

The Ferris State Torch

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Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of Dec. 7 - Dec. 13, 2022

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Regional championship revenge



Photo by: Brandon Wirth | Sports Reporter

Mylik Mitchell throws a pass during Ferris' victory over Grand Valley in the Midwest Super Regional Championship. Mitchell had 118 passing yards, 87 rushing yards and a rushing touchdown.

Bulldogs sink Lakers at Lubbers to advance to national semifinal

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

The Bulldogs got one game closer to the championship in McKinney on Saturday as they took down rival Grand Valley State 24-21 at Allendale for the DII Midwest Super Regional Championship.

It was the second Allendale meeting between the two teams in postseason play since 2016, in which Ferris notched their second win at Lubbers Stadium exactly six years to the date of the first. The win also clinched the Bulldogs' fourth advancement to the National Semifinal game.

"Guys get to go to practice on Tuesday and meetings on Sunday," Caleb Murphy said. "That means the world to me."

Ferris finished the contest with only 260 yards of offense, which was 60 yards less than the Lakers. The Bulldogs began the game with a huge momentum boost, blocking the Lakers opening punt to set up the first offense drive at the Grand Valley three-yard line. One play later, Carson Gulker punched in his 24th rushing touchdown on the season to make the score 7-0 early.

The number one-seeded Lakers responded with a 14-play drive, thanks to two third and one fourth down conversion.

However, the Bulldogs stopped Grand Valley thanks to a crucial fourth down pass break up by Sidney McCloud.

Vincent Cooley ended Grand Valley's next drive with an interception of Cade Peterson. Offensively, the Bulldogs struggled throughout the remainder of the first half, punting on all their drives.

The Lakers took advantage of Ferris' offensive woes, finding the endzone twice in the second quarter thanks to a combination of outside runs and contested catches. Grand Valley took a 14-7 lead into halftime.

It would take almost nine minutes for either team to find rhythm in the second half. While the Bulldogs only obtained 92 yards in the first 40 minutes of play, Mylik Mitchell and the offense finally broke free thanks to a huge 28-yard, third down scramble by the junior quarterback. Two plays later, Mitchell took it himself for an eight-yard score to tie it at 14 apiece.

Defensively, the Bulldogs continued to slow the Laker offense, holding Peterson to only two completions and 11 passing yards through the entire third quarter.

Grand Valley only averaged 3.3 yards per carry, over a yard less than the 4.4 they obtained in the first half.

"In the first half, they got us running the

ball a little bit," head coach Tony Annese said. "Second half, I thought our defense clamped down."

The Lakers earned great field position at the beginning of the fourth quarter following a Mitchell interception. From two yards out, Laker running back Tariq Reid scored and gave the Lakers a 21-14 advantage.

The Bulldogs bounced back in a big way, orchestrating a 14-play, 53-yard drive with two fourth down conversions. Gulker finished the drive with his second rushing touchdown of the day. Ferris converted the extra point to make it a 21-21 game with 5:48 to go.

Mitchell said the Laker defense did some things that the Bulldogs were able to take advantage of in the fourth quarter, and the offense figured out how to consistently move the ball.

Ferris' defense forced a Laker punt on the ensuing possession, giving the offense a chance to respond with four minutes to go. The Bulldogs started the drive with two big plays, one 25-yard rush by CJ Jefferson and one 28-yard run by Mitchell. They reached the 10-yard line, but the Laker defense kept the Bulldogs out of the end zone and forced an Eddie Jewett field goal to hold the impending Ferris lead to three.

Following a short kick preventing a long

return, Grand Valley started their final drive at their own 45-yard line with just over a minute go and one timeout left. The Lakers converted on third down, but Ferris held Grand Valley to a last second hail mary attempt. Cyntell Williams intercepted the pass in the end zone, clinching the Bulldogs' fourth consecutive Midwest Regional title.

Mitchell finished 13 of 27 passing for 118 yards passing, along with 16 carries for 87 yards and a touchdown rushing. Jefferson led the Bulldogs in receiving with 38 yards, followed by Brady Rose with 31 and Cam Underwood with 26. Jefferson also added 33 yards rushing.

Justin Payoute led Ferris defensively with 12 total tackles with Murphy registering 10. Konnor Near and Jake Plamondon recorded both of the Bulldog sacks, including Near having nine tackles. Williams and Cooley finished with interceptions while McCloud added two pass break ups.

After reseeding by the NCAA, Ferris will face West Florida in the National Semifinals on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 12 p.m. in Big Rapids at Top Taggart field. The Bulldogs last faced the Argonauts in 2019, who defeated Ferris 28-14 en route to their first DII National Championship.

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News

Jessica Oakes | News Editor | oakesj3@ferris.edu

College of Pharmacy hosts Pfizer panel

Ferris pharmacy students learn the duties of Pfizer employees

Ember St. Amour
News Reporter

The Industry Pharmacists Organization hosted a Pfizer panel last week to introduce students to different pharmacy careers.

On Nov. 29, students were given the opportunity to watch the presentation either from The Hagerman Pharmacy Building or via Zoom. The presentation introduced individuals who work at Pfizer and the positions they hold. This was one of several sessions held by the IPhO to help students learn about different career opportunities.

P3 Raman Srinivasan, a third-year student of the College of Pharmacy, is the current treasurer of IPhO. Srinivasan explained when the initial contact with Pfizer was made and he explained why the IPhO chose this event.

"So first and foremost, I was the president this time last year of the IPhO, Industry Pharmacists Organization, and we are still considered a semi-fledgling organization on campus," Srinivasan said. "As a result, we wanted to kind of make a

name for ourselves and also kind of have a distinct identity in the CLP in the College of Pharmacy."

Pfizer is a pharmaceutical company that has locations across both the U.S. and the U.K. They focus on clinical studies for medications and vaccines to determine which are effective at treating certain health problems. There are a variety of jobs that Pfizer offers for pharmacists, and each panelist from the Pfizer panel described their duties for their position. Each panelist's duties differed from the other panelists, allowing attendees to learn about three different job opportunities.

