

Academic courses hindered by online bookstore

Students and professors experience delays due to late shipping and frustrating online infrastructure

Nolan Harris
News Reporter

This spring semester, classes have been disrupted due to issues with Ferris' online bookstore. For some, this has led to delayed curriculums.

Students this semester have been subjected to uncommunicated delays on their textbook arrivals, ebook link failures and copyright issues, which make online copies of books unavailable. Professors have expressed confusion and annoyance, as they have to delay assignments to accommodate students struggling with these issues.

Education junior Tyler Defeyter explained some of the issues his peers have experienced.

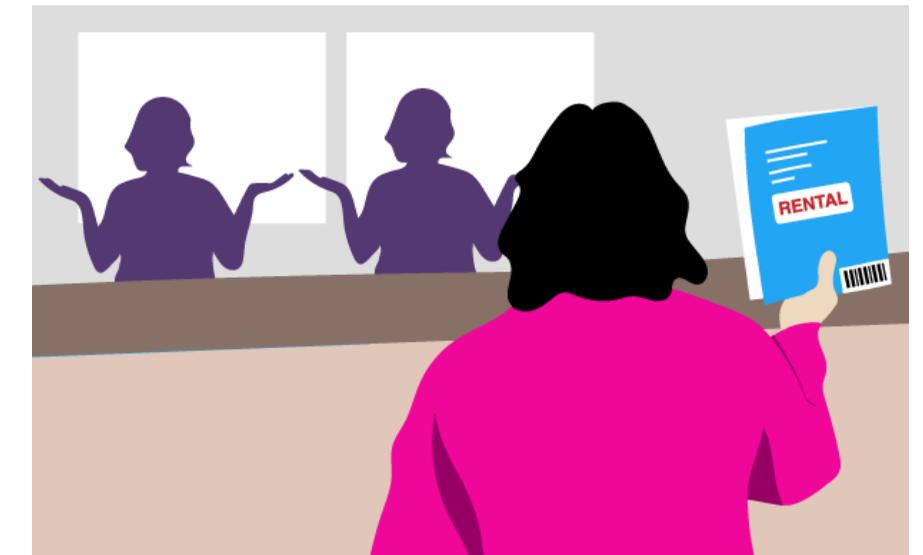
"Andrea ordered her books through the Ferris Bookstore, and they didn't notify her

that they weren't coming. She has been waiting weeks and weeks and weeks," Defeyter said. "[The] same thing happened in my U.S. history class. A pair of twins ordered their books before class even started... They just got their books [on] Saturday."

Delays are not the only issue with buying physical copies from the bookstore.

"I got the books almost a month after I ordered them, and they all came in separate packages from different websites," history senior Jessica Gaskell said. "I looked at those websites, and they were a lot cheaper than [the Ferris bookstore's prices]. I pretty much paid full price... I got duplicates of three of my books."

The issue does not stop with physical textbooks. Online textbooks are being affected as well. The Ferris bookstore has deferred all their online books to a website



Graphic By: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

called Vital Source. When a student buys an ebook, it is only accessible on Vital Source's website.

In some instances, Vital Source has blocked whole chapters of a book due to copyright issues, leaving students unable to access the content they paid for. This problem directly affects students' ability to progress in their courses.

"I'm three assignments behind in one of my classes," Gaskell said. "I've got very little idea of what's going on in this class. I can't take proper notes, and I feel very unprepared for the test coming up. It's adding a lot of stress I don't need right now."

Students that are having no issue with their textbooks have said they do not engage with Ferris' online bookstore. Those who opted to buy through Amazon, Cengage or other websites were met with

lower prices and faster shipping.

This situation is putting professors in a tight spot as well. Ferris history professor Tracy Busch has had to change her class' curriculum on the fly and become an advocate for students struggling with their books. She has tried contacting publishers and the bookstore but was met with no human responses.

"I do not appreciate having to solve a problem I feel like I can't even solve. It feels like I'm letting my students down," Busch said.

Both students and faculty are demanding better communication from Ferris' online bookstore. There is also a desire for the bookstore's online infrastructure to serve as a mediator and authority when issues like these arise. As it stands, these problems have yet to be addressed officially.

Thriving through community

How the CLS is growing without a director

Meghan Hartley
News Reporter

The Center for Latin Studies has continued to thrive in its community without the guidance of an executive director.

Since Oct., the CLS has been hosting activities, informational events and creating space for all students to feel welcome with the support of the Interim Director, the Promesa Scholars Coordinator and multiple student workers.

Interim Director Sonia Trevino says the previous executive director, Kaylee Moreno Burke, left the university in the fall to pursue another job in Grand Rapids. Burke had been executive director for one year before deciding to leave the CLS.

"For me coming in," Trevino said. "It was very imperative that the students that come here feel comfortable because the center has always been a safe, inclusive space for students not just from the Latin student population, but from anywhere at Ferris."

Trevino says she was hired by Burke in Oct. to take over the duties of the center and they have been working business as usual. She says the transition from not having Burke anymore was not too difficult as she kept the students at the forefront

of her mind.

"I wanted to make sure that in the transition the center remained open, it remained a safe space for students just to come and be themselves and be in an inclusive environment," Trevino said. "We're here to serve our students through inclusive programming. We want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to participate. For me, the most important part of that transition was making sure that the students knew that the goals and the mission of the Center for Latin studies had not changed."

The goal of the CLS is to increase Latin student completion rates by "informing the holistic student experience, maximizing equitable educational outcomes and career readiness through advocacy, community partnership, and culturally responsive academic, career, and personal development."

In the fall, the CLS paired third and fourth-year students with social work students to provide information on questions, mental health issues and resources Ferris has available for them.

The CLS has paired with multiple RSOs on campus to help their members interact and gain information available to them, but also to build community and let others know they can be another place students can feel safe and accepted.

CLS | see page 2

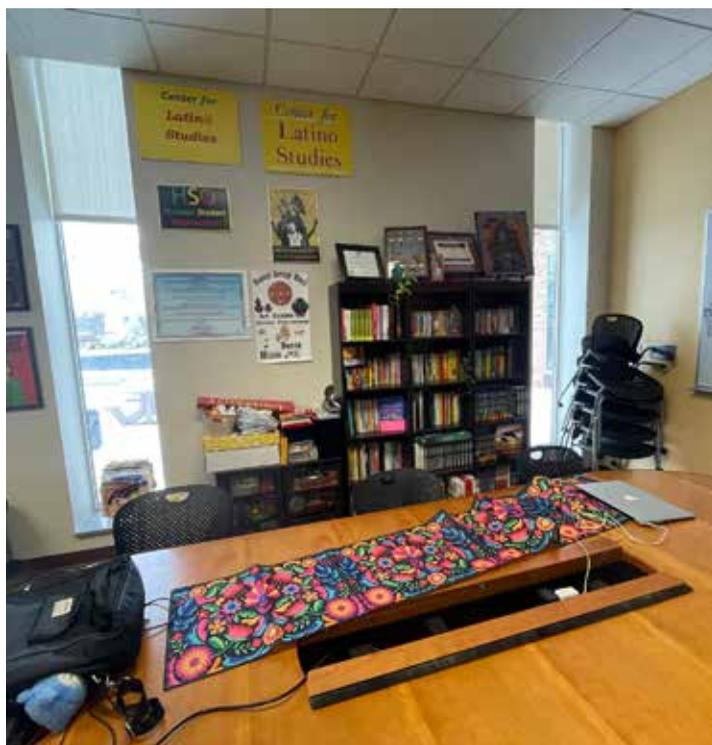


Photo by: Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor

Those interested in learning more can visit the CLS office in IRC 131 or find more info on BulldogConnect.

