves in her body to deteriorate quickly. Wutz is also going through the diagnostic process of Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, which is a group of inherited disorders that affect your connective tissues, primarily your skin, joints and blood vessel walls.

“As an able-bodied looking student, some faculty look at me [differently] when

I tell them that I am disabled, and some don’t seem to believe me,” Wurtz said. “[Once,] I took a [handicap spot] in the faculty lot..., and a faculty member told me I’m not allowed to park there... I simply said, ‘There is no other parking, and I am disabled. Have a good day.’”

Senior Nicole O’Brien was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, which is a group of disorders that affect a person’s ability to move and maintain balance and posture. O’Brien spoke about the time one of her teachers helped her.

“I was stressed with some of my work because not everything is accessible for me, and he sat down and talked to me and told me he would give me extensions on anything I needed because he knows these programs aren’t easy for me to navigate,” O’Brien said.

The panel was informative because it gave students without disabilities the chance to step into the shoes of those who do. Between the good, the bad and the ugly, this panel helped a lot of people understand different disabilities a little more.

On Thursday, the Office of Accessibility and Disability Services hosted a disability resource fair where five different organizations shared different disability resources that people can use.

Director of Accessibility and Disability services Julie Alexander spoke about why they hosted this fair.

“This is the second annual resource fair that we have been able to put on [as] a part of Disability Awareness Month,” Alexander said. “Disabilities are something we don’t like to talk about in society, and people with

visible or invisible disabilities might not know who can help, so we wanted to bring them this fair to show what’s out there.”

Michigan Rehabilitation Services is a service that shows the importance of including those with disabilities. MRS helps individuals with disabilities acquire jobs and keep them. If the job isn’t a perfect match, MRS will look at why it might not be and see if they can help with accommodations to make it work out. Hearing-Life works with MRS to help students who need hearing aids.

Action Track-Chair USA is a business that creates wheelchairs for people who want to take their lives back from their chair. Roughly 6,000 chairs are made everyday. These chairs are able to go through grass and different types of land. The chairs come in different models, including a sit down model and a stand up model, which helps with health benefits in the long run.

Area 5 Special Olympics is the world’s

largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. They provide year-round training and activities to five million participants and unified sports partners in 172 countries. Area 5 Special Olympics currently has 96 athletes, and they are looking to expand further in the coming years.

OrCam is a device that can scan and read things off for you. It is a new technology that reads tech, facial recognition, product identification, money notes and AI tech. You don’t need WiFi to use this device.

Deaf and hard of hearing services serve 27 counties in West Michigan. They focus on advocating for those who are hard of hearing through youth programs, community education and hearing and communication technologies.

Ferris did a great job providing information on the different disabilities and resources throughout this week.

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Opinions

Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

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EDITORS COLUMN: *Senioritis is here*

Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief

This week, some members of the Torch went to Washington D.C. for MediaFest 2022, and as I sit in my hotel bar writing this column, I can't tell you how done I feel with my undergraduate degree and how much I'm ready to move on with my life.

I have had a spectacular time in college so far, even through the COVID-19 pandemic. I was still able to make the best of it, and I have some days I'll never forget. But today, as I sit with a little over a semester and a half left at Ferris, the fact that I'm ready to take on the world has never been more apparent.

While I don't know exactly what's next for me, I know I have dreams that are rubbing shoul-

ders with the planets in space. I'm looking forward to simply reporting for a publication again. I love the work I get to do at the Torch, but having the opportunity to be one with the words again is something I'm really looking forward to.

I'm currently in this odd limbo where I have completed all of my major courses, but I still need more credits to graduate, and it is ever so slightly killing me. I want to spend every waking moment on journalism these days. That's why I love being editor in chief; I am always creatively working to solve work problems or am working on the cream of the crop stories.

Class just feels like a chore at this point. While I am learning a lot, it's not exactly the journalism courses that I miss from years

past. I will say that this feeling of certainty in my career is an overwhelmingly nice feeling, though. I know I'm doing exactly what I'm meant to be doing, and, my god, that gives me a grin so big that I just can't seem to wipe it off my face when I'm writing.

