



The Ferris State Torch

92 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of Jan. 18–24, 2023

www.fsutorch.com

Ferris community on the importance of MLK Day



Photo provided by: Wikimedia Commons

Action, spirit and social justice keep his ideas alive 55 years later

Meghan Hartley
News Reporter

While it has been over half a century since Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated for championing the lives of Black Americans, his words still echo throughout the world, the country and this campus.

The third Monday in January is commemorated as Martin Luther King Jr. Day, when people are encouraged to remember MLK's dream that all people would have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as the country promised its citizens. President Bill Pink believes this is an important time to reflect on the country's past as well as plan for the future.

"You have a day like MLK Day that looks at and celebrates the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King," Pink said. "It's important to do that from a perspective of recognizing the good work that was done but then also helping our generations and future generations, giving them that perspective as well. So that as they continue to one day become leaders of today, and hopefully they have studied and seen some of the what that legacy looks like in terms of Dr. King."

Pink says he hopes future generations emulate the legacy of a man who insisted on spreading his message, no matter how much the country challenged him. He related MLK's struggle for equality to university founders Woodbridge and Hel-

en Ferris when they first opened the Big Rapids Industrial School with the idea that everyone deserved an education.

"You think about Woodbridge and Helen Ferris," Pink said. "It could not have been easy in the late 1800s and early 1900s for them to be in this area, preaching the message of everyone in the state of Michigan deserves an education. It didn't matter what color you were, didn't matter what your gender was."

Woodbridge is remembered for his undying plea for "education for all children, all men and all women of Michigan, all the people in all our states all the time."

Assistant Director of the Office of Multicultural Student Services Darnell Lewis says MLK remains a legend for advocating in a world that actively rooted against him.

"He stood up for what was right, no matter what the world was," Lewis said. "No matter how many obstacles he had to face, he still persevered and made such an impact that we are able to benefit from everything he did back in the day."

One direct benefit from MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech was its influence on Congress to speed up the process of passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin and forbade the same discrimination in hiring, promoting and firing processes.

Lewis says that MLK Day is an oppor-

tunity for everyone to come together and commemorate the life and legacy of a historic figure in the civil rights movement. The OMSS observed the holiday with several special events that will be featured in future Torch coverage.

"We have the march, a keynote speaker and the student tribute," Lewis said. "We've been doing this for about 37 years. We always start early [for planning], usually the semester before locating the keynote speaker and developing the theme... This year, we wanted someone young that our students can relate to and inspire them to be advocates, be committed to social justice and inspire them to take action now."

Ferris' MLK Day events allow students and faculty to put MLK's words and dreams into action while continuing to be advocates for social justice.

Marketing freshman Ashley Jordan, who participated in planning and organizing the activities, says they are planned ahead of time and often met with great turnout.

"With the march, even though we will never really fully understand how it was and what marching actually meant back then, I feel like we feel that [drive] a little bit," Jordan said. "Some people will say, 'Oh, no, it's too cold outside [to march],' but back then that wasn't an option. Whether it was cold, hot or snowing, no matter what the weather was, we were going out here to fight for our rights. We're fighting for each other, fighting for

equality. I feel like marching is a good way to commemorate that."

Jordan says she has found MLK to be very inspirational; she's even had the opportunity to perform one of his speeches entitled "Blueprint." She says he has done so much in social justice, and that it has opened the door for other people to do great things.

While MLK day may be over, Pink asks students to participate, engage and listen in on discussions inspired by MLK.

"I have a strong message for the students, the encouragement to participate," Pink said. "Engage in some of the discussions, listen to and give feedback to, but also be able to engage in the dialogue. Way too often we want to start at our uncommon ground. We want to just go on to the things we disagree on, and we end up fighting about it. You're arguing with each other. We see the example many times in Washington D.C. We see it in our political arenas. We see it in our public arenas where people argue and fuss and fight because they start where they disagree... Engage in the dialogue. Be individuals who want to find common ground with each other, especially people who may come from different backgrounds and who you may not agree with everything."

For articles on the OMSS' MLK events, including the march and keynote speech by activist and attorney Martese Johnson, read next week's issue of the Torch.

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News

Jessica Oakes | News Editor | oakesj3@ferris.edu

New year, new president

The Student Government Association swears in President Engels

Ember St. Amour
News Reporter

As the spring semester begins, medical laboratory science junior Cassidy Engles took the podium as the Student Government Association's president for the first time last Tuesday.

Engels explained that she has goals that she hopes to achieve during her time in the position. Specifically, she is trying to create an effective way to increase membership and meeting attendance.

"One of my goals is to increase the membership," Engels said. "One of the ways I plan on going through that is making our meetings [a] really welcoming environment and [making] people feel comfortable because the meetings can be kind of intimidating."

Engels has held several positions on the SGA executive board, from being a representative for the association of medical laboratory science, to vice president last semester.

MaeLynn Huhn, the previous SGA president, graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology in December. This opened the door for Engles' promotion. Having worked closely with Engels, Huhn knows what she brings to the table to take over her position on SGA. Huhn is confident that Engels will do well in her new role as president, having seen her work with

the SGA last semester.