News

Jessica Oakes | News Editor | oakesj3@ferris.edu

Bye-bye BRN

The popular, ‘welcoming’ storefront closes its doors

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Big Rapids Nutrition’s closing party was a hub for “music, good vibes” and teary-eyed goodbyes.

On Friday, Jan. 27, the shake and tea café ended its four-year run in downtown Big Rapids. Members of BRN and the greater Big Rapids community are mourning what they felt was an important “safe place” near campus.

Owner and Herbalife coach Erica Hansen is closing the storefront to focus her professional life on fitness and coaching. Still, she is proud of what she created in Big Rapids.

“[BRN] was a home away from home for people, a safe place for a lot of the students that would come in here,” Hansen said.

Hansen was not new to operating a nutrition storefront when she first came to Big Rapids. Looking for ways to expand business beyond her first store in Grand Haven, Hansen knew BRN had potential the day she found the location.

“I wanted to create something along [the] lines where you look out around and you have so many people of different races, ages, backgrounds and cultures to create a home. One space for them and everybody [to] interact in a peaceful way,” Hansen said.

When BRN employees explained what made the spot so unique, their first answer was always Erica. Even while running a popular, trendy downtown storefront, she

never viewed herself as a “boss.”

“I don’t like the word ‘employees,’ honestly. I’m not a boss.” Hansen said. “There was no difference between me and them as owners and operators on the bar. It was just all people working the shifts. We’re all equal, and we’re all friends. Every decision, honestly, was made together.”

Even when Hansen made the decision to close the storefront to focus on nutrition from a fitness standpoint, her friends and coworkers supported her.

Elementary education senior Hailey Clifford worked at BRN for a year and a half, though she said it never felt like a job. When she first received the news, Clifford had a “sob fest” with her close friend and employer.

To show Hansen how much the BRN community appreciated her work, Clifford collaborated with other employees and regular customers. Together they put together a video commemorating BRN as Hansen moves on to other endeavors.

“It was sad, but I think it is a step in the right direction for Erica and what she does next in her life,” Clifford said.

BRN was Kassidy Vredevelde’s place for accountability on her health journey. The



Photo by: Jessica Oakes | News Editor

Big Rapids Nutrition owner Erica Hansen (center) celebrates at the Bye-bye BRN party with customers, friends and Ollie the dog.

BRN employee, Ferris alumna, Shimadzu Core Laboratory technician and Herbalife coach partially attributes her recent weight loss to the community she found here.

“It’s a community that is committed to growth with you, so you don’t have to do it by yourself anymore,” Vredevelde said.

Looking around the room, Vredevelde noted that she saw a group of real friends, one that was already planning “family dinners” to stay in each others’ lives as the storefront closes.

Customers, employees and friends alike believe that none of this camaraderie would have been possible without Hansen’s efforts.

“That really does start with just being a genuine person and somebody who actually cares about our customers in a...

way that they become friends and family,” Hansen said.

Digital media software engineering sophomore Amaya Watkins can attest to this. Starting as a local customer in 2020, Watkins climbed the BRN community ladder to become an “honorary employee” and roommate to Erica.

“Erica was like another big sister to me,” Watkins said. “Erica is just friendly. She’s genuine. Anybody that walks in here is part of BRN, and she makes everybody feel welcome.”

The attendees of Friday night’s party agreed that there is no place in Big Rapids that could immediately replace BRN.

CLS

Continued from page 1

Promesa Scholars Coordinator Massiel Calderon says at the end of Feb., the CLS will be hosting a film festival and carnival celebration in collaboration with the Office of International Education.

“We’ve been speaking to professors from the language department, and we’ve been spreading the word to other departments,” Calderon said. “[With the carnival] we can create a little bit of awareness of what a celebration looks like in different parts of the world. We’re trying to include the Caribbean, Central, and South America. I’m looking forward to speaking to the director of the art gallery to see if there are any art students from the art department because a carnival is centered around art and creating. We’re hoping that with the help of some of the academic departments, we can get more of the student body to come with their influence.”

Calderon says they have been taking a different approach to outreach than before, reaching

out to other RSOs and also hosting financial aid and career workshops. Calderon’s goal with every event they host is reaching out to all the different departments and creating a more fluid space of different identities and backgrounds.

Throughout all of this, Calderon says Trevino has been doing an amazing job as Interim Director and has all the qualities to become executive director.

“There has not been an idea that I went to Sonia that she gives me any kind of boundaries for,” Calderon said. “She is very driven and she’s, she just goes for everything. The carnival celebration was completely made up by me and another student. She was like, Yeah, let’s go. So Sonia has been instrumental in giving us a voice to create programming that applies to us, and that we can have students be exposed to [these events] for the first time, or be a part of it and just get to see different things. If you see different things happening on campus, students can then think, there’s a space for this, or there’s a space for me, and it just opens the door for different things.”

At the moment, the search for a new executive director has not started but Trevino says the idea is that the search will be nationwide. Some of the qualifications for the position are a master’s degree and previous experience working with a Latin population.

Until the search begins, Trevino and Calderon are confident in their teamwork together, alongside their student workers, to continue the goal and vision of the CLS and connect with other groups on campus.

For more information, students can go to the CLS in room 131 in the IRC or check Bulldog Connect for upcoming activities.

Chief Abe Haroon takes the oath of office



Photo courtesy of Hannah Crouch

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

After directing Ferris’ Department of Public Safety for one semester, on Thursday, Jan. 26, Abe Haroon took the oath of office to be officially sworn in as chief of police in the state of Michigan.

“It’s the work of the constituents, the work of administration here, and the work of staff and faculty and students that really make it a beautiful place to work. I’m very excited to be part of this community that I’m going to call home,” Haroon said.

The Accounting Association kicks off their professional development series



Photo by: Sienna Parmelee | Production manager

Bulldog Means Business kicks off their first event with guest speaker Dean Logan Jones

Jonathen Hart
News Reporter

The College of Business' new dean, Dean Logan Jones, stood front and center at the first Bulldog Means Business event, where he spoke about professionalism, life and opportunities outside of college.