The presentation was led by Dr. Rick Dettloft, who introduced each of the three panelists from Pfizer. Each panelist provided information referring to their background, including education and experience, before presenting their current position with Pfizer.

Dr. Joe Driscoll is a Ferris alumnus and currently works as a clinical lead for a study on seeing the effectiveness of using Apixaban to prevent pediatric blood clots. Driscoll's position includes a range

of different tasks. These include writing protocols, overseeing the study, resolving issues that may occur and providing guidance and leadership to the study team.

Dr. Frank Lobeck is also a clinical study team lead. Lobeck attended the London School of Economics, from which he received his Master of Science. Lobeck's responsibilities include overseeing study implementation teams that are multinational and multidisciplinary. He also works on process improvement teams.

Dr. Adam Craig is a supply chain lead and project manager at Pfizer. Craig attended Purdue for his doctorate in pharmacy. This was followed by completing his post doctorate fellowship for Clinical Supply Strategy Management at Pfizer. Craig's job includes manufacturing, logistics and helping with the dosing of the products being used in clinical studies. Currently, Craig is part of a project which deals with the mRNA flu vaccines. He explained that the project is similar to the COVID-19 vaccine.

P2 Thomas Campbell, a second-year student of the College of Pharmacy, is the current IPhO president. Campbell

took over as president while the Pfizer panel was in the process of being set up. Campbell explained what the hope was for students to get out of the experience of attending the panel.

"I know there's kind of like a generalization of thinking that they just work in like, you know, Walgreens retail pharmacy [and] just work behind the counter, but there's a lot more than just that," Campbell said. "This is just showing one branch of what type of pharmacy that students can really go into. So just to let students know that there's more to pharmacy... than just working retail by an account."

When the presentation was over, students and panelists were given the option to ask questions regarding the studies that the panelists presented, as well as any information regarding their positions.

This is not the last Pfizer panel event that the IPhO has planned. Srinivasan explained that, while there is not a date set for the next panel, the IPhO plans to have another panel sometime, possibly next semester.

Alumni Building renovation

The nearly century-old building gains climate control and improved accessibility

Meghan Hartley
News Reporter

Many construction projects have been in the works over the past few years and will be finished by the fall of 2023. The most recent project being the renovation of the Alumni Building.

Built in 1928, the Alumni Building has undergone several renovations. These include turning the basketball courts into racquetball courts and turning old science classrooms into offices and storage rooms in the 1950s. According to project manager Karen Simmon, this most recent renovation will refresh the interior and keep the exterior's historical elements intact.

"It's mostly typical offices and then the front entrance, we're maintaining the historical elements of it and just doing a little bit of a refresh," Simmon said. "[The Alumni Building] is getting all new mechanical systems and electrical systems. We are moving our IT department, who's currently in the West Building, and moving them all into Alumni. [The Alumni Building] is going to have the Staff Center for Training and Development."

With the Alumni Building being renovated, Simmon says departments can be brought in to maximize its capacity. Older buildings like the West Building will be demolished. The University Archives are returning to the building after being moved to FLITE during construction. Much of the Alumni Building is used as storage for academic records, images and artifacts

that date back to the days when Ferris was called the Big Rapids Industrial School.

"We had some other groups in [the Alumni Building] that we relocated to other buildings on campus so that we could ultimately remove the West Building," Simmon said. "It is a really old building, and the cost for repairs and updates far exceeds the cost to renovate another building. That's kind of the driving factor to get employees out of a building that's not in great shape and get them into a renovated space, a building that probably wasn't utilized to its maximum capacity."

Simmon says that the total budget of the Alumni Building renovation is \$4.5 million. While the West Building will no longer exist on campus, departments and employees will have a brand new space to efficiently complete their work.

University archivist Melinda Isler is looking forward to being back in the Alumni Building with new accessibility. In January of 2021, the archives moved into the top floor of FLITE, and the move was very easy and smooth because of how accessible the building is.

"It had its quirks," Isler said. "One of the things I'm looking into in the renovation that I'm very excited about is that they are going to put an elevator in. It was not handicap accessible. I'm not in need of handicap accessibility, but without it, it can make moving the boxes up and down very complicated in the West Building. It's not good for massive transportation of stuff like an elevator here in [FLITE]."



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

This Alumni Building will be under construction until the fall of 2023.

Since accessibility will be improved, Isler says more students, faculty and past alumni will be more easily able to access the archives. With the demolition of the West Building, more parking will be added as well for those working on the north side of campus.

Isler is also looking forward to having the roof and windows prepared so water can not come in as easily and damage the documents. Alongside keeping the water out, the new Alumni Building will also be able to keep the weather out and give Isler and her team control over the climate inside.

"I am looking forward to the concept of real climate control," Isler said. "We were in a former gymnasium. This was the

climate control for the gymnasium, they said it went from the basement all the way up to the top. It had a vent at the top that circulated, and it was a fan, [so] when it was windy, it blew around. That was it for climate control. It was nothing. It just didn't exist. So things didn't get rained on, but they got a little damp. This may not be a state-of-the-art archival climate control condition, but it is a vast improvement over what we had."

The Alumni Building is only one of the several buildings on campus being built or renovated. Visit <http://fsutorch.com> for information on other projects, including the Center for Virtual Learning.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Lansing: Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced changes to her cabinet for her second term starting Jan. 1. One of the four cabinet members leaving their posts is the director of the Department of Transportation, the official tasked with “fixing the damn roads.”

Paul Ajegba, director of MDOT, will retire at the end of the year. How well Whitmer kept her promise to “fix the damn roads” is debated. Still, the governor has increased funding and construction through state government road bonds and federal infrastructure money.

“Under Director Ajegba’s leadership, Michigan fixed 16,000 lane miles of road and 1,200 bridges while supporting 89,000 jobs, all without raising taxes by a dime,” Whitmer said.

The three other officials leaving their post are Liesl Clark, director of the Department of Environment, Great

Lakes and Energy, Gary McDowell, director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Zaneta Adams, director of the Veteran Affairs Agency.

The new director of the VAA will be Sen. Adam Hollier, D-Detroit. Michelle Lange will direct the Department of Technology, Management and Budget while Brian Hanna moves to become the executive director of the Cannabis Regulatory Agency. Both have previously been run by acting directors.

