

Fraternity brother's "alleged history" leads to removal from chapter

Court documents name student in lawsuit relating to criminal sexual conduct

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Disclaimer: This article includes discussion of alleged sexual acts committed against a minor.

Ferris' Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity announced the immediate removal of member Cody Adkins last Friday, following the release of documents detailing instances of rape and dissemination of child pornography.

Carlton Thompson, advisor of Ferris' chapter of PSK, says the fraternity was "shocked and confused" by the allegations made against Adkins. An Instagram story from @phisigferrisstate said that Adkins' "alleged history" contradicts the group's core values.

Adkins is a junior in the health care systems management program and former employee of DeVos Children's Hospital. His time as a brother in PSK was interrupted by the disclosure and spread of a 14-page complaint and jury demand from 2020.

The documents tell the alleged story of a 16-year-old Adkins leading a 12-year-old girl, referred to as M.P., into the woods during an Edwardsburg Public Schools affiliated summer camp in 2017. Adkins was reportedly placed in the position of camp mentor despite a previous interview with the Edwardsburg Police Department, in which the student admitted to disseminating child pornography.

"Once they made it into a more wooded area, Cody began to get undressed," the documents read. "M.P. asked Cody what he was doing, and he responded, 'I'm doing you.' M.P. repeatedly said, 'Please don't,' while physically struggling to prevent Cody from raping her. Cody became very angry throughout the physical struggle and forced M.P. to perform oral sex."

M.P.'s parents filed a lawsuit against EPS on June 26, 2020, after the "failure to conduct an investigation into the reported assault." The documents also state that Adkins had been named in "several" other sexual assault allegations reported to EPS and that EPS reported M.P.'s parents to Child Protective Services after learning about their decision to disenroll from the school. The Torch ac-

cessed further documentation from the lawsuit, including a 22-page amended version of the complaint and jury demand. The case closed on May 5, 2022, with M.P.'s family settling for \$65,000 from EPS and an additional \$30,000 from the Adkins family.

Word of the lawsuit spread to the Ferris community through social media. Product design engineering junior Kyle Johnson was one of, if not the first, many students to post about Adkins' allegations.

"I did a little digging to figure out if the information was true or not before I shared any false information," Johnson said. "I felt like this is something that his peers and people who do know him personally should know about him."

While Johnson never knew Adkins personally, he recognized his name in Facebook posts made by an Edwardsburg graduate. Johnson knew Adkins as a popular yet "controversial character" on campus. A large campus-wide reaction followed Johnson's posts.

"At first everyone was baffled by it," Johnson said. "Towards the end of the day, it was getting really rowdy and crazy. People were not happy with him or the fraternity."

Many students took to the popular, anonymous, college social media app Yik Yak to voice their concerns. Yik Yak users organized a failed "protest" outside of the PSK house on Thursday night. Though several users declared that they were parked near the house, no mass of students exited their cars. A representative of PSK acknowledged Adkins' presence at the fraternity's haunted house event last month, which had minors in attendance. A plan to reach out to the families and children who attended had not been considered at the time of the group's statement.

The Torch previously reported on PSK's usage of the NightCap anti-spiking scrunchie. Adkins purchased 250 of the scrunchies to hand out during PSK's open house. NightCap has made no public statement, but did delete TikTok content which featured Adkins.

It is unclear at this time why the story circulated around campus six months after the case was closed. However,

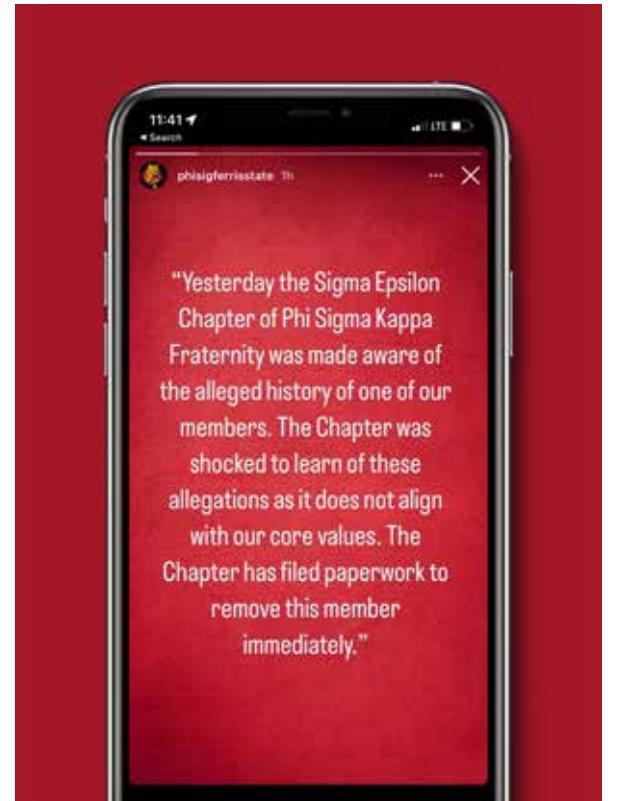
all posts lead back to a single article posted by Conservative outlet Real News Michiana on Nov. 1.

Sandy Gholston of Ferris' News Services released a statement that reads as follows:

"The University is committed to a safe environment for its students, faculty, staff and visitors and will follow appropriate laws and institutional policies as it continues to monitor this situation."

Adkins was not available for comment on this story and his current whereabouts are unknown.

Dylan Rider, Noah Kurkjian and Marissa Russell contributed to the reporting of this article.



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

New direction at DPS

Get to know the Department of Public Safety's new director

Ember St. Amour
News Reporter

Ferris' "short staffed" Department of Public Safety hired Chief Abe Haroon as their new director this October.

Since Oct. 17, Haroon has been in charge of supervising the department, reviewing procedures and policies, reviewing emergency plans and creating plans for football games. The director and chief is also responsible for making sure that stationary supplies are in stock.

Haroon was previously a chief of police in Johnstown, Ohio. Prior to this, Haroon worked several jobs, including deputy sheriff, school resource officer, parole officer, special weapons and tactics team member, drug recognition expert and patrol sergeant. He expressed the desire to "get into a different avenue." He was immediately impressed by Ferris DPS.

"When I interviewed for this one, I found that I really liked [the] community, I really like the staff and I really like the organization itself."

DPS aims to help protect members of the Ferris community by creating an environment that everyone feels safe in. DPS doesn't only have positions for licensed officers, they also hire student workers. Students can be service officers, cadets or dispatchers. Criminal justice sophomore Nicole Janisz was recently promoted to cadet. Her duties include scheduling and training service officers about the parking system. Janisz described what it's been like since Haroon took over.

"Who we had filling in the position for the time being was doing a fantastic job, but we were a little bit short handed," Janisz said. "So with [Haroon] coming in, he has

DPS | See page 2



Photo provided by Ferris State University

Haroon has worn many hats, including deputy sheriff, school sheriff officer, parole officer, special weapons and tactics team member and more.