The Ferris Accounting Association and the American Marketing Association teamed up with Ferris' College of Business to kick off their new professional development program, Bulldog Means Business. Students from various business programs came together to listen to Jones speak on the subject of workplace success. Many saw this as a great way to be introduced to the new dean.

Jones spoke on how he first got into business. He explained that the army was his first path, but, due to serious injuries, he had to move on. He then spoke about

going back to college, which was hard for him because he never put his work first. He knew that needed to change. Jones spoke on this because he wanted to make the point that your first path may not be your last.

In future Bulldog Means Business sessions, different staff members will give presentations on workplace etiquette, and companies will visit to share what they want to see in an employee. Internship director Jennifer Njenga shared what Bulldog Means Business is expected to become.

"The idea behind this is to have a monthly workshop series that will build professional skills, whether it's... talking about success in the workplace, resume workshops [or] networking, things that are relevant. Really [Bulldog Means Business is] not just for college business majors, but really whatever your major is when you're

going out into the world," Njenga said.

Jones wants to make these sessions accessible and helpful for both students who have had professional jobs and those who haven't.

"These sessions are going to be around helping people who have never been in or enrolled in consumer protection before and those of you that are. That is what I want to talk about today, some guiding things that I think will help you know how to get to the next level and how [to] keep going with this," Jones said.

Computer information junior and AMA member Megan Lesch has high hopes for what Bulldog Means Business can be, and she is excited to watch it thrive. Lesch wants to see Bulldog Means Business put on events that cater to people with different personality traits.

"They are always altering different programs so they can reach all the needs

that certain students have," Lesch said. "I'm excited to see what they do working with different personality types in the workplace so students can get out into the real world."

Jones wants Bulldog Means Business to branch out to more than just College of Business students.

"No matter where life takes you, you are going to have to learn certain skills that can help you along the way. Whether to increase your chances of moving up into a company or just even giving that right first impression. I want to make these sessions available to everyone to come in as they please," Jones said.

Bulldog Means Business is looking forward to hosting more events like this to prepare students for the world after college.

ON THE RECORD

A roundup of this week's crime at FSU

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Busted booze cruise

Jan. 21, 4:47 a.m. - A student was pulled over on South and State Street last Saturday. Officers determined that the student was operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, and the case closed with an arrest.

Roommate rumble

Multiple times - A disagreement between roommates was filed at West Campus Apartments. Both accused each other of harassment. The case was sent to Housing and Residence Life to decide on new living arrangements.

Rocked windshield

Jan. 24, 11:30-11:45 a.m. - A student parked in the Rock parking lot reported vehicle damage, stating that their windshield had been chipped. After finding no suspects, the case was closed.

Bout in Bond

Jan. 25, 11:30 a.m. - An argument erupted in Bond Hall, prompting the appearance of police officers. The case was closed and transferred to Housing and Residence Life.

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Keeping up with your health

ElevateU's tips for a healthy college experience

Ember St. Amour
News Reporter

With colorful signs flooding the lower level of the David L. Eisler Center, ElevateU put a spin on their wellness informational last week.

The event took place on Jan. 23 and focused on the eight pillars of wellness: environmental, social, emotional, intellectual, occupational, financial, physical and spiritual. Students were given the chance to explore each of the pillars, which had their own products that students were allowed to take home.

Graphic design senior Kelsie Scharp helped create some of the products students could pick up from the different pillars. Scharp was given creative freedom over the products.

"It took a lot of work," Scharp said. "Everything that you see — the pens, the stickers — those all had to first be [design] conceptualized and designed and then actually sent off to get produced."

Each of the pillars were accompanied by colorful signs that explained what students could do to make sure that they maintained wellness in that specific area. Some of the signs focused on the ways health directly impacts students, while others focused on how college experiences can impact students' health.

ElevateU collaborated with members of different organizations on campus to help inform students about the pillars. Andrew Slater, Personal Counseling Center director and ElevateU counselor, informed students about the emotional pillar.

"Healthy boundaries with people, [and] good work life balance," Slater said in

regards to what he believes students need to be successful. "I really encourage those to just... check in with themselves, take care of themselves, talk with their friends [and] go to therapy, you know, if that's something that seems like it's the right move for them. But just in general, ... please don't neglect your mental health, even though you're super busy with everything else going on."

Emotional health was not the only type of health ElevateU focused on, they presented physical health as well. This pillar of wellness was designed to help students learn about the recreational center on campus and personal training options. The sign promoting the physical pillar was adorned with statistics. One statistic informed students about how 30 minutes of jogging can help solve problems around ten percent more efficiently.

Welding technology freshman Tayjon Smith didn't know about the event until he walked into the DEC. However, Smith found the information presented to be helpful.

"This will actually help... because I don't really know what will be going on around," Smith said. "And then [I] also went down to physical... I think I might actually take part in getting a personal training."

While some of the pillars focused on health directly, others focused on ways to improve one's health. The financial pillar focused on ways that students could eliminate their student loans by suggesting they apply for grants and scholarships or become an RA to obtain free housing.

Along with the financial pillar, the social pillar reflected how students could improve their social health. These sugges-

tions included ways to socialize with other students, such as joining a registered student organization. The pillar explained there is a wide variety of RSOs on campus. The social pillar also suggested joining a study group. The pillar explained, by creating a study group, students can form connections and find support they may need.

In addition to the information provided by the eight pillars of wellness, students

were offered products and handouts as an encouragement to put this information into practice. ElevateU provided students in attendance with complimentary snacks as well.

ElevateU will be hosting a Wellness Wednesday information table on Feb. 1 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the lower level of the DEC for anyone interested in learning about seasonal depression.



Photo by: Courtesy of Kelsie Scharp

Ben Avery (left) and Andy Slater (right) give mental health and wellness tips to students.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

A Pioneer High School sophomore is missing.

Adriana Davidson, 15, has not been seen since she was seen outside her high school in Ann Arbor at 11 a.m. on Friday.

Her phone was found abandoned. Friends had reported that Davidson left the school after feeling unwell.

According to ClickOnDetroit, Davidson did not come home that night. This led to her family and friends searching for her and a missing persons report being filed at midnight on Saturday morning.

Ann Arbor Public Schools has issued a statement regarding a disappearance.

"I know our thoughts of care and support are with the family of Adriana at this critical time," The statement read. "As we learn additional public information, we will remain in close communication on this matter as appropriate."

A friend who texted Davidson asked "You straight?" received a "No" from Davidson. She then did not respond to any further texts.

Department spokesperson Derrick Jackson told the New York Post "There's definitely some suspicious pieces to this."

Friends and family believe there to be some form of foul play as her abandoned phone and abrupt disappearance is not like her.

"We're going on what, Day 2 now?" John Davidson, Adriana's father, said. "This is not my daughter."

