

The Ferris State Torch

92 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of Feb. 22–28, 2023

www.fsutorch.com

Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor
Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

IT SEEMS TO OCCUR AGAIN AND AGAIN ALL
OVER THE COUNTRY. I ALWAYS HOPE THIS SENSELESS
TRAGEDY WOULD NEVER HAPPEN LOCALLY, BUT LEANING
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LAWMAKERS WOULD FINALLY, FINALLY SERIOUSLY BEGIN TO ADDRESS
GUN REFORM, BUT WAS LEFT WITH THE SENSE THAT, AFTER ALL THE
POLITICAL RHETORIC, THIS STILL WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH... AND
THAT'S THE GREATEST TRAGEDY. **WHEN WILL THIS STOP?**



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

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Photo by:
Jessica Oakes | News Editor

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News

Jessica Oakes | News Editor | oakesj3@ferris.edu

A festival for Latine art

Center for Latin@ Studies and Office of International Education hosts ‘cultural celebración’

Meghan Hartley
News Reporter

The 2023 “Latine Cultural Celebración” will be a festival filled with color and art, honoring the resilience of Latin culture.

The festival is a collaboration between the Center for Latin@ Studies and the Office of International Education, and it will be held on Thursday, Feb. 23.

Digital animation and game design freshman Sherlyn Trejo-Villegas works at the CLS and says the carnival is going to be a great way to showcase the center’s importance and offer students an enriching cultural experience.

“It’s a new event to CLS this year, but it’s something that we’re really excited about,” Trejo-Villegas said. “We’re going to be showcasing specifically the resilient Dominican Republic carnivals, and we’re gonna be talking about the history of why the carnivals are there in the first place.”

According to Promesa Scholars Coordinator Massiel Calderon, the carnival is inspired by the parties that occur in the Dominican Republic and Brazil. She says both countries hold big celebrations throughout the months of February and March, and they hold ties to their histories

from colonization.

“[The carnival] is going to have a little bit of social advocacy and awareness because the carnival grew from slavery in the Dominican Republic, and it also is a representation of the community and the people on the streets in Brazil,” Calderon said. “It really is a celebration that belongs to the people, not something that corporations put on... The Americans once were colonized by the Spaniards, and they were not allowed to celebrate their spirituality. They were allowed a little bit of time to express themselves, and then the carnival grew from that into something bigger.”

Both countries will be represented through an educational presentation delivered by the CLS and the OIE, and will include music, dance and costumes. Trejo-Villegas and Calderon said the CLS has spent some time in obtaining authentic Dominican costumes to show a bit of their culture.

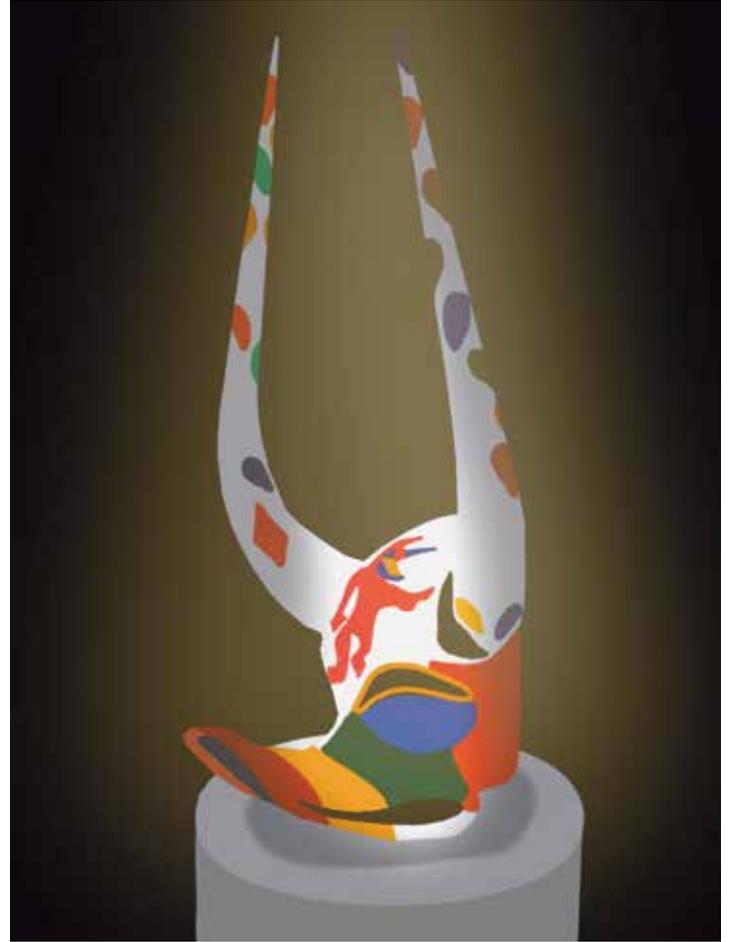
“Obtaining the costumes was the most difficult part because these costumes are not readily available everywhere,” Calderon said. “Even in New York, where there’s a larger Dominican population... It was difficult to just get one from over there. We had to obtain the costumes

to create an educational component.”

Authentic Dominican costumes are handmade, take weeks to prepare and must be handled with care during transit. The same goes for authentic Dominican masks, which will also be appearing at the carnival.

Trejo-Villegas says the mask that will be displayed is taller than herself, and she is 5 feet, 4 inches. Many of these masks can reach up to 16 feet tall. Attendees will be able to see how much work goes into these colorfully detailed masterpieces.

The carnival will be in the ballrooms of



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

the David L. Eisler Center on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m. It will be preceded by a Latino film festival on Feb. 20, 21 and 22, which is also being hosted by the CLS and OIE. For more information, students can contact either of the two offices or head to Bulldog Connect.

DPS body cam initiative ‘rubber stamped’

Chief Abe Haroon discusses camera battery life and privacy concerns

Nolan Harris
News Reporter

With officers from Ferris’ Department of Public Safety fully outfitted with body cameras, DPS Chief Abe Haroon declared the initiative completed and “rubber stamped.”

At a time of heightened concern for safety on college campuses, DPS officers will now turn on their body cameras anytime they have contact with a person for a call or service. Haroon sees battery life and privacy concerns as the only issues to navigate moving forward.

DPS recognizes the issue of privacy as it pertains to students. One way they have addressed this is by creating policies when interacting with students or within the dorms.

“Written into the policy is that officers have the discretion to turn off the visual recording of a camera upon the request of a reporter or a victim,” Haroon said.

This policy is to allow a student’s protection regarding the privacy of their home and self as long as they are not a suspect. While there is a current policy for

redacting written files and audio to accommodate the Freedom of Information Act and the Family Education and Privacy Act, DPS does not have a way to censor video information at this time.