News

Jessica Oakes | News Editor | oakesj3@ferris.edu

DPS

Continued from the front page

such a positive energy, and he loves talking to people. From what I've experienced, he's just a really great guy. It's helping things go a lot smoother, and he's honestly doing a great job."

Brittany Taylor, a dispatch officer at DPS and Ferris alumnus, explained what it's been like since Haroon has taken over.

"We have someone in that seat to give us guidance when we need it," Taylor said. "It's been nice. There hasn't been changes. I foresee that there probably will

be once he gets more comfortable, but there's a lot to get acclimated to."

The previous captain of DPS, Gary Green, recently left on good terms, according to Taylor, to take on the position of undersheriff of Mecosta County. This leaves Haroon with a position to fill. DPS will post a national job posting for the position. It will be open for about three weeks. Haroon plans to make a selection by mid-December and extend an offer by early January.

Human resources freshman Vivian Jahncke described how she views safety on campus. Jahncke explained that she hasn't heard of any robberies or crimes

but feels like there isn't a lot of security aside from the blue help boxes.

"I think most of the safety on campus relies more on an honor system of don't do bad things," Jahncke said. "I haven't noticed too many security cameras."

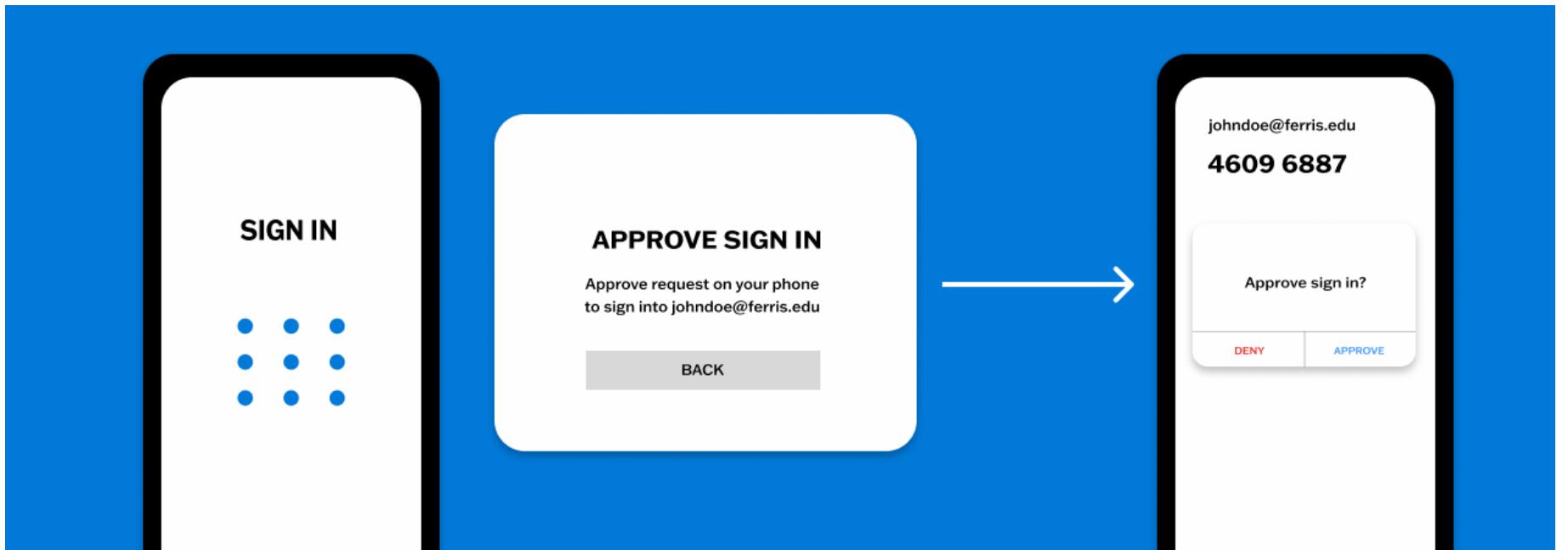
Haroon explained that the main change that he has planned to help keep the Ferris community safe is increasing the use of body cameras. Once approved, Haroon will be able to start training the officers, and he hopes to have them in use in January.

Haroon also explained that he wants to get involved on campus, and he plans to attend meetings, including student government meetings. He hopes that groups

will reach out to him if they feel he should attend their respective meetings.

Haroon's goal is to not be a stranger at Ferris. He hopes to be a part of the community by socializing with different groups on campus. Haroon also shared that he is open to any suggestions, comments, concerns or compliments, and he is excited to be a part of the Ferris community.

Two steps to protection



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

IT services to implement multi-factor authentication to safeguard Ferris accounts

Meghan Hartley
News Reporter

The IT Services department will be implementing multi-factor authentication on all Ferris Microsoft accounts on Nov. 28, which will protect them from phishing and hacking attempts.

Continued efforts to protect online Ferris accounts from would-be hackers are leading the IT Services department to implement new protocols. Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer Charlie Weaver said that it was "just time" to implement MFA.

"When all you have is a username and password, it's very easy to get phished," Weaver said. "[If] somebody sends you an email [that] says, 'Hey, go here and do something,' you may not recognize it [and] you think you have to do it, especially when it says this is about your financial aid or your school."

"Phishing" is the act of fraudulently emailing users with the intent of obtaining personal information. Weaver says once a student enters in their username and password, the phisher has them. The phisher can then log in as the student, and they can get into any system that uses that log-in information.

Weaver previously worked at an insti-

tution in Georgia that did not have MFA in place, and he saw a phishing attempt succeed first-hand. The student gave up her username and password, giving the phishers access to her financial aid refund, and they changed where her refund went. A month later, the student called the school's financial aid office wondering where her refund was, but it had already been processed into somebody else's account.

"That's what we're trying to prevent as we link systems together and make one username and password the lock and key to all your things," Weaver said. "We've got to put some security in [the accounts]. The last thing we want is for any of our students to lose their money or have other identity issues happen."

According to Verizon's 2022 Data Breach Investigation Report, educational services have had 1,241 incidents of data breaches with 282 incidents being confirmed of data disclosure, meaning the information was revealed and used by hackers. 75% of these breaches were external with a financial motive in 95% of cases and espionage in 5% of cases. Verizon's DBIR says educational services are experiencing a dramatic increase in Ransomware attacks (over 30% of breaches) and that the industry must

protect "itself against stolen credentials and phishing attacks potentially exposing the personal information of its employees and students."

While MFA will be implemented on Nov. 28, faculty, students and staff can set it up early.

Television and digital media production junior Derk Poortenga says he has had MFA enabled for some time on his personal and school accounts.

"When I first came to Ferris... I would reuse my passwords on multiple platforms," Poortenga said. "I've had [several] of my accounts compromised, and I was worried that my Ferris [accounts] would be too. IT services were also very concerned given the information I told them, so my freshman year we had the two-factor authentication enabled."