Any readers who know details regarding Davidson's disappearance are encouraged to call Washtenaw Metro Dispatch at 734-994-2911 or the confidential tip line at 734-973-7711.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

A terrorist attack committed by a suicide bomber has left 59 mosque-goers dead in Peshawar, Pakistan.

The mosque, which held up to 400 worshippers, was located in a "highly fortified security compound," meaning the bomber would have had to pass through "several barricades," according to Reuters.

NPR reports that the attack was seemingly targeted towards police, as 27 police officials were killed in the blast. The area in which the attack took place is called "The Red Zone," where counterterrorism offices and police offices are located.

The Pakistani Taliban has claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif referred to the attack as an "attack on Pakistan" and called this tragedy "unimaginable."

"It was a deafening explosion and I fell on the ground," said Shabbir Afridi, a government employee, to the

New York Times. "When I ran toward the mosque, I saw dust and bodies everywhere."

Peshawar sits close to the border of Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. The city is victim to "frequent" attacks from the Islamic State and the Pakistani Taliban.

Islamabad, the country's capital city, was later put on high alert, installing snipers on government buildings and checkpoints on main roads.



Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

The year of the rabbit



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Project management junior Becca Barkley helped out at the Lunar New Year event by serving authentic Asian cuisine.

The Asian Student Organization brought back their Lunar New Year celebration

Jasmine Baar
Freelance Reporter

A toast to the Lunar New Year and welcoming the year of the rabbit. Jan. 26 was a busy day for the Asian Student Organization and the International Student Organization. Both registered student organizations came together to host a late celebration for the East Asian holiday.

Health information management and healthcare systems administration junior Nicole Ly is the president of ASO and spearheaded the event.

“Lunar New Year is a popular holiday in East Asia, and it celebrates the tenets of family and coming together to share good food and good spirits,” Ly said. “It’s the year of the rabbit following the Chinese zodiac mythology. We have 12 different animals that correspond with a 12 year cycle.”

Ly was thrilled to finally be able to host this once-popular Ferris event and share a piece of her culture with her peers. The IRC connector was embellished with decorations that embodied Asian culture. Lucky colors outlined the room as excited students filed in to begin the celebration.

Digital animation freshman Sherlyn Trejo-Villegas handed out festive cards that gave insight into the new year based on the year you were born. For example, 2002 is the year of the horse, 2003 is the sheep, 2004 is the monkey and so on. Trejo-Villegas, who is also the social media manager for the ASO, acted as the guide to fortunes at the event.

Executive director of the Office of International Education Lisa VonReichbauer

cherished having this event brought back.

“Prior to [COVID-19], this was a campus-wide event, but we’re rebuilding and getting things going there,” VonReichbauer said.

VonReichbauer explained how the ASO and ISO would plan a large event celebrating the Asian holiday with special performances, food and games. Coming back from the virtual world, they aimed at getting the Lunar New Year event back on its feet to give the cultural students comfort.

Despite not celebrating the Lunar New Year in his personal beliefs, software engineering major TJ Muhammag believes in unity.

“We’re all here from different parts of the world, so we need to stick together,” Muhammag said.

Muhammag, who is an international student from Pakistan and the ISO’s vice president, went on to say how important it is to support your friends’ cultures.

Posted at the event’s entrance and collecting the admission fee with a smile sat project management sophomore Emmery Sangalang.

“A lot of people think that this is just a space for Asian students, but we’re just more appreciative of the culture in this organization. We aren’t looking to exclude anyone, we just want a safe space,” Sangalang said.

Sangalang also acts as the treasurer for the Asian Student Alliance and helped prepare some of the food for the event. Although her family never celebrated the Lunar New Year, setting up the event and providing a sense of familiarity to those

that do was rewarding.

Medical laboratory sciences junior Adriana Arce was another friendly face at the event. Arce, who is not affiliated with either organization, came to the Lunar New Year event with an interest in meeting new people and learning about an unfamiliar

cultural celebration.

The ASO is always looking to reach more students. Come to the IRC on Feb. 1 at 7:15 p.m. to join in on their next meeting and meet the members. Or come out to support their Valentine’s Day event on Feb. 15 in the IRC.



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Participants could get a new year fortune based on their birth year.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Roxanne Cullen



Photo provided by: Arthur Johnson

Roxanne Cullen (left) and Gemma Kailing (right) hang a painting for a gallery that Cullen put together.

Looking beyond professor Roxanne Cullen's life at Ferris

Harmony Goodman
Freelance Reporter

Ferris professors are a part of a lot more than just academics. Outside of the classroom, English professor Roxanne Cullen can be found around the Big Rapids community.

In addition to being an English professor, Cullen is also the integrative studies program coordinator at Ferris. Cullen began her career at Ferris in 1983 — this upcoming academic year will be her 40th year. She took the job at Ferris because it was geographically similar to Upstate New

York, her home before Big Rapids.

"I love having all the outdoors and the rivers," Cullen said. "Then my husband got hired, and so once you have two people with steady jobs in a place, it's hard to leave."

Cullen's contributions and titles don't end at Ferris. Just down the street in downtown Big Rapids, Cullen can be found volunteering at Artworks.

Artworks, shortened for Big Rapids Area Arts and Humanities, is the home to a gift shop filled with unique artwork made by members of the community and a gallery that changes themes every eight weeks.

The building was purchased in 2006 and has hosted many classes, exhibits and events. Cullen was quickly drawn into Artworks when she and a friend decided to take a basket weaving class.

Jeanette Flurry, former ISD superintendent and basket weaving instructor, started getting Cullen involved in things around Artworks. Shortly after that, Cullen became an Artworks board member when Flurry approached her eight years ago. During these eight years, Cullen was board president for an extended term during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her interest in Artworks began with the people already involved.

"The people here have a really great sense of community," Cullen said. "We all volunteer and give to make this possible."

During her time as board president, Cullen believed in the importance of the arts and exhibits. As Cullen approached the end of her term, she was able to start contributing as an exhibit coordinator.

"That was very exciting to me because it combines two interests for me. One is my interest in the visual arts, [the other is] my background in literature and humanities," Cullen said. "We always try to incorporate humanities programming with our art exhibits."

Since Cullen started

volunteering at Artworks, she has seen plenty of familiar Ferris faces. Cullen has been able to work with former professors who stem from non-art-related fields at Artworks. To her, it was just amazing to see everyone working together toward one common appreciation.

Similar to others involved with Artworks, Cullen is always ecstatic to talk to anyone who asks about it. Cullen takes pride in all that has been accomplished since the building was purchased, especially the exhibits.

"For a number of these exhibits, we've had pieces from the Costa County Historical Museum and the Grand Rapids Public Museum," Cullen said.

Cullen loves the wide variety of exhibits she's been able to be a part of with her position. These exhibits have ranged from art in the community to even larger community projects. One of these projects was the exhibit Artworks once put on called "What's in the Truck," where Cullen and others at Artworks reached out to local manufacturing companies to show what they do. The exhibit was just one example of the collaboration that Cullen is happy to be a part of.