Looking forward, I have so many avenues I could take. I am fascinated by politics and anything to do with the government and would love to pick it apart point for point for a story. On the other hand, technology journalism is one of the main things that pushed me towards the craft. I hope to soon bump elbows with childhood icons like Michael Fisher or Florence Ion, renowned tech journalists I have been following since I was 10 years old.

In the meantime, I plan to keep up the fast-paced work here at

the Torch and use my remaining elective credits to build up and build out my knowledge to make myself the most well rounded person that I can be. Just because I know what I want to be doing doesn't mean I can't find use in a wide variety of other courses.

Everything from intercultural communications to prep me for the moment when I leave the U.S., to small group decision making for when I chose to take on a project like the keynote speakers at Mediafest 2022. While I occasionally may feel like I'm spinning my wheels, I'm doing my best to bide my time and make the most out of what's left for me here at Ferris.

No Spirit

Ferris' student sections are lacking

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

To be blunt, our student sections are abysmal, and they very much suck.

In my short time as a sports reporter, I've had the privilege of covering a cavalcade of different sports. Throughout, I've noticed a telling trend of underwhelming student sections.

Not all Ferris sports have a designated student section. In what I'd consider the biggest sports at Ferris, Division II football and Division I hockey, have designated student sections. Hockey's section is even titled "The Dawg Pound."

These student sections continually feel like they lack any energy. Take this year's Anchor-Bone Classic against Grand Valley.

In a record-setting crowd of 12,661 spectators, it felt like the visiting section of Grand Valley students and fans roared louder in comparison to the Ferris student section.

With such a close game with massive implications, at the time Ferris was the #1 team and GV was the #2 team in the country, GV's crowd came up loud and proud in the key moments.

To be fair, football's student section is very small and doesn't exactly help this issue. However, the issue at hand also indicates that not everyone stays for the full game.

Following the GV game, the Bulldogs played against Michigan Tech on a beautiful day.

By the third or fourth quarter, the student section looked barren, and those who stayed seemed less energetic.

The same can be said with hockey. I'm well aware Ferris hockey has not been the greatest in the past few seasons. However, it's Division I hockey. It's the highest form of college hockey that you can get.

Come gametime, there are some pretty decent gaps in the Dawg Pound's seating. Alongside the lack of attendance, there is no energy.

The hockey student sections are notorious for being loud, obscene and very dismissive of the opposing team's goaltender.

Ferris is no different. With chants telling the goalie to "stay in his hole" followed by obscenity, the spelling of contraceptives, bodily fluids and the act of reproduction.

From what I have noticed, the first few rows are interactive and very fun and obscene. However, the farther you go back, the more you'll see students who don't care and don't participate in any form of spirit.

On top of this, those who do cheer don't know when to cheer. I've watched goaltenders Noah Giesbrecht and Logan Stein stand on their heads against a lot

of shots or make a beautiful save and there's been nothing from the student section.

So, what gives? It's a hard issue to diagnose. You can make the excuse that Ferris hockey hasn't been great, but what about football? The team is the reigning national champions. Despite the one loss they suffered, their record suggests they're still an incredible team.

I've discussed the issues I've noticed with those who spend as much, if not more, time within Ferris sports. Despite this, I cannot figure out why this issue plagues our athletics.

To someone not within sports, this might not seem like an actual issue. Who cares if a student section is loud, it's not like they're playing the game.

I believe fans to be a big

factor in games. From college to professional, fans are very much involved.

From Michigan football's loud crowd against Washington last year causing a timeout to be taken before the first play of the game, to the Pittsburgh Pirates' "Cueto" chant in the 2013 playoffs, which led Johnny Cueto to drop the ball and then give up a home run, fans can impact the game.

Although I don't have a diagnosis for the issues presented, I would like to leave the Ferris students with this final idea.

No one can expect every single student of Ferris to attend every single game here, however, in the chance that you, a Ferris student, choose to attend a game, be loud. Be proud. You're a Bulldog.



