

A march to remember



Graphic By: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

The remembrance of civil rights lives on at Ferris

Ember St. Amour
News Reporter

Despite the rain, determined students, faculty and community members marched their way through campus in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

On Jan. 16, the Office of Multicultural Student Services put on their annual march, which began around 4:00 p.m. The march was open to anyone who wanted to participate and began in the lower level of the David L. Eisler Center. Participants then marched around FLITE and ended up at the upper level of the DEC.

According to OMSS director Danyelle Gregory, the march has been happening for over 30 years at Ferris, and this was the second march since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Gregory explained that the march usually attracts over 100 participants. This year, despite the poor weather, she was impressed with the amount of people who showed up to help keep the message of the march alive.

“We want our students to understand the sacrifices and the accomplishments and achievements of civil rights activists,” Gregory said. “Why we are able to serve

our students where we are today, why our offices even exist, right. Why we’re able to practice inclusion on our campus, why we were able to be integrated, and so we want to pay homage and honor the people who made this possible and blaze the trail for today.”

The march began with words from Vice President of Student Affairs Jeanine Ward-Roof, which were followed by words from Gregory, who explained that, while the weather would not put an end to the march, they were going to cut down the route so participants could march without the risk of becoming sick. The march took approximately fifteen minutes to complete and included around 70 participants.

One of the participants in the march was digital animation and game design senior Jaylen Woods, who said that this was his fourth march. According to Woods, the march is a place to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and make connections and friends.

“The first time I did it, after the walk I vividly remember me in a group of my friends... going to block eating and chilling for like two, three hours,” Woods said. “I made friends every time, and this year I

knew a lot more people who are a part of the walk.”

The MLK march doesn’t just attract students, according to Gregory.

“We get senior level administrators, we get faculty and staff [and] students from all the different organizations and departments on campus,” Gregory said. “So we get a very wide turnout in a very wide range of people that come out and participate.”

Those who participated in the march were able to go around campus and publically acknowledge and remember the reason for the march. Throughout the march, participants chanted the words to “Everywhere We Go” in an attempt to convey the message of why the first march took place.

Nursing sophomore Janiyah Moore works at the OMSS and participated in the march. Moore was able to help lead the march and hold the Martin Luther King Jr. banner. Moore explained that her time participating in the event was a good one.

“My experience at the march was very impactful,” Moore said. “I’m happy everybody came together. It was beyond my expectations. I like how we had the

keynote speaker and how it was organized, and everybody did a great job.”

“My experience at the march was very impactful,” Moore said. “I’m happy everybody came together. It was beyond my expectations. I like how we had the keynote speaker and how it was organized, and everybody did a great job.”

Martese Johnson, this year’s keynote speaker, spoke directly after the march. The OMSS hopes to continue with the march for years to come.

Inside: Activist & attorney Martese Johnson gives keynote speech on MLK Day

story on page 6

News

Jessica Oakes | News Editor | oakesj3@ferris.edu

Recruitment season at the RSO spring fair

Students fill the DEC to join new clubs

Jess Oakes
News Editor

Student leaders from over 60 political, cultural, athletic and Greek organizations gathered in the David L. Eisler Center to recruit new members last Thursday.

The spring fair invites registered student organizations from every corner of campus together to connect with potential members. Though the room was filled with people from all walks of life, Greek and cultural organizations were especially hard to miss.

Clad with their vibrant purple and bubblegum pink, members of the Sigma Lambda Gamma sorority were pleased with the fair's turnout. Nursing and Spanish senior Elizabeth Huerta is the president of SLG. She and Vice President Nina Barber spoke about the importance of connecting with the community through cultural groups.

"Thankfully, our colors are very attractive," Huerta said. "That's why a lot of people come up. It's very nice talking to people about our sorority and to get to know them in general."

As leaders of the only multicultural so-

rority at a predominantly white institution, the two aim to foster a home away from home for students from all backgrounds.

"We're the first and only multicultural sorority here at Ferris State. I love how diverse my sorority is, and I also love our principles. Academics is our main one, which I go by," Huerta said.

SLG engages with Ferris during many welcoming events, including their work for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and collaborations with other groups like the Hispanic Student Organization.

Third-year biotech student Alex Guzman-Vargas is the HSO treasurer. He attended the spring fair to invite new students to join the group and promote their upcoming projects. On Tuesday, Jan. 31, the HSO will be hosting an Art Day at 7 p.m. in IRC 131. Students are welcome to come decorate paper bags, which will be donated for public school lunches.

Ferris is also home to career-oriented Greek organizations, such as Phi Alpha Delta, the oldest and largest law fraternity in the country, and Lambda Kappa Sigma, a sorority for women in pharmacy.

Christian organizations such as Real Life and Wesley House set up tables at the

spring fair for students wanting a spiritual community on campus. Social work junior Devin Bearer of Wesley house

drew in potential members with a rainbow pride flag and custom-made pronoun pins.

"We definitely have more reaffirming banners that are on our front lawn," Bearer said. "If you go by the [Wesley] House, you'll see this big navy-blue banner that says everything, '[If you're] questioning, if you're undocumented, if you're any shade of skin color, no matter what you are, God loves you, and so does Wesley.'"

Wesley House members used the fair as an opportunity to promote their upcoming mission trip to Mississippi, where they plan to "save some sea turtles, work with non-profits and help out in any way that [they] can."

Finally, for students looking for a new sport to fill their time and relieve stress, business administration senior Zarin Burns promoted the MMA club. Without



Photo by: Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor

Devin Bearer talks to potential new members for Wesley House.

any vibrant color scheme, pin maker or even a poster, Vice President Burns relied on a welcoming smile and passion for the sport to find new members.

"I would say most [new members] have no experience at all, which is a lot of fun," Burns said. "Because a lot of people have that barrier of entry, that they're afraid like they don't have what it takes. Really, it's a low stakes type of club where anyone can join, have fun and definitely learn something."

The MMA club meets at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays across from the Student Recreation Center's indoor track.

For more information about Ferris' RSOs, visit the Bulldog Connect website or the Center for Student Involvement in the David L. Eisler Center.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's fifth State of the State address, the first of her second term, will include calls for increased "common-sense" gun laws, MLive reports.

"The time for thoughts and prayers is over," Whitmer said in a statement. "It's time for common-sense action."

On Wednesday, Jan. 25, Whitmer is set to use her annual address to encourage state legislators to mandate background checks for private sales of assault-style weapons. Federal law requires all licensed firearms dealers to run background checks. Giffords Law Center reports that private sales of assault-style weapons do not have the same requirement across the state of Michigan.

The governor will also request legislation to mandate safe storage of weapons. According to Giffords, Michigan currently has no law instructing proper storage of unattended firearms, but many citizens called to enact such

laws following the 2021 Oxford High School shooting.

According to speech excerpts, Whitmer is also planning to encourage a red flag law, or extreme risk protection orders. This would allow the temporary confiscation of firearms when evidence supports that a gun owner is a risk to themselves or others.

Sheryl Gay Stolberg of the New York Times reported that nineteen states and Washington D.C. currently have red flag laws. Jim DeMint, former republican senator and opinions contributor for USA Today, believes that such a law violates fundamental rights.

"This is not just a violation of fundamental procedural rights, it has led to tragic outcomes," DeMint wrote for USA Today.

"Police arriving unannounced at a gun owner's home demanding that he turn over his firearms is a recipe for tragedy."

Whitmer will discuss gun laws and neighborhood safety at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Reuters reports that New Zealand's only nominee, Labour MP Chris "Chippy" Hipkins, is confirmed to replace Jacinda Ardern as the country's prime minister.

In her surprise Thursday announcement, Ardern expressed that she "no longer [has] enough in the tank." The left-wing Labour Party chose COVID minister Hipkins to fill her role.