Between her job at Ferris and her volunteering position at Artworks, Cullen keeps busy. She currently teaches two online classes of 29 students and advises about 100 students, with approximately 15 graduates every semester. Even with all of these responsibilities, Cullen keeps on top of everything with a positive attitude. She only wishes that students would take more time to explore and be a part of the Big Rapids community.

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The Black Student Union returns



Photo by: *Kylah Robnison | Culture Reporter*

Black Student Union eboard members gather to talk about their plans.

Learn about the reactivation of the Black Student Union

Kylah Robnison
Culture Reporter

The Office of Multicultural Student Services welcomed the reactivation of the Black Student Union.

The BSU is a registered student organization that advocates for all Black students on campus, as well as students of other minorities. If a student voices their opinion during a meeting, the organization will contact relevant staff and faculty about the issue. They will also create petitions, march or protest for the matter if deemed necessary.

This RSO has been in the OMSS since the '80s, but its members eventually graduated and the RSO got lost in the cracks. That was until graduate Lydia Reynolds started it back up.

Criminal justice freshman Lauren James originally joined the BSU's eboard as vice president, however, she took over Reynold's position as president when she graduated.

"I wanted to join [the] BSU because when I was in the 10th grade my sister told me about it," James said. "I really wanted it to be... a space for Black people where they can talk about the ups and downs of being a Black person."

Although James is only in her first year at Ferris, she has already gained recognition by taking over the president's role and fulfilling the responsibilities of the organization.

"It's kind of nerve-racking," James said. "I know that a lot of people are looking at me because I am a freshman, but I'm also happy because I get to show people what I got."

General business sophomore Nick Green also joined the BSU when it was reactivated and became the organization's treasurer. Green joined the RSO for the unity and representation of Black students.

"Unity is very important because we could all decide on one thing if we were able to sit down and decide what we want,

but there's no taking the steps forward. That's just a waste of time and that's been going on. So that's why it was very important for [the] BSU to come back," Green said.

OMSS Director Danyelle Gregory became the BSU's advisor in November. Gregory assisted with bringing back the BSU to make Ferris more inclusive and welcoming.

"I hope [the] BSU accomplishes all of the things that they wish to accomplish and, additionally, [connect] with Black faculty and staff," Gregory said.

The BSU had its first meeting this semester on Monday, Jan. 23. This meeting allowed students to share their ideas and voice the issues they face on campus that they feel need to be addressed. Some things that came to the eboard's attention were advising issues, air-conditioning in West Campus and Black representation on campus.

James led the conversation to hear students' points of view. During this, she

also learned that students struggle with parking spaces and the scarcity of Black beauty supply products around campus.

The eboard heard the students' concerns and plans on talking to certain people about helping the students and assisting in any way they can. Students can join the BSU by attending at least two meetings. After that, they are required to pay a \$15 membership fee and attend three BSU events.

James welcomes all students to join the BSU, however, she is looking for someone who promotes what the BSU is all about. Someone that wants to do things for not just themselves, but for their people and community.

"BSU is really trying a whole outreach where we change people's input on things and the way they view things, so I would look for someone who is motivated by their people to change and think for a better community," James said.

EIC WANTED

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF POSITION:

We seek an organized student (enrolled in at least six credit hours) for the Editor-In-Chief position during the 2023 – 2024 school year. Candidates must show proficient writing skills, possess excellent leadership, and manage to work throughout the school year.

Contact for submission details → [Noah Kurkjian kurkjian@ferris.edu](mailto:kurkjian@ferris.edu)



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EDITORS COLUMN:

We deserve more diverse queer representation

Noah Kurkjian
Editor-In-Chief

Before same-sex marriage was federally legalized in 2015, queer people rarely got a shred of representation in modern media, and what we did get reduced us to harmful and hurtful stereotypes. That monumental decision led to what felt like a cultural shift in American media. We gained some ground with positive representation that shares beautiful stories, but then we also have what MTV put on our screens on Jan. 20.

The viewership numbers for the first episode of “The Real Friends of WeHo” officially came out late last week. Only 186,000 viewers tuned in, or rather, didn’t change the channel after “RuPaul’s Drag Race,” which garnered more than three times that with 578,000 viewers in the time slot prior. Suffice to say, we spoke with our remotes.

I want to make it abundantly

clear that this isn’t a review or a complaint directed towards any of the six members of the cast, although some rightfully deserve criticism. This is an open letter to the creative artform.

This show would have flopped regardless of which six conventionally attractive, famous gay men you put in it because of the show’s concept. This is made evident by the less than lukewarm reception “Men of West Hollywood” earned just one year earlier.

First and foremost, this concept is tired. We’ve had a fair few reality shows whose casts are entirely made up of attractive, rich, status holding gay men. This show absolutely still could have existed with the same title, we just needed diversity. Surely more queer people exist in and around West Hollywood than just affluent gay men.

Why couldn’t we have had a mixture of people from the whole LGBTQ community to demon-

strate that there’s more queer people out there than just men loving men? We can reprise a famous franchise without ostracizing and minimizing a majority of the LGBTQ community.

Then we have the look of the cast — fit and conventionally attractive. After such a long time of this being the only type of queer representation out there, we can do better. This perpetuates an already over inflated beauty and body standard cast upon the LGBTQ community. Where are the real people?

It’s made even worse by the cast perpetuating this by calling old photos of themselves “fat” when they very clearly are not. While I’m not trying to discount someone’s struggle with body dysmorphia, when you have a platform as large as these people do, you must consider the impressionable eyes that are watching you. Social media already pushes these stereotypes hard enough, why must we carry

it over into traditional media?

Finally, we must talk about the status of the cast. This show fails to capture the essence of what makes the format they’re trying to copy work. The Real Housewives franchise works because those women are trying to build an identity outside of their marriages to famous people. “The Real Friends of WeHo” cast members already have unique identities and success, which makes this neither entertaining nor relatable.

It feels clear to me that this show was not designed to promote the stories of queer people, but to be another 40 minutes of dry, representation lacking, product placing, brand promoting, stereotype pedaling television to drop 20 minutes of advertisements into for MTV. I find it patronizing, and I can only wish they do better in the future.

HBO’s ‘The Last of Us’

Finally, a well-made video game adaptation

Sienna Parmelee
Production Manager

HBO Max added a new series to the dying zombie genre with the release of the first few episodes of “The Last of Us,” based on the Naughty Dog video game of the same title.

Having played the game multiple times, a poster in my room and a tattoo dedicated to the main character, Ellie, I was nervous about what yet another video game adaptation meant for a near-perfect game that I hold so close to my heart.

In 2022, Naughty Dog had tried its hand at adapting its other famous title, “Uncharted,” which received a well-deserved RottenTomatoes score of 41%.