"[As] my vice president last semester, Cassidy's really stepped up a lot with her ability to lead [and] think outside the box, [and she has] responsibility for her vision," Huhn said. "She just improved as an overall leader in so many ways, and I'm really excited to see her do that this upcoming semester."

Engels explained that the focus of the SGA is to help students learn about organizations and opportunities on campus. Through this focus, the SGA hopes that students find things that they can enjoy at Ferris that they may not have known about beforehand. Students are welcome to attend the meetings, whether to discuss matters on behalf of their registered student organization or simply to get an idea of what is going on around campus.

Students are not the only ones who make up part of the SGA on campus. Several faculty members are present at the meetings to ensure that they run smoothly. One of these members is interim Dean of Student Life Jana Hurley, who is a co-advisor for the SGA. Hurley

explained the expectations in place for the SGA, part of which are similar to Engels' goals.

"We expect that they keep their eye on their academic success. That they show up with both a willingness to lead and a willingness to learn. That they provide an environment that is inviting to other students who might have an interest in participating officially, or that are there representing their various interests or bringing their concerns, so that you know it's a good environment for students to work together to achieve goals and to communicate," Hurley said.

The SGA had its first meeting with Engels as the president last week with 11 people in attendance. Conversation between the SGA and those in atten-

dance was encouraged several times throughout the meeting. First, Engels invited those in attendance to introduce themselves to the SGA, including which RSO or college they were affiliated with, if any. It was also encouraged for any of those in attendance to voice any concerns or issues they had during the public comment section.

SGA meetings are held every Tuesday from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the ballrooms of the David L. Eisler Center. As anyone is welcome to attend, Engels encourages students to attend at least once so that they can get a feel of what SGA meetings are all about, and so they can learn the latest about what is happening around campus.



Photo by: Ember St. Amour | Torch Reporter

From left: Allison Leslie, Cassidy Engels and Dylan Andrews listening to a public comment.

New businesses in town



Photo by: Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor

Opening on January 11, Jersey Mike's saw steady business through their first week open.



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Cars line up around the new Scooter's Coffee Drive-Thru building.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE



Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Back in Session: Michigan's first Black House speaker and first female Senate Majority Leader were sworn in last Wednesday.

The 102nd Michigan Legislature officially opened last week, welcoming Rep. Joe Tate, D-Detroit, and Sen. Winnie Brinks, D-Grand Rapids. The House session kicked off with Tate's confirmation as speaker, garnering a 102-8 vote. The eight opposing voters were all Republicans, most of which are members of the House's Freedom Caucus.

With the new Democratic majority, the first pieces of legislation introduced included a bill to codify protections for LGBTQ people, repeal "right-to-work" laws and roll back the state's 1931 ban on abortion.

State Surplus: Michigan's treasury predicts a \$9.2 billion surplus for the fiscal year, which could result in a decrease in the state income tax.

Projections from the Jan. 6

Consensus Revenue Estimating conference show that Michigan will see \$32.4 billion in revenue for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, running from Oct. 1-Sept. 30. If revenue grows at an aggressively faster rate than inflation, a tax-lowering 2015 road funding law provision may be triggered. If the estimates are correct, the reduction would move income tax from 4.25% to 4.05%.

Treasury officials say it is too early to know the likelihood of this tax reduction, as the 2022 tax year is still being filed.

"We understand that this law requires us to look at a calculation, however, the financial statements required for us to conduct that calculation are incomplete," state treasurer Rachael Eubanks said. "We simply don't know what's going to happen because the books are not closed yet."

When asked if she would amend the 2015 law, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said that there is "a lot of work that has yet to be done."

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Brazil: Pix, the government-run payments system largely financing former President Jair Bolsonaro's movement for election denial, is now being used to track down citizen financiers of the capitol riots.

"I've got money in the bank," Samuel Faria said. "Thanks to you dear patriots... who helped us, lots of friends sponsoring us with Pix."

This was expressed live on social media on Jan. 8, as Faria observed hundreds of Bolsonaro supporters "ransacked government buildings" from a commandeered Senate president's chair, Reuters reports.

Roughly a dozen police and financial officials reported to Reuters about a "secure and consistent line of investigation focused on tracking financial movements undertaken via Pix."

According to Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes and Justice Minister Flavio Dino, the financiers of the riots will likely follow

the same path as the previous 1,398 arrested rioters. Their alleged crimes include terrorism and attempting a coup.

Pix has become a common source for fundraising and money distribution all over Brazil. This includes deeper corners of the internet, home to devoted Bolsonaro supporters. Conservative YouTuber Enzo Leonardo Suzin said that Pix contributions now make up to 20% of his revenue. Suzin was targeted, but never charged, in 2020 by a Supreme Court probe into alleged fake news.

Since President Lula da Silva's election victory on Oct. 30, Suzin explained that Pix is increasingly being used by dedicated Bolsonaro

ON THE RECORD

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

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Hit'n'Split

Dec. 1 - Dec. 19, time unknown - A sign was struck in parking lot 4H. The driver elected not to report the incident, and the case was further closed due to lack of leads.