"This is the biggest privilege and biggest responsibility of my life," Hipkins said at Sunday's news conference. "I am energized and excited by the challenge that lies ahead."

Hipkins expressed his respect for his predecessor, calling her one of the country's greatest leaders and inspiration for all women and girls.

"[Ardern] gave voice to those often overlooked in times of challenge and purposefully went about doing politics differently," Hipkins said.

He was first elected to parliament in 2008. After becoming the health

minister in July 2020 and the COVID re-sponse minister later that year, Hipkins has built a reputation for himself across the island country, the BBC reports. New Zealand was notorious for its strict lockdowns and COVID cases.

Hipkins first team member to be revealed to the press is Deputy Prime Minister Carmel Sepuloni. She is the nation's first deputy prime minister of Pacific origin and has experience in social development and employment and arts, culture and heritage.

The rest of Hipkins' team will be announced at a later date. It is unclear how long Hipkins will hold his position as prime minister, as the next general election will be held on Oct. 14.



Body cams out of boxes and onto officers

DPS plans to deploy body worn cameras starting February



Photo by: Evan Hibbard | Freelance Photographer

After months of body worn cameras being kept in storage, DPS officers will be adding the WatchGuard v.330 to their uniforms by next month.

Nolan Harris
News Reporter

Ferris Department of Public Safety officers will begin wearing body cameras by next month.

DPS director Abe Haroon plans to fulfill his promise to equip officers with body worn cameras, and he hopes that this will increase transparency and civility regarding disputes here at Ferris.

This policy is being met with excitement from officers and students alike who hope for the same. Members of both sides feel they will be safer if all parties are being held accountable.

However, the trick is buying equipment and having a process that actually holds people accountable. One aspect that can be overlooked is battery life and storage. If both are too small to accommodate an officer's entire shift, then the cameras are

not fulfilling their use.

Students from the Office of Multicultural Student Services communicated this concern and also a desire for the body cameras to record audio in addition to video. They point to past experiences with law enforcement where officers were disrespectful, impatient and even threatened violence on them. Business administration senior Jaylynn Wynns, a student worker at the OMSS, believes these experiences would have been different had the officers worn body cameras.

"It keeps them honest," Wynns said. "You're not gonna do your job wrong when it is documented..., so now they will think twice before doing something."

Haroon assures the Ferris community that he has these issues in mind and the WatchGuard v.330, the camera model that DPS officers will use, addresses them.

"Many of the specifications should be

geared around usability, storage options [and] battery longevity," Haroon said. "The [cameras] will work with the in-car system, have a fast upload time, 1080p resolution and have a battery that should take an officer through their 12-hour shift."

The WatchGuard model also boasts durability, CD quality audio recording and the feature to record footage taken before the officer begins recording. However, some believe the issue cannot just be solved with the right equipment. Digital animation and game design senior Jaylen Woods also believes that officers need to be held accountable for keeping their cameras on and recording during duty.

"It isn't hard to turn a camera off and on, or to take it off, or to delete some files," Woods said. "There should be a penalty if they do... because it is a big thing like what we've seen in the Black Lives Matter movement and social justice

movements in general. It's one of those things. It keeps people honest."

When asked about holding officers accountable, Haroon believes he has addressed these concerns with a couple of policies.

"Officers will be required to inspect and ensure that the [camera] is operational prior to entering their shift," Haroon said. "Once officers have ensured the BWC is operational, the officer will note it in the computer aided dispatching system... [and] the administration will perform periodic audits on all officers. Such audits will be done with the sole purpose to determine if activation was made on events that would require activation."

In the upcoming weeks, the Ferris community will see how these policies develop and how DPS will handle the first deployment of body worn cameras.



READ A PAPER EVERY WEDNESDAY

-OR-

READ ARTICLES ONLINE AT
WWW.FSUTORCH.COM

DO NOT SCAN THIS...

UNLESS YOU WANT TO JOIN A
FUN TEAM OF COMMERCIAL
CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS.

**CD BARNES
CONSTRUCTION**



Staying aware of stalking

Signs and resources to help with stalkers

Meghan Hartley
News Reporter

For National Stalking Awareness Month, the Anti-Violence Alliance is tabling to discuss the telltale signs of stalking and to distribute resources to help protect students.

Every Tuesday and Thursday in January, members of the AVA set up their table in the David L. Eisler Center to inform students on how to identify stalking and where to seek help if necessary. According to the Department of Justice, stalking is defined as “a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.”

Melody Antel, the AVA’s violence prevention coordinator, says stalking derives from a feeling of control when in a relationship.

“It’s all about that power and control,” Antel said. “Stalking commonly goes hand

in hand with domestic violence or with sexual violence. A lot of the time in domestic violence when someone does stalking it’s to have power and control over their victim. Whether that is because the victim has broken up with them or the relationship is over, they still want to be a part of that person’s life.”

Antel says stalking is unhealthy and very harmful because it is driven by the desire for control of and power over the victim.

According to the CDC, about 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men have experienced stalking, and 54% of female victims and 41% of male victims experienced stalking before the age of 25. In a 2018 campus climate survey, 28.8% of Ferris students reported experiencing stalking behaviors.

“Stalking can be a lot of different things,” Antel said. “It could be showing up to a place [when] you know that person is there. It could be stalking them online or location stalking if you have their location on Snapchat or shared through your con-

tacts, then [utilizing] that information to know where that person is. Stalking is all about the feeling like you have power and control over a person.”

If a student feels they are being stalked on campus, there are a few steps they can take to help them feel more at ease.

Students that live on campus can make a formal complaint with the housing office. Medical laboratory sciences junior Kameron Kavanaugh is a community advisor for East Campus Suites and says making a formal complaint can notify housing staff to review hall procedures and how to keep themselves safe when inside the building.