I was extremely underwhelmed by this film, which abandoned significant plot points that changed the games’ tone and the characters’ identity. It was clear that the film set out to be a big-budget action flick that appealed to a general audience, not the game’s original fanbase.

So, when “The Last of Us” series was announced, there was a sour taste left in my mouth from Naughty Dogs’ previous adaptation, leaving me to wonder what they would do to “The Last of Us.” But, as I sat there on a Sunday night, watching a video game come to life, I found myself in awe of both the accuracy regarding the video game and the meaningful additions in the show.

According to HBO, the series received 4.7 million viewers in the United States upon its initial release. The reception to the show has been phenomenal. The show currently sports a 97% critic score and a 95% audience score on RottenTomatoes.

I believe a well-made, on-screen adaptation of either a video game or a book should never be a carbon copy of the original source material; there should always be an artistic vision and additions. In video games, there are often elements that would not translate well on-screen, and this reasoning led to a significant change in the HBO series.

In the video game, the infection that causes humans to turn into fungus-like zombies is an airborne disease that can spread through spores in the air or saliva. In the show, the creators chose to change this and have the disease spread through mycelium-inspired tendrils from an infected being’s mouth.

This decision added to the on-screen horror, making the infected even more terrifying to watch. But the decision was not just aesthetically driven. At the end of episode two, showrunner Craig Maizen said, “While that works in a video game environment, in real life, spores move around everywhere. And it’s just harder to buy into the notion that spores localize and don’t spread.” This decision added to the realistic elements of the game, making the question of “Could this virus really spread?” more terrifying.

While the creators chose to make changes to the series, there was still a degree of accuracy I have not yet seen in an on-screen adaptation. The infected

actors portray the movements of the infected perfectly, and many impactful dialogue lines from the game were inserted word for word into the show’s script.

The camerawork was another aspect of the show that adapted the video game’s mechanics in an immersive manner. The continuous shots that followed the characters made me feel like I was holding my controller in front of me.

The show also used practical effects, rather than relying on CGI. When the game was initially released in 2013, the graphics were ahead of its time, blowing players away with its life-like but still stylized qualities. Using prosthetics and makeup on actors makes the show feel as realistic as the game did at the time.

So far, the additions to the show lend themselves to diversifying the zombie genre and putting new fans of the series on an emotional ride. If you’ve poured as many hours and tears into this beloved game as I have, I recommend giving the show a try.

Breaking the mold with a fold

I tried a foldable phone so you don't have to

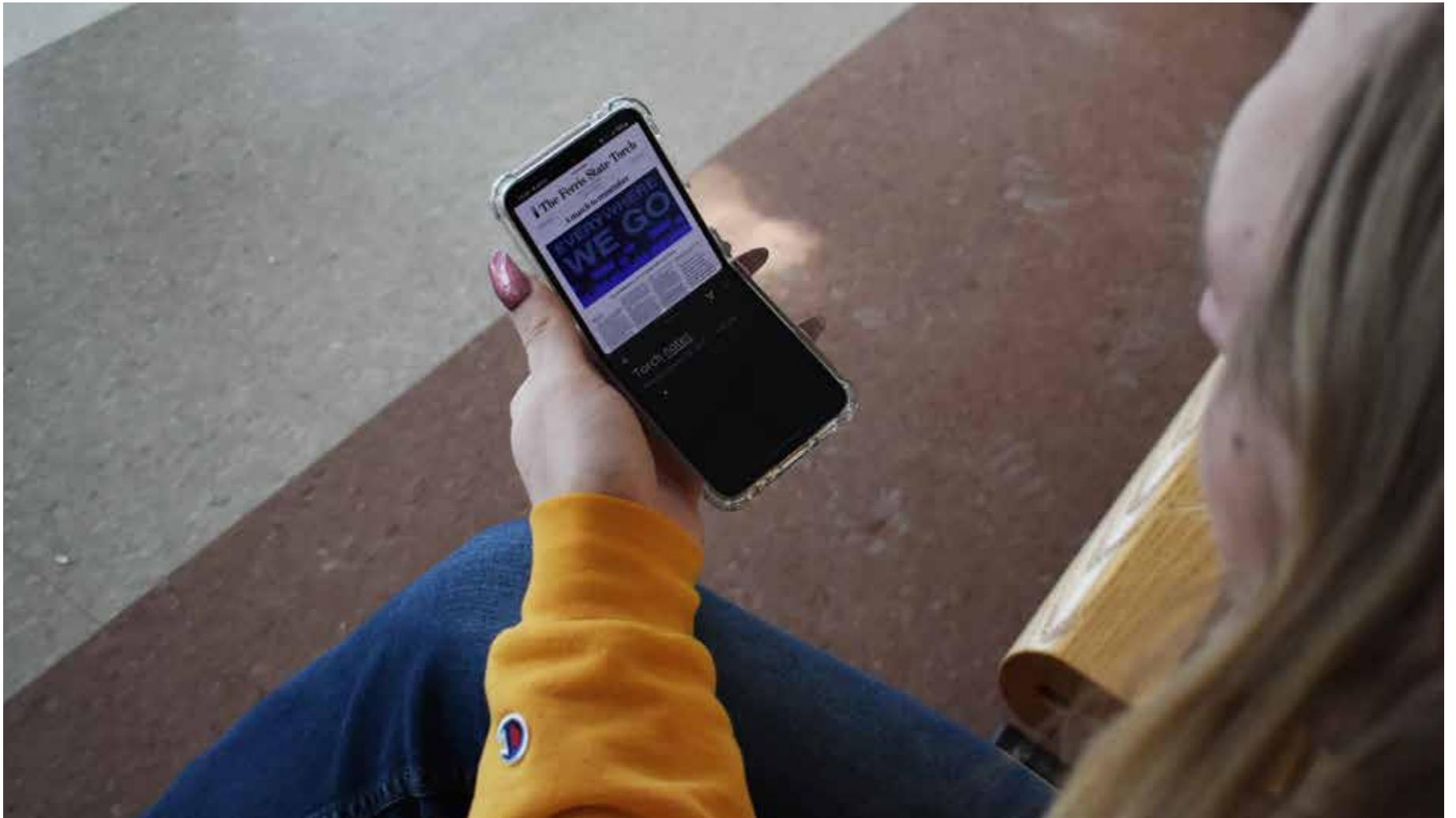


Photo by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

Though he once thought the concept of the flip to be gimmicky, after a month, Noah now finds utility in the Samsung Galaxy Z Flip3.

Noah Kurkjan
Editor-In-Chief

Last month, when I found myself in need of a second phone for the sake of my own sanity, I dreaded buying another iPhone. My opinion from my column “iThink we’ve hit a wall” still stood. There was no way I was paying anywhere from \$500-\$1,100 for the same old, same old.