“I’m grateful to the entire cabinet for their service during our first term. With a new term comes new opportunities and challenges. Today’s appointments and promotions will only build on the work that we’ve done over the last four years,” Whitmer said.

Whitmer and her cabinet aim for the difficult but “gratifying” goal of building a state that “enables every Michigander to succeed.”

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Marriage bill passes: Senate passed the Respect for Marriage Act, which would protect same-sex and interracial marriages, with a 61-36 vote.

“By passing the bill, the Senate is sending a message that every senator needs to hear,” Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said. “No matter who you are, or who you love, you too deserve dignity and equal treatment under the law.”

The bill heads back to the House of Representatives where it will likely pass before it is sent to President Biden’s desk to be signed into law. The bill would require all states to recognize the marriages of same-sex and interracial couples performed in other states.

The measure was first drafted following SCOTUS’s decision to overrule constitutional abortion rights.

Iran to disband morality police: “The morality police had nothing to do with the judiciary and have been shut down from where they were set up,” Iranian attorney general Mohammad Jafar Montazeri said on Sunday.

“Guidance patrols,” widely known as morality police, have enforced Iran’s dress code since 2006. Citizens have engaged in nationwide protests against the morality police since Ma sha Amini’s death in September.

“Just because the government has decided to dismantle morality police it doesn’t mean the protests are ending,” one Iranian woman told the BBC.



ON THE RECORD

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

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Travis domestic

Nov. 30, 1:30 p.m. - An altercation occurred in Travis Hall between a broken-up couple last Wednesday. The male party was arrested.

North Hall harassment

Dec. 1, 5:27 p.m. - One student reported being harassed by another group of students over a post on the app Yik Yak. The case has been closed.

Granger golfing

Dec. 3, 5 p.m. - Malicious destruction of property was reported from the Granger Center for Construction and HVAC. Individuals allegedly threw golf balls at the building Saturday night, but there are no suspects. The case is pending investigation.

Psychedelic students

Dec. 4, 3:57 a.m. - A group of students ate psychedelic mushrooms at Cramer Hall early Sunday morning. It was discovered when one individual acted “disorderly.” The case was sent to a prosecutor and is awaiting review.

North Hall sexual assault

Dec. 4, 4 a.m. - 5 a.m. - An instance of criminal sexual conduct was reported from North Hall on Sunday. Both parties knew each other prior to the alleged incident. The case is still open and pending investigation.

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Choral celebration of Earth

Ferris' Concert Choir holds annual fall performance

Jonathon Hart
News Reporter

Ferris Concert Choir director Katie McInnis overcame many hardships while rearranging the structure of performances for this year's fall performance.

Members of the choir took to the Williams Auditorium stage for their annual fall concert titled "Songs of the Earth" on Nov. 30.

"Last spring as a department, we had talked about how, when we were stuck in quarantine, the one thing that truly helped us cope with it was the nature around us and how the Earth was there for us when we needed it," McInnis said.

The concert provided a vivid outlook on the Earth from different scenery and illustrations the lyrics provided.

The songs featured in this performance about nature and the environment aimed to reinforce the feelings of joy, wonder and sanctuary our planet provides.

Songs that were sung in this concert included "The Lake" written by Edgar Allan Poe. The piece was put into a two part medley about a gorgeous body of water and how it can help with lost love. The choir also put together another two medley arrangement of "Earth Song" by Frank Ticheli and "When October Goes" by Paul Langford.

"Bonse Aba," which translates to "All who sing with the spirit have a right to be called the children of god," by Victor Johnson and "Never One Thing" by Big Rapids native May Erlewine were also performed.

All of the songs included in the performance were tied together by themes of the spirit of the Earth. The songs were chosen from different countries and each had lyrics about how different places view and worship the Earth.

This concert was even more novel because the choir invited community singers and high school vocalists who participated in the District One Mass Choral Festival of the Michigan School Vocal Music Association to join them in singing several selections.

McInnis believes that through some of the hardships they faced this semester, the concert was a great outcome.

"We had some obstacles this semester," McInnis said. "Not only were we only able to rehearse once a week, but some of us got really sick and we lost some of our singers to the musical near the beginning of November. After all is said and done, this concert was amazing in my eyes and I don't think we could have done better dealing with our circumstances."

In the middle of the concert, the choir took a break from singing and allowed the pianist Andrew Focks to provide an original



Photo by: Maddie Epps | Torch Photographer

The Ferris Concert Choir held their fall performance with songs from around the globe. arrangement of "The Music Of The Night" by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Focks was asked to perform a piece that meant something to him after being asked to create an arrangement for Webber.

"A few years ago when I was asked to make a professional transcription of music of the night for this concert in New York, I jumped at the opportunity to do it," Focks said. "Since then, it's been one of the highlight memories of my concert experience, being able to play it on stage there. When I was approached about playing a solo piece here for the concert, it just felt like a fitting place to be able to perform a piece so close to my heart."

Nursing freshman Brenna Davis enjoyed being able to sing with different people, the song selection and learning new pieces.

"My favorite part of doing this concert is that we had so many new faces from different choirs of the high school and middle school that were able to build an

addition to our choir," Davis said. "The song selection was unique because it [included] songs most of us have never heard of. So we [got] to know the songs and the background."

Pharmacy senior Hunter Dewitt attended the concert and enjoyed the combination of songs.

"I thought the choir did a great job of choosing a variety of songs from different genres and songs not everyone knew," Dewitt said. "I liked that they ended with a few classic Christmas songs to give us a 'What comes next' for next month's concert."

At the end of the concert, the choir gave a preview of their upcoming winter concert with a holiday melody. The choir will take the stage again at the Jazz Band Holiday Concert on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. and the Holiday Band and Orchestra Concert on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m., also at Williams Auditorium.

'Passion for the Past' returns to Ukraine

The history department's 'Passion of the Past' panel focuses on the war in Ukraine

Nolan Harris
News Reporter

Two Ferris history professors and a former United States Marine gave an updated panel on the war in Ukraine with expertise, heart and humor last Tuesday.