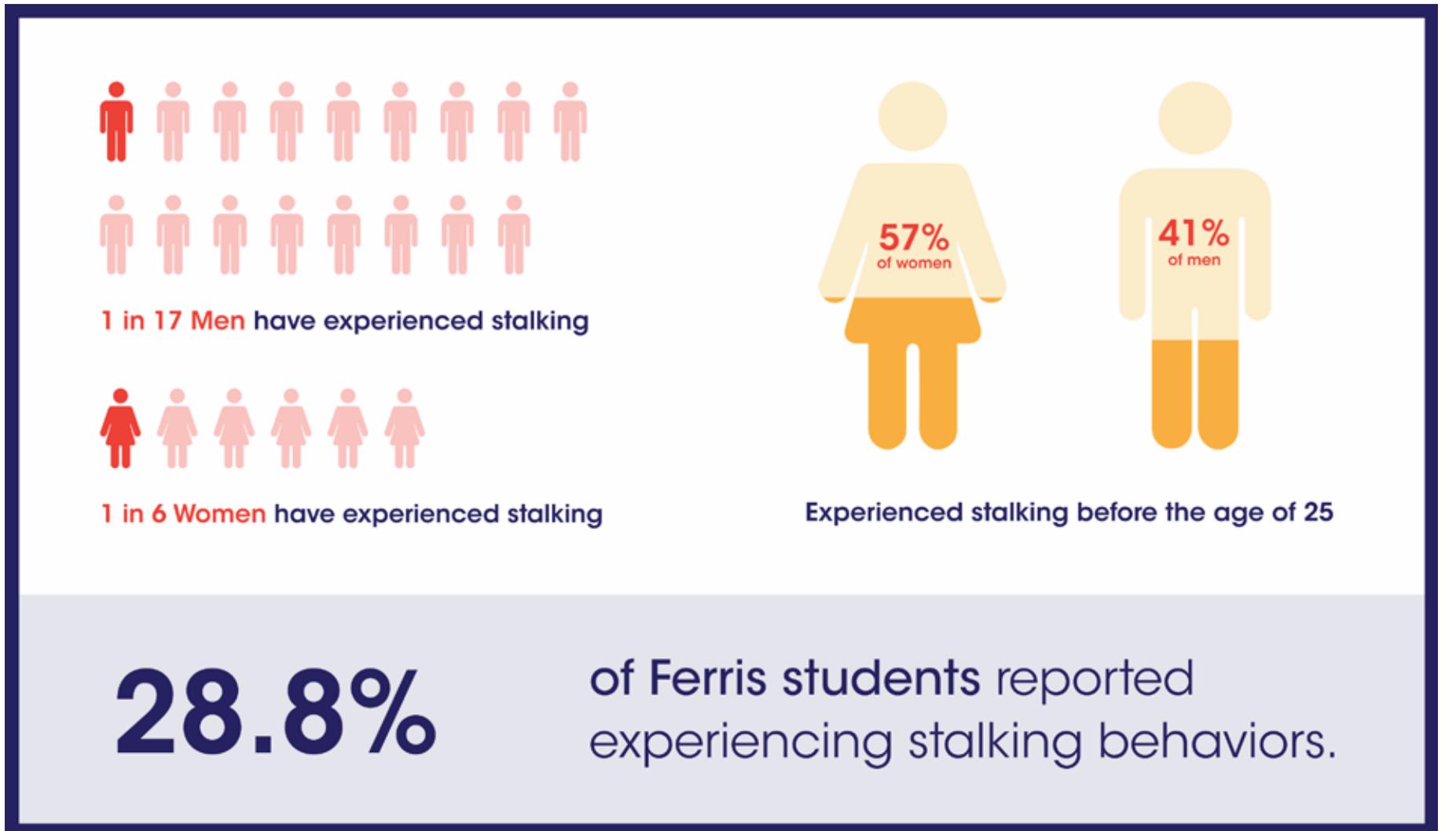
“We don’t necessarily ‘out’ anyone because that’s not respecting their privacy,” Kavanaugh said. “We just make sure that it’s known across the community that you make sure you lock the doors at night, make sure you don’t allow anyone you don’t recognize into your building [and] don’t swipe people in for you unless you’re with them.”

Kavanaugh says housing and staff want to do their best to make all students feel safe and at home when deciding to stay on campus.

“The best that we really do is if they live here, [if] it’s in the community and you think that you’re getting stalked, we protect that resident and make sure that they feel safe where they live,” Kavanaugh said. “If they’re outside the community, we just kind of put up warnings letting people know and do floor meetings.”

Students who live off-campus, or those who would like more assistance, can contact the AVA by going to their offices in the Birkam Health Center, speaking with their peer educators at table events like this one or contacting Title IX.

The AVA can be emailed at Prevention@ferris.edu, and Title IX can be reached at (231) 591-5000.



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

ON THE RECORD

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

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Monday Marijuana MIP

Jan. 16, 11:27 p.m. - Late last Monday, a minor student was pulled over on Knollview Dr. with marijuana in the vehicle. The student received a ticket, and the case was closed.

Blocked

Jan. 17, 9:20 a.m. - A current student reported online harassment by an ex-significant other,

who is a former Ferris student. The student was directed not to call or contact this person, and the case was closed.

Ferris fraud

Jan. 20, 3:02 a.m. - A student reported that their bank account had been electronically hacked. An unknown suspect cashed previous checks and opened a new account under the student’s name.

Marijuana MIP... again

Jan. 20, 11:03 p.m. - A minor student was pulled over on State St. when a DPS officer found them in possession of marijuana. After the student was ticketed, the case was closed.

The Ferris State Torch Corrections

For the Michigan and World news updates released on January 18th

We previously omitted references for Michigan and Global News Updates. Original source material for these updates can be found on Reuters, NPR, BBC, MLive and the Detroit Free Press.

Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center finds new direction

Becca Osborne takes the lead

Giuliana Denicolo
Culture Editor

After a six-month vacancy, Becca Osborne is the new LGBTQ+ Resource Center director.

Osborne went to school in Finley, Ohio and got a job at Marathon Petroleum shortly after. Their educational background is in criminal justice and psychology, which they undertook with the hope of working in security. After working in security for about a year and a half, Osborne moved up to Big Rapids.

When they were in Finley, they volunteered at a local LGBTQ nonprofit. The work they put into that nonprofit translated to the work they get to do here at Ferris as the new director.

"I've always wanted to work with LGBTQ. I mean, I'm a member of the community myself, and it's something near and dear to my heart. And I always wanted to help out the community as best as I could," Osborne said.

Osborne wanted to get into a line of work that felt meaningful to them, one where they felt like they were helping people. After a while, they felt that the criminal justice system was just too flawed.

"Doing something in that field, it's so flawed, and it's so geared away from helping marginalized communities that I just couldn't put myself in that position," Osborne said.

After asking themselves which population they are able to help, they realized they knew a lot about and have a lot of experience within the LGBTQ community. That's when they found that the director position at Ferris was available. Even though Osborne believed landing the position was a "long shot," they applied anyway.

Osborne didn't have many resources available to them while they were in their undergraduate program, so being able to provide others with a physical space that's funded and promoted by the university is "pretty cool" to them.

There were only a few staff and faculty in their undergrad program that were openly "out," and Osborne and other students in the community leaned on them for support. Osborne wants to be that for students who need it.

"I just needed something different. Something more fulfilling, you know... You don't have to work the jobs that drain you," Osborne said.

To Osborne, the new full-time position has been "really refreshing." A project they have been working on so far is creating an ally directory that contains the names of local businesses that are willing to identify as LGBTQ affirming and supporting. This will give students safe places to visit in town.

"I'm just trying to get more resources for students and then helping them really with whatever they need," Osborne said. "I really want to be student-focused. So if,

you know, a student comes to me and they have a very specific problem, I still want to be able to help them with that. I want them to feel safe enough to where they can focus on like, studies. I mean, they're here to go to school, so I want them to be able to focus on that."

Osborne wants to make sure there are pronoun and name policies in place, which will make "their life while they're here easier." Osborne wants students to be able to look back on their time at college and think about the good experiences they had, instead of things being hard for them because they came out.

Technically, Osborne is the only person in their department, and their job description is "a little all over the place." They are a firm believer in quality versus quantity when it comes to programming. They want to have a couple of solid events that are run well and considered "staples."

"I am first and foremost an advocate for queer students in terms of name changes, pronouns, making sure they have adequate housing that they feel safe in [and] trying to get gender-neutral restrooms more prevalent on campus," Osborne said. "I'm looking at programming, planning projects, peer support, student support, mentoring [and] trying to help with policy change."

Public relations junior Faith Oom described the time before having a director as "chaos." She felt that a lot of work fell on the students and that projects they all wanted to do were pushed back because everything else had to be taken care of. Now that there's a new director, she believes there is an opportunity to do both new and shelved projects.

Oom described Osborne as an awesome, kind, caring and very dedicated person. She sees the future of the LGBTQ+ Resource Center as "bigger and better."

"This isn't just like a side job. This is what they want to do, and it feels that way, and so just having them here is like a huge game changer. I wouldn't want anybody else running it," Oom said.

Social work graduate student Bryce Longenberger started working at the center as an intern. They then filled the interim director role after Sarah Doherty, the center's previous director, left. He is now a board member of Pride Big Rapids, which the center collaborates with at times.

"From the moment they started, they were very knowledgeable about queer and trans students [and]



Photo by: Maddie Epps | Torch Photographer

Becca Osborne, the LGBTQ+ Resource Center's new coordinator, working at their desk.

the challenges that they face," Longenberger said. "They're personable. I think they've done a great job of jumping in and planning events already and making connections with other Ferris faculty and staff. I've been very impressed by the work Becca has done."