Poortenga had one of his personal email accounts, which was attached to his bank account, compromised. Since then, he has enabled two-factor authentication on every single account he owns. He believes that MFA is both a good and bad idea.

"[MFA] is good because of security reasons, especially being able to ensure we don't have any more phishing email situations," Poortenga said. "The [bad] thing that I'm looking at is the student popula-

tion that does not have a cell phone... With me, it's actually been a hindrance a few times because I forgot my phone at home, and when I go onto a Ferris computer..., I can't access my email, I can't access OneDrive [and] I can't access the things I need to use for classes without having my phone physically present."

While Poortenga brings up a negative attribute to the implementation of the MFA, Weaver sees this as an opportunity to train individuals on how to become more secure with their media accounts.

"I want everybody to understand it's not just about protecting Ferris, it's about protecting you," Weaver said. "Just like when you go to class, the skills you get there are not just for that one class, they're for everything you do after that class as well. So, the training we're trying to do for cyber and for helping people understand how to be secure, I want them to use it everywhere because that's when you're protecting yourself all the time."

For more information or guidance on how to set up MFA on your Ferris accounts, students can contact the IT services department online or in-person at their help desk in the David L. Eisler Center.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Detroit: On Monday, the day before Michigan’s midterm election, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Timothy Kenny released a “blistering opinion” rejecting a request from secretary of state candidate Kristina Karamo.

Karamo’s lawsuit first requested that the court stop the count of tens of thousands of Detroit absentee ballots. Kenny noted that in “the 48 hours between Nov. 2 and Nov. 4, Plaintiffs’ relief requests changed three times.” On Friday, Karamo’s lawyers released a brief altering the request, asking the court to prohibit online or mailed absentee ballot requests for future elections until SOS Jocelyn Benson establishes new signature verification rules. While Benson attempted to complete this before Tuesday’s election, the Detroit Free Press reports that a “GOP-led legislative committee

punted on the matter.” Kenny stated that requiring Detroit voters to pick up their absentee ballot in person clearly violated the Michigan Constitution. He also explained that the preliminary injunction would disenfranchise tens of thousands of eligible Detroit voters, causing “unprecedented” and “intolerable” harm.

During an eight-hour evidentiary hearing, “no evidence of election law violations for the Nov. 8, 2022 election was produced.”

“The idea that the Court would single out one community in the state to be treated adversely when Plaintiffs have provided no evidence in support of their allegation simply cannot be allowed to occur,” Kenny wrote.

Detroit community members including voters, politicians and the local NAACP branch view Karamo’s late legal action as an attempt to disenfranchise voters in America’s largest majority-Black city.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Egypt: The opening speeches for this year’s COP27 climate summit show a grim future as the secretary general of the United Nations reveals humanity’s two options: “cooperate or perish.”

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged delegates to speed up the transition from fossil fuels this weekend. Guterres also encouraged better funding for poorer countries that currently feel the impacts of climate change.

Guterres believes the war in Ukraine, inflation and damaged relations between the United States and China have distracted world leaders.

“We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator,” Guterres said.

Current and former political leaders spoke at the summit opening, including French President Emmanuel

Macron and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. Gore called on a political “credibility problem” and called developed nations’ pursuit of African natural resources “fossil fuel colonialism.”

United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan said that his country is a “responsible supplier of energy” that will continue in their role until the world no longer needs oil and gas.

This year’s UN Climate Change Conference will run until Nov. 18.



STUDENT LOAN UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief

Its days in the Supreme Court

Justice Amy Coney Barrett rejected two emergency applications to block this program once on Oct. 20 and again on Nov. 1. The case brought to her on Oct. 20 from the Brown County Taxpayers Association in Wisconsin and the Nov. 1 application from the Pacific Legal Foundation.

Barrett stopped both of these applications from her district, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals including Indiana and

Wisconsin.

A lawyer for the Pacific Legal Foundation, Caleb Kruckenberg said in an email statement to CNBC that they were disappointed in the detail but would continue to fight the plan in court.

“Practically since this program was announced, the administration has sought to avoid judicial scrutiny,” Kruckenberg said to CNBC. “Thus far they have succeeded. But that does not change the fact that this program is illegal from stem to stern.”

The holdup in the 8th Circuit

Six Republican-led states, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and South Carolina, filed emergency petitions stop the progress of the program while their appeal was being considered. A judge for the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals granted this pause until after the conclusion of the midterm elections.

What’s the White House got to say?

The Biden administration released a statement on Nov. 3 condemning the actions of those filing the lawsuits.

“If Republican officials get their way, tens of millions of Americans’ monthly costs will rise dramatically when student loan payments resume next year,” the statement read. “Working and middle-class Americans who could have up to \$10,000 or \$20,000 of their student debt relieved under the Biden Administration’s plan will remain under the burden of loan debt – preventing them from pursuing the dream of homeownership, saving up for retirement, or starting small businesses.”

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Academic Senate discusses study abroad

Jonathen Hart
News Reporter

At their Nov. 1 meeting, the Academic Senate supported a set of 14 recommendations from their International Education Committee that represent over a year's worth of deliberation.

The recommendations address policies and procedures for faculty-led study abroad programs and the recruitment of international students, with specific attention to supporting the Office of International Education. During deliberations, senators praised the committee for providing this set of recommendations, which follow the Senate's support of a letter of concern the Senate received from the International Education Committee last year.

The Senate recognized that the COVID-19 interruption of both study abroad activities and international student recruitment offered an opportunity to review and improve upon previous practices. These recommendations are a result of that reflection. The goal is for Ferris to enhance global engagement that benefits students, faculty and the community.

The policies and procedures in the recommendations promise to ensure the safety and security of students and faculty when they travel abroad. Senate President Dr. Sandra Alspach wants to see the study abroad trips return to the full extent.

"As a faculty member who has led numerous study abroad trips, I was especially encouraged to see the strong Senate support for these recommendations," Alspach said. "My husband and I still connect from time to time with students we traveled with, and we can testify that those experiences were life-changing for many of them."

Alspach has worked with different groups of people as well as her students to find people wanting to try the study abroad trips.

"I continue to work with the [OIE] to connect international students on campus with students in my COMM 365 Intercultural Communication class," Alspach said. "These kinds of connections have also been reported as life-changing by some of my students."

In spring of 2022, the International Education Committee presented a letter

of concern to the Academic Senate on the direction of international education at Ferris.

The Senate discussed the impact of the elimination of the OIE's Education Abroad Coordinator position, offering study abroad in 2022-2023 cycle and not using educational agencies for recruiting international students. The letter was endorsed by the Academic Senate with an overwhelming majority. The position elimination decision was not reconsidered, and the university has not yet resumed using educational agencies for recruiting.

The Senate continues to have significant concerns about the university's commitment to and investment in international education. With the change in university leadership, the Senate believes there is a significant opportunity to reinvest in international education. The Senate discussed recommendations they could give moving forward with the discussion, and split them into two sections.