What I wanted was a foldable phone. Something that could either expand to a large canvas so I could get things done or shrink away so I could almost lose it in my pocket. But paying upwards of \$1,000 for the burgeoning Samsung Galaxy Z class of smart phones was a tough pill to swallow.

That is until I caught a glimpse of the plentiful used market. I was incredibly skeptical going down this path because durability is still a big question mark. But at such an enticing price — a less than one-year-old Galaxy Z Flip 3 for \$250, which is one fourth of its original cost — and considering the fact that 64% of our readership surveyed said they wouldn’t own a folding phone, I was willing to test the waters so you didn’t have to.

The main question I got asked during my first month of ownership — right after, “Can I flip it?” — was about its durability. I was worried about a loose or grinding hinge, bubbles in the display crease, scratches on the inside display’s ultra thin glass and any other unthinkable problem that could come from what I thought was such a fragile mechanism.

I’m happy to report that this feels just like new. Samsung confirmed the age of my Flip, and between my 550 flips within my month of ownership, which I can only assume would be higher if this were my primary phone, and the other 11 months of use before myself, I’m shocked and thrilled with the condition.

The next most common ask was about its usefulness. This has a bit more of a complicated answer. Half of the Flip’s

usefulness to me is the size it reduces to in a pocket. The other half gets me in glanceability or tripoding. Being its own stand lets me keep apps open that auto refresh so I can always see new stuff and act on it quickly.

I also love taking video calls on it. I don’t have to hold it up, find something to prop it on or compromise with a landscape call to take advantage of a Popsocket stand. Samsung also added some nifty tricks into the OS to make the 90-degree mode more useful too.

It also just handles everyday phone stuff really well. The screen is vivid with a high refresh rate, and it’s just big enough to still manage with one hand. The battery is shockingly good for its unique design, lasting me two days with moderate usage. Phone calls were crystal clear, blowing my iPhone out of the water on the same network. The fingerprint reader was blazing fast, and I was happy they took a page out of Apple’s book and added a “raise to wake” feature.

The only downfalls came from Android and the cameras, unfortunately. The OS really feels like it’s holding the phone back. There were so many quirks, like eSIM not working with my carrier due to what I was told was a fault with Android that would be fixed in an update on a date that came and went with nothing.

My notifications just

disappeared when I tapped on them instead of opening the app or showing me the content. The OS switched between being too aggressive with background task management so that I didn’t get notifications, or not doing enough about a background task so that it killed my battery while cooking the phone.

These cameras, while serviceable, are just not as good as other flagships. Photos look over processed and too colorful to the point of appearing animated at times, and detail quickly disappears in low lighting. However, being able to use the rear shoot-

ers as a selfie camera, courtesy of the cover display, and the wide-angle option for the true front facing shooter are nice additions that help bridge the faults.

This experiment was eye opening. As a devout Apple user, it feels weird to say how much I ended up loving it. If the Z series of phone somehow ran iOS, I’d use a foldable for everything. For now, I’m more than happy to keep it as a work phone, and I can honestly recommend anyone looking for a budget Android phone, or some variety from the same Apple slabs, to give a foldable phone a chance.

Sports

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

Hockey swept by Minnesota State



Photo by: Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor

Cade Kowalski dives to the ice after attempting a play in the offensive zone during Ferris' 4-1 loss to Minnesota State on Friday.

Bulldogs fail to earn points for the first time this season

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

After sweeping Minnesota State in Mankato on Dec. 2 and Dec. 3, the Bulldogs found themselves swept by the Mavericks in Big Rapids this weekend.

The Bulldogs (10-13-3, 7-9-2 CCHA) finished a two week homestand against a vengeful Minnesota State team and ended up on the wrong end of the broomstick after suffering their first sweep of the season.

Friday night's tilt started off slow, as no goals were scored until the last five minutes of the first period. The Mavericks drew first blood against the Bulldogs. The lead was owned by the Mavericks for three minutes before junior forward Antonio Venuto snuck a pass from freshman defenseman Travis Shoudy behind the Maverick goaltender to tie the game at 1-1.

Following the first period, the game was all in favor of the Mavericks. The Bulldog offense went quiet as the Mavericks scored three more times during the

second and third periods, leading to a 4-1 loss for the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs challenged goaltender interference on the second goal scored by the Mavericks due to a lone Maverick being a little close to sophomore goaltender Noah Giesbrecht. As the score suggests, the Bulldogs did not win the challenge, and the goal stood.

Head coach Bob Daniels gave his thoughts on what he saw during the play that led to the challenge.

"Their guy went through and ran into our goaltender right before they scored," Daniels said. "If you go back and watch the video, their guy goes through the crease. Our guy doesn't direct him there. He's the guy that's going behind our guy, and he bumps into Noah."

Daniels defended his challenge and believed that, in his opinion, it was goaltender interference.

During Saturday's contest, the Bulldogs and the Mavericks had a silent first period. In the second period, the game began to look very similar to the previous nights'

scoring, as the Mavericks struck first. Moments later, senior forward Jason Brancheau rifled a shot and beat the Maverick goaltender to tie the game at one.

Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, the tides turned in favor of the Mavericks. In an 11 second span, the Mavericks scored twice, putting the game at 3-1.

The Bulldogs let up two more goals to end the game and fell to the Mavericks 5-1. The Bulldog offense was contained by the Maverick defense, as they were only able to amass 15 shots on net.

Daniels compared that night's loss to the previous night due to the early game similarities.

"It's almost like last night... I thought we were in good shape right up until they got their second goal," Daniels said. "It seemed like we were constantly always chasing the game from that point. We fell behind early, and they're not an easy team to come back against. They're very stingy defensively."

The Bulldogs' series loss to the Mavericks marks a measure of revenge for them,

as their only sweep of the season came against the Mavericks in Mankato. For the Bulldogs, these two losses amounted to a five game winless streak, since their shootout win against Michigan Tech was recorded as a tie.

Junior goaltender Logan Stein, who played in the second game of the series, gave his thoughts on the weekends' losses.

"We were disappointed with the result this weekend," Stein said. "I thought the effort and the competition was great, we just had some mental lapses in the second period both nights that really changed the tide of both games."

Stein stressed the importance of the remaining stretch of games by saying that "every game is a big game going forward."

This weekend, the Bulldogs will go on the road to face the third place Bowling Green Falcons. The team will return home on Feb. 10 and Feb. 11 to play the Bemidji State Beavers.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Track and Field

Bill Clinger Classic - Emma Stephayn first in weight throw

Donis Harris ninth in mile run

Men's Basketball

Jan. 26 - Ferris 78, Michigan Tech 50

Jan. 28 - Ferris 106, Northern Michigan 93

Women's Basketball

Jan. 26 - Ferris 63, Michigan Tech 60

Jan. 28 - Ferris 72, Northern Michigan 55

Men's basketball tops the GLIAC



Photo by: Brandon Wirth | Sports Reporter

Ethan Erickson makes a move around a Northern Michigan defender during the Bulldogs' 78-50 win over the Huskies. Erickson recorded 15 points in the win.