Part of the "Passion for the Past" series, history professors Christian Peterson and Tracy Busch joined Marine Corps Reserve Officer and husband Ben Busch to offer three unique perspectives. Ben's largest goal for Ferris audience members was to provide important context.

Ben recently returned from his second self-funded tour in Ukraine where he trained locals how to fight on a battlefield. He served as a primary source for the professors to paint a clear picture of

the happenings in Ukraine. Ben shared mementos and memories, including a piece of Russian shrapnel that tore into a Ukrainian house. He also gifted Peterson, an enthusiastic critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, with toilet paper that featured Putin's face on each sheet.

These objects and Ben's presence demonstrated a truth of the war, the hard realities that the citizens of Ukraine are fighting through and the cultural rejection of Putin's territorial claim.

Tracy was the first speaker at this event. The self-proclaimed "Russianist" wore bright blue and yellow, now instantly symbolic of Ukraine. As a doctor of Russian and European history who lived in the Soviet Union as it collapsed in the 1990s, she offered the Russian perspective. Tracy

felt "tortured" when the country she spent so long studying launched an unprovoked invasion. After mulling over the complexities, she believes that Russia has no legitimate claim to Ukrainian land, and she offered her expansive historical knowledge to explain why.

"There's been times when parts of Ukraine have been part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, a part of the Polish commonwealth, so it does not belong to Russia," Busch said. "Part of the propaganda the Russians used to justify their invasion is... Ukraine is not its own state, it's part of Russia."

Peterson presented second. As the residing United States foreign policy expert with a specialization in Soviet Imperialism, he presented the American and Western perspective on the war. He confidently took to the Science Building podium, and his strong stance against Putin's invasion was unmistakable from the tone of his voice to the color of his face.

"Russian leader Vladimir Putin is a fascist, genocidal dictator," Peterson said. "They talk about denazification. They talk about desaturation... which means obliterating the Ukrainian identity and killing people if they stand in their way."

Peterson sees Russian aggression as an extreme threat to a blossoming democratic state, and that not only should the U.S. do its part to fund and support the Ukrainians in this conflict, but that it is the cheapest and most cost efficient war America has ever participated in.

The speakers hope that this event adds important context to the struggle of the Ukrainians. Ben believes it can be difficult to understand the war without a wide view

of information on the situation.

"A sense of context is probably the most important," Ben said. "We are all getting different perspectives, different biases, competing for everyone's sense of what's happening."

Criminal justice sophomore Elle Lowery says that the presentation offered just that, a well informed perspective. Lowery says that her friends and family tend to be republicans that criticize American involvement and aid going to the Ukrainian war effort. She points to this presentation as a fuller source of information with less conjecture. She said it helps her come to her own conclusion on the U.S.'s role in the conflict.

"I definitely really enjoyed Ben's perspective. Being there on the ground, [seeing] how many casualties there actually are, how many lives are being taken. This is really affecting real people. It's not just media news," Lowery said.

Last Tuesday's event differed from the first panel on the war in Ukraine held in March. The fourth panelist, Russian-born English professor Lilia Caserta, was not present, as she no longer works at the university. She is now a lecturer in the department of Slavic and Eastern European languages at Ohio State University. Still, the presentation was packed full of information from three distinct viewpoints. It also achieved a new level of intimacy because it was held in-person rather than on Zoom like last spring's presentation.

For more of the Torch's coverage on Ferris historians and the war in Ukraine, visit fsutorch.com to read about last semester's presentation and how the Busch family sent Ben to Ukraine.



Photo by: Evan Hibbard | Freelance Contributor

Ben and Dr. Tracy Busch donned Ukraine's national colors for last week's panel.

Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

Examining Ferris' school shooting protocols

"Chance favors the prepared mind," Abe Haroon said

Jasmine Baar
Culture Reporter

The U.S. has had 2,032 school shootings since 1970, according to Sandy Hook Promise, a nonprofit organization that focuses on gun violence prevention. Because these numbers are increasing, it's important for students to know the active shooter protocols.

Abe Haroon, Director of Ferris' Department of Public Safety, believes that "chance favors the prepared mind" and is actively working to keep the school safe.

"The more education and training that I'm able to apply to everyone here at Ferris, the better the outcome is going to be in an event such as an active shooter," Haroon said.

Although Ferris had to suspend attack training provided by officers, Haroon plans on bringing the combat training back. The training involves educating people about the warning signs of an at-risk person and strategies on how to proceed. Along with self-defense training videos.

"It's important that everyone has a part where they're doing their due diligence to report areas of concern. If you see something, say something," Haroon said.

Along with encouraging students to watch out for possible attacks and report them, the director also urges everyone on campus to sign up for the mass notification alerts sent through text messages. These can be found by going to the Ferris Department of Public Safety's website and searching for the emergency alerts tab. A link to MyFSU will come up, where you'll be able to sign up and receive notifications about sensitive campus safety issues, closings due to weather and other disruptions.

The department has undergone some changes since the shift in power to ensure everyone on campus is safe. There have been quite a few precautions Haroon has taken to prevent attacks in his first week on the job.

"We took a lot of steps in order to take corrective measures," Haroon said. "The push bars on the doors were all removed. We looked at how the layout of classrooms were and changed things there. We actually had FBI members come in and do an analysis of the campus to determine if we were taking the right safety precautions, and they gave us a lot of recommendations."

Mechanical engineering technician

sophomore Matthew Diamond believes that, in the moment of finding out there's an active shooter, fight or flight kicks in.

"In a moment like that [when] you hear a gunshot, you're concerned with one thing, and that is how do I stay alive? It's the truest fight or flight response you could have," Diamond said.

Criminal justice sophomore Chris Kessler suggests that having more officers on campus would be more precautionary and ensure better safety.

"I don't know how fast a response would be from officers. We have like two public safety cars driving around, that's it. If something happens on the other side of campus, people could get hurt," Kessler said.

On the other side of the spectrum, clerical orientation team leader and early childhood development junior Addy Jarrett believes that statewide procedures are enough to keep people safe.