Recommendations for reengaging study abroad at Ferris

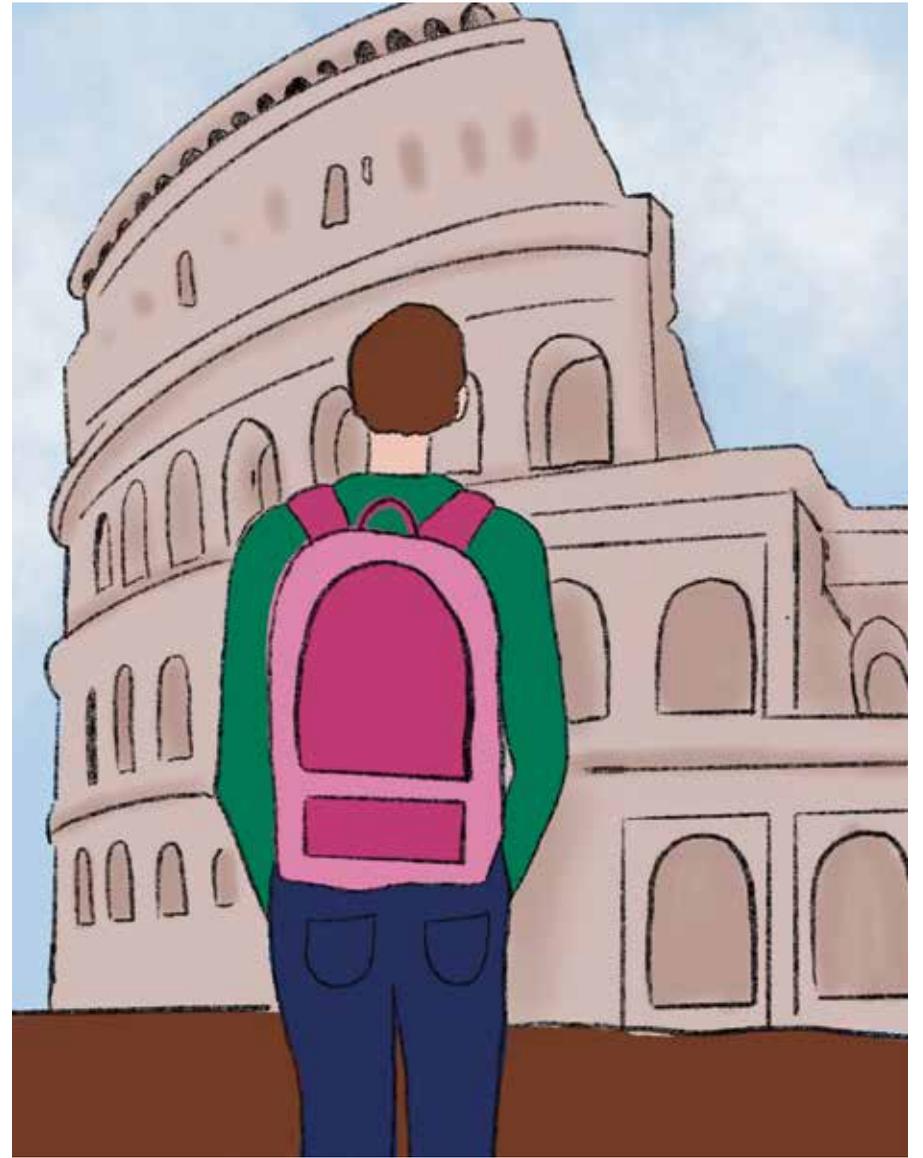
The first recommendation the Senate provided was to implement an 18-month study abroad cycle for faculty-led study abroad, as currently proposed in the draft study abroad procedures document, "to [finally] bring the university in line with industry best practices, as our peer institutions have been doing for years."

The Senate recognizes that they need to create a plan for something as big as sending students abroad, so they want to develop, approve and adopt a comprehensive study abroad procedures document.

The Senate had also talked about hiring a study abroad coordinator or creating one or more suitable positions that require the expertise needed to professionally and safely support sustained study abroad efforts in the OIE.

Recommendations for the recommitting of international education at Ferris

The Senate also focused on budgets. The Senate wants to start by creating a sustainable budget model for the OIE that supports growth in international student



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

enrollment, effectively supports study abroad programming at the college levels and strengthens campus internationalization efforts.

The Senate brainstormed different ideas on how they could find ways to figure out different budget plans, including "[developing] a sustainable funding model for and commit to working with educational agents around the world to recruit international students" [and] "consider the viability of re-instituting and staffing an intensive English program to attract a

larger population of international students on campus."

The Senate knows that they need support from the university as well as faculty. In order to encourage and support faculty to seek nationally sponsored and competitive international experiences in line with the university's commitment to learning and excellence, faculty members offered Fulbright scholarships are to be offered automatic sabbatical leave. This way it gives the faculty an incentive.

ON THE RECORD

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

Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief

Seven dollars worth of fraud

Nov. 1, 10:34 a.m. - A Bond Hall resident lost their debit card. When they checked their statement, they noticed \$7 worth of fraudulent activity and reported it to DPS. The case was closed due to lack of leads.

Off-campus weapons

Nov. 1, 6:55 p.m. - A student told a friend they suspected another off-campus student possessed a weapon on campus. DPS conducted an investigation and concluded the claims to be hearsay.

The Ferris State Torch

Corrections

For the story released on Oct. 5, "Know their stories"

The Torch mistakenly shortened the hyphenated last names of two of the panelists. The complete names of the panelists are as follows: Hilary Sanchez, Gilbert Torres, Cynthia Baez Zavala and Alex Guzman-Vargus.

The Torch also named the incorrect sorority when referring to Sanchez. It should have been Gamma Phi Omega.

Finally, the Torch incorrectly used the term Latinx where the term Latin@ should have been used instead at the preference of the panelists and the Center for Latin@ Studies.

Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

RSO SPOTLIGHT: *Learn more about the Golden Majorettes' new RSO*



Photo courtesy of Unique Robinson | RSO President

Through tabling at events like Bulldog Binanza, the Majorettes' have built a team that carved out a unique position alongside the cheer and dance teams.

Kylah Robinson
Culture Reporter

You've seen the cheer and dance team on campus, now it's time to look out for the Golden Majorettes, a new dance club at Ferris.

The Golden Majorettes' dance club was established in the spring of 2022 by marketing sophomore Unique Robinson. Robinson created this Registered Student Organization to give women a dance outlet and a place to be comfortable as themselves.

"I wanted to give women the opportunity to be involved in something [centered around Black women] that isn't Greek life because Greek life isn't for everybody," Robinson said.

The word got out about the new RSO at Bulldog Bonanza. Social work sophomore Paris Horton attended the Majorettes' informational table and invited her friends to tag along.

Although the majorette team has been on campus for less than a year, it spoke to some of its members more than other RSOs on campus.

"Cheer didn't have enough soul to me, and I rarely saw the dance team," Horton said. "So when I heard about the majorette team, I immediately thought of [the Dancing Dolls] and was interested."