Longenberger believes that a lot of opportunities have opened up since Osborne was hired and that the center is headed in a good direction. Now that the director position has been changed from part-time to

full-time, he thinks the center can "branch into things they didn't have the capacity to do in the past."

"Anything I can do to share my story — how I grew up, how I feel about things — to let students know that it's okay to be whoever you want to be and to have whatever feelings you have, and being able to talk about it in a safe space, is super important," Osborne said.

FERRIS STATE STUDENT DISCOUNT BIG RAPIDS TAX SERVICES



**\$99 FLAT FEE
INCLUDES
ALL FEDERAL,
STATE & LOCAL
TAX RETURNS**



**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY: 231-250-0466
13152 NEW MILLPOND RD.
BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307**

BIGRAPIDSTAXSERVICE.COM

It's not what you wear, it's how you wear it

The fashion alliance takes Ferris around the world

Jasmine Baar
Culture Reporter

The David L. Eisler Center ballroom sounded like a happy dog with two tails during the Student Fashion Alliance's annual fashion show.

The members of this registered student organization have worked tirelessly to put on this year's show. President Bill Pink made a special guest appearance with his speech about Martin Luther King Jr., and the Golden Majorettes opened the show with a dance routine, stirring up the already rowdy crowd.

Different style aesthetics such as athletic, vintage retro '90s, be real, streetwear, elegance, him and hers and around the world were presented. SFA president and integrative studies senior Fatou Thiam was the first model to walk as she opened up the show in a Senegal soccer uniform.

Her inspiration for this year's show came from two sources: her dad and students around campus. She chose segments that she felt related to students and recent popular trends. The love of fashion she shares with her father also played a big part in her creative process for the show.

"My dad is a tailor, but in my eyes he's a fashion designer. Like I said in the show, many of the dresses I wear are made by him," Thiam said. "He's always inspired me to have fashion included in my life, even if I'm not pursuing it career-wise."

Back-to-back national football champion Marshawn Lee was another model in the show. Lee, a junior in the mechanical engineering technology program, sat on the SFA's board as committee chair. Lee showed off his runway walk and flexed his gold ring from the 2022 championship. Lee expressed his gratitude towards the audience, the support from his team-

mates and leadership from President Thiam. He hopes to "take on a bigger role" as vice president next year.

"Believe it or not, last year one of my friends dragged me to a practice, and that's how it all began for me," Lee said. "I'd always been interested in fashion, but this RSO inspired me. I'm looking forward to stepping up and playing a bigger part in helping the fashion alliance grow."

The crowd did not lack encouragement. Many of the attendees came to watch their friends live out their dreams. Social work senior Makayla Babson went to support one of her best friends.

"My favorite segment was probably the '90s because I love that style. It was great getting to watch my friend in an element he thrives in," Babson said.

When Joshua Blankenship, a model in the show and a business administration junior, was asked what made him to join this year's show, he explained how his friend introduced him to the SFA. From there, no one had to twist his arm, he just had to follow his heart.

Specifically talking about the around-the-world segment, where models, including international exchange students, strutted along the runway in garments relating to their homeland, business administration and management freshman Irelyn Stone loved the diversity of this year's show.



Photo provided by: Oshea Johnson

President Fatou Thiam of the Student Fashion Alliance takes the stage for the annual fashion show.

"Something I enjoyed about the show, and I wish bigger brands would do, is the diversity. Expressing who you are, your style and where you came from in the fashion industry should be a bigger thing," Stone said.

As it was social work sophomore Bryann Hill's second year as a model in the show, she believes that cheering her friends on and "screaming their names" is what makes the show's environment so good.

"I loved seeing my teammates express themselves through the outfits they wore," Hill said.

Business management senior and SFA member Tylor Robinson shed some light on how the students build each other up before the show.

"Tough love... We tell them to look in the mirror," Robinson said.

He expressed how pleased he was

with the SFA's progress since he joined in 2019. He believes that each year the show advances and becomes more of what was envisioned for it.

Thiam has worked around the clock for two years to make sure she lives up to her own expectations.

"I did have a lot of sleepless nights and some tireless days, but I really put my foot in when it came to this last fashion show," Thiam said.

Ending the night off by bringing all the models on stage to accept the audience's admiration, the room shook with joyous amounts of love. The audience vocalized their appreciation and respect for the graduating seniors, and heartfelt moments unfolded onstage. One final roar echoed throughout the ballroom and it was a wrap on the SFA's 2023 fashion show.

A road to activism

Activist & attorney Martese Johnson gives keynote speech on MLK Day

Kylah Robinson
Culture Reporter

Attorney, writer and activist Martese Johnson inspired the students at Ferris to be resilient, to tell their stories the way they want to and to succeed, even when things get rough.

Johnson was invited on behalf of the Office of Multicultural Student Services to be the keynote speaker for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Monday, Jan. 16. Johnson shared his life story and the difficult road that he had to take to get

where he is right now.

Johnson was raised in a single-parent household along with his two other siblings in Chicago, and his childhood was not easy. His mother wanted financial stability and a safe environment for her children. Therefore, his family moved around 11 times before he made it to college.

Even though they were going through tough times, they were always creative and found ways to get things done. Whether it was making a sandwich out of whatever was in the fridge or trading food stamps for cash, his mom and siblings always

found a way to look out for each other.

"My mom has been the best parent ever. She pretty much did everything she possibly could with the resources she had," Johnson said. "I understand that, while my upbringing was difficult, my mother's upbringing was ten times more difficult, and for her to have the ability to raise her kids in a way that was honorable, I love her for that forever."

In fifth grade, Johnson was given an opportunity to take the ACT exam, and he made the decision to take the exam for the gifted program at Southside Occupa-

tional Academy High School so he could receive a better education. Before Johnson graduated high school, he had around 1 million dollars in college scholarships from different schools.

During his first year of college, as the only Black student in his dorm, Johnson experienced discrimination. One time he was even blocked from going inside his dormitory because the RA assumed he did not live there because of the color of his skin.

Keynote | see page 7

New year, new changes at Ferris

Organizations and programs are looking forward to what the new year has to offer

Harmony Goodman
Culture Reporter

Disclaimer: Kyla Robison, one of the new heads of Sistah Circle, is a reporter for the Torch.

With the welcome of the new year, Ferris is also welcoming new changes and opportunities all around campus.

The north campus area has been buzzing with excitement and construction sounds. Next door to Hallisy Hall, the Center for Virtual Learning is currently under construction. The building is expected to be finished and in use by the fall 2023 semester. The new building will be home to education and technology students.

"The computers in the lab are going to be upgraded," digital animation and game design freshman Jason Zawacki said. "Right now we can't run the newest version of Unreal Engine, but in those labs we will be able to."

With the newest edition of this program, digital animation and game design students will be able to spend less time developing 3D games. With more resources to build bigger and more visually interesting games and graphics, many more opportunities will become available. Additionally, the labs will be open for twenty-four hours. This provides students with the opportunity to use the lab and its resources whenever they need to.

As a digital animation and game design associate professor and esports coordinator, Varun Singireddy is excited for a specific feature.

"One main problem we are going to solve is faculty offices," Singireddy said. "Digital animation and game design classes [will] be on the same floor [and] the same building as faculty offices."

Originally, digital animation and game design classrooms were located in the Interdisciplinary Resource Center, while faculty offices were located in Bishop Hall.

Next door to the Center for Virtual Learning is the FLITE building, home to the Office of Multicultural Student Services. The OMSS is looking forward to getting back into the swing of things. This year, according to Chelsey Brownlee, the coordinator of Pre-College Programs,

the OMSS is hoping to bring back conversations on race.

"I do see us getting into more intellectual conversations on campus," Brownlee said. "Discussions were led by students with the support of the safe space of the Office of Multicultural Student Services."