"It's a scary thought to think about someone on campus trying to hurt others, but I know Ferris is prepared and has good protocols that would be put into action and protect as many people as possible," Jarrett said.

With that being said, the best way

to feel comfortable with the idea of a possible attacker on campus is to know the procedures to follow. Stay informed on Ferris' protocols, sign up to receive important campus alerts and watch out for possible at-risk people.

The first recommendation Ferris urges students to do is run, so it's important to know where the emergency exits are. If you cannot get out, hide. Locate a safe room, turn off all lights, lock or block any entryways into the room, silence your cell phone and hide outside of the shooter's view. If you cannot hide or are discovered, you are urged to fight back as a last resort. The department of public safety has a plethora of helpful videos about self-defense located on Ferris' website.

With young leadership in the community, including Brian Miller's second year as sheriff, Haroon stepping into his first year as Director of Public Safety and Danielle Haynes with a year and a half as chief of police, Haroon believes that the future safety of Ferris looks bright.

"It's nice that we have this younger group of leadership in law enforcement right now. The dynamics are good, the relationships are strong, which only benefits the community," Haroon said.

Home away from home

How Ferris' international students first semester went

Mackenzie Griffin
Culture Reporter

As international students only make up around 1.2% of Ferris' student body, it is easy to forget how big of an adjustment it can be for them. International students get the added adjustment of being in a whole new country, as well as starting college. While this can be a struggle, it also opens the door for lots of opportunities.

Economics freshman Pedro Saltini is from Brazil, and he has really enjoyed his first semester at Ferris. So far, he has had a lot of fun while being here.

For him, making friends has been a huge plus in addition to his academics. His job has also been a sense of fun for him.

"I got the opportunity to get to know some wonderful people. My classes have been great, and I love my job. I think it's just a healthy environment that I had the opportunity to be in," Saltini said.

However, being away from his family has been tough. He spent this Thanksgiving away from his family for the first time. His

friends made sure not to leave him out though and invited him to his first American Thanksgiving.

Artificial intelligence freshman Jhanvi Murugan is originally from India. She has enjoyed learning more about her major

and being able to do hands on projects.

Murugan's biggest struggle was making friends as it was a bit harder for her to "blend in and approach people."

However, being able to make friends with different nationalities and from dif-

ferent backgrounds has been a highlight for her. This was also her first experience seeing snow.

Murugan is looking forward to next

HOME AWAY FROM HOME | See page 6

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HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Continued from page 5

semester and she hopes to make more friends from her classes, meet new professors and get to work on new assignments.

Television and digital media production freshman Shreejal Karki is originally from Kathmandu, Nepal. She has appreciated how very welcoming and nice people have been since starting school here. Karki has

liked being at Ferris, but is experiencing the same stress as other students and has had to adjust.

Many memories have already been made for Karki. One of her "biggest highlights" has been going to the beach at Lake Michigan.

"Since I come from a landlocked country, I always wanted to go to a beach," Karki said. "And I loved the feeling, it was so calm and peaceful."

She has also been able to make friends

and see snow for the first time. Another big moment for her was receiving her first paycheck.

"I've realized that moving away from home is much more difficult than I thought. One of my biggest struggles has been to feel at home. Although it has been a couple of months, the place still feels unfamiliar sometimes," Karki said.

Being able to adjust is a struggle for most international students. Karki shares that making time for herself and taking

care of herself can be very hard sometimes. However, she is looking forward to being able to take more of her program classes next semester and is excited to attend more events in the spring.

International students get to experience a different life by coming to the states, and even though it can be challenging to adjust, it can also be a great learning experience for all.

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Photo courtesy of: Pedro Saltini

Pedro Saltini wasn't able to celebrate Thanksgiving with his family for the first time this year, so his friends threw him a special celebration instead.

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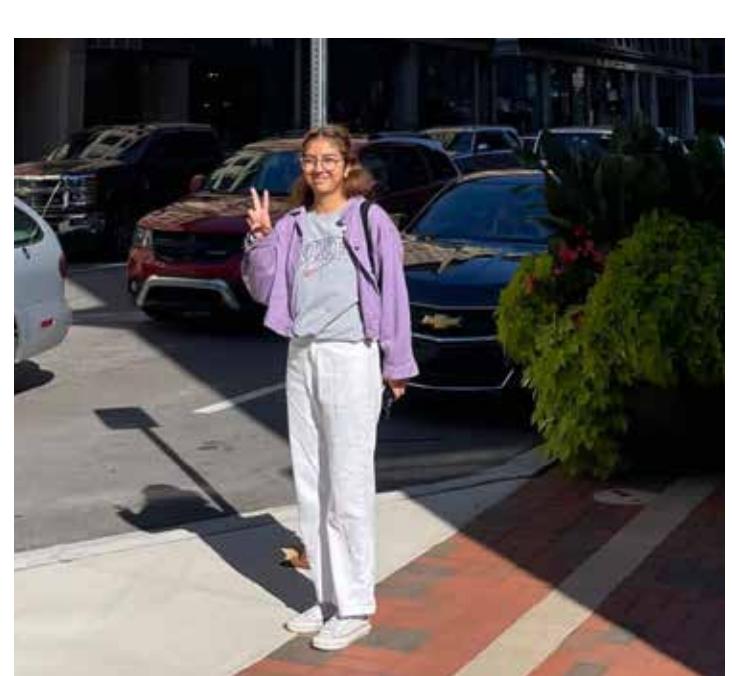
Jhanvi Murugan experienced snow for the first time ever during her first semester at Ferris.

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Shreejal Karki visited Lake Michigan for the first time and got to fulfill her long-lasting desire to go to the beach.

The holiday season

Highlighting some of the upcoming holidays for Ferris students

Harmony Goodman
Culture Editor

Winter break is right around the corner, and students are ready to go home and celebrate the holiday season.

The Ferris student population has a range of diversity, such as background, race, religion and culture. When winter break starts, students are also beginning to celebrate the different winter holidays.

Christmas is always celebrated on Dec. 25, although Dec. 24 is also celebrated as Christmas Eve. The idea behind the holiday is to celebrate the birth of Jesus, which means this holiday has been around for centuries.