New year, new OUI

Jan. 8, 3:05 a.m. - An officer noticed a moving violation while on patrol. After they started a traffic stop, the officer observed signs that the driver was

impaired and conducted a field sobriety test, which the driver failed. The driver then admitted they consumed alcohol, declined a breathalyzer test and was then arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol.

Student threats

Jan. 10, 1:30 a.m. - Student threatened bodily harm to another student, however, there was not enough evidence to proceed with a case. The incident was closed for criminal proceedings but was referred to student

conduct.

UPSies

Dec. 12, time unknown - An electronic device with a value of over \$1,000 was delivered to the Business Building to the incorrect recipient, who fraudulently signed for the item and kept it. The intended recipient checked the tracking status of the item, observed that it was delivered, but not to them, and filed a police report.

PARKING UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Last Wednesday, Ferris Housing announced more changes to on-campus parking via Instagram.

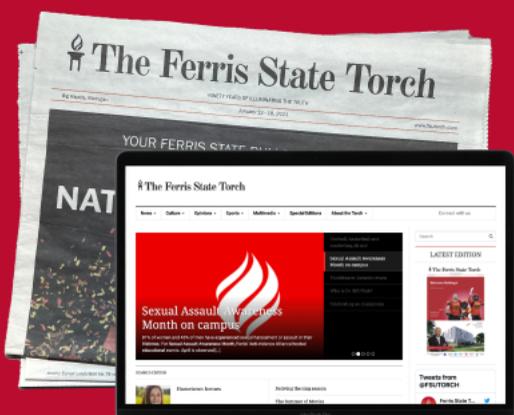
The post reads as follows:

"Hey Bulldogs, good news! We wanted to let you know that parking after 5 p.m. in all commuter lots is now permitted - just make sure you have an active permit of some kind (residential,

commuter, etc)."

This change follows several restrictions on parking posted on ferris.edu during the fall semester. Before this most recent announcement, all students were only permitted to park in their assigned lot, regardless of the time.

For more information on Ferris parking rules, visit the Parking Permits and Services section of the university's website.



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The difference a year makes



Photo by: Torch Archives

Construction workers focused on the CVL's underground foundation in March 2022.



Photo by: Ember St. Amour | News Reporter

The CVL shows months' worth of progress with glass windows and gray panels.

The Center for Virtual Learning is scheduled to open fall 2023

Nolan Harris
News Reporter

This marks the last semester that the construction site near FLITE will remain mysterious and inaccessible, as the Center For Virtual learning is scheduled to open in the fall of 2023.

While the finer details are still being decided, this three-story building will be filled with editing labs, podcast rooms, a cutting-edge esports arena, classrooms and faculty offices.

The CVL will be home to a number of programs and their majors, including the School of Digital Media, the School of Education and Information and Ferris' new minor for esports broadcasting. This is the first upgrade that the 50-year-old television and digital media production program has seen since the creation of the Interdisciplinary Resource Center in the last century. This offers a new opportunity for Ferris to renovate the space with technology fit for the digital age and

its future scholars.

One such space is the esports arena. Placed near the CVL's entrance, this space is intended to facilitate the live production needs of a number of majors and registered student organizations. It will be outfitted with the 2022 award-winning Panasonic Kairos switcher. A switcher is a piece of hardware that accepts all video and audio sources of a production and outputs them into one source where it is recorded or broadcasted. It is the link that makes any televised production, from the Super Bowl to a college graduation ceremony, actually visible on your screen.

Bill Jung, a television engineer at Ferris and a committee member for the interior furnishing of the CVL, gave the Torch some insight into this technology.

"It does things that most typical TV production switchers never even thought of doing, and it can do them very well," Jung said. "One of the big benefits is we can remotely control cameras across

campus and even the nation... We can have students around the world remoting into a production switcher and producing content."

This cutting-edge hardware will allow students to participate in competitive esports from various locations. The arena, in conjunction with the three podcast studios, the four editing labs and the computers for these spaces, will allow students to produce video and audio content and broadcast it at a professional level in a professional environment.

Glenn Okonoski, the director of the TDMP program and a representative of the School of Digital Media for the building, speaks to the excitement and potential of this building and how it will be a place where students, faculty, instruction and events will all share the same place.

"I keep coming back to the connections that can be made between faculty and students and those in different majors," Okonoski said. "Bishop Hall is

at the end of its life cycle — it's lonely and dusty. I'm excited to move to the center of campus where there will be more activity."

The students share this excitement, although it seems that even those within the majors moving in are unfamiliar with just what this building will offer. Digital animation and game design junior Marlow Losey has only heard what other students have said, which isn't much. Although they are excited to have a new building tailored to their major's needs, being at the center of campus also fills them with a sense of pride for their program, now that it will have a central place within Ferris' ecosystem.

Coming this fall, the CVL will be filled with the students and faculty members that are usually confined to the outskirts of campus. It will bring them right to the center of campus with fancy new tech, new programs and excitement for the future.

Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

Campus Craze

One woman's perspective on protective hairstyles

Giuliana Denicolo
Culture Editor

"To me, locs are a symbol of strength and beauty, almost like a lion's mane," Zendaya says in Insider magazine.

As part of the African culture, dating back centuries, protective hairstyles emerged within the Black community to maintain the health of their natural hair and echoed strength and creativity in African tribes.