“For the first time we are being involved with something where we might have to redact,” Haroon said. “We don’t have that capacity now, but they are gonna demo some software to me... that will have those redaction features built into it.”

Some members of the Ferris community already appreciate this concern for privacy.

“I do think that these policies are pretty darn close to the ideal situation,” software engineering sophomore Chandler Schroeder said. “If I say I don’t want to be on camera, that should be respected.”

Currently, the cameras have a battery life of around 12 hours. Haroon has concerns that this leaves room for battery failure during an officer’s shift. One of the ways he has tried to solve this is by providing officers with chargers for their cars.

“The way the device works is it constantly records,” Haroon said. “Imagine your phone is recording for 12 hours. It’s gonna drain the battery.”



Photo by: Nolan Harris | News Reporter

Ferris DPS officers have added body worn cameras to their uniforms

The cameras have a replay feature that requires the camera to be recording at all times. The camera captures one minute of footage before the officer presses the record button, which means the camera is always recording, but it does not save data until the officer starts recording.

The replay feature is a contingency plan for any time an officer may fail to turn on the camera or try to manipulate footage in any way. It also introduces the issue of data storage, as recording a whole shift would create 100s of gigabytes of data.

A minute may not be enough, but Haroon explains that the replay can be extended if it becomes an issue. After an officer’s shift, the recordings are uploaded to a cloud based storage system once the camera is docked on the battery charger. Before a camera is docked, it is reported that even Haroon cannot access the local drive of a camera.

“I would be concerned with third party cloud based data storage,” Schroeder

said. “What is the track record of this company? Have they had data breaches? What kind of data breaches?”

Haroon believes that the cloud storage is a stronger, more reliable option.

Detective Sgt. Timothy Jacobs is happy to have the cameras. He sees it as a protection to him and the students surrounding complaints and misconduct. The only issue that Jacobs has had is learning how to use the equipment.

“I haven’t had any annoyances with the camera, just with myself on the learning curve,” Jacobs said. “They give you a pretty hard test for the [cameras]... You have to know the subject matter.”

Although there are some finer details to address, DPS has the equipment and policy surrounding body cameras that will be in operation for the next five years. The only foreseeable changes are related to the hardware as upgrades in resolution, battery and storage become available.

‘Passion for the Past’ returns

History dept. speak on right-wing terrorism at home and abroad

Ember St. Amour
News Reporter

History professors traced the Jan. 6 Capitol Riot and plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer back to a trend of right-wing conspiracy at last week’s “Passion for the Past” speaker event.

Dr. Christian Peterson, a Ferris history professor with a focus on US foreign relations, presented alongside Dr. Alexander Brand of Rhein-Waal University in Germany via Zoom. They each offered detailed accounts of right-wing terrorism in their own country and how they mirror each other on the world stage.

Peterson started off his presentation by explaining that the US government’s definition of terrorism does not go into right or left-wing ideologies. When he uses the term “right-wing terrorism,” it relates to racism, conspiracy theories and existential threats.

To localize, Peterson dove into the 2020 plot to kidnap Gov. Whitmer and overthrow the Michigan government. Though the plotters communicated through encrypted messaging to stay under the radar, they were never far from the federal government’s attention.

“They had an FBI informant right from the beginning,” Peterson said. “Someone was so disturbed by what they were seeing by certain people on Facebook — about murdering Whitmer or kidnapping her and hanging her — that they contacted the FBI office on their own, and that person just turned into an FBI informant.”

Peterson went on to explain that because the informant was there from the beginning, the FBI was able to keep track of everything that was being discussed, record it and eventually arrest those involved. According to the Associated Press, 13 men were arrested as suspects following the plot. The harshest sentence declared so far amounts to 16 years in prison for co-conspirator Adam Fox.

Another example of right-wing terrorism Peterson gave was the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the US Capital. He explained who the attackers were and how it relates to right-wing terrorism.

“These are middle class [and] upper class Americans,” Peterson said. “A lot of them have good paying jobs [and are] educated people. These are not crazy people, and many people had no intention of having peaceful protests. Obviously some did, but this was part of a long-term conspiracy that people resorted to violence to overcome an election [where] the results were very accurate.”

His explanation for why these acts of terrorism were happening was due to the influence of well-known people. He specifically referenced Donald Trump’s tweets and how people understood them to mean that they should plan out these acts of violence.

When Peterson was done, Brand began his presentation over German right-wing terrorism.

He began his presentation by explaining how Germany had an attack similar to the one that happened in the US on Jan. 6, 2021. The attack in Germany took place in December of last year.

“What had just happened that was reported by The Washington Post is that Germany... had just carried out the largest counter-terrorism operation in its history,” Brand said. “What the authorities had just discovered and prevented was a plot to replace the current German government violently, causing harm. And I think what adds to it is that it was carried out by a right-wing group and was called a right-wing group.”

Brand went on to explain that he found what had happened in the US and what has happened in Germany to be “suspiciously similar.”

When Brand was done presenting, the floor was open for student questions. One of the questions some of the students wondered about was how much of an influence Jan. 6, 2021, had on other countries.

Brand answered the question by referring to Germany’s December attack. He explained that he did not think that it played a huge part in influencing Germany. According to Brand, the strategies used in Germany were different, as the plan was to have a quieter approach to try to overthrow the German government.

“The strategy was to basically enter the German parliament, take out a couple of politicians, block access, install [a] new government and then the people would join in,” Brand said.

After answering the student questions, Peterson ended on some advice for students concerning the information given about Jan. 6, 2021.

“I would really encourage people, young people in particular, to really sleep well at night knowing that we still have the... nonpartisan voting system,” Peterson said. “We have schoolteachers and all sorts of people running the elections, counting the votes, doing the best they can [while being] increasingly under threat. If you don’t have the people to do the infrastructure of democracy, dictatorship is right around the corner because you can just basically convince people that if they lose, its [a] fake election.”

ON THE RECORD

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

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

LOUD AUDITORIUM

Feb. 17, 8:13 p.m. - A student was ticketed as a minor in possession after reportedly attempting to sell marijuana at Williams Auditorium. The case is now being reviewed by a prosecutor.

BOND HALL BANDIT

Feb. 2-16, time unknown - A student in Bond Hall reported that their roommate was stealing belongings from their room and selling them while they were out of town. Because the student was not on campus at the time of the report, they were advised to revisit the claim when they returned.

YIK YAK THREAT

Feb. 13, 10:52 p.m. - A threat complaint took place at Hallisy Hall last Monday in response to a post on the anonymous app Yik Yak. Police officers monitored and reviewed the area throughout the night and found no tangible threat, but the investigation remains open.