On the other hand, nursing sophomore Arielle Teamer has been cheering since she was three but decided to take a different route as a college student.

"I stopped cheering in the sixth grade to join the majorette team [because] my school had a band, so I continued to do that," Teamer said. "When I got to college, I wanted to continue with the majorette team instead of cheer, so that's what I did."

Majorette dance teams are not the same as regular dance teams. The differ-

ence is that the majorette style of dance originated at historically Black colleges. This form of dance mixes all dance types together into one.

The Majorettes' favorite thing about being on the team is being able to display their creativity through their original dance routines. While most dance teams have coaches that determine their dance moves and counts, majorette dancers have a say in a majority of their routines. The dancers have many opportunities to create their own dances, and their drill masters assist them with completing the dance if needed.

Joining the team has helped Horton learn more about herself.

"I didn't know I could lead as well as I am... until I came to the [Golden Majorettes]," Horton said.

Business sophomore Victoria Warren always looks forward to team practices.

"I stay in my room, but my favorite part of the week is majorette practice," Warren said. "It just brings me out of my comfort zone."

The girls have gotten to know each other a lot since the start of the RSO. Warren feels like the girls have known each other for a while, even though it's only been a few weeks.

Before getting active on campus with the Golden Majorettes, Teamer was shy and reserved. Joining this

dance club has introduced her to new people and made her more confident with dancing in front of people.

Teamer explains that she feels a connection with the girls on the team and that she "instantly clicked with them." Practice days are her favorite because she gets to see her teammates.

She describes their relationship as a "sister-like bond" and believes that the other girls on the team may feel the same way.

"I really am an introvert; that's why I

don't have a lot of friends... I won't talk to people first," Teamer said. "But the majorette team has brought a lot out in me and with these girls on the team."

Dance experience is not required for potential members. Reaching out to the team and wanting to learn is all that's needed.

If you would like to join the Golden Majorettes, you can visit Bulldog Connect, search for their RSO and click on the "contact" tab to sign up for more information.

#The Ferris State Torch **PIONEER**

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

KAYLEE MAAT
FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SEPTEMBER WINNERS!

Football - Senior Defensive End
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Maat registered 31 assists and a team-high 13 digs with four aces for the Bulldogs in a win over Northern Michigan, and 33 assists and 10 digs in a win over Lake Superior.

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The show will go on



Photo by: Maddie Epps | Torch Photographer

After weeks of practice, stilettos and all, "Kinky Boots" opened Thursday, Nov. 3 with no COVID-19 restrictions.

A glance into the opening night show

Harmony Goodman
Culture Reporter

"Kinky Boots," the Ferris Theater Department's fall musical, hit the stage on Thursday, Nov. 3, at the Williams Auditorium.

The auditorium quickly filled with lots of friendly chatter and excitement from the audience. A few students in the audience came with posters to cheer on their friends and peers.

The show's main message was about accepting people as they are. This was stated at the end of the show as well as many times in the character's lines.

Director Katherine A. LaPietra has been ecstatic to put on the show ever since the show's rights became available.

"I think it's a show for our time," LaPietra said. "It's message is something we need to be thinking about right now."

The audience was quick to lose their minds upon the first appearance of Lola and the Angels during the song "Land of Lola." The scene was full of lots of interactive moments with the audience. It is safe to say that Lola and the Angels were one of the highlights of the show's opening night.

"Part of [the] attention [during "Land of Lola"] comes from the energy of... the actors themselves," LaPietra said. "They were just fantastic."

The whole performance gained a lot of

good comments and reactions from the audience

"I thought opening night went very well, and we had a good and attentive audience," LaPietra said.

Similar to all opening nights, the performance did have a few mic issues, as well as a few slipped-up lines.

"There are always things that go differently than planned, but I think those were at a minimum," LaPietra said.

This show was the first in years that hasn't been affected by COVID-19. The cast members were able to perform without wearing a face cover.

Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Society member Sydney Mingori is a member of the show's cast. She explains that she is happy to be back on stage, putting shows on as normal.

"A lot more work has gone into this than the previous productions," Mingori said.

Digital animation and game design freshman Jason Zawacki is a part of the ensemble cast. Zawacki was excited to be a part of this show and is especially fond of LaPietra's beagle, Buford, who makes a special appearance during the bar scene where Charlie, the shoe factory owner, seeks the help of a friend. Buford can be seen receiving lots of pets from the bar guests.

Buford's appearance in the show is a tradition for Ferris productions.

"The tradition started with my previous

dog, who was in 'Legally Blonde,'" LaPietra said. "We just kept finding reasons [and] ways to use him in the shows, and it just became tradition."

The tradition carries on with Buford, who also plays the role of being a support animal for the cast.

Zawacki believes that the show's bright and colorful costumes, props, stage energy and dramatic boots are what really bring the show together.

"[The show] can provide a new perspective," Zawacki said. "The show is just overall a good time."

All cast members have been practicing for weeks wearing stiletto platform boots. They were required to dance in these heels for the final scene of the show, which depicts the Angels, Lola and the factory workers giving a presentation on the shoe factory's boots.

This was a challenge for most of the cast members, but Zawacki knew that they were all able to take on the task with confidence.

"I heard that you have to be confident in heels to walk about in them," Zawacki said.

With this piece of advice from Zawacki, plus lots of practice and a few stumbles here and there, the cast was able to bring the final scene to life for the opening night and the shows that followed.

Throughout the show, a group of three audience members were very expressive

with their enjoyment of the performance. They often waved their hands, laughed and gasped at jokes and surprising scenes.

One of the group members, plastics engineering technology freshman Benji Zorn came to watch the show with no expectations, since he had no idea what "Kinky Boots" was about. However, he quickly became one of the most reactive in the audience.

"We [showed] up, and we were just absolutely blown away," Zorn said. "Characters changed throughout the musical, and I really admired [that]."

Another one of the group members, biochemistry and Spanish freshman Delaney Beckett, feels confident that she and her friends will return for the spring play.

The audience consisted of a mix of students, parents, community members and professors on opening night.

Math professor and director of general education Dr. Victor Piercy has attended other shows put on by Ferris' theatre department. He has always loved theatre and believes that the cast did "wonderfully." Like the rest of the audience, he was a big fan of the "Land of Lola" number.

At the end of the show, the cast received a standing ovation from the audience.

Spooky Skate

Ferris Housing hosts a rollerskating event to celebrate Halloween

Mackenzie Griffin
Culture Reporter

Halloween is a time for dressing up, laughter, trick-or-treating and getting a sugar buzz. This looked just a little bit different for Ferris students, who enjoyed a night of skating.

On Monday, Oct. 31, Ferris Housing hosted an event in celebration of Halloween at the Big Rapids Roller Rink, fittingly called Spooky Skate. This event included dressing up in fun costumes, winning cool prizes and enjoying free popcorn and drinks.

Students were able to skate for free while listening to Halloween themed music. This event was the third skating event hosted by Ferris Housing this year.