There are a lot of protective hairstyle options for Black women that can be used with one's natural hair or with added synthetic hair. Marketing junior Analee Harris has worn passion twists and other kinds of twists before. She has found that these hairstyles keep her hair "locked in" for as long as she needs it to, which ends up being around two weeks. According to Harris, the protective style and how long it lasts can depend on what type of hair is being fed into it.

Many Black women who have type 4c

hair, which is the most coily hair type someone can have, wear box braids because the braids tend to last a lot longer than other protective styles. Harris' hair type isn't as coily, but she still finds it difficult to manage, which is why she wears protective hairstyles.

"[4c hair] can be very difficult to manage, and I know even just because it's hard to manage my hair, and I don't have anything near 4c hair," Harris said. "I have cousins, grandparents, aunts and uncles that all have that hair type, and they pretty much stay within the protective hairstyle realm just because it makes it easier."

Harris explained that wigs can be categorized as a protective style because they cover a person's whole head of hair. Additionally, many Black men and women wear bonnets and scarves because they "protect the look of the hair when you go to sleep."

Protective hairstyles are also worn "for fun." Harris mentions a friend she has that found a style that "works for

her," and she wears it all the time. Harris hasn't seen this friend's natural hair in three years.

Straight hair strands are much thicker compared to Afro-textured, type-4 hair strands. Type-4 hair strands are fragile, prone to breakage and are slow to produce natural oils.

"Straight hair produces way more natural oils, which is why, typically, people with that hair have to wash it out every day. Because when that happens, it gets very greasy, it weighs it down way too much, and it just doesn't look healthy," Harris said. "But we probably produce that much [oil] over the course of maybe a couple of weeks, so it doesn't weigh our hair down. That's why we buy extra oils to put in our hair to give it some of those extra nutrients for growth and just overall health."

Harris mentioned a current online controversy. The rosemary hair oil manufactured by Mielle Organics, a Black-owned hair brand, blew up on TikTok when a white influencer swore that it worked

wonders on her hair. Now, the product is selling out and prices are rising.

Fear and speculation that the brand will change their formula to be inclusive for all hair types is emerging, since it has "happened to multiple different hair-care products for Black women" before.

"Part of the frustration is that just from history. Black women never had anything for themselves, like ever," Harris said. "Making the oil more inclusive is problematic because when you make those products more inclusive to fit every hairstyle, it doesn't fit [Black women's] hairstyles anymore."

It's no question why some people will turn their heads when they see a non-Black person wearing a protective hairstyle. This is often seen as cultural appropriation, which is defined as a privileged person or group's unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of a subculture's or minority community's cultural identity markers.

Harris believes that if wearing protective hairstyles or using hair oils isn't beneficial to other hairtypes, then it doesn't make sense for them to be using the resources that Black people rely on. Wearing protective hairstyles and using additional oils can be damaging for hair types that don't require it.

"I've met some people that don't understand, which is okay," Harris said. "If they're trying to learn, I have no problem, but it's when they're blatantly saying that Black women are gatekeeping, or that we're too sensitive, or that it's about sharing culture — no. There are certain things that should be separated in every culture."

A study by Dove reports that "Black women are one-and-a-half times more likely to be sent home, or know of a Black woman sent home, from the workplace because of their hair." The same study shows that 80% of Black women are likely to change their natural hair to meet societal expectations in the workplace.

"Protective hairstyles, curly hairs, just natural hair in general, can be seen, and has been seen, as very unprofessional for some reason. It's just, you know, from history trying to whitewash a lot of things and thinking that everything needs to be clean, and it needs to be sleek, and stuff like that to be professional," Harris said.

Harris herself has had comments made about her hair for being "too big" because it prevented a classmate behind her from seeing the board. She explained that her sister has also experienced instances like this at school.

Harris referred to a California law called the Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act, which her mom, a hairstylist, told her about. The CROWN act was established in 2019, and, according to the Legal Defense Fund, a legal organization that fights for racial justice, discrimination against race-based hair, texture and protective styles is prohibited in the workplace and schools.

PROTECTIVE HAIRSTYLES

Braids are beautiful and they symbolize **resistance, freedom, love, and power** coming to fruition

Allure, 2020

Depictions of women in cornrows have been found in Stone Age paintings in Northern Africa dating back to **3000 B.C.**

House of Braid, 2022

New research suggests Black women with natural hairstyles, such as curly afros, braids or twists, are often perceived as less professional than Black women with straightened hair, particularly in industries where norms dictate a more conservative appearance.

American Bar Association, 2020

Photo Provided by:



A fun way for students to stay active

The Student Recreation Center's hidden gem



Photo by: Maddie Epps | Torch Photographer

Sydney Mingori (left) and Keegan Zender (center) use teamwork to tackle the rec center's rock climbing wall with the assistance of employee Rick Coates (right).

Jasmine Baar
Culture Reporter

In such a small town, it can be difficult to find things to do outside of work and school. Luckily, hidden inside the Student Recreation Center is a gem for students that are looking for something

to do: a rock climbing wall that allows students to stay active and have fun.