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Ashlee Haze uses her book, 'Smoke,' to inspire students through poetry

'Her poems were hypnotizing,' one student said

Jonathen Hart
News Reporter

Ashlee Haze took the Ferris community to poetry church as her performance was praised with snaps, amens and hallelujahs in the David L. Eisler Center.

On Wednesday, Feb. 15, the acclaimed poet traveled from Atlanta, Georgia to Big Rapids to perform spoken word poetry and promote her second book, "Smoke." Haze is one of the most accomplished professionals in slam poetry, a competitive and lively form of art, and has won national awards for her work.

Haze has earned herself the nickname "Big 30," a name inspired by her many perfect slam poetry scores. She has been writing for more than 15 years and has been active in the Atlanta poetry scene for more than ten. She is a three-time Queen of the South Poetry Slam winner, a two-time Ladies of the World Poetry Slam semifinalist and a two-time National Poetry Slam semifinalist.

At Wednesday's performance, Haze spoke about her experience as a Black woman, her inspirations and how she first fell in love with the art.

Chemistry and psychology freshman Kya Adams appreciated that Haze offered a background for her poems, giving the audience a deeper understanding of her life and work.

"I love how she explained the story behind her poems because there's always something or a reason why she had written them," Adams said. "I feel like



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Staff Photographer

Nationally renowned poet Ashlee Haze brought her art of spoken word to the DEC ballrooms.

that helps the audience look at it from a deeper perspective, [instead of] coming up with something and putting together a meaning of their own, either through their experiences or trying to examine through the reader."

Adams was also able to see herself in Haze's work, supporting the poet's belief

in the importance of representation.

"I felt inspired because I could relate in a way," Adams said. "As a Black woman, some of what she read were things I could understand, such as how we shared similar childhoods in a Black household, like how our mothers would act. While there were also other things that I did

not [share]. I saw through her words and figured them out myself. Her poems were hypnotizing."

A selection of Haze's original poetry from the book "Smoke" was read aloud. She spoke from the heart and lit up the room with her assurance, self-love, humor, soul and sparkling presence.

In many of her works, Haze discussed personal experience, bravery, healing, empowerment and community. A respectful yet responsive audience expressed their feelings through snapping fingers, a typical form of applause in the world of poetry.

"For Colored Girls (The Missy Elliot Poem)" was a poem she had written about one of her heroes, Missy Elliot, who caught wind of the poem and surprised Haze at her home. This poem put her on the map and behind NPR's infamous Tiny Desk.

Haze's mother encouraged her to begin writing poetry at only ten years old. What began as activity for a mother-daughter event eventually became her life's work.

"To be honest, I think I just responded to the response," Haze said. "I was like, 'Oh, I can keep doing this. I keep saying things and people are liking it.' So I just kept writing. I've met people all the time who [say], 'I used to be a poet.' The only difference is that I just never stopped being one."

Haze sold merchandise and did a book signing after the performance concluded. If you wish to learn more about Haze or want to read any of her poems, visit her website ashleehaze.com.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Battle Creek: Two young teens have been arrested following the murder of a Battle Creek Central High School student.

Mlive reports that the student, Jack Snyder, was found dead on Friday, Feb. 17, outside of his vehicle. Officers found the body when responding to a call of shots fired near Battle Creek Avenue.

Two teens were seen in Snyder's car before the incident and became the case's main suspects. One, 14-years-old, was arrested at 2 a.m. on Feb. 19. With multiple city search warrants, officers found the boy in a parked car and arrested him "without incident."

At 5 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, a 13-year-old turned himself in to the Battle Creek police in relation to the murder. He was accompanied to the police station by a parent.

Both teens are being held in the Calhoun County Youth Center, and their names have not yet been released at

the time of this report.

Lansing: Kristina Karamo, the far-right election conspiracist who has yet to concede her 2022 Secretary of State loss, was selected to lead Michigan's Republican Party for the next two years.

As reported by the Associated Press, Karamo defeated 10 candidates for the position. The politician and former community college professor expressed to delegates that the republican party "is dying" and must be reformed into "a political machine that strikes fear in the heart of democrats."

Karamo lost her Secretary of State race in last year's midterms by 14 percentage points.

For the first time since the 1980s, democrats have power at all levels of Michigan's legislature. Former republican congressman Fred Upton said to the Guardian that far-right election deniers "turned off a lot of voters."

Karamo is taking on a position marked by in-fighting and millions of dollars of debt.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Brazil: Flooding in the Brazilian coastal town of Sao Sebastiao has taken 36 lives so far and dozens more are missing or stranded.

Last week, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva met with Gov. Tarcisio de Freitas to coordinate a response. As reported by Reuters, Freitas established a three-day mourning period and a 180-day "state of calamity" for six coastal towns during the Carnival celebration season.

Mayor Felipe August of Sao Sebastiao described the situation to the BBC as chaotic.

"We have not yet gauged the scale of the damage. We are trying to rescue the victims," August said.

The situation is still "extremely crucial," the mayor explained. Roughly 50 houses had collapsed and washed away in the flood.

"Unfortunately, we are going to have many more deaths," a civil

defence official told newspaper Folha de São Paulo.

Sao Paulo's state government confirmed that 1,700 people were evacuated from their homes. While Sao Sebastiao had the most casualties, 35, the surrounding towns of Ilhabela, Caraguatatuba and Ubatuba were also affected by heavy rainfall. The death toll is expected by local officials to increase, as many citizens remain blocked by roads damaged in landslides.

The flood is only the most recent of Brazil's natural disasters, often attributed to poor infrastructure and construction on hillsides. In Feb. 2022, over 200 people died in mudslides and floods near Rio de Janeiro.



Opinions

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Noah Kurkjian
Editor-In-Chief

I would like to start this piece by expressing how incredibly proud I am of each and every member of The State News for still somehow showing up for work, reporting, editing, photographing and producing the news while it was happening to you. Your dedication to informing those around you is unwavering, and we've noticed this over here at the Torch. Thank you for your service to your community and for all that you did to help during those four horrible hours and in the days and weeks to follow. You make me proud to be a journalist.

I wish I could express that sentiment to every news station and publication out there. But frankly, I am embarrassed by the actions of some media outlets in response to the tragedy that struck Michigan State University on Feb. 13. Simply put, the reporting tactics utilized by a select few journalists reached lows I had never expected to see in the face of the worst moment of an entire community's lives.

MSU experienced the United States' 68th shooting in just 43 days of the new year. As campus received the "all clear," reporters were swooping in to interview freshly traumatized students moments after their lives changed forever. Then they drugged up the university's old traumas when they wrote the story up for national headlines.