Pre-dental hygiene freshman Elizabeth DeVisser attended Spooky Skate and was excited because it was her first time at the roller rink.

"When I was walking into the building, I could tell that the atmosphere was lively and festive," DeVisser said.

Director of Housing and Residence Life Lisa Ortiz affirms that they made this event happen so that students could have a fun opportunity to celebrate the Halloween season.

"The Big Rapids Roller Rink has been a great partner for Housing and Residence Life to provide evening fun and encourage people to come out to skate," Ortiz said.

Students were dressed up in an eclectic assortment of costumes that livened up the night and were able to enjoy a night out with friends that was interactive and safe.

Hospitality management freshman Maeve Coretti took inspiration from the 2010 film "Despicable Me" and dressed up as a minion. She felt that going to this event brought her back to her childhood and gave her a fun opportunity to hang out and bond with her friends.

"There was a bigger turnout than I was expecting," Coretti said. "After midterms, it was nice to have something exciting to do."

Ortiz also enjoyed the event because she was able to see students having a good time at an event she helped make possible.

"Personally, I found joy in seeing everyone having fun on skates and interacting with each other. There was laughter, fun and spooky costumes that added to the atmosphere," Ortiz said.

According to DeVisser, Spooky Skate, as well as other events Ferris puts on at

the roller rink, is a great way to expose students to the small businesses in town. She hopes that hosting events like this for students will encourage their support in the future.

"I look forward to going skating at the

Big Rapids roller rink with my friends in the future," DeVisser said.

There is much more to look forward to in the future from Ferris Housing. Look at the Ferris event calendar to stay tuned for more skating fun.



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

Dress for success

Young professionals speak on why it's important to dress professionally

Jasmine Baar
Culture Reporter

Dress for the job you want, not the job you have.

We're all instructed every day to dress accordingly to events. This could include wearing suits, dresses, skirts, blazers and blouses, plus more. But why do we do this? Because judgments are made within the first six seconds upon meeting someone, and your reputation is everything in the real world. So the question is, do you want to be seen as an intelligent and capable person or someone who just rolled out of bed?

General business sophomore Aliyah Clark believes that we send a message

through our clothing every day. She explains that she takes pride in how she dresses for her classes.

"Going into the business field and being a businesswoman, it's important to practice building my representation," Clark said. "I feel my best when I know I look good and my outfit is put together."

Speech and debate coach Aimee Miller tells her students to make their outfits make sense for the occasion.

"A suit and tie aren't always necessary for a formal event or even for an interview. It all depends on the context of the situation," Miller said.

In order to be appropriately dressed, Miller believes that being aware of the norms and standards in each situation is

important.

"I've seen a lot of students perform speeches in crop tops, ripped jeans, hoodies or hats. It's fun and fashionable but is rarely appropriate for a formal situation," Miller said.

As a college student, getting into certain programs and internships can be crucial for post-grad success. Learning how to act and dress professionally can be that deciding factor.

At the fall career and internship fair, students were dressed in formal attire, eager to score internships and learn about possible future careers.

Marketing junior Colten Cook dressed for the occasion so that he could look professional. He used his previous knowledge

to decide on how professional he should dress for a career fair that was held in the gym of the student recreational center.

"Today I wore half a suit with a vest. I decided a full suit would look too formal for a college career fair," Cook said.

Cook believes that dressing and looking professional gives him opportunities to succeed in his career path.

Learning the standards of dressing professionally can open a lot of doors for students and recent graduates. According to BBC News, studies have shown that dressing in more formal attire can make workers feel confident and improve their work performance.



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

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Opinions

Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

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EDITORS COLUMN: *Could this be the final fall back?*

Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief

Last weekend, like every first weekend of November, we set our clocks back an hour, possibly for the last time.

In March, just after we “sprung ahead,” the U.S. Senate introduced and unanimously passed the Sunshine Protection Act, which would place us permanently in daylight savings time.

While this isn't law quite yet — it still needs to pass through the House and the president — I am wishing for the change. The early darkness is just swallowing. It's not too bad during the holidays because there's a lot of fun activities to do at night, typically surrounded by family. But once January rolls around and 5 p.m. hits, it's pitch black, frigid, snowy

and I feel suffocated.

On the other side, I also enjoy the later sunrises. As a night owl with a sleep schedule to match, I enjoy the darkness all throughout my slumber. While I'll still get showered in sunlight early in the summer, I'll take this winter win.

I also find the time changes themselves horrible. My body, like most, can't just randomly take an extra hour of sleep. I can't really build that extra hour into my day either because it's at 2 a.m. Instead, I wake up a hour early and scroll on my phone until it's an acceptable time to start my day.

In the spring, that stolen hour causes noticeable damage. Several sources report an increase of cardiovascular disease and a 24% increase in heart attacks, a 6% increase in fatal injuries,

such as car crashes and an 8% increase in stroke rate and several other striking increases. It's not as simple as just going to bed early to compensate for the loss, either. With something as integral as sleep being affected, it's time for it to go.

The concept of a daylight savings time is also not a widely observed practice. You have to be positioned rather perfectly for the switch to even partially make sense. Countries seated at the poles don't observe it because of how little difference it would make to their extended days and nights. Same with countries near the equator, who don't observe it because of how little their day length actually changes.

While originally implemented in the early 1900s to conserve energy consumption and further

cemented by the 1970s energy crisis, people just do not live in the same ways anymore. We want to get off work or get out of class and still have some daylight to spend.

I'm also looking forward to the mood boost. An hour to me makes all the difference. I'm typically getting out of class between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., and having just a bit of extra time to enjoy the day before the evening sets in is a luxury I cannot wait to enjoy.

According to a Drive Research study, while more people preferred the spring forward for the daylight it brought as opposed to the reduction from the fall back, 7 in 10 Americans agree with me on this one. Let's hope that our wish is granted and we gain some wintertime sunshine.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: *Ember St. Amour*

Ember St. Amour
News Reporter

I am a freshman in the journalism and technical communication program. I graduated from a class of 12, so coming to Ferris was a huge step for me.

I originally planned on majoring in interior design, as I have had a passion for decorating, however, my artistic skills aren't the best. I then decided that journalism made sense because I have always loved writing and talking to people.

I was excited to join the Torch as a freshman, especially since I didn't have any journalism experience in high school. The staff I work with now have been helpful in giving me tips and comments that help me improve on my work.

When I first began the position, I was a little bit nervous, but everyone was so helpful and al-

lowed me to shadow a few times until I learned the basics and felt comfortable enough to start reporting by myself. I am a reporter in the news section, which has allowed me to learn about unique programs, people and events at Ferris.

Outside of working for the Torch, I enjoy hanging out with my friends and going to campus events. I also enjoy going back home for the weekend, hanging out with my family and playing catch with my dog. If I'm not doing that, then you'll catch me watching the latest crime show or a sitcom that ended at least two years ago.