Rock climbing can offer both physical and mental health benefits. Climbing also works out your upper and lower body, and can help improve your stamina.

Biology and pre-optometry senior Nico-

las Schmidt works at the rec center's front desk and believes that being a part of the community is a "big part of the college experience."

"I'd never done a rock wall until, one night a few years back, me and my buddies discovered there was a rock wall at the rec," Schmidt said. "We tried it out, and it was a lot of fun. It's a new way to work out your body that's not just lifting weights or running around the track. We've done it multiple times afterwards, and we always recommend students to utilize it."

Forensic biology sophomore Ella Connors has worked in the climbing room for two years. She thinks "anyone can climb," and the only challenge is a person's length when rock climbing. Though anyone can use the rock climbing wall, Connors has seen that most students are enticed by the workout.

"A lot of the guys that come in also come to the gym here too," Connors said. "I think it works out different muscles for them, and climbing helps them actually use those muscles instead of just growing them."

Even though the rock climbing wall can be used as a workout or just to exercise, it can also be used for fun. There are a few different ways to climb up it, so it gives beginners and experts a chance to thrive and work within their limits.

Psychology senior Sydney Mingori doesn't think she's very good at rock climbing, but she still had a fun time with her friends when they all went.

"My roommate actually comes here a lot to rock climb, and today he invited me to tag along," Mingori said. "It sounded fun, and it's not as intimidating when you go with friends. My first time going up, I just fell down. It doesn't hurt, though."

"It sounded fun, and it's not as intimidating when you go with friends. My first time going up, I just fell down. It doesn't hurt, though."

It's just something you have to learn and get used to. It's cool that we can do this together with different skill sets and still have fun."

With so many functions and different uses, a lot of students can utilize the rock climbing wall to fit what they want to do. Members of the ROTC program and Greek life on campus have also gone to the rock climbing wall to promote team bonding.

Music and entertainment business junior Maddie Lockwod says that the process is "easy" and only takes a few minutes to get everything set up. She explained that there are different levels of difficulty and heights.

"It's not a super strenuous workout, but you are going to activate your upper body muscles and build strength," Lockwod said. "The rock climbing wall is super calming to me because you can be analytical, planning out what your hands are reaching for next, trying to strategically map out your pathway up the wall."

So, the next time you're having difficulty figuring out what you want to do or where you want to go, grab a couple of friends and meet them at the rock climbing wall for some active fun.



Photo by: Maddie Epps | Torch Photographer

Rock climbing wall supervisor (left) assisting Juan Vargas (right) with his climb.

The insight on purchasing textbooks

Finding cheaper and more accessible options to buying textbooks



Photo by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

Kylah Robinson
Culture Reporter

After two years of adjusting to the bookstore's transition to a fully online format, students and faculty on campus have been able to compare prices and accessibility and reflect on how they've fared in this new era.

Some students have been around long enough to experience the bookstore when it was an in-person store and all the benefits it provided for the campus community. However, when the bookstore went online, the decision was made without the input of those it affected the most: students and faculty.

Business administration senior Jahlyn Wynns has seen both versions of the bookstore and has mentioned that the online bookstore has pros and cons when it comes to accessibility.

"It was easier for me just to walk down [to the in-person bookstore] and go purchase a book. [With] the online version, you have to order, and wait and go through all that stuff," Wynns said.

The online bookstore does provide students with more options, like getting books new or used and renting physical copies or eBooks. Nursing freshman Zsa'Ria Naves has preferred using Amazon to buy her textbooks because the prices are much cheaper.

"I tend to find my online or used books [on Amazon], instead of buying them from Ferris because it's too expensive," Naves said.

Forensic science and chemistry instructor Mary Bacon also encourages

her students to use Amazon for cheaper prices. She has seen firsthand how this transition has affected her students.

"Students would say, 'Well I'm gonna wait till the last minute,' and then they won't get their things," Bacon said. "[Before], when they found out they really needed it, they would just walk to the bookstore, buy the book and come to class. Now they can't do that."

While trying to find the cheapest textbooks, Bacon has still seen many students who were not able to pay for their books, which leads to them not having required texts during class. With this, she hopes students think of textbooks as an "investment."

"All I can say is education is an investment, and you have to look at your books as part of that investment," Bacon said. "If it's important enough to you, you will find a way to make it happen. I just try to encourage people that it's important enough. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity."

The student financial service office at Ferris lends students a helping hand with textbooks by giving out vouchers. Students can use \$250 worth of credit per semester on their accounts for textbooks. This is known as the student charge program. According to the Ferris website, to be eligible for this program, you have to be registered for semester courses and not have a previous balance owed for bookstore charges.

Wynns uses his book voucher to purchase textbooks for the classes he knows will 100% require the textbook. The voucher also keeps him secure

by giving him extra money to purchase household necessities or to use in case of an emergency.

"It helped a lot," Wynns said. "It gave me insurance that I'll be able to save more money, and I don't always use all of the money for the textbooks, so sometimes I get money back in my pocket or for food."

Now that the online bookstore is

partnering with Akademos and a marketplace, the majority of students might be able to find their textbooks for a little cheaper.