According to Henery O'Donald in his article with Hearinhh, the first known documented Christmas was celebrated in Rome in 336 A.D. Although the holiday originated as a Christian holiday, many around the world celebrate Christmas with no ties to the religion. This allows many traditions to happen over the season that vary from family to family.

Graphic design freshman Hailey Nye makes sugar cookies and cinnamon candy glass with her family as their holiday tradition. Since it's her first year away from home, Nye is excited to celebrate Christmas Day with her dad this year.

"My dad is a pilot, so we usually have to celebrate after the holiday," Nye said. "It's the first time in forever, and it will probably never happen again."

Kwanzaa is a Pan African-originated holiday that's celebrated for seven days, starting on Dec. 26 and ending on Jan. 1. The holiday is a celebration of family, culture, community and the harvest of the first fruits. The Kwanzaa holiday is focused on one principle each day that starts

with one candle from the unity candle being lit. These principles are important to oneself.

"It's more about discovering yourself," business administration freshmen Ashley Jordan said. "For me, it gives you a chance to reevaluate what you've done and plan forward [with] what you want to do."

Jordan celebrated Christmas for years, but she always felt as if something was missing. She feels as though Christmas has become mainly centered around gifts.

"It didn't feel like something I could actually connect to," Jordan said. "[Kwanzaa] is more about collaborating and coming together in unity."

Kwanzaa isn't the only holiday where candles are lit. Yule is a twelve-day-long Pagan holiday that typically starts on Dec. 21 and ends on Jan. 1. The holiday begins on the night of the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. Yule is a celebration of the return of light. Each of the twelve days, according to Selena Fox's article "13 Ways to Celebrate Yuletide," is filled with different Yule activities such as feasts, the burning of the yule log by candle or bonfire and wreath making.

A source that wanted to remain anonymous celebrates the Pagan holiday. She used to celebrate the same holiday with her family for most of her life, but for the past two years she's been celebrating Yule. This change is about more than just the holiday, it's about religion.

"The religion I was a part of did not make me feel whole," the anonymous source said. "The religion I switched to makes me feel a lot more whole and better as a person."

Since she grew up celebrating a different religious holiday with her family, it is no longer an

option to celebrate with them because of differences in beliefs. Instead, she chooses to celebrate with friends.

"Each day we make something new to contribute to the holiday," the anonymous source said. "Usually, you set the wreathes on fire and roll them down a hill."

However, because of her city's regulations regarding fire, she and her friends are only able to make their wreath. The bonfire during Yule is traditionally lit for all twelve days, however, this is something that has also changed because of her city's regulations.

Instead of having a continuous

12-day bonfire, she lights the fire in her fireplace and puts it out every night to be relit in the morning.

The holiday season can be celebrated in so many different ways, each unique in its own way.



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Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief

While the nerves of humanity may be collectively fried after nearly three years of living through a pandemic, COVID-19 brought some positives I already see slipping away just as fast as they came.

For starters, when infected with COVID-19, it's not only encouraged but required we take time off when we get sick. For far too long prior to the pandemic, the mentality out there was to power through it. Then, we took a 180-degree turn, and any cold or flu symptom was nearly always an instant stay-home order. Just because nearly 70% of Americans are vaccinated against COVID-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control, doesn't mean we should stop caring about illness.

Yes, COVID-19 is an ugly illness that we should absolutely prevent the spread of, but why not other viruses too? The flu can be deadly to the immunocompromised and RSV to infants. Furthermore, in general, any sickness is not pleasurable to get, so why do we encourage and outright pressure people to work while they're sick?

An October poll taken by One-Poll on behalf of Theraflu says that

EDITORS COLUMN: *COVID culture we shouldn't dismiss*

62% of Americans admit to coming to work sick. Nobody benefits from that. Not co-workers, who could possibly pick up the virus, not the ill person, as they are not able to focus on recovery and treating their symptoms and not their company, as productivity suffers as the result of illness.

COVID-19 taught us the benefit of staying home to recuperate. We recover faster when we're not actively working against recovery and we're not transmitting viruses to those around us. The pandemic also brought us another great thing that helps with staying at home.

Home delivery and curbside pick-up existed before the pandemic, sure, but not in this mass. If you wanted to stay afloat during the pandemic, you likely needed to offer one of these services, whether company-created or app serviced. It also pushed services like Door-Dash and GrubHub to expand into more cities than ever before, even reaching Big Rapids.

This set of services had so many unintentional benefits outside of slowing the spread. They are great time savers. No longer must you browse shelves aimlessly looking for what you need. Now, tap a few buttons in an app and you can drive up, in-store pickup or get

delivered anything from fast food, to groceries, to cannabis.

This is also great for people with disabilities. Whether shopping is too much physically or mentally, or it places any barriers that make it an insurmountable task, you now have options like never before. Sure, I don't love going to stores because I'm not a fan of crowds, but also because my visual limitations make in-store shopping a bit difficult sometimes. Now, I have the option to do my shopping via an accessible app and have it delivered, something I could only dream of as recently as my freshman year.

Finally, the pandemic brought us something I'm already quickly seeing slip away, easy access to content. Whether it be live events or movies also launching in theaters, these practices allowed more people than ever to consume modern expression. It's great that we have the opportunity to see these things in-person again, but it's not always feasible to do so.

Take the Taylor Swift Eras Tour, for instance. It's estimated that there are just over four million total tickets for the tour. However, the Chair of Live Nation reports that over 14 million people tried to buy tickets for the tour. Now

imagine if at least some of these concerts were also live-streamed. Sure, watching it isn't quite the same as being there in-person, but it gives the nearly 10 million disappointed fans a chance to still take part in the action.

Movies released directly to streaming have its own set of benefits as well. Right off the top, not everywhere has a movie theater. Big Rapids had two prior to the pandemic, now the closest one is over 35 miles away. A journey that's infeasible for a lot of students. Furthermore, I'd take watching a movie in the comfort of my own home any day.

While COVID-19 took so much from us, it also pushed us to find innovative solutions to problems we were very suddenly facing. Just because our case numbers are down and vaccination numbers are up, doesn't mean we should abandon every change born out of the pandemic. We truly did move forward in a lot of ways.