There is more hope to host more events this year to raise awareness in the community and on campus. One of these events is the multicultural graduation ceremony, which happens in the spring. The OMSS is hoping to host a fall commencement ceremony in the future. Last year, President David Eisler gave the commencement speech at the ceremony, so they are hoping to get President Bill Pink involved for this year.

One of the highlights this year is the GearUp grant, which totals up to \$253,440. This grant money will help serve the current student population at Ferris.

"With additional funding we can have more after-school tutors on site," Brownlee said. "We're also able to provide field trips [for] anything that pertains to college programs or career readiness."

Last semester, Sistah Circle, an organization for Black women on campus, was taken over by two new students after the previous organization heads graduated last spring. Journalism sophomore Kyla Robison and social work junior Keonie Thomas-Russell are the two students that stepped up to the task. Under new leadership, Sistah Circle is hoping to continue down the path the founders paved.

"I am sticking to what the founders want us to do: unify women on campus, especially minorities, by giving them a safe space and [an] open space to be themselves," Thomas-Russell said.

The goal for Sistah Circle this year is to help spread the word that they are an open and safe space for anyone who is looking for one.

"It's all sisterhood," Thomas-Russell said. "It's about giving women a place to learn more about themselves and let them know that you are not alone on this campus."

Keynote

Continued from page 6

In March 2015, Johnson's college experience was changed forever. On St. Patrick's day, Johnson and his friends chose to go out to a bar in Charlottesville. The bar owner knew Johnson personally, however, while walking in, the owner said he shouldn't drink there because it was a holiday where a lot of out of town cops came to patrol bars. Although Johnson knew the owner, he was told to leave because the color of his skin made his situation unsafe.

"It brought me back to reality that students like us can't navigate predominantly white spaces with a 100% sense of comfort," Johnson said. "We always have to have our guards up, and that's what we're fighting for — to find the same comfort that those students have when they walk these campuses."

Johnson didn't make a scene leaving the bar, but when he left, he encountered three white Alcoholic Beverage Control officers who asked for his identification. After a brief interaction with the officers, he was suddenly slammed to the ground, detained with handcuffs and leg shackles and arrested without justification.

He was then pinned to the ground with an officer's knee on

his back while two other officers held him down. Blood covered his entire face from cuts that would leave scars forever. He spent a night in jail alone and untreated for his injuries, and he was charged with two misdemeanors that were eventually dropped.

Walking into school the next day, Johnson noticed that students were already talking about what happened to him. Some students fought on his behalf, while others had different opinions. When Johnson was legally allowed, he told the full and true story.

"I felt compelled to tell my own story, and once I told my own story, I felt that things were moving in the right direction, and I just think it's important for anyone in that situation to be able to share their own voice," Johnson said.

Johnson's story not only empowered students but faculty as well. Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police Ibrahim Haroon was one of them.

"When he touched bases on community policing and how the officers that mistreated him and assaulted him were not even from that community... In particular, it's really awesome that there's a side of his story that I never knew because you never got it. You just thought, like everybody else, it was local

law enforcement," Haroon said.

Haroon was able to understand and relate to Johnson's difficult childhood, moving from place to place and relying on being resourceful to make it through.

"We were poor, we utilized the food pantry and there were times I didn't have water and we had to go to the bathroom in buckets... [My mother] did everything that she could in order to keep us afloat," Haroon said.

Haroon wanted to become a police officer because, although he wasn't born in the U.S., he understood what the U.S. had to offer, and he wanted to protect it. In comparison, Johnson wanted to become an activist and attorney because of his experience with the police on St. Patrick's day.

Criminal justice junior and member of the Black Leaders Aspiring for Critical Knowledge Quartez Shah's attention was caught when Johnson "never gave up."

"[He] never changed the fact that he wanted to be an attorney. He wanted to help people," Shah said.

When Johnson ended his presentation, he was met with tears and a standing ovation from the students, faculty, staff and all other audience members that had the opportunity to listen to his story.

NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR OUR RENTALS!



You've never lived like this.

Less than 1 mile to the Ferris State University campus
Private bedrooms and bathrooms available
Hardwood-style flooring
Academic Success Center with PCs and free printing
State-of-the-art fitness center with strength equipment and cardio machines
Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the community



Learn more and apply online today at AmericanCampus.com/Big-Rapids

Managed by  AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITIES

Amenities are subject to change. Limited time only. See office for details.



Opinions

Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

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

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

The Ferris State Torch welcomes comments on topics of interest to the general readership. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and The Torch reserves the right to edit for length. Letters will not be edited for grammar, punctuation or spelling. The Torch will not print letters deemed to be libelous or obscene. All letters must be signed by their authors and include his or her phone number.

Unsigned editorials appearing on this page are the opinion of The Torch and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the university's administration, faculty or staff. Signed columns represent the opinion of the writer. Inquiries regarding editorial content should be directed to the Editor in Chief at (231) 591-5978.

To advertise with The Torch, contact Julie Wiersma at the Pioneer Group at (231) 592-8373 or Julie.Wiersma@hearst.com

Student media retain the same rights, responsibilities, privileges and protections afforded by the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and under applicable state laws.

The Torch and fsutorch.com, the student newspaper and its accompanying online version focused on Ferris State University, are public forums for student expression. Student editors have the authority and responsibility to make all content decisions without censorship or advanced approval for both the print and online editions of the student newspapers.

Torch Staff

Editor in Chief
Noah Kurkjian
(231) 999 1405
kurkjin@ferris.edu

Production Manager
Sienna Parmelee

News Editor
Jessica Oakes

Culture Editor
Giuliana Denicolo

Sports Editor
Brody Keiser

Opinions Editor
Dylan Rider

Multimedia Editor
Marissa Russell

Web Editor
Lucas Gill

Podcast Manager
Dylan Rider

Visual Content
Mariana Searl
Maddie Epps
Brandon Wirth
Dylan Rider
Joseph Nagy

Special Editions Editor
Karissa Lange

Reporters
Meghan Hartley
Jonathen Hart
Nolan Harris
Ember St. Amour
Kylah Robinson
Brandon Wirth
Joseph Nagy
Jeffery Walker

Freelance Reporters
Charlie Buckel
Harmony Goodman
Jasmine Baar

Freelance Photographers
George Lawless
Evan Hibbard

Managing Copy Editor
Alyssa Myers

Copy Editors
Faith Gleasure
Marlow Losey

Distributors
Dayna Gesinski
Ready For Life

Advisor
Garrett Stack
(231) 591-5869
GarrettStack@ferris.edu

EDITORS COLUMN:

We expect better from our employers

Noah Kurkjan
Editor in Chief

Another massive round of big tech layoffs took place last Friday, marking nearly 50,000 employees' final days at Amazon, Google, Meta and Microsoft. How did these employees find out? By trying to badge into their buildings and being denied or by simply being locked out of their corporate accounts.

While those in tech will likely bounce back fast because of how rapidly the industry is growing and evolving, it sets a dangerous precedent for the whole of the corporate world. Further, it asserts that these employees don't deserve dignity and respect in the layoff process. Why, after rolling out the red carpet in acquisition, do these giants think this approach to layoffs is okay?

Sure, scheduling ten to 12,000 meetings in a day is infeasible, but treating the loss of someone's income source like you're

delivering today's Old Navy spam email or some broken hotel keycard is a joke, and no one should ever expect or have to put up with this treatment. While I'm not asking for a hand to hold while I cry over it, some decorum or, better yet, human decency is required.

As employees, we're expected to deliver a two-week notice when we quit so that our former employer has time to find a replacement for us. Why isn't this a two-way street? They're just letting people go willy-nilly.