Graphic by Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

MEDIA MINUTE: *Taylor Swift's 'Midnights'*

In a shift back to pure pop, Swift delivers a near masterpiece



Photo courtesy of Eva Rinaldi, Wikipedia Commons

Charlie Buckel
Freelance Reporter

When Taylor Swift announced that she was releasing a new album, I was ecstatic, to say the least.

On Oct. 21, when that album, “Midnights,” finally arrived, I listened to it three times through when it dropped aptly at midnight. Since then, I’ve spent an entire week almost exclusively listening to “Midnights” before writing this review.

What Swift has done with “Midnights” is effectively create an album of pure pop perfection that seems to cover every single emotion a person can feel. Then, when you add the tracks from the “Midnights (3am Edition),” it somehow makes you feel even more.

“Midnights” is also a return to Swift’s well-known autobiographical method of storytelling. 2020 saw the albums “Folklore” and “Evermore” step away from that which Swift was known for. This return to her introspective roots is incredibly successful and it shows that she can still pull off new tricks when it comes to writing about her own experiences.

It is hard to pick highlights from an album of almost pure pop perfection, yet there are still those songs that seem to stand out from the rest. One of those is definitely “Anti-hero,” where Swift sings about being the villain in her own mind. The chorus begins with, “It’s me, hi, I’m the problem, it’s me,” and then delivers blow after blow to herself. At the end of the chorus comes a lyric that hits especially hard: “I’ll stare directly at the sun but never in the mirror.” Relatable doesn’t even cover it.

There are plenty of other hard-hitting songs on “Midnights” in which Swift

seems to relish in making the listener incredibly emotional. The song “You’re on Your Own, Kid” perfectly captures the feeling of realizing that, despite everything you’ve done to be recognized by those around you, you are truly alone and you always have been.

Perhaps the most devastating song on “Midnights” comes on the “Midnights (3am Edition).” Seemingly a follow-up to 2010’s “Dear John,” “Would’ve, Should’ve, Could’ve” seems to detail the regret Swift has of dating 32-year-old John Mayer when she was only 19. The song delivers emotional gut punches one after another with lyrics like, “God rest my soul, I miss who I used to be, the tomb won’t close, stained glass windows in my mind, I regret you all the time” and “Give me back my girlhood, it was mine first.” The song evokes anger, sadness and regret all at once.

But “Midnights” is not all serious and melancholy. In fact, Swift seems to perfectly balance sadness with feeling extremely great about not only herself, but also how she feels about others. She sings, “Best believe I’m still bejeweled, when I walk in the room, I can still make the whole place shimmer,” on “Bejeweled” because even after a

breakup, she knows her worth.

The feeling of contentment on “Karma” is also palpable. In the song, Swift feels comfortable even after betrayal because she knows that the person who wronged her has to deal with the karma of their actions. This is good for Swift because in her own words, “Karma is my boyfriend,” and “Karma is a cat, purring in my lap ‘cause it loves me.” To put it simply, Swift

and karma “vibe like that.”

With “Midnights,” Swift returns to the pure pop genre with a vengeance and further supports the fact that she can navigate storytelling in a once in a generation type of way. Swift perfectly manages to capture almost every emotion a human being can feel and proves that she can be considered a pop princess in her own right.

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Sports

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The good, the bad and the ugly



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

Brad Marek fights for control of a puck during Ferris' 3-2 overtime victory against St. Thomas in Friday's CCHA opener.

Hockey splits with St. Thomas in penalty-ridden start to CCHA play

Brody Keiser
Sports Editor

With 34 penalty minutes in two games, the Bulldogs escaped their CCHA opening weekend with a split.

Ferris (3-4-1) opened CCHA play against St. Thomas (2-6-0) and went to the penalty box 15 times between the two games. On Friday, Oct. 28, the Bulldogs had seven penalties but came away with a 3-2 win. They followed that up with eight penalties on Saturday in a 5-2 loss.

"We have to give ourselves a better chance to win by not taking penalties," head coach Bob Daniels said following Saturday's loss. "When you take [eight] penalties, that's just too many. When you take that many, they're eventually going to score."