I understand the burning desire to be first with the most captivating story, trust me. What I can't get behind is reporters from all over the state rushing to East Lansing to shove cameras in the faces of students when the university and its public safety department were begging their families to stay back in safety. Not only were the instant interviews of these victims adding to their trauma, but this increased activity from reporters could not have been helping the public safety situation either.

Asking these students, while they're in a haze after this life-altering event, for their reactions or accounts of the experience is so far outside of the scope of what I have been taught as ethical journalism, and the number of reporters I saw doing that astounded me. Extend an open offer for them to reach out to you when they are ready to talk. Bring a stack of business cards, and leave them with someone who can get them out when the time

is right. The bottom line, show them some respect.

The actions of The New York Times further shocked me when reporter Tiffany May used a five-year-old traumatic event as her lede to draw readers into her story about the shooting.

"The shooting at Michigan State University on Monday upended the lives of thousands of students. It also put the school back in the national spotlight, years after a sex abuse scandal involving a prominent sports medicine doctor on its faculty became public," the article began.

As if a shooting wasn't shocking enough to get clicks, that's what was chosen to get the nation to recognize MSU. They are

nationally recognized for dozens of things, and this was absolutely not the time to bring this back up. I was sickened to see that reporting from a nationally respected publication.

If our government is not going to do anything to prevent my fellow peers from dying for simply trying to obtain an education, the absolute bare minimum we can do for the estimated 300,000 who suffer through mass shooting events in the US is to treat them with the dignity, respect and civility they deserve. There are other angles available to cover these stories as they're breaking. Let these young adults heal a bit, and let them come to you when they're ready to share

their stories because, trust me, they will. Students have had enough, and we're not going to be quiet about it.

If you'd like to get involved in the push for reformation, reach out to your representatives and senators. Their contact information is publicly available to you online by searching your address in OpenStates. They work for you, so if you have an issue you care about, call them up and let them know.

If you're struggling with the events at MSU, reach out to Ferris' personal counseling center at (231) 591-5968 for support.

EDITORS COLUMN:

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Jonathen Hart

Jonathen Hart
News Reporter

I am a criminal justice freshman at Ferris. I have always wanted to go into criminal justice, so when I found out that Ferris had one of the best criminal justice programs, I knew this was where I needed to go. Members of my family have attended Ferris in the past, so all the cards were in my favor for Ferris to be my school of choice.

Joining the Torch this year was a scary thing for me when I discovered I was the only freshman. I had four previous years of experience in reporting for my high school paper, The Eclipse. In my years there, I was promoted to the sports editor position after my first year and then managing editor my junior and senior year. I hope to have the same amount of success here at the Torch throughout my years.

While only being at Ferris for one semester, I have been a part of the Ferris State Forensics Speech and Debate team and "Kinky Boots," the fall musical.

I will be a part of the upcoming spring play titled "She Kills Monsters" as well.

I am originally from Burton, Michigan where, when I'm not writing, you can find me working, singing or dressing up as Spider-Man.

My goal as a writer is to bring readers to stories. I want to bring back the importance of accurate news reporting that people can respect.

My favorite thing about being a reporter is interviewing people from all over and from all different types of backgrounds because they provide me with the most interesting conversations. I also love the professional relationships I get to develop with my sources.

I plan on taking my writing experience outside of college in whatever career I pursue. This is because I feel that journalism is a dying matter and that we are the generation to bring it back on track, and there isn't anything I want more than to be a part of that.

It's okay to be a unicorn

What it's like being a Black woman in journalism

Kylah Robinson
Culture Reporter

I was in the 11th grade when I knew I wanted to be a journalist. My English teacher used to have us read books like "Hamlet," short story books about romance and death and many other things that always had me interested.

I liked her class so much because she allowed me to write freely and she made me feel comfortable and confident in my writing skills. My teacher had a wife and a son and always shared it proudly that she was a part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

There were no Black teachers in the high schools that I went to, let alone a gay teacher. So when I, a bisexual student who is also a Black woman, walked into her class for the first time, I knew I found a safe haven and someone who understood me.

Coming to Ferris, I'm still currently trying to find my safe haven. I have made friends and we talk about raising awareness, however, there is always that bridge of how we could do that with our majors.

When you're in social settings and people say what their major is, there's a 50% chance of someone saying "I'm in that major too!" For me, that was a 5% or less chance of one of my Black friends saying they're majoring in journalism as well.

According to Ferris' 2021 fact book, 818 Black or African American students enrolled in Ferris and only 18 of those people picked journalism as their major. You can imagine that number dwindling if

we considered how many of those students are both Black and female.

So when I'm in my journalism classes, I always feel like a unicorn. I'm always the only Black student in the class, so it seems like I automatically stick out like a sore thumb. It's like the feeling when you're on stage and all eyes are on you.

When certain events happen, I am the only person who is willing to speak on it, as if I'm the only person that sees it as important. For example, Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old Black man and father of a one-year-old son, was killed on Jan. 27 in an act of police brutality, and it was all recorded on a body camera. No one has mentioned it or talked about it besides the day it happened.

Feeling like you're the voice for your people in certain situations is not only a heavy burden to carry but also a lot to take on. When I expressed these things to my mother, she gave me advice that I will always remember.

"You are my child, which automatically makes you unique, but being unique does not make it a bad thing. Use it to your advantage, and always speak your mind, even if you're alone."

My mom reminded me that it's okay to be a unicorn. It's okay to be the only person different in the room, and to never try to be like anyone else or fit in. Everyone always likes unicorns, and when you see one, you never mistake it for being something else.

So, I will always use my voice to speak and advocate for my community. I will take the responsibility to be the voice when people cannot. I will be a unicorn and a proud one at that.



Marlow Losey, Copy Editor

WE SAY BLACK LIVES MATTER, BUT DO THEY REALLY?

We don't like each other.

We have black men not liking black women.

WE HAVE BLACK WOMEN PUTTING EACH OTHER DOWN

Competing trying to find the black men who like us.

We have mothers crying because their sons are dying

NOT ONLY BY THE HANDS OF THE LAW, BUT BY OUR OWN KIND.

We have our brothers going to jail for a piece of change.

We have our brothers harming each other for a piece of change,

BUT WOULD LET OUR SISTERS & MOTHERS WALK IN FEAR EVERY DAY

*We have our brothers gang banging and selling drugs thinking
It's the way because of how the economy pays, but it's not the way.*

*Instead of us fighting each other, **let's fight together.***

Let's fight together outside of when one of us dies by the hand of the law.

WE HAVE A DAILY FIGHT ALREADY BEING BLACK IN AMERICA,

but if we fight together,

WE CAN WIN

BREAKING DOWN THE HISTORY OF JAZZ

A highlight on Black history and the Ferris jazz band concert

Harmony Goodman
Freelance Reporter

Music lovers from all around agree that jazz music stands out from other kinds of classical music. However, without Black composers, jazz would have never existed.