Take Kimberley Diaz for example. A former Googler who garnered nearly two million views on TikTok from sharing what it's like to getting laid off while she was mid-business trip thousands of miles from home. Yeah, they didn't cancel her flight home, but they might as well have.

Yes, safety nets like unemployment benefits exist for exact situations like this. However, when you compare the monthly

average earnings of a software engineer at Google, roughly \$12,500 according to Glassdoor, to what they'd be taking home from California unemployment benefits, roughly \$1,800 per the California Employment Development Department's benefits calculator, people are being left out in the cold. Sure, they'll get severance packages of varying degrees to help them in their transition, or will they?

Former Meta employee Brit, better known as @clearlythere after going viral on TikTok, spoke out about Meta's practices and showed off her separation documents, showing she was getting nothing in terms of separation pay. Even though Meta has been touting 16 weeks worth for their laid-off employees.

As someone who's joining the full-time workforce in as little as three months in a seemingly equally turbulent field, this climate is troubling. As a boss of more than 30, I'm heartbroken

and frankly disgusted. I expect more from an employer. I expect my hard work, furious effort and personal results to be met with respect and dignity. I expect to be viewed as an asset, not as expendable.

If there's one thing I am grateful that journalism gave me, it's my voice. Not only to report on injustices like these, but to be able to speak up when they are happening to me. I want to fight for better usage of both because I don't want my generation to grow to resent their jobs because of the culture. The culture should accent and elevate the work worth doing.

We demand better from the modern workforce. Humanity, flexibility, understanding and compassion are no longer qualities we should expect from the best workplaces but from all of them. We know our worth because we're paying the loans on it, and we're no longer settling for less.

No Spirit II: A New Hope

Could the Dawg Pound revive the Ferris student sections?

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

In my last opinion piece, I shredded the Ferris student sections for being spiritless wastelands.

However, I write this piece with a new found hope. The Bulldog fans now look and feel a little more faithful. My observations from last weekends' hockey series against the Michigan Tech Huskies absolutely put my last opinion piece regarding student sections to shame.

What I observed from last weekend's tilt was that the Dawg Pound started off fairly well on Friday and got even better on Saturday night. Following the Bulldogs' 1-0 loss to the Huskies on Friday, both the Bulldogs and the Dawg Pound showed up on Saturday. The Dawg Pound was a fairly cramped madhouse where fans called the goalie a "bitch," made fun of his mom and reminded him to know his role and stay in his hole.

This is baseline for the Dawg Pound on any given weekend. However, the atmosphere created by this Dawg Pound led to banging on the glass and "fuck you" being shouted through the slits of the glass panels just to make

sure the opposing players heard them. Those who led the Dawg Pound in chants told everyone to stand up and get loud during their shootout, which led them to victory on Saturday night.

I know, I know. This is what college hockey game atmospheres should be like. How does this at all indicate a better future for the student sections? Well, let's look at the numbers. According to athletics, the student section was filled by 443 students on Friday and a grand 599 on Saturday. This stacks up well to their last home games where they had 266 on Friday and 387 on Saturday. That's a 66% increase on Friday and a 55% increase on Saturday.

I'm very aware that this is a one game sample, however, it's very much a start for the Dawg Pound. Not to mention, the Dawg Pound showed up against a Huskies fanbase that travels for their teams and gets very loud for their teams. The Huskies' fans could be heard consistently throughout both nights. However, the Dawg Pound knew its duty to muffle their chants of "Let's go, Huskies!" with a loud and convincing "Let's go, Ferris!"

Of course, there's always the chance that I'm getting ahead of myself. It was one good weekend

in one sport. The Dawg Pound isn't perfect, either. There are still moments of silence during big moments due to some in attendance being more casual viewers of the sport. However, I'll still hold onto this hope, dammit!

I wasn't the only one to notice how improved the student section was. Ferris hockey head coach Bob Daniels gave intense credit to the student section.

"I think they deserve a lot of credit for our victory," Daniels said. "They were all in right to the end when we tied. I didn't

see anyone leave when we were down one. Hats off to them."

Imagine if this is what the Dawg Pound and other sports student sections could look like permanently. Imagine the atmosphere a Ferris sports game could have. This very much could well be a foundation being built for the Dawg Pound.

With the hockey team's improvement these past few years, there could be something brewing at Ewigleben ice arena. We can only see what next weekend holds.



Photo by: Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor

Ferris' Dawg Pound saw a full crowd of cheering fans over the weekend.

The case for free period products



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

Why Ferris should stock every bathroom with pads and tampons

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Almost a year after Michigan's "tampon tax" was rolled back, crucial hygiene products are still not as accessible as they should be.

In a perfect world, every bathroom would be stocked with complementary pads and tampons. According to Global Citizen, the people of Scotland, public-school students in New Zealand and Kenya, college students in Illinois and many others already live in this utopia. So why not Ferris students?

Ferris prides itself on its walkable campus. On my freshman tour, I was told that I would never need to walk more than 15 minutes to get to class or the dining halls. However, with only one establishment on campus selling boxes of pads and tampons, these 15 minutes can still be more than one can afford.

The Market, our "on campus convenience store," sells everything from hot meals to cold medicine. It is the sole building at the university where students can purchase boxes of menstrual products. While The Market's presence is

acknowledged and appreciated, the store is located over half a mile away from Starr, our main class building, and it doesn't open until noon. Not to mention the fact that there is no public bathroom in The Market, making things even more inconvenient for students buying period products.

Ferris Outfitters, the one-stop-shop for university merchandise, school supplies and sushi, is located in the heart of north campus. Its convenient home in the David L. Eisler Center brings in nearly constant foot traffic. Despite its wide array of products, a student in need of a box of tampons would still be out of luck at Outfitters.

Let it be known that there have been attempted remedies for this issue. Some kind souls have left small baskets of menstrual products in select bathrooms. I most often see this in the Arts and Science Commons, where professors use the bathrooms more than students. These baskets can run out quickly, and it is not

any anonymous professor's responsibility to self-fund these products for others.

Ferris' bathrooms are also equipped with archaic metal dispensers that eat coins and provide dollar-store grade, stringless tampons. It is easier to get better products at an actual dollar store, and those establishments accept currency other than increasingly rare coins.

Nancy Kramer is a founder of Free the Tampons, a non-profit organization that advocates for complementary menstrual products in every public bathroom. She believes that these products "should be treated just like toilet paper, because in fact, they are just like toilet paper."

Dozens of organizations across the

globe are dedicated to reducing what they call "period poverty." NielsenIQ reported that between July 2021 and July 2022, the price of pads increased by 8.9%, while the price of tampons increased by 10.8%. In a country where the average woman still makes 17% less than the average man — these numbers vary by race, location and occupation — charging people assigned female at birth unreasonable money for crucial hygiene products is disgusting.

The Ferris community deserves to come to school without the worry of experiencing period poverty. It is within our means, and even our moral obligation, to provide students with pads and tampons in every public campus bathroom.

VOTE TODAY FOR THE FSU ATHLETES OF THE WEEK!

The Ferris State Torch PIONEER



SPONSORED BY



LET ME WORK FOR YOU....



TOGETHER WE WILL GET RESULTS

CONTACT JULIE WIERSMA:

JULIE.WIERSMA@HEARST.COM > 231.592.8373

VISIT BIGRAPIDSNEWS.COM/FSUATHLETESOFTHEWEEK TO VOTE ON THE UPCOMING WEEKS FOR YOUR FAVORITE FSU NOMINATED ATHLETE.

Sports

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

Hockey splits for 11th time



Photo by: Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor

Noah Giesbrecht makes a save for the Bulldogs during their 1-0 loss to Michigan Tech. He recorded 33 saves during the loss and allowed one goal.

Bulldogs shutout by Huskies, win in shootout

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

Ferris hockey started their two week home stretch with their 11th weekend split of the season, this time against Michigan Tech.

The Bulldogs (10-11-4 overall, 7-7-4 CCHA) dropped their first game at home since Dec. 10 in a 1-0 loss to the nationally ranked #14 Huskies (15-8-4 overall, 9-5-4 CCHA) before picking up a shootout win, which gave them some crucial points in the CCHA standings.

The first game of the Bulldogs' home-stretch was a showcase of incredible goaltending. Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, they ended up on the wrong side of the battle.

Sophomore goaltender Noah Giesbrecht ceded one goal with 13 seconds left in the first period. This was the only goal given up the whole game. Huskies goaltender Blake Pietila snuffed out all Bulldog offense, and the Bulldogs were shutout for the second time this season.

Head coach Bob Daniels felt his for-

wards could have played better.

"As the game went on, I was a little frustrated with our forwards," Daniels said. "I didn't think we were heavy enough in the offensive zone or strong enough on pucks. Consequently, we had very few chances, and we weren't drawing penalties."

Daniels credited both the defensive core and Giesbrecht's goaltending in what he described as a "choppy" game due to how many stoppages in play there were. There were 11 combined penalties between the teams, six of which went against Ferris. Neither team scored on the power play, however.

Because the Bulldogs were already a few points behind the Huskies before the game began, this Bulldog loss could be very consequential in the hunt for home ice in the CCHA playoffs.

Before the game began, it was announced that freshman forward Connor McGrath would be a scratch for the game. McGrath is tied third in goals in the Bulldogs' roster.

Daniels gave his reasons for McGrath's scratching in the loss.

"His scoring has dwindled as of late, and his play hasn't been [the same]. It's typical for freshmen. He obviously got off to a great start and has played well for us, but as of late that hasn't been the case," Daniels said.

The Bulldogs' second game of the series seemingly turned everything around, as a 3-3 shootout win brought out the comeback kids of the team.

The game showed early signs of being a repeat of the previous nights' tilt when the Huskies began scoring late in the first, this time on junior goaltender Logan Stein. However, the Bulldogs struck back in the second when McGrath scored the equalizer the night after he was scratched.

The Bulldogs' lead didn't last long, though, as another tally from the Huskies put them down for the second time. Senior forward Jason Brancheau then tied the game up for the Bulldogs early in the third. Once again, this lead wouldn't stick around for long, thanks to another Huskie goal. For the third time of the night, and his second time that night, Brancheau equalized the game with two minutes left.

An unsuccessful overtime period proved fruitless for either team. In the shootout, Stein confidently made the first save, while junior forward Stepan Pokorny recorded a goal. Stein made another save, while McGrath was unable to convert and win the shootout for Ferris. The Huskies were able to break past Stein on their last shot, however, with the game on his stick, junior forward Antonio Venuto proved clutch with a second and game winning goal in the shootout to pick up two points.

"It's just consistency," Brancheau said. "Show up to the rink everyday. Do the same stuff over and over again. And if everyone keeps doing that, we're going to be a top 20 team here soon."

Brancheau's two-goal night boosted him to seven goals on the season, which is second on the team.

The Bulldogs will have another weekend at home next weekend against the #17 nationally ranked Minnesota State Mavericks, whom they swept earlier this year.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Women's Basketball

Jan. 19 - Saginaw Valley 65, Ferris 47

Jan. 21 - Wayne State 58, Ferris 55

Men's Basketball

Jan. 19 - Ferris 72, Saginaw Valley 72

Jan. 21 - Ferris 74, Wayne State 55

Women's Tennis

Jan. 22 - Western Michigan 7, Ferris 0

Experience not necessary

How Bella Vallone's adaptability helped her start on a national semifinal team as a freshman

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

Out of the Final Four women's soccer teams in DII, there are many things that stood out about Ferris. One: they were the only team that reached the final despite winning less than 18 games. Two: they were the only six-seed to reach the Final Four since at least 2015. Three: they were the only team with a pair of freshmen starting center backs.

One of those players, Bella Vallone, was one of only four Ferris players to start in every game this season. The first-year Bulldog, according to head coach Greg Henson, was a pivotal, consistent piece within the strong defensive core this season.

"Throughout the season, they got more confident in themselves and the confidence to communicate with older teammates," Henson said. "I think that is really when they settled in and played well."

Only a year and three days before reaching the National Final Four, Sparta High School football was 7-2 and heading into a district playoff game against Whitehall. Their starting kicker: Bella Vallone.

"My best friend's dad, who I've grown up with, was one of the football coaches," Vallone said. "It had always been a joke for one of us to kick for the football team because [my best friend] also played soccer. The first year, we both kicked. She did more kickoffs, and I did extra points."

It had only been two years prior when Sarah Fuller had begun the trend of female kickers and became the first woman to ever score in a Power Five conference collegiate football game. Much like Fuller's journey to Vanderbilt's field, Vallone's began with a tryout. The only difference: Vallone almost missed the chance.

"One day during the summer, [coach Cowdrey] was at my house, and he was complaining about the new season since they lost a bunch of players and a kicker," Vallone said. "He told me to come to practice tomorrow, and I thought he was joking. The next day, I got a text from him asking me where I am and that practice is going to start soon."

Vallone eventually made the squad and kicked 31/35 extra points during her two seasons of varsity football and accrued an all-conference honorable mention award.

According to her long-time basketball and football coach Jeff Cowdrey, Vallone's natural athleticism and versatility were

key factors on how Vallone was so successful in any sport.

"She's an athlete through and through," Cowdrey said. "She's got athletic skills that that are fantastic and the vision to translate from one sport to another. It's been constant with her work ethic, the vision and the competitive spirit that she has. On top of that, she's really a good human."

Vallone also accrued a great resume in high school on the soccer field, where she helped Sparta win 16 of 19 games and their first OK-Silver conference championship in school history her senior season. She also was a club standout for Midwest United, one of the region's prime clubs coached by Remco Bergsma.

Bergsma said Vallone was one of the most determined players he had ever seen.

"She just wants to be a sponge about how to just get better," Bergsma said. "When she came to practice, she didn't come just to be social. She wanted to improve on her skills. She's such a great person to coach and easy to coach because she wants to learn."

Not only was her determined work ethic noticed by college coaches, but also her advanced skill set on the field. According to Henson, it was her "overall athletic ability" and her "ability to play multiple positions" that were key components in his interest to recruit the Spartan standout.

The former footballer and basketball player eventually chose to play soccer at Ferris, but it certainly took some time to reach the decision.

"For some reason, Ferris never stood out to me at the beginning of recruiting," Vallone said. "I had overlooked it because it's about 30 minutes from where I lived."

In the end, Vallone chose to be a Bulldog due to the close but not too close location to home, past seasons success, familiarity with other players and the coaching staff.

The freshman accrued many memories overall in her first season of competitive action, including her first collegiate goal off a corner kick on Nov. 1 against Michigan Tech. While the milestone was great, Vallone mentioned the regional tournament title victory as a top memory of all.

"It was the game against Grand Valley in Bemidji when it was freezing. We got the win over them and our teammates had always said the best days were when we can celebrate in the locker room with 'anchor down.'



Photo by: Brandon Wirth | Sports Reporter

As a freshman, Bella Vallone was a starting defender for the Bulldogs during their Final Four season.

Because they had hyped that up so much and we finally got to experience that, it was just super fun beating them."

Now entering their sophomore season, Vallone and fellow freshman starter Ella Wolf feel their roles will now elevate with a full season under their belts.

"I think our role this past year was just being like a silent leader or just someone to have our teammates back," Vallone said. "Now, I think me and Ella both want to work on becoming leaders and being more vocal on the field."

The Bulldogs will begin their

quest to defend their Midwest regional title this upcoming fall. While the championship season will be remembered for the immense goal scoring performances, there's no doubt Vallone and the defense have proved their worth going into 2023.

CELEBRATING **50 YEARS** OF FLAVOR!



MIX & MATCH



FEATURING NEW! NO-DOUGH BOWLS™
Crustless pizza baked in a bowl with your choice of 3 toppings

\$6.99
EACH

ORDER ONLINE USE CODE: CHOOSE2

CHOOSE ANY 2:

- NEW! 3-Topping No-Dough Bowl™
- Pepsi® 20 oz. 4-Pack
- Medium 1-Topping Pizza
- Any Reg. Oven-Baked Sub
- Any Reg. Howie Bread™ or 3 Cheeser Howie Bread™
- Any Reg. Salad
- Howie Cookie™

*Additional charges may apply for Stuffed, 3 Cheeser or Deep Dish 3 Cheeser Howie Bread™

FLAVOR YOUR CRUST FOR FREE



HOWIE DEALS

STARTING AT

\$6.99

Go to HungryHowies.com/locations to find deals at your local store



Hungry Howie's

FLAVORED CRUST PIZZA

BIG RAPIDS

103 S. State St.
(231) 796-8000
Sun-Thu 11am-10pm
Fri & Sat 11am - 12am

\$15.99

ANY LG. SPECIALTY PIZZA

ANY LG. ORIGINAL ROUND SPECIALTY PIZZA
Additional charges may apply for Thin, Deep Dish, or Stuffed Crust



USE CODE 21701

\$25.99

LG. FAMILY COMBO

LG. 2-TOPPING & LG. 9-TOPPING ORIGINAL ROUND PIZZAS
Additional charges may apply for Thin, Deep Dish, or Stuffed Crust



USE CODE 23301

\$11.99

PEPPERONI DUO™

LG. PIZZA WITH NEW CLASSIC CLIPPED PEPPERONI™ AND REGULAR PEPPERONI



USE CODE 27801

DOUGH MADE FRESH DAILY

\$25.99

FAMILY DEAL

2 LG. 2-TOPPING ORIGINAL ROUND PIZZAS & HOWIE BREAD™
Additional charges may apply for Thin, Deep Dish, or Stuffed Crust



USE CODE 20801

ALWAYS FREE FLAVORED CRUST

Sports Speculations

Suffering from success - the unique situation with the success of Ferris Athletics

Joseph Nagy
Sports Reporter

Out of nearly 300 Division II college athletic programs in the country, few get to experience the only downside to having so many teams making the postseason: the scheduling.

Ferris is middle of the pack when it comes to the amount of athletic programs that the university has to offer. However, we have become one of the premier blue chip programs when it comes to having success out of the regular season. Just last year, five teams made it into playoff contention, making the work schedule of many athletics staffers very difficult.

Two men that wear many hats for Ferris State Athletics are associate athletic director Rob Bentley and athletic communications associate Harrison Watt. The pair have their hands full when it comes to promoting the programs at Ferris, and, despite the chaos that comes with successful teams, somehow they make it work.

“The outstanding success of many of our teams makes it challenging when sports seasons overlap,” Bentley said. “But it is a great problem to have.”

The most stress comes during the shift from fall sports to winter sports. Football specifically, playing all the way until December ever since the 2016 season. Each year volleyball flirts with the potential of hosting the regional tournament as well, which means eight teams need to find times to practice, eight teams need lodg-

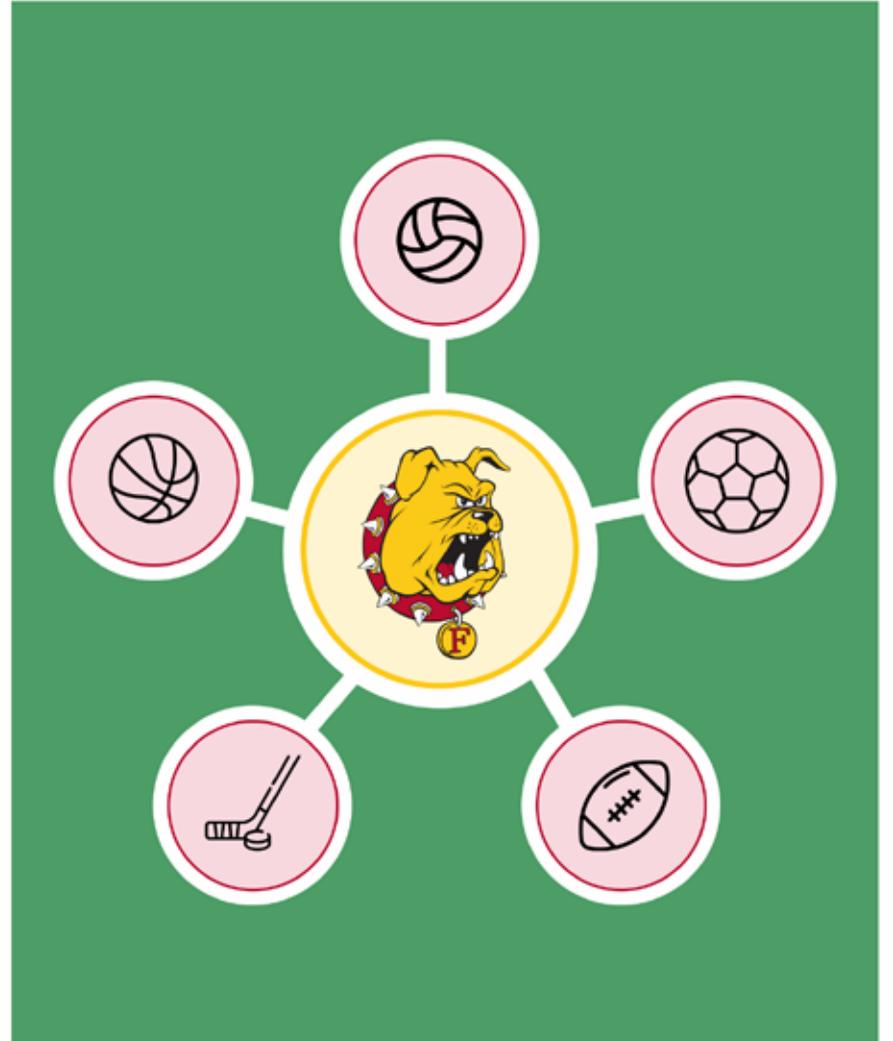
ings and seven games will be played over a span of two days. Not to mention, the women’s soccer team reached the Final Four in Seattle this year, and because of scheduling conflicts for Watt and Bentley, athletics intern Brody Keiser had to travel to Seattle and become the liaison between the NCAA and the soccer program.

By itself, the fall sports season is a puzzle that takes many brains to solve, but it gets even more hectic with winter sports thrown into the mix. Just to get a glimpse into what can happen when these two seasons overlap, both basketball teams had to move their games to Big Rapids High School, the volleyball team had to turn Jim Wink Arena into a place where a team could even play volleyball and hockey’s all day preparation meant a group of interns had to run an entire regional championship.

“We’re already a very small staff comparative to the number of teams and athletes we serve,” Watt said. “We’re fortunate to have a great student staff, and in the end, it’s all completely worth it to see our teams succeed like they have been.”

It may not always be pretty behind the scenes, but it takes a team to make things run smoothly. Even though it can get stressful and chaotic, the athletics staff at Ferris wouldn’t want to have it any other way.

Editor’s note: Brody Keiser is both the sports editor for the Torch and an intern for Ferris athletics and did not contribute to the reporting of this article.



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! KEEP MAKING MEMORIES



FERRIS.EDU/HOUSING



SIGN WITH FERRIS HOUSING 2023 RETURN CONTRACTING RUNS THROUGH JANUARY 31ST