My goal for after Ferris is to move back home and start working for the local newspaper. My hope is to eventually gain enough experience to become a travel journalist and report on unique events outside of my hometown.



Photo courtesy of Ember St. Amour



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The role of the Black Panther



Photo provided by David Fuentes

Kylah Robinson
Culture Reporter

At some point in life, everyone is asked a simple question: who is your favorite superhero? Most would say the classics like Superman, Wonder Woman or Captain America, but I was never able to answer that question because I never saw a character that resonated with me.

That changed when I was introduced to the “X-Men” movie and saw actor Halle Berry as a superhero named Storm.

When I saw Storm beating up bad guys with natural elements, she was automatically my favorite superhero and a role model in a way. She was a superhero who had crazy hair like I did, the same complexion as me and she was someone I could relate to.

That same feeling occurred when I saw actor Chadwick Boseman as the Black Panther. The Black Panther is a superhero, and Boseman’s portrayal has done so much for African Americans. He inspired people to become anything they wanted to, even before he put on the Black Panther suit.

He graduated from Howard University and gave a commencement speech that inspired many, and his words stuck with so many students during that speech.

Boseman was a leader, an inspiration,

an icon and so much more. When he passed away on Aug. 28, 2020 from colon cancer, the world reacted with shock and grief. Just two days before his death, I was watching “Black Panther” in my room, wondering when the second movie was coming out.

When I found out about Boseman’s death, I immediately went to Google to figure out if this was actually possible. According to NBC News, Boseman kept his illness a secret so people wouldn’t worry about him. He only told a small group of people so he could continue to train and do the things he loved.

Boseman acted in history-making movies like “42,” a movie about the life of Jackie Robinson, “Marshall,” a movie about Thurgood Marshall and “Get On Up,” a biographical musical about the life of James Brown. In all of these movies he presented the character perfectly, just as he did with the Black Panther.

Because no one can play the Black Panther like Boseman did, many people, myself included, believe that the role should not be recast.

Criminal justice student Naomi Kumwenda has read the Marvel

comics and seen the “Black Panther” movie, and she believes that they should not recast the Black Panther role, but they should still try to continue his journey.

“You can’t think of “Black Panther” without thinking of the way Chadwick Boseman played it,” Kumwenda said. “So I think it shouldn’t be a real casting but like someone who’s kind of taken on the mantle.”

Others say that Marvel should stick with the comics, which means that T’Challa becomes unstable during a battle due to Iron Fist’s aneurysm and attacks the Jabari tribe. When he comes back and realizes what he’s done, he leaves Wakanda and goes into hiding.

I don’t believe they should go down this route because the Jabari tried reconciling with the Wakandans at the end of “Black Panther.” If the Black Panther has to die

somehow in the movie, I believe they could incorporate the “blip” period during “Avengers: Infinity War” and say that he vanished.

Another thing that would be a better tribute is if they had Shuri, T’Challa’s little sister, take over the throne in an honorable way, considering that is similar to how the comics went. Either of these would be more natural than killing him off with no explanation or recasting the role.

Boseman played his roles to the fullest every time, and there isn’t anyone that can portray his characters like he did. This is why I think they should try to find a way to contribute to his character, not just cut him out completely.

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Sports

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

Football tackles Davenport



Photo by: George Lawless | Torch Photographer

Carson Gulker throws one of his five pass attempts during Ferris' 28-7 victory over Davenport.

Bulldogs hand Panthers first loss of the season

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

In a battle of the top 15 nationally ranked teams, the seventh ranked Bulldogs took down the number thirteen ranked Panthers 28-7 last Saturday.

Ferris used their best defensive effort in GLIAC play to pick up their fourth conference win and move to 8-1 on the season.

"We knew we were playing a quality opponent," head coach Tony Annese said. "I thought the defense set the tone and did what they needed to do."

The Bulldogs only allowed 183 yards of total offense to the Panthers, including just 24 yards rushing. Ferris recorded two interceptions in the contest, one of which resulted in the first score of the game on a 43 yard pick-six by redshirt freshman defensive back Justin Payoute.

"Our coach called cover three, and I knew I had to go down to the flat," Payoute said. "I saw number one come out for the bubble, and the ball just landed in my hands."

The Bulldogs had trouble moving the ball early offensively. Ferris began the game with three punts, two fumbles and one turnover on downs on their first six possessions. On drive number seven, the Bulldogs found the endzone on a two-yard touchdown run from Tyrese Hunt-Thompson with 47 seconds left to go in the half.

Davenport came out of halftime with momentum virtue of many long pass plays. After gaining 52 yards on six plays, Panther quarterback Jason Whitaker found Roy Livingston on a 23-yard touchdown pass to cut the Bulldog lead to 14-7.

In response, Ferris began to

dial in offensively with great rhythm. The Bulldogs used many receiver sweeps and reverses to open up the running game. The drive was capped off with a rushing touchdown by Emari O'Brien from five yards out.

"We were just trying to get a rhythm," Annese said. "In the third quarter we finally got our rhythm on offense."

The Bulldogs added an insurance score on the next drive courtesy of a Mylik Mitchell three-yard rushing touchdown, who returned to the field for the first time since week six against Grand Valley.

When asked post game about what got the momentum going for the offense in the second half, Mitchell mentioned they used a particular formation that continued to move the ball against Davenport's defense.

"We got into a formation that

they weren't adjusting well to, so we just kept calling the same play," Mitchell said.

Ferris possessed the ball for 13 of the final 19 minutes to run out the clock and secure the 21-point victory.

The Bulldogs moved into second place in the GLIAC standings with the win and third in the NCAA DII Super Region Three rankings.

Offensively, Ferris recorded 448 yards of total offense, including 294 coming on the ground. Marcus Taylor led the attack on the ground with 105 yards on 13 carries, followed by CJ Jefferson with 95 yards on eight attempts. Jefferson headed the Bulldogs receiving with a 64 yard effort on four catches. Carson Gulker drew the start for Ferris at quarterback, throwing for 32 yards and rushing for 29 more. Mitchell paced the passing

game for Ferris with 122 yards on eight of eighteen completions.

In a game where rain and wind were a factor, Annese knew his team had to be prepared.

"We talked a lot about [the weather]," Annese said. "I look at the forecast obsessively like 20 times a day."

The Bulldog defense recorded three sacks in the victory, including two from Olarere Oladipo and one from Caleb Murphy to reach 16.5 on the season. Cyntell Williams paced the team with nine tackles, followed by Payoute with seven and Murphy with six. Jacarvis Alexandre added the Bulldogs' second interception, while Williams recorded the long pass break up for the Bulldogs.

Ferris will finish the regular season on Saturday, Nov. 12, at Wayne State. Kickoff is slated at 1 p.m. from Detroit.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Hockey

Nov. 4 - Ferris 2, Bemidji 2 (Ferris won the shootout)
Nov. 5 - Bemidji 2, Ferris 1

Men's Basketball

Nov. 4 - Michigan 88, Ferris 75

Cross Country

Women's - Fifth place finish in GLIAC Championships
Men's - Sixth place finish in GLIAC Championships

Bulldogs top Huskies, fall to Lakers



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

(From left)-Katie Nestico, Payton Price, Avery Comartin and Nikki May celebrate Price's goal that gave Ferris a 2-0 lead during their quarterfinal victory over Michigan Tech.