According to the Hancock Historical Museum, jazz is believed to have first appeared in the late 1890s in New Orleans, Louisiana. Jazz music is a combination between classical music styles in America and Europe, as well as old slave folk songs mixed with West African culture. Since then, jazz music has come a long way.

The jazz band's concert features two songs by Black jazz trumpeter and jazz music composer Thaddeus Jones: "Big Dipper" and "Us." Jones was born in Pontiac, Michigan in 1923 and dedicated his life to jazz music.

"Thad Jones is a legend and icon in the jazz world, particularly in the Big Band jazz world," Ferris Jazz Band Director Matt

Moresi said. "His musical writing has been a gold standard for some time, and I try to program it whenever I have a band capable of playing his professional-level music."

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Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

built a great appreciation for music.

"Jazz music specifically is quoted as 'musical soul,'" Lee said. "It is very freeform and cognitively powerful. Jazz is very free-flowing to play."

Because of jazz music's unique style, it quickly gained popularity and has been studied by other composers. It broke the "rules" of music writing at the time. According to the Tri-State Jazz Society, when jazz started to gain more and more popularity, it was known as the "gumbo" of music.

This is said because of all the different "ingredients" that go into the production

of jazz music. Jazz music incorporates elements from working songs from the American South, African American church music, classical music in the New Orleans area, piano rags from the Midwest, blues from the Mississippi area and historical American marches.

The meaning of jazz holds a lot of Black history, especially African American history. Thanks to the hard work and creativity of the founders of the genre, everyone is able to enjoy jazz, rock and blues music, and feel free to be themselves, be proud of how far they've come and, most importantly, appreciate Black history.

CELEBRATING BLACK ARTISTS

Evan Hibbard
Torch Photographer



Scan for Spotify



Scan for Apple Music

PERSPECTIVE OF A BLACK MAN WORKING IN SPORTS

Inspiring the younger generations of Black youth to work in sports

Jeffrey Walker
Sports Reporter

One of the best feelings about working in the sports world as a Black man is being able to inspire younger generations to do the same.

Growing up an athlete, I looked up to players that looked like me. I remember playing outside with my friends, trying to impersonate Kobe Bryant. I would try to do his fade away and yell, "Kobe." I can also remember the times that I would practice shooting outside. My dad and grandpa would be outside with me to help; I would imagine they were Shaquille O'Neal and pass it to them to dunk or lay it up. I can remember playing tackle football with my friends in an open patch of grass. I would try to act like Ray Lewis and do his dance.

I can remember doing these things because they became athletes I looked up to. As I grew up, I would study their highlights. As I

got into high school and played sports, I had a bit of that feeling as we would run sports camps for basketball and football. At those camps, I saw firsthand the impact that I had on the kids. I especially saw the impact on the kids who look like me. The smiles on their faces as they were learning from me was a priceless feeling.

I soon realized that I would not be going pro. However, I loved sports and realized I had watched some of my favorite sports analysts on television for years. Those analysts were men like Stephen A. Smith, Ryan Clark, Shaquille O'Neal and many others, who all inspired me to have a career in sports. So when I got to college, I knew that I wanted to work in sports because it was my passion, and I was inspired by the men who look like me at the elite level.

In college, I have had great opportunities to work and learn about working in athletics and sports journalism. Being able to write stories about sports is such a great feeling because

I am doing something I have dreamed of. Working behind the scenes here at Ferris State University has been a blast. I have seen everything that goes into a game, from how it is set up to how it is put away.

As a Black man, I am glad to be working in athletics and doing what I love and am passionate about. I know that it would not be as easy for me to do these things that I love if not for the Black men and women who paved the way for me and so many others. Not only the Black men and women who worked in the sports world but also the ones who risked their lives to make a change in the world. So that I, a biracial, Black and white man, can also make a difference in the world. So that I can inspire younger generations to pursue their dreams in athletics and the sports world because they see me doing it.

For me, it is important that younger people who share my ethnicity can see and connect with me and want to work in the sports world.

BLACK WOMENS HISTORY MATTERS TOO

Students and faculty speak on an overlooked perspective

Kylah Robinson
Culture Reporter

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Thurgood Marshall are the main individuals that are recognized during Black History Month. As much as we love to celebrate these three heroes, we also have to remember the Black women in the world who made a difference.

When people think of civil rights activists, male activists often make up a majority of the list. Aside from Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat in favor of a white passenger on a bus, female activists are rarely mentioned. Black women throughout history have done so much for the Black community and have inspired millions of people around the world, yet they don't get nearly as much recognition as the men.

Social work sophomore and Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance President Samara Tyus believes that the community needs to do better at promoting Black women during Black History Month. Tyus trusts that this can happen by learning the

importance of women's history and being an ally to the Black community.

"They need to talk about why Black History Month is important and the different issues that Black women are facing compared to those of white women, Black men and everyone else," Tyus said.

Tyus is doing her part in recognizing the women in her past, as Ida B. Wells is the woman who inspires her because of her activism in the anti-lynching campaigns and for her role in the woman's suffrage movement.

"Her determination to continue to be an advocate for Black women and men despite the issues she faced [by] being a Black woman during that time inspires me as a leader in the FMLA to keep advocating for other Black women on campus and in the community," Tyus said. "Seeing the impact she had on the civil rights and suffragist movements makes me feel like I could do the same."

Criminal justice freshman Laruen James's future career aligns with Harriet Tubman's goals and wishes. Tubman's goals were for the betterment of the lives

of Black people and for them to achieve their freedom. James wishes to be a lawyer to free her people from the system that falsely accuses them and work to change the system for the better.

"I think we suffer in silence, and we also celebrate in silence"

Although Black History Month is about celebrating the accomplishments of key figures in African American history, there is more to it than just celebrating and giving credit to our heroes. African American individuals have gone through trials and tribulations so much that people forget to bring these hard journeys to light, instead choosing to only celebrate the happy memories of Black history.

Dr. Kasey Thompson sees Black history as a time to do the opposite. Thompson believes that society should acknowledge past as well as present contributions that her ancestors have made before people celebrate. With the new generation having so many ways of communication, it makes it easier to get lost in the celebration.

"I think we suffer in silence, and we also celebrate in silence," Thompson said. "Because of that dynamic, it just makes it easier not to recognize it. It also is the reason why we're having this conversation today."

Black History Month is a time for acknowledgment, learning, standing up for the things one believes in and empowering Black men and women.