Friday's contest saw the Bulldogs spend 17 minutes in the penalty box with seven penalties. The Tommies went 1-7 on the power play.

"I liked our penalty kill," Daniels said. "They were 1-for-7, and they had a five-minute major power play, so that's a lot of killing for us. It kind of took us out of our game. It overtaxed our guys. We can't keep killing that many penalties. It's been a theme of ours, and I hate to see us in the box as much as we were tonight."

The Tommies scored first at 18:28 in the first period. They capitalized on a power play following a Drew Cooper penalty.

St. Thomas got another power play with ten seconds to go in the first period. Nick Nardecchia took a five-minute major for checking from behind, and that penalty ran into the second period.

Ferris not only killed that major penalty, but they also scored a short-handed goal, courtesy of Cade Kowalski's first goal of the season. Ben Schultheis assisted on the game-tying goal at 2:08 in the second period.

"That was a big momentum shift," Schultheis said. "They were all over us with the power plays, and that goal was big to take the momentum back."

The Bulldogs went back to the penalty kill at 6:23 and again at 8:57, following a high-sticking penalty on Jacob Dirks and a slashing penalty on Brenden MacLaren. Logan Stein stood tall in net, and Ferris killed both penalties.

St. Thomas got another power play with four minutes to play in the second period after Matt Slick was called for a slashing penalty. Ferris killed the Tommies' fifth power play of the night.

The Bulldogs got a power play with 51 seconds left in the second period. Jason Brancheau scored a power play goal with 40 seconds left in the period to give Ferris a 2-1 lead going into the third period. Luke Farthing and Stepan Pokorny assisted.

The Tommies evened the score at 7:54 in the third period when Stein saved a shot, but the rebound fell to a Tommy who got the puck past Stein.

At 15:55 in the third period, Ferris was penalized for having too many men on the ice. They killed their sixth penalty of the night to keep the game tied at 2-2 and force overtime.

Ferris ended the overtime at 2:2, thanks to Connor McGrath's third goal of the season. The 3-2 overtime victory moved Ferris to 3-3-1.

"I thought we played a good game," McGrath said. "We competed hard and won a lot of puck battles. Overall, we were the better team tonight, but tomorrow we need to try to stay out of the box."

Stein recorded 35 saves in the victory. They were outshot 37-22 by the Tommies and finished 1-3 on the powerplay but went 6-7 on the penalty kill.

"I think we could've competed a little harder," Daniels said. "I'm not sure our compete level for the entire 63 minutes was where it needed to be. We'll take the win."

Ferris failed to stay out of the penalty box on Saturday, recording eight more penalties for 17 minutes. There was not a single 5-on-5 goal scored in the Bulldogs' 5-2 loss.

St. Thomas went 3-for-5 on the power play, scored a short-handed goal and notched an empty net goal to seal their victory.

The Tommies got on the board first at 9:21 in the first period on the power play. They also scored a second power play goal in the first period at 15:49 to take an early

2-0 lead. Dallas Tulik was ejected for the Bulldogs at the end of the first period for a game misconduct call, forcing the Bulldogs to kill a five-minute major.

Ferris responded in the second with a power play goal of their own, courtesy of MacLaren. Pokorny and Brad Marek assisted.

St. Thomas answered back with a short-handed goal midway through the second period before Ferris scored another power play goal at 12:00. McGrath notched his second goal of the weekend. Blake Evennou and Travis Shoudy assisted.

Down 3-2 going into the third, the Bulldogs went to the box four more times in the final period. The Tommies got their third power play goal of the night at 11:27 in the third and then scored on an empty net at 17:04 to seal a 5-2 win.

Noah Giesbrecht took the loss in net for Ferris, making 16 saves. The Bulldogs outshot the Tommies 36-21 but were unable to overcome the penalties.

On the weekend, Ferris spent 34 minutes in the penalty box, including one five-minute major each night.

"That's too many," Daniels said. "Nobody can kill that long. It's not going to work for you. It's a very expensive lesson to learn."