Soccer's quest to repeat as GLIAC champions falls short

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

The Bulldogs began their quest to repeat as GLIAC tournament champions with a win over Michigan Tech.

The fourth place Bulldogs (10-5-5, 7-2-5 GLIAC) beat the fifth place Huskies 3-1 on Tuesday, Nov. 1, to advance from the quarterfinals to the semifinals. In the semifinal match, they ultimately came short and lost 3-0 against Grand Valley.

The win over Michigan Tech also ensured a season sweep against the Huskies, as the Bulldogs won all three matches (two regular season, one GLIAC playoffs).

"It's playoff time," head coach Greg Henson said. "Everything is on the line. It's one game at a time. You're playing for your postseason life... We knew that it was going to be a tough game. We knew we drew a very, very tough opponent. Tech is always well coached, very organized and hard to break down."

Scoring opened early for the Bulldogs as freshman midfielder Avery Comartin netted her first collegiate goal just over seven minutes into the game.

Sophomore goalkeeper Lauren Kubacki was only forced to make two saves in the first half. The Bulldogs went into halftime with a 1-0 lead.

After halftime, sophomore goalkeeper Darya Mosallaei replaced Kubacki in net.

Henson said the change was merely a personnel decision. He added that they were putting themselves in the best position to win.

When play resumed, the Bulldogs started right back up and scored another goal only three minutes into the second half. The 2-0 lead was courtesy of senior forward Payton Price.

"We played our hearts out today," Price said. "We knew if we didn't win, there could be a

possibility we weren't going to play again. I think we just put it all out there."

Late in the second half, the Huskies took advantage of a penalty kick and cut the score in half.

In the waning minutes of the second half, freshman defender Bella Vallone helped secure the lead with a shot that slid right through the top right corner of the goal post. Vallone's goal, like Comartin's, was her first goal of her collegiate career. The Bulldogs held onto their 3-1 lead and defeated the Huskies.

"To come away from a team that's been struggling all season to score goals to getting three goals in the playoffs from three different players," Henson said. "Two players [got] their first collegiate goals as freshmen today. Can't be any more proud of the group."

Ferris' three goals is the highest number of goals scored by the Bulldogs since their 4-0 win against Purdue Northwest on Oct. 7.

The 2021 team, who won the GLIAC championship, scored 52 goals throughout their regular season. This year's team scored 24 goals.

11 of the goals came from senior forward Isabella Zamborini, who was out of the game for an undisclosed reason.

Despite the absence of their leading scorer, the Bulldogs survived to face Grand Valley on Friday, Nov. 4, in the semifinals.

Mosallaei got the start for Ferris and allowed three goals in a 3-0 loss. She also recorded seven saves.

The Bulldogs registered eight shots on goal but were unable to score.

Grand Valley started the scoring just under two minutes into the game. They also scored again midway through the first half to take a 2-0 lead into halftime.

The Lakers tacked on an insurance goal late in the second

half to ensure a 3-0 victory over Ferris.

Grand Valley went on to win the GLIAC championship.

Zamborini was awarded All-GLIAC First Team honors, while Jessie Bandyk and Lindsay Cole received Second Team honors.

Nikki May was an honorable mention.

Following their semifinal loss to Grand Valley, Ferris eyed an appearance in the NCAA DII National Tournament for the second consecutive season. On Monday, the selection show revealed

that they earned a six seed and will Ashland, the three seed, on Thursday, Nov. 10 at 3 pm.

Ferris lost 1-0 against Ashland Sept. 2 this season at home. Grand Valley is the top seed in Ferris' region, so another potential rematch awaits.

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Volleyball wins regular season GLIAC championship



Photo by: Mariana Searl | Torch Photographer

Syann Fairfield (#14) and Kaylee Maat jump to record a block assist during Ferris' win over Saginaw Valley that clinched a GLIAC regular season championship.

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Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

The Bulldogs claimed the GLIAC regular season championship for the eighth time in the past nine years.

Ferris recorded a pair of wins this weekend as they faced off against two GLIAC opponents, Saginaw Valley and Davenport, improving their record to 21-9 overall and 16-2 in GLIAC play.

First, the Bulldogs took on Saginaw Valley on Friday, where they came out with a 3-1 victory that clinched the regular season GLIAC championship.

"We love the GLIAC," head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm said. "There's so many really good teams and so many great coaches that have been here for years and years, and we just feel honored to be a part of the GLIAC and to be at the top part of it, and we're super excited to be able to have the championship."

Against Saginaw Valley, the Bulldogs were led in kills by Syann Fairfield with 20. Claire Nowicki had 11, and Olivia Henneman-Dallape had nine.

Kaylee Maat had 45 out of the 53 assists on the team and finished the season with 1213. The sophomore's 1896 career assists places her in 12th place all time for Ferris (Kim McDowell has the record with 5317).

Leah Bylut had 25 digs, Nowicki had 21 digs and Emma Bleacher finished with 14 digs.

On Saturday, the Bulldogs defeated Davenport 3-1 in a hard-fought victory.

In the fourth set, the Bulldogs were down 10-3 as they surged and fought back to win the set.

"Yeah, we talked in the huddle," Maat said. "We're like, don't even pay attention to the score. We just got ourselves out of it

and kept up with it."

The Bulldogs showed the determination that won them the regular season GLIAC championship.

Chelsie Freeman led with 15 kills, Henneman-Dallape had 14 and Fairfield had ten. Maat led the Bulldogs in assists with 48, and she also led the team in digs with 23. Bylut had 17 digs, Alina Anderson had 16 and both Nowicki and Bleacher had 14. Nowicki also had four service aces in the matchup.

After a successful weekend for the Bulldogs to end the regular season, they will shift their focus to the GLIAC tournament as they enter as the top seed.

"These past few games have helped us," Maat said. "We're going to host now, so we get home-court advantage. It'll be awesome coming into it."

Regular season stats (minimum eight matches played):

Kills leaders: Olivia Henneman-Dallape (336), Claire Nowicki (314)

Assists leaders: Kaylee Maat (1213), Leah Bylut (89)

Blocks leaders: Syann Fairfield (16), Olivia Henneman-Dallape (12)

Block assists leaders: Syann Fairfield (76), Chelsie Freeman (64)

Total points leaders: Syann Fairfield (384.0), Claire Nowicki (379.0)

Hit % leaders: Syann Fairfield (.290), Claire Nowicki (.272)

Digs leaders: Leah Bylut (483), Claire Nowicki (320)

Service aces leaders: Kaylee Maat (69), Alina Anderson (34)

The Bulldogs will face Lake Superior State University on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Ewigleben Sports Complex for the GLIAC quarterfinals.