Tyus and James both presume that to empower Black women, society needs to uplift Black women for their work, natural beauty and actions. To make sure they feel seen and, most importantly, heard. The men in our past are always important to acknowledge. However, we must remember it was a woman who gave birth to that man for history to be made.



Graphic by : Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

THE JIM CROW MUSEUM

The curator and founder David Pilgrim speaks on the past, present, and future of the museum

Jonathen Hart
News Reporter

WHY WAS THE JIM CROW MUSEUM MADE?

I spent more than four decades collecting segregation-related objects and everyday objects that mocked and belittled African Americans. I collected these items because I believed that objects, even hateful ones, can be used as teaching tools. In the mid-1990s, I donated the artifacts to Ferris State University, where I served as a sociology professor. Later, we used the collection to create the Jim Crow Museum. Today the museum is the largest collection of publicly accessible racist objects in the United States. Our tagline doubles as our vision: “Using objects of intolerance to teach tolerance and promote social justice.”

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MUSEUM?

Woodbridge Nathan Ferris, the founder of our university, was committed to making this world better. That is a commitment shared by and lived out in the work of the Jim Crow Museum. We take objects that were meant for harm, contextualize their role in our nation’s past, and use them to facilitate the conversations that will help us, Americans, avoid old mistakes. The museum is my life’s work, but more importantly, it is an academic resource for Ferris students and students from across the nation—and it is an anti-racism resource for people and organizations working to create a more just society.

WHAT WAS THE TIMELINE FOR BUILDING IT AND GETTING IT SET UP?

In 2012, we opened the current iteration of the Jim Crow Museum on the lower level of the FLITE building. When we opened, we had about 8,000 objects on display. Today, the museum has more than 20,000 objects, and thousands of objects are added each year.

THERE ARE RUMORS OF A NEW BUILDING, WOULD YOU GUYS EXPAND ON THE MUSEUM?

The creation of a new Jim Crow Museum is a top priority in the University’s Master Plan. We are in the fundraising stage and hope to break ground in a couple of years.

WHERE IS THE NEW BUILDING GOING TO BE PLACED?

The new museum will be located at the entrance to Ferris State University. That will send a powerful message about the University’s commitment to inclusion, equity, and racial justice. It will echo the work of our founder, Woodbridge Nathan Ferris, who was committed to racial justice long before it was normative—or even safe to live those ideals.

WHY IS THE BUILDING BEING MOVED?

Our collection has outgrown the current space—and the current facility does not allow us to be good stewards of the objects that have been entrusted to us. We are located on the lower level of a building that is susceptible to flooding. A recent flood destroyed some of the objects that I collected decades ago.

It will be fully equipped to properly handle the entire collection, including a state-of-the-art archive and research component. The centerpiece of the new building will be a 7,500-square-foot permanent exhibit dedicated to the large-scale display and interpretation of the most compelling museum assets. We will use exhibits to tell the story of Jim Crow and civil rights in the North. We will show how African Americans used achievements and activism to push back against Jim Crow. And, we will tell the stories of individuals, from all races, who spent their lives fighting against injustice.



Photo courtesy of Ferris State University



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

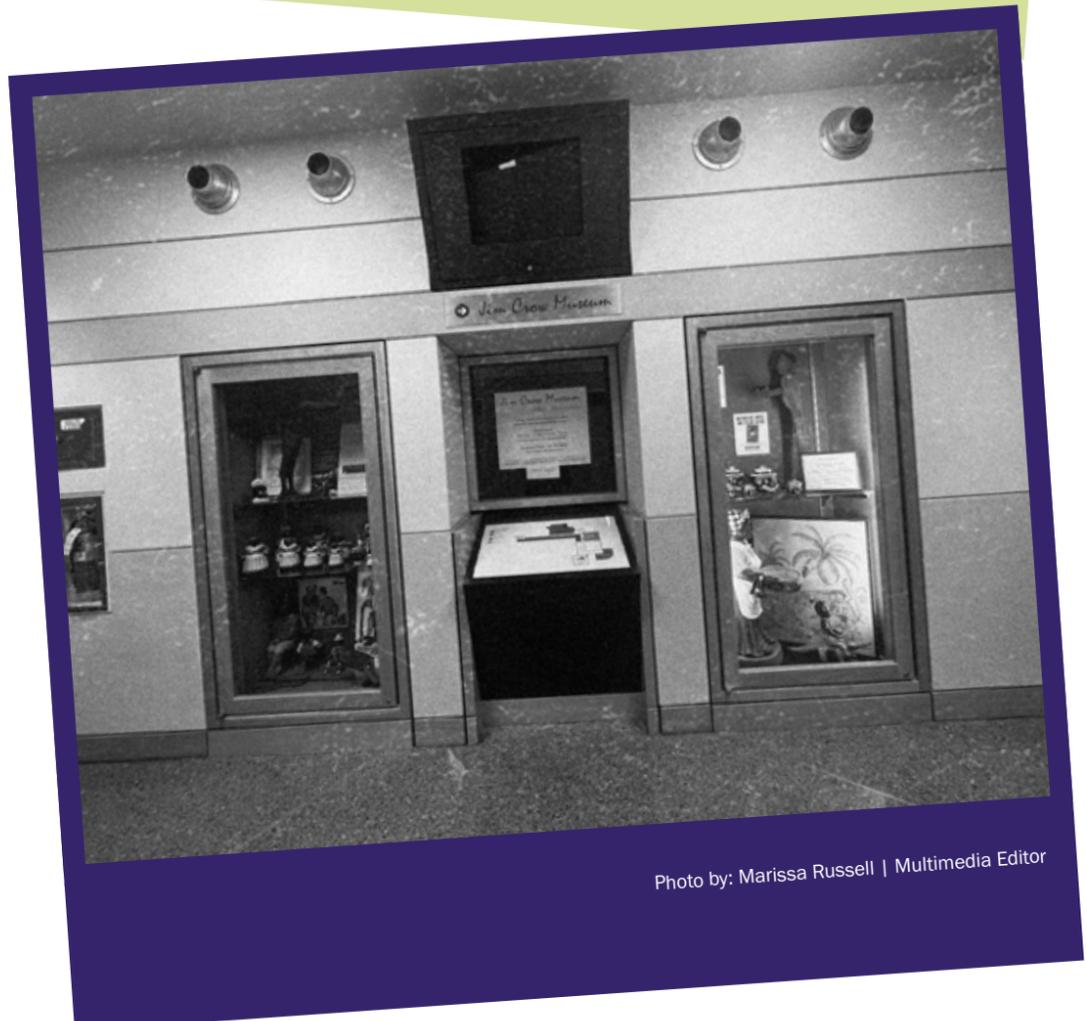


Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Sports

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

Hockey in his blood



Photo courtesy of Bob Daniels.