If you are a student who struggles with finding textbooks, or securing the funds to pay for textbooks, go to the student financial services office and see how Ferris can help you.

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

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

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EDITORS COLUMN: *Double dip to earn more dough*

Noah Kurkjian
Editor in Chief

If I walked up to you and asked, “Would you like \$20,000?,” you would likely say yes. Who would turn down free money? It’s possible you as a student already are, though.

Early on in my college career, I was taught about credit “double dipping,” the practice of using a single class to fulfill multiple requirements. I did this early on in my degree in hopes of finishing up early, but other opportunities kept me here for a full four years, and so I had some time left and some program electives to fill. I noticed I personally trended towards taking communication classes as program electives, so I turned that into a minor.

I had already taken so many courses in that area of study

because I felt they would make me more employable and, frankly, more competent at my job. Now, I not only have a wider selection of jobs at my fingertips post-graduation, but I also heightened my earning potential. While my gains from pairing a communication minor with a journalism and technical communication major may not be life-changing, there are combinations out there that can distinguish you from other applicants and help you increase your salary.

Meld your talents and your passions into a niche only you can fill. For example, certified multilingual individuals can expect to earn nearly 20% more than their monolingual counterparts, according to Euro London, a language specialist recruitment agency. Or, if you have competing passions, make

that work for you. Say you’re working on a technical communications degree and you also enjoy chemistry. Getting a minor in chemistry makes you uniquely qualified to, say, copywrite for a pharmaceutical company, as you’d have a background in what you’re marketing. That minor would make you more self-sufficient on the job, and that will equate to cold, hard cash.

Gen Z sits as the most highly educated generation out there with 57% enrolled in some type of college, according to the Pew Research Center. We need something to set ourselves apart because a college degree alone simply isn’t going to do it anymore. It’s never too late to start a minor, either.

Going into the 2022-23 school year, I had only completed two of the seven required

courses for my minor. I selected three during the fall semester because they sounded interesting. Then, one fateful scroll through MyDegree later, I was taking the last two courses I needed to walk out of here with an extra qualification. The best part of all of this is the cost. Because I had so many program electives still to complete for my major, I got all the courses for my minor in without having to spend one extra cent.

Do some soul searching and some research and see what’s out there for you. Your major could just be one piece of your career puzzle. Program advisors are also a great place to seek out help with this. They can advise where you can double dip or help you put together your own niche. It could mean the difference in salary negotiations or landing the job at all.

Drop the stigma of dropping classes

Rethink withdrawing’s negative connotation

Giuliana Denicolo
Culture Editor

Now that the add or drop period is no longer an option, you may feel stuck in a class that you no longer want to be in.

Thankfully, withdrawing from a class is an available option for all students until March 23. Although withdrawing from a class can be an uncomfortable and tough decision to make, it was completely necessary for my well-being. Last semester, I had to learn to drop the stigma of withdrawing and redeclaring, and I think that everyone else should too.

According to the University of South Florida, one-third of college students change their minds at least once, and ten percent switch their major two times or more. Changing your mind on how you want your future to look is okay and more

common than you think. No one should feel ashamed for doing it.

My decision was made on the fly, but the idea would pop into my head every time I came home from class crying or just generally in a bad mood. I felt like I was always running around like a chicken with its head cut off; I could never just sit and breathe. There wasn’t a day that I didn’t feel defeated, which started to make me realize how little I was enjoying my life because of one three credit class.

Withdrawing from a class can seem like the easy way out. You spent the money for the credit and have already completed a portion of the course, so why give up now? To me, now that I’ve done it, it’s so much more complicated than that. When I was contemplating this decision, I would constantly try to justify my feelings. I’d tell myself

that I couldn’t heal in a place that was hurting me.

There are many reasons why people withdraw from a class. For me, every single reason imaginable applied, but that didn’t stop me from feeling guilty about it and bad about myself. I worried that my friends and family would be disappointed in me and that my professor and classmates would talk about me withdrawing. I was especially worried that I would end up feeling even worse than I did when I was in the class. After contacting everyone I knew and cared about, and basically getting the “OK” from them, I knew what I had to do. I weighed the pros and cons and came to find that there were just no pros to staying enrolled in that course.

Let’s make something clear, never feel guilty for putting yourself first, especially when it comes to school. The option to

withdraw is there because people need it and often take it. I can only imagine that others have felt guilty about making a similar decision, and it makes even more sense that the guilt comes from “wasting” money.

Now, when I say this was one of the smartest decisions I’ve ever made, I truly mean it. No one, including yourself, should make you feel bad for making a decision that benefits you more than it harms you.

In all cases, withdrawing is better than failing and compromising your mental wellbeing. If you have to, drop the class, and while you’re at it, drop the stigma of it too.

Sports

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Women's basketball splits weekend



Photo by: Brandon Wirth | Sports Reporter

Mia Riley drives to the basket during Ferris' 84-77 victory over Purdue Northwest. Riley had nine points and six rebounds in the win.

Bulldogs sit at fifth in GLIAC standings with just over a month before postseason

Joseph Nagy
Sports Reporter

A narrow split of last weekend's games for the women's basketball team means a newfound motivation for the second half of the season.