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Home for the Holidays

The importance of found family

Sienna Parmelee
Production Manager

With Christmas around the corner, I thought it was important to shed light on how depressing the holiday season can be for those who don't have an amazing relationship with our family.

Growing up, I was so excited the night of Christmas Eve; I spent the day with my extended family and then stayed up waiting for Santa to come. But what nobody warns you about is how this excitement starts to fade. When you're in your early twenties and a college student with no children of your own, the excitement you had in your youth doesn't seem to exist anymore.

The older I got, the worse Christmas seemed to become, with parents fighting the night before and more uncomfortable silences

followed by fewer gifts and decorations around the house. So, when I left for college and started to come home for the holidays, I found myself wishing I was still at school. That feeling is hard to stomach. Your new friends that you spend every day with talk about how excited they are to open presents and spend time with family, but you don't reciprocate that energy. All I wanted was to spend the holidays with my friends.

Now, why do I feel this way? A lot of it connects to my queer identity. I come from an extremely catholic family and I've listened to many people in my life excuse bigotry with bible verses. Once I came out to my family, it was difficult not to notice how taboo the topic had become.

Now, being around them can be exhausting, as if I must put on a

performance to be accepted. Coming home brings up old memories and dark feelings I abandoned once leaving for school, leaving Christmas morning to feel isolated. Through therapy and friendships, I realized that it was up to me to spark joy for myself.

So how do I please that inner child? I created a found family, one that consisted of friends who felt similar about the holidays, which made me realize I was not alone. I started to decorate on a budget with Dollar Tree decorations and would throw Christmas parties for my friends and me.

The holidays are not about gifts but spending time with your loved ones, and for me, my friends are where I find that sense of community and joy. I still spend time with my family, it can be difficult to neglect those who I have spent the

majority of my life with, however, I do it sparingly. I need to prioritize my feelings and recognize the traumas that can resurface while being at home. If you find yourself feeling the same during the holidays, make sure to spend time with those who you love, whether that's friends or family.

Sports

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

Final Four



Photo by: Ben Amato | Ferris Athletics Photographer

Brinley Bell heads in a goal during the Bulldogs' Final Four loss to West Chester.

Soccer's historic season ends against West Chester

Joseph Nagy
Sports Reporter

There are 265 women's soccer programs in Division II across the country, and Ferris was among the last four competing for a national championship.

Traveling all the way to Seattle, the Bulldogs made their first ever Final Four appearance. This year was a festival year, meaning that championship competing teams in men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball, field hockey and men's and women's cross country were all in Seattle. Festivals happen once every four years in Division II.

Despite the budding excitement, Ferris (12-6-7) saw their season end in wrenching fashion after a 2-1 loss against unbeaten and number one overall seed West Chester (23-1-1).

A game full of momentum swings and trading chances, the final score could have gone either way. But the Bulldogs could not capitalize at the final whistle, and the chance at the national title was just out of their reach.

"Overall I was very pleased and proud of our players' efforts," head coach Greg Henson said. "I thought we were deserving

to get a result."

The Golden Rams got on the board after a near 20 minutes of scoreless action. At 25:01, a loose ball found the feet of West Chester forward, Jacqueline Hug, who beat Darya Mossalaei in goal to give the Rams a 1-0 lead.

Ferris answered ten minutes later. At 36:34, senior Katie Nestico lofted a pass from a corner kick that found the head of Brinley Bell. The redirect was perfectly placed on the right side of the goal, sneaking its way inside the post to knot the game at 1-1. It was Bell's second goal of the season, and Nestico's sixth assist of the year. At halftime, the score remained 1-1.

Coming out of the locker room, the Bulldogs looked to take the momentum and played aggressively on offense, but West Chester stymied any offensive chance the Bulldogs got in the second half.

West Chester's Maggie Lena netted the eventual game winner with a shot that was just out of Mosallaei's reach to give the Golden Rams a 2-1 lead. They held that lead the rest of the game even with burning offensive pressure from the Bulldogs. Ultimately, Ferris lost 2-1 and their historic run was extinguished.

"We pushed as much as we could, we just couldn't finish," senior Nikki May said. "I'm just really proud of everyone."

May, along with senior Izzy Zamborini, will be graduating and leaving the team following this season, according to Henson. However, with the remainder of the roster in place to return next season, hopes for another deep tournament run will remain high.

"We play, in my humble opinion, one of the toughest conferences in the league and one of the toughest regions in the country," Henson said. "We're battle tested. Credit to a good West Chester team, they're the number one team in the nation. We showed that we're on even footing and can play at that level. We earned the right to be here and the future is very bright for our program."

Zamborini, a transfer from Bellarmine University, wanted to come to Ferris to compete for a national championship.

"I'm just so proud of these girls," Zamborini said. "I'm incredibly lucky to have shared a field with them these past two years. I'm sad to go out like this but I'm happy with what we've accomplished."

May also transferred to Ferris from Oakland University. Both May and Zamborini

said they were glad they chose to come to Ferris.

"I'm just so happy and grateful that I got to spend my last season with these girls and make such a historical run," May said. "These girls are my family and I love them so much."

In the last four years, Ferris has made its sole three trips to the NCAA tournament in program history. It is the first time in school history that the program has made back-to-back appearances, as well as making its furthest run in the post season that has ever been done for the Bulldogs.

"It just says so much about what athletics means to this university, and when it means so much to the university, it means a lot to our alumni. It means a lot to our community," President Bill Pink said.

The Bulldogs started this season 1-3-2. Rather than chalk up the season as one for improvement, each individual on the team brought a performance that will be remembered for years and years to come. With ten players who saw significant playing time returning, the sky is the limit for this budding program.

Sports Editor Brody Keiser contributed to the reporting of this article.

SCORECARD

Hockey

Dec. 2 - Ferris 2, Minnesota State 1
Dec. 3 - Ferris 3, Minnesota State 2

Football

Dec. 3 - Ferris 24, Grand Valley 21

Women's basketball

Dec. 1 - Grand Valley 78, Ferris 70
Dec. 4 - Ferris 67, Davenport 55

Offense leads to victory

Men's basketball collects two wins to open GLIAC play

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

The Bulldog offense was on fire as they picked up a pair of wins against Grand Valley State University and Davenport University this past weekend.