Bob Daniels visits Italy during the summer of 2022 with his three children (Left to right: Pete, Sara, Jenna, Bob).

How hockey shaped Bob Daniels' life and helped him through trying times

Brody Keiser
Sports Editor

Bob Daniels has 575 career losses as the head coach of Bulldog hockey. One of those losses stands out from the rest.

The Bulldogs lost to Michigan State on Nov. 13, 2021, after leading 3-1 late in the third period. The loss made Daniels really upset, the first time in a long time he felt that way following a loss.

That loss was also three years after his wife died.

Leslie Daniels died from cancer in April, 2018. Two things were key for Bob as he grieved the loss of his wife: hockey and family.

"The rink was a relief," Bob said. "During practice, it was a way to get my mind off other things that came into play... Hockey was a good distraction during that time period, a really healthy one."

Bob also relied on his youngest daughter, Sara Daniels, who was a junior in high school at the time of her mother's death.

"While my dad and I were always close, living through losing someone you love mutually makes you even closer," Sara said. "My last two years of high school were a lot of me and my dad being a good team and getting through it together. It brought us even closer to lose someone together and learn how to live through grief together."

It took over three years, but following Ferris' loss to Michigan State, Bob noticed a big change in himself.

"The one time I knew I was starting to get back to myself was when I got really upset after a loss," Bob said. "There was a time where I didn't have that emotion anymore. It was just, 'Okay we lost, now

it's onto the next thing.' All of the sudden, I was back to being very upset. It felt good to care again that much."

Hockey and family were always important for Bob, and he needed both during one of the most difficult times of his life.

Surrounded by hockey

Bob grew up around hockey. His brother played, his sister figure skated and his father coached. At five years old, Bob started playing hockey, expecting even then to one day be a coach.

Years later, he played at Michigan State University for Ron Mason, the fourth all-time winningest coach in college hockey history. Bob played in only one game during three seasons under Mason. He was okay with that, though, because he knew he was learning from a great coach.

Without interest in coaching professionally, Bob focused on collegiate coaching. He loved the "vibrant" feel of college campuses and all the opportunities they offered. College coaches also had one thing professional coaches did not: stability.

"In hockey, particularly in the professionals, you're hired and the clock starts ticking and you're going to get fired, almost invariably," Bob said. "If you decide you're going to have a family and you want your kids to be rooted in an area... that would be very disruptive."

Bob got his master's degree as a graduate assistant from Miami University before moving to the University of Illinois-Chicago as an assistant coach from 1987-1989. He quickly found that the city life was not for him, instead believing that a small town atmosphere was more his style. When a position opened at Ferris, he jumped on

the opportunity.

Leslie loved the city, but Bob "dragged her" to Big Rapids, where they both fell in love with the community and Ferris.

Starting his family

Soon after moving to Big Rapids, Bob and Leslie started a family. Their three children also fell in love with the area.

Bob's oldest daughter, Jenna Daniels, came to Ferris to compete on the track and cross-country teams. Pete Daniels, Bob's middle child and only son, attended Ferris and earned degrees in finance and accounting. Sara, the youngest Daniels child, went to Central Michigan University on a full-ride scholarship and loved spending time with her dad at the hockey rink as a kid.

"I remember finger painting in his office while he worked," Sara said. "I loved going to work with him or to games with him... A lot of our relationship when I was young centered on hockey even though I didn't play. It was really fun."

All three of Bob's children were athletes in high school. Jenna ran cross country and track. Pete golfed and played hockey. Sara played tennis and soccer and was also a member of the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony. Watching his kids pursue their passions, athletic or otherwise, was a great pleasure for Bob. Sara recalls her dad always being her biggest supporter.

"I remember the day I decided to play tennis," Sara said, "Without questions asked, he bought a tennis racquet for me, a pair of tennis shoes for me and we went out and practiced together. Even if it was something he didn't have experience in or personal interest in, the most important

thing for him was that I was happy."

Bob found all the sports his kids played to be "different animals" than hockey. None of the fans spent time yelling at the athletes or the referees; they wanted everyone to succeed.

To this day, Bob is close with his children. He hopes to go to Okinawa, Japan to spend time with Jenna while she is stationed there as a dentist in the Navy. He also talks to Sara on the phone every day.

Finding success

In his 31st season with the Bulldogs, Bob is the longest tenured and all-time winningest coach in Ferris hockey history.

The Bulldogs won 21 games and appeared in the CCHA semifinal during the 1992-93 season, Bob's first as head coach. On March 4, 2000, he recorded his 120th Bulldog victory, the most in Ferris hockey history.

In the 2011-12 season, Bob guided the Bulldogs to the program's first ever Frozen Four appearance and a subsequent appearance in the national title game. He was chosen as the CCHA and National Coach of the Year.

The Bulldogs finished the 2002-03 season 31-10-1, the best record in program history. Ferris won the CCHA Regular Season Championship and played for the west regional title in the NCAA Tournament. Bob was both the CCHA and National Coach of the Year.

Bob has also found success in building strong relationships with his players. Junior goaltender Logan Stein feels he has a

Daniels | see page 12

Both basketball teams top Lake State

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

Bulldog basketball traveled to Lake State on Saturday, and both the men's and women's teams recorded wins.

On the women's side, the Bulldogs earned their 15th win of the season, virtue of a 75-67 road victory against the Lakers on Saturday.

Ferris (15-10) earned their first win since falling in two close home games last week and completed the season sweep against Lake Superior State for the sixth year in row, making it 12 wins against the Lakers since 2017.

"It feels good to finally be back in the win column," senior Malloory McCartney said. "We learned a lot, but we're happy to be back where we should be."

Head coach Kurt Westendorp's squad got off to a slow start, trailing the Lakers 19-13 after the opening quarter. The Bulldogs used four three-pointers in the second quarter to take a 35-33 lead going into halftime.

The Lakers had a one-point lead after the third quarter, but Ferris closed out the game on a 19-10 run to earn the victory.

"We controlled the pace and we were getting great shots," McCartney said. "It always makes it easier when you have a player [like] Chloe Idoni in the paint. If we ever go into little droughts on offense, we know we can run a play, get the ball inside to her and she'll go get us one."

Idoni led with 25 points, followed by Kenzie Bowers with 15

and Elle Irwin with 13.

McCartney had seven assists for the Bulldogs, which now puts her at 500 in her career as a Bulldog. She also added a team high of four steals, while Irwin recorded three blocks.

With her performance, McCartney is now only one rebound away from being the first Bulldog in recent memory to reach 1,000 points, 500 rebounds and 500 assists in her career.

"I always just want to get the win," McCartney said. "Focusing on winning obviously helps your individual goals, so I'm very happy and very blessed to be able to do it. None of it means a lot, but it's always cool when that stuff comes."