Despite the records and the standings in GLIAC, the conference is as lucrative as it has been for so many years. With just three games separating top seed Grand Valley and fifth place Ferris State (11-5, 4-3 GLIAC), much is set to change in the final six weeks of GLIAC play. Although the Bulldogs are sitting just above the top half of the league at fifth, the surge for March basketball means that teams are looking to find wins now more than ever.

On Thursday, the Bulldogs welcomed the Pride of Purdue Northwest into Jim Wink Arena. The Pride sits at the bottom of the GLIAC standings, but a majority of those losses came from missed opportunities.

"That's a team, like this one, that's lost a lot of close games," head coach Kurt Westendorp said. "I think they're going to be a dangerous team that second

half."

Throughout the first half, Purdue Northwest controlled with a slight lead. With senior center Chloe Idoni getting the focus of the Pride's defense, veteran guard Mallory McCartney got a chance to facilitate the pace of play. She recorded 13 points in the first 20 minutes, causing a defensive shift for the Pride.

Purdue Northwest changed their efforts to slow down McCartney, and after a slow first half for Idoni, the lightened pressure allowed her to find more scoring opportunities. After scoring two points in the first half, Idoni recorded 21 at the final buzzer. Some effective pick-and-roll action between Idoni and McCartney allowed the latter to finish with a near triple-double (18 points, 10 assists, six rebounds).

The Bulldogs entered the fourth quarter trailing 54-58, and they trailed until a late game run put them up by seven and gave them control for the final minute of the game. With help from forward DeShonna Day's 17 points, the Bulldogs secured the win. The team was near 50% in both shooting categories, going 28-58 from the field and 6-13 at the arc.

"We played really tough down the stretch," Westendorp said. "Our defense improved as the game went on. We played with a lot more energy in that second half."

With the Thursday win under their belt, the team switched their focus to Saturday's contest against #3 Wisconsin Parkside. With a tall order in front of them, the Bulldogs were looking for their first weekend sweep since mid-November.

Switching defensive schemes from a more defensive-based, slower offensive team like the Pride to a fast-paced offense like that of the Rangers, the Bulldogs scrambled to find their defensive identity in the first quarter. Ferris started playing man-to-man defense, but allowed 27 first quarter points.

Ferris answered Parkside's strong first quarter with 25 points of their own. Idoni was instrumental in keeping the Bulldogs close with 12 points in the quarter. However, Ferris was unable to find any sort of offensive rhythm in the second quarter, and they were outscored 20-9. Parkside took a 47-34 lead into halftime.

Defensively, the Bulldogs moved into a

zone in the second half.

"We played with more energy in the zone, so we were better connected," Westendorp said. "It kind of took them out of their rhythm for the most part."

With 18 rebounds on defense, the Bulldogs flourished in transition. McCartney notched the majority of her 11 assists that way, with Idoni on the receiving end. Idoni finished the day with 32 points, 11 rebounds and four assists.

Ferris' massive third quarter tied the game at 61. However, Parkside proved to be too much in the fourth and beat the Bulldogs in a 75-66 win.

Westendorp thought his team fatigued in the fourth quarter, and mentioned that they have to shoot better than 2-16 in the final frame. He said it "stinks to run out of steam."

The Bulldogs are 11-5 overall and 4-3 in the GLIAC. After a GLIAC tournament championship last year, the team has high hopes to replicate it in 2023. The end of season push begins on the road as the Bulldogs play Saginaw Valley on Thursday and Wayne State on Saturday.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Hockey

Jan. 13 - Ferris 4, Lake State 0
Jan. 14 - Lake State 4, Ferris 1

Men's Basketball

Jan. 12 - Ferris 75, Purdue Northwest 55
Jan. 14 - Ferris 93, Parkside 71

Track and Field

Jan. 14 - Bob Eubanks Open Danae Feldpausch 2nd, 800 meters
Andrew Shafley 1st, 800 meters

Sports Speculations - Hockey



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

The Bulldogs celebrate during their victory in the Great Lakes Invitational Tournament over Michigan State. The Spartans were ranked 11th in the nation at the time. Ferris' win inspired hope that they can compete for a successful postseason run in 2023.

Do the Bulldogs have what it takes to make noise in the postseason?

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

Bulldog hockey is set to begin a seven week stretch of hockey in what will be the second half of the season.

The seven week stretch includes 14 games, which will lead directly to the CCHA tournament in March. The Bulldogs have a great chance of gaining home ice in the playoffs if they take advantage of the second half of the season.

The Bulldogs (10-10-2 overall, 7-6-1 in conference) currently sit in fifth place in the CCHA and are five points behind the fourth place Michigan Tech Huskies. The Bulldogs currently have between two and four games in hand after not playing this past week.

Coach Bob Daniels revealed that the issues he'd like to fix are the same from the first half of play.

"We want to make sure we're disciplined and our penalty minutes are down," Daniels said. "It's constant work right now trying to make sure we're not stuck in our own zone. We want to play more in the other team's end."

Being stuck in your defensive zone can create numerous issues. One of which is being unable to score.