Ferris will head to Bemidji State this weekend before returning home to face Mercyhurst in an exhibition contest on Nov. 12.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Men's Basketball

Oct. 29 - Ferris 85, Calvin 61

Soccer

Oct. 28 - Saginaw Valley 3, Ferris 1

Football

Oct. 29 - Ferris 56, Northern Michigan 20

Bulldogs take two more



Photo by: Mariana Searl | Torch Photographer

Chelsie Freeman (#8) and Claire Nowicki (#4) jump to block a Laker attack during Ferris' 3-1 victory over Grand Valley.

Volleyball wins over Grand Valley and Purdue Northwest in home doubleheader

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

In front of over 1000 total fans, Ferris volleyball picked up two wins over the weekend to stay atop the GLIAC standings.

Friday's opener against Grand Valley finished similarly to an earlier matchup on Oct. 8 — the Bulldogs outlasted the rival Lakers in a four-set thriller.

Ferris (19-9, 14-2 GLIAC) took the momentum in the opening set 25-20, but the Lakers answered in the second set virtue of a 25-18 victory. The next two sets went back-and-forth, but crucial blocks by Ferris and service errors by Grand Valley sealed a 25-23 win in set three and a 30-28 victory in the final set.

"We felt like this was going to be one of those point-for-point type of matches," head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm said.

Syann Fairfield led the Bulldogs with 17.5 points. Claire Nowicki followed with 15 points and Olivia Henneman-Dallape with 14 points. Kaylee Maat added 44 assists in the contest and paced the Bulldogs with 18 digs and two service aces. Fairfield added seven block assists.

"We were really excited to get a win over such a good team," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "Grand Valley played very well and have a really big offensive team."

On Saturday, the Bulldogs kept their dominant play going with their fifth best offensive efficiency effort of conference play. Ferris registered a .325 hit percentage along with only eleven errors, their fourth best effort in conference play this season. The team used huge momentum

swings all game long, including at least one unanswered, five-point run in all three sets. The Bulldogs won in three consecutive sets: 25-17, 25-15 and 25-18.

Fairfield said preparation was key for her team's back-to-back games.

"We focused on getting a good night of sleep, staying hydrated and [we] had a team lunch before the match. Obviously, we were a little tired, but we were still able to play hard and play well."

Fairfield led Ferris with 16 points individually, followed by Henneman-Dallape with 11 and Nowicki with 10. Maat added 41 assists and Nowicki recorded four service aces, a team high. Bylut carried the Bulldogs with 23 digs, followed by Emma Bleacher with 10.

Entering the final week of the regular season, Ferris currently holds a two-game advantage over Davenport and Northern Michigan, both 12-4, for the top spot in the GLIAC standings. This was a position many analysts didn't believe the Bulldogs would be in at this point, mainly in correlation to their preseason number four ranking in the GLIAC polls. Despite a new lineup with younger players and transfers coming in, Brandel-Wilhelm believes the team has continued to improve.

"We started off with a lot of new people," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "We had a lot of work to do early in the year, and I think we try to get better, not just in our volleyball play and tactics, but also in our relationships."

Ferris will host their penultimate game against Saginaw Valley on Friday at 7 p.m.

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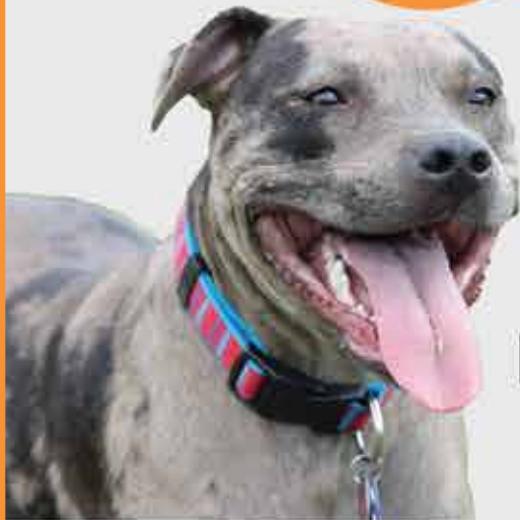
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