Saturday's win moves the Bulldogs to 8-8 in GLIAC play, only one and a half games behind Northern Michigan for the fifth spot in the conference standings. Ferris will finish off the regular season with a west Michigan weekend facing bottom-ranked Davenport on Thursday and then top-ranked Grand Valley State for Saturday's finale. The Bulldogs will then await the seeding for the upcoming GLIAC tournament, slated to begin on Wednesday, March 1.

For the men, they beat Lake State 72-58. This game marked revenge against the Lakers, as they beat Ferris in Big Rapids on Jan. 7 and ended the Bulldog's five game win streak. The loss sparked the team to go 10-1 in their next 11 games, outscoring opponents 893-748 in the process. It's the third time that



Photo by: Kevin McDermott | Ferris Athletics Photographer

Mallory McCartney drives to the basket during Ferris' 81-57 victory over Lake State in Big Rapids Jan. 7. The Bulldogs beat Lake State Feb. 18 to complete the season sweep over the Lakers.

the Bulldogs won in a rematch situation.

Thanks to his best performance of the season, sophomore Solomon Oraegbu led Ferris in all facets of scoring during the win. He was 15-25 from the field, 3-4 from the three point line and 5-5 from the charity stripe. His 38 points were a season high.

"Solomon's that type of player," head coach Andy Bronkema said. "He was incredible today."

Halfway through the first half, it was all Lake State as they jumped out to a near ten point

lead. However, the Bulldogs went to halftime with a 30-27 point lead.

Other than Oraegbu, Ben Davidson was the only other player on the team to reach double digits, scoring ten points. Ferris shot 49% from the floor and 6-of-15 for three's. Defensively, the Bulldogs out rebounded the Lakers 45-37 and had 34 points inside the paint for the day.

Lake State was only one game behind the Bulldogs coming into the Saturday game. However, with the Ferris win, the Bulldogs now

share the top spot in the GLIAC with Wisconsin Parkside and Northern Michigan and hold the tiebreaker with a 21-6 overall record.

The final bouts of the regular season are coming up this weekend. The Bulldogs will go on the road to play against Davenport on Thursday before meeting arch-rival Grand Valley on Saturday and closing out the season.

Joseph Nagy contributed to the reporting of this article.

Daniels

Continued from page 11

great relationship with Bob. Stein appreciates the way Bob has helped him mature as both a hockey player and a person.

Recent struggles

COVID-19 had a drastic impact on many programs across the country, and Ferris was no exception. However, Bob feels the Bulldogs started to struggle before COVID-19 plagued the 2020 season.

Even before Leslie died in 2018, Bob often felt distracted as she battled cancer for over two years. Hockey was difficult during this time, and the Bulldogs went 13-19-5 and 14-23-1 in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons, respectively. This was after Ferris finished 20-15-6 in the 2015-16 season.

Bob kept coaching while Leslie fought cancer. He was thankful for his coaching staff, as they "picked up the slack" while he was distracted. He also appreciated that Ferris, specifically President David Eisler and Athletic Director Perk Weisenburger, understood his situation and gave him a lot of grace. Bob also credited the

Blueline Club boosters for their great work with the hockey program.

"When you're all the sudden missing meetings and distracted, that club is looking for someone to give them a vision," Bob said. "You don't have anyone at the wheel all of a sudden."

Even with the university on Bob's side, he could still feel the program trending downwards. That trend continued when COVID-19 struck.

"The COVID year impacted us so immensely," Bob said. "We had a ton of freshmen. Those kids were not in the kind of shape where they could afford to take a week off under quarantine. We were rolling out a beer league team. We were out of shape, and we were fat."

Off the ice, COVID-19 affected the players emotionally and socially. Stein, a freshman at the time, said having a life outside of hockey was difficult.

The Bulldogs struggled to a 1-23-1 record in the 2020-21 season before making a big jump in the win column for the 2021-22 season, finishing at 11-24-1. In the 2022-23 season, the Bulldogs currently sit at 12-16-4 and are competing for home ice in the CCHA playoffs with one weekend left in the regular season.

Athletics Communications Associate

and Ferris Hockey Sports Information Director Harrison Watt greatly respects Bob for how he was able to push through difficult times and work to get the program back on the right track.

"It gives me more respect for him with all the things he's been through and overcome, especially when you talk about the team going into a bit of a dive," Watt said. "I've seen the highs. I've seen the lowest of lows. He doesn't change; he's very constant. That's one thing I really respect about him."

Bob sometimes found the time commitment as a collegiate coach difficult. This was made even more challenging after Leslie's passing, as Sara was still in high school, and Bob did not want to miss any of her events.

With the stresses that come as a college head coach, Bob had to find things that worked as stress relievers. He does that through hobbies, which include golfing, boating, road biking, traveling and hiking. With so many hobbies, Bob said he often faces the problem of not having enough free time to enjoy them all.

"I will one day, but that day isn't here," Bob said.

As it turns out, that day might be fast approaching.

What's next?

Where does Bob see himself five years from now?

"Retired, probably," Bob said. "I don't know if I'll be retired, retired. There might be something else out there I want to dabble in. It might be hockey, or it might be something else... Maybe I'll just come around the arena and second guess the coach [and] say things like 'What's wrong with your power play?' I'll be like all the other fans."

One thing is certain, before he leaves Ferris, he wants to make sure the program is performing more like it did between the early 2000s and 2016. He thinks they are close to that level, and he would love to add another couple of CCHA Championships and NCAA tournament appearances before his time at Ferris is done.

He's achieved a lot, overcome even more and stayed loyal to Big Rapids and Ferris for over three decades. Even as the clock ticks toward Bob Daniels' retirement from Ferris hockey, the Bulldog legend hopes to leave an even stronger legacy for the community and people he loves.

SCORECARD

Hockey

Feb. 17 - Northern Michigan 9, Ferris 2

Feb. 18 - Northern Michigan 8, Ferris 3

Softball

Feb. 17-19 - Music City Invitational in Smyrna, Tennessee (1-4 record)

Track and Field

Feb. 17 - SVSU Tune-up Meet - Danae Feldpausch first in 800 meters, Donis Harris second in mile run

Deng Reng re-injures knee



Photo by: Ben Amato | Ferris Athletics Photographer

Deng Reng fights for a loose ball during Ferris' 101-85 victory over Findlay on Dec. 19. Reng would play in the Bulldogs' next two games before re-injuring his knee.

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

Deng Reng was playing well this season before his scars of the past resurfaced when he tore his ACL again, causing him to require surgery and be sidelined for the rest of the season.

While Reng focuses on rehab, he will be on the bench supporting his teammates