The Bulldogs struggle with scoring, especially under the circumstances. The team is tied

fourth in scoring in the CCHA with 54 goals. Ferris doesn't have a natural goal scorer, either. They are still very much a "score-by-committee" team. Six Bulldogs have either five or six goals, while the rest of the team has no more than three goals.

The power-play is sitting at 15-87 (17.2%) this season. This might seem a little low, but it is an improvement. The Bulldogs have one less power-play goal at this halfway point than they had all season last year.

Sophomore forward Brad Marek gave his thoughts on what the offense must do in the second half of the season.

"I think we need the four lines to be producing all the time," Marek said. "[There's been] a lot of emphasis lately on two guys getting in hard and supporting your teammates and producing offense, but we have to be getting our defensive zone as well. That's where the offense starts."

Defensively, the Bulldogs have been solid. Don't let the -12 goal differential fool you. This is exacerbated by two terrible losses for the Bulldogs. The team's loss to Bowling Green (6-0) and their GLI tournament loss to Western Michigan (8-2) really hurt the scoring differential.

Senior defenseman Brendan MacLaren, who is an alternate captain for the Bulldogs, shared

what he believes the defense needs to do in the second half of the season.

"As a group, our defensive core has been really good, especially the last two months," MacLaren said. "We just gotta keep all the chances against the outside in our end and then get it up to our forwards as fast as possible. The least amount of time in our end will lead to success in the offensive zone."

As previously mentioned, the defense presented by the Bulldogs has been good. A

testament of this has been the Bulldog's penalty kill. The unit has only allowed 17 power-play goals on 86 penalty kills (80.2%).

So, what do the Bulldogs need to do in order to jump in the standings and land home ice for the CCHA playoffs?

The biggest thing needed is consistency in their weekend series. The Bulldogs have only picked up one sweep through the 2022-23 season so far. However, they have not been swept. This is what their .500

record shows.

Another split this past weekend against Lake State, who ranks last in CCHA standings, means the Bulldogs will need to take advantage of upcoming back-to-back weekend home-stands against Michigan Tech and Minnesota State.

Have hope for the Bulldogs in the second half of the season. They may have a miracle or two in them.

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Photo by: Brandon Wirth | Sports Reporter

Jimmy Scholler blocks a shot during Ferris' 75-55 victory over Purdue Northwest. He had two blocks in the game with two steals, six rebounds, six assists and five points.

Finishing the homestand hot

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

Following a loss last Saturday to Lake Superior State, the Bulldogs got back on track with two conference wins this weekend.

On Thursday, Ferris (13-5, 4-3 GLIAC) defeated Purdue Northwest 75-55 in a dominant performance on the boards. The Bulldogs only shot 41.7% from the floor but made up for it by outrebounding the Pride 51-26, and by forcing 19 turnovers.

"It doesn't feel good to lose," head coach Andy Bronkema said. "We thought we didn't put enough effort [last Saturday]. We could have lost tonight, but it wouldn't have been because of our effort."

Solomon Oraegbu led the Bulldogs with 23 points and nine rebounds. He was followed by Ben Davidson's 14 points and Vejas Grazulis' 13 points. Amari Lee and Jimmy Scholler added seven and six assists, respectively. Mykel Bingham registered ten rebounds, and Reece Hazelton added eight.

"We didn't make shots," Davidson said. "We just kept to the game plan of just playing with immense energy and work, and we held them to under 60 points."

Dolapo Olayinka added five rebounds and two blocks in 16 minutes for the Bulldogs. This was his first game back from injury since Nov. 23 against Ashland. When asked about the rebounding effort, Davidson made sure to point out Olayinka's return as a key factor.

"He's a freak and a crazy athlete," Davidson said. "It was awesome to finally play with him again."

The Saturday contest was

a well-anticipated one, where the Bulldogs hosted Wisconsin-Parkside, the top-GLIAC squad. Behind a dominant 46-point first half, Ferris held onto their 16-point halftime lead for a 93-71 win. The Bulldogs improved their shooting to 60.7% in the contest, along with 46.2% from the 3-point range.

"These last two games, I just thought we were locked in," Bronkema said. "I liked to see that, and we have to keep doing it."

Oraegbu, a former Ranger, led Ferris with 28 points, followed by Davidson with 18 and Scholler with 17. Olayinka registered 14 points and ten rebounds. Lee added seven assists, and Oraegbu nabbed three steals.

When asked about the dominant performance, Oraegbu said it "meant a lot" to him, doing that against his former team, and that the energy spark from the fans made a great game atmosphere.

With the victories, the Bulldogs move to 13-5 on the season and 4-3 in GLIAC play. The wins also helped the Bulldogs jump to the number four spot in the conference standings. Ferris will now head on the road for away games at Saginaw Valley State on Thursday and Wayne State on Saturday, who also have a 4-3 conference record.

"I love competing in the GLIAC," Bronkema said. "There's a lot of good coaches, and it's a fun league. You have to do it on the road, and you prepare to win. If you don't, you get back to the drawing board."

Thursday's game tips off at 8 p.m. and Saturday's begins at 3 p.m. For more information, visit ferrisstatebulldogs.com.

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Photo by: Brandon Wirth | Sports Reporter

Amari Lee goes for a layup during Ferris' victory over Purdue Northwest.