On Thursday, Dec. 1 the Bulldogs took on rival Grand Valley, winning the matchup 97-68.

As a team, the Bulldogs were 55.1% (38-69) from the field and 48.3% (14-29) from the three-point range.

The Bulldogs out-rebounded their opponent 44-38 and won the assist battle 29-8.

"I'm really impressed with them," head coach Andy Bronkema said. "Tonight was our night because a lot of balls just went through the hoop, and some nights, they don't go in like that and you have to find a way to win but tonight the basket was big for us."

Ben Davidson led the Bulldogs with 29 points, shooting 10-12 from the field, 6-7 from three-point range and 3-4 from the free throw line. Davidson also added five rebounds and four assists in the game.

"I was just looking to have some fun tonight and beat our rivals," Davidson said. "I was able to knock down some shots, which is always nice for everybody. I mean, in a 30-point win everybody's playing well, not just me. So, it was awesome."

Six players scored in double figures for the Bulldogs. Ethan Erickson had 14

points off the bench, Deng Reng had 13 points, Mykel Bingham added 12 points off the bench and Solomon Oraegbu and Vejas Grazulis both finished with 11 points.

Leading the team in assists was Amari Lee with seven, Jimmy Scholler had six and Oraegbu finished with four.

Bingham led the team in rebounds with nine, Reng had six, Grazulis added five and Reece Hazelton added four.

The Bulldogs shifted their focus to another league matchup with Davenport University on Sunday, Dec. 4.

The Bulldogs stayed hot on offense shooting 58.3% (35-60) from the field, 57.1% (12-21) from three-point range and 75% (21-28) from the free throw line that led to a 103-54 win.

"There's not a lot to say about this game," Bronkema said. "We played really well we shared the ball; we made a lot of shots, we were in tune to the game plan and it was a good night for us."

The Bulldogs won the rebound battle 43-27 and had more assists, 28-12. The Bulldogs bench also outscored their opponents 44-15 on the night.

Reng led the team in scoring with 23 points on an efficient shooting night. He went 6-7 from the field, a perfect 3-3 from the three-point line and a perfect 8-8 from the free throw line. He also grabbed eight rebounds and had five assists in the game.

"We just moved the ball really well,"

Reng said. "Everybody screened for each other, we got each other open and we just took the open shot, took whatever they gave us."

The Bulldogs, again, had multiple players in double digits in scoring with five.

Oraegbu had 18 points, Erickson added 14 points off the bench, Grazulis had 12 points and Lee finished with 11 points coming off the bench.

Bingham led the team in rebounds, grabbing 10, Grazulis and Oraegbu both

had four and Davidson and Brandon Clearbaut both finished with three.

Lee had nine assists to lead the team, Davidson and Erickson added four, Oraegbu had three and Scholler finished with two.

The Bulldogs will be back in action again as they hit the road for a two-game road trip when they take on Northern Michigan University Friday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. and then take on Michigan Tech University Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3:00 p.m.



Photo by: Evan Hibbard | Torch Photographer

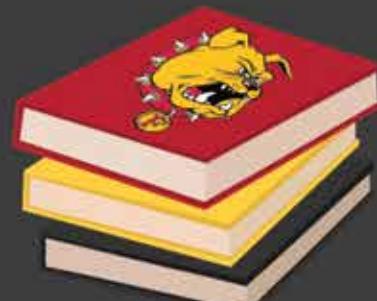
Ben Davidson looks to shoot during Ferris' 97-68 victory over Grand Valley. He scored 29 points.

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Bulldogs split

Women's basketball loses to Grand Valley, beats Davenport

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

played. Senior guard Mallory McCartney finished the game with 18 points, one rebound and six assists.

Ferris women's basketball split their weekend with a loss to the #1 ranked Grand Valley State Lakers and a win against the Davenport Panthers.

The Bulldogs (6-1) opened GLIAC play with their first loss of the season against Grand Valley (7-0). The Bulldogs were able to rebound well with a 67-55 victory against Davenport (4-4).

The Bulldogs' first game of the weekend started off very slowly after they were outscored by the Lakers 20-5. Following the hard start, the Bulldogs were able to outscore Grand Valley through the second and third quarters to bring the game within five points before ultimately losing the uphill battle against their arch-rivals.

Head coach Kurt Westendorp expressed his disappointment regarding the loss.

"As soon as you get yourself into a program that I think we've been building and get national recognition, there's no moral victories anymore," Westendorp said. "I know they're the number one team in the country but we came in expecting to win and we're disappointed. To come out of the gate in that first quarter and be down 20-5, that was the ball game right there."

Despite the disappointment, Westendorp expressed pride in the team for battling back when down double-digits while highlighting that the team must play the full 40 minutes.

Senior forward Chloe Idoni led the way for the Bulldogs with 26 points, eight rebounds and two assists through 33 minutes

"I thought our toughness really showed through in a game that wasn't very pretty," Westendorp said. "We found a way to win by getting defensive stops, rebounds and then just making just enough plays in the second half."

Westendorp emphasized taking each game as its own game following the weekend split. Despite the win, Westendorp made it clear that there was room for improvement on offensive turnovers.

The Bulldogs turned the ball over 22 times in the win. Davenport was able to score 17 points off of the 22 turnovers.

Idoni, for a second time, led the Bulldogs with 15 points and four rebounds through 16 minutes played. She said that GLIAC games are hard-fought.

"GLIAC teams come to play," Idoni said. "There's no GLIAC team where you can kind of relax or not have your best game. You have to come ready to play every game and we saw that tonight. They fought with us."

Idoni added that it "instills confidence" to have consistent and strong performances.

The Bulldogs will go on a long road trip and will not return home until Jan. 4, when they play Lewis (III.).



Photo by: Evan Hubbard | Torch Photographer

Chloe Idoni shoots a free throw during Ferris' 67-55 victory over Davenport.