Bulldogs collect sweep with key performances from Oraegbu and Erickson

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

The Bulldogs went 2-0 this weekend when they took on Michigan Tech University and Northern Michigan University, improving their record to 17-5 overall and 8-3 in GLIAC play, good for first place in the conference.

With the wins this weekend, the Bulldogs moved into first place in the GLIAC and avenged previous losses to both teams.

The Bulldogs defeated Michigan Tech University 78-50 in a matchup where the Bulldogs dominated on defense throughout the game.

The Bulldogs held Michigan Tech to 28.6% (18-63) from the field and 32.3% (10-31) from the three-point line, while holding Michigan Tech to only five free throws and creating 15 turnovers.

Offensively, the Bulldogs shot 58.8% (30-51) from the field and 50% from the three-point line (6-12), while getting to the line 15 times, making 12 for an 80% clip.

The Bulldogs outrebounded Michigan Tech 42-26 and created more assists 23-15.

The second half is where the Bulldogs did most of their work, offensively shooting 62.1% (18-29) from the field and 57.1% (4-7) from three-point range.

The big second half was led by Ethan Erickson, who had 12 points in the second half going 4-5 from three-point range off the bench.

"My teammates set good screens," Erickson said on his scoring burst in the second half. "So I just kept running [at] them, getting open looks, and they were finding me."

Leading the Bulldogs in scoring was Solomon Oraegbu with 20 points. Erickson added 15 points, Dolapo Olayinka and Jimmy Scholler scored eight points and Ben Davidson and Vejas Grazulis both added seven points.

Amari Lee led the Bulldogs in assists with eight, Scholler added five assists and both Olayinka and Davidson had three assists.

Leading the Bulldogs in rebounds was Mykel Bingham with seven, Olayinka and Scholler both had six rebounds and Oraegbu added five rebounds.

The Bulldogs then shifted their focus to a tough matchup with Northern Michigan University. The Bulldogs would need overtime to defeat Northern Michigan 106-93.

After trailing 48-34 at the half, the Bulldogs were able to fight back and tie the game late in the second half at 88-88 after a layup was made by Oraegbu, who was fouled on the play and had an opportunity for a three-point play.

"Keep our heads up, stay positive, stay aggressive," Oraegbu said. "We just came out in a second half, and it made it happen. It was a team effort."

Oraegbu had two points in the first half and 17 second-half

points to lead the Bulldog comeback.

Oraegbu made nine straight free throws as he went to the line with a chance to go up by one with two seconds left in the game. He missed the game-winning free throw that would send the game into overtime.

"I wanted to make it, of course," Oraegbu said. "But honestly, at that point there was such a great effort for us to come back, and I just knew that overtime we had it."

In overtime, the Bulldogs out-

scored Northern Michigan 18-5, which led to the Bulldogs' victory.

"Oh my goodness," head coach Andy Bronkema said. "That was an amazing finish, and you know the crowd got a treat because Northern Michigan's really good. Our guys came out and competed in the second half, and they never gave up."

Leading the Bulldogs in points was Oraegbu with 27 points. Erickson added 15 points, Olayinka and Davidson scored 13 points and Lee added 12 points.

Lee led the Bulldogs in assists

with 12, and Davidson, Scholler and Erickson all finished with three assists.

Bingham led the team in rebounds with 12, Olayinka had seven rebounds, Ben Davidson had six rebounds and both Oraegbu and Reece Hazelton finished with five rebounds.

The Bulldogs will be back in action when they go on the road to take on the University of Wisconsin-Parkside on Feb. 2 at 8:30 p.m. Then, they'll head to Purdue University Northwest on Feb. 4 at 4 p.m.

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Idoni dominates in sweep

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

This weekend was certainly a dominant weekend for Fenton Michigan native Chloe Idoni, who led the Bulldogs with a GLIAC Player of the Week performance.

Her performances helped the Bulldogs earn two huge home GLIAC wins over Northern Michigan and Michigan Tech, two top conference teams.

Ferris (13-7, 6-5 GLIAC) began the weekend with a 63-60 upset win over Michigan Tech on Thursday. Using an eight-point halftime advantage, the Bulldogs held off a final flurry of Husky three-pointers to seal the three-point victory against the conference's top team.

"We wanted to be the aggressor, and I felt like [in] those first three quarters we did a great job with that," head coach Kurt Westendorp said. "I was pleased that we worked so hard to build the cushion we had because we knew they were going to be making runs. I'm proud of our girls' toughness, and [we] were the tougher team tonight."

Idoni led the way for the Bulldogs with 34 points and 10 rebounds, which was her eighth double-double effort on the season. Mallory McCartney, Kenzie

Bowers and Grace Sullivan each added seven points for Ferris. Bowers added eight rebounds, while McCartney registered eight assists for the Bulldogs.

"I give so much credit to the guards on my team," Idoni said. "They put the ball in my hands, and I got great opportunities to score."

Despite committing 14 turnovers in the second half, the Bulldogs outrebounded the Huskies 17-14 in the final 20 minutes and improved their shooting percentage from 35.5% to 42.1%. Ferris outshot the number fourteen three-point shooting team in the country 35.3% to 32.0%.

"[Michigan Tech] only making eight of 25 from three is an off night for them," Westendorp said. "We wanted to crowd them as much as possible and make them feel uncomfortable."

On Saturday's finale, Ferris continued their winning ways by defeating Northern Michigan 72-55.

The Bulldogs got off to a hot start, outscoring the Wildcats 18-10 in the first quarter. Ferris used a full effort in the transition game, scoring 13 fastbreak points and 19 points off 17 forced Wildcat turnovers to pull away to their 13th win of the season.

"I think we did a nice job of really sprinting the floor hard," Westendorp said. "We were stopping them and getting rebounds. I felt like everyone ran the floor hard, whether we got a layup out of it or a trail three."

Idoni dominated again with a 30-point effort, followed by Bowers with 12 points. McCartney added nine assists with her eight points. Bowers had nine rebounds, five assists and four steals. DeShonna Day finished with eight points and three steals, while Elle Irwin recorded five rebounds.

Bowers said her team did very well with rebounding.

"They have a bit of a height advantage, so one of the big keys was just owning the boards," Bowers said. "We knew if they could be even or plus on the boards for the night, we could definitely get the win."

With the weekend victories, Ferris pulls within one game of fourth place Northern Michigan, and they're only a half game behind Saginaw Valley State for fifth in the GLIAC standings. The Bulldogs will now travel to face third place Wisconsin-Parkside on Thursday, Feb. 2 and Purdue Northwest on Saturday, Feb. 4.



Photo by: Brandon Wirth | Sports Reporter

Chloe Idoni shoots a layup during Ferris' 63-60 win over Michigan Tech. She had 34 points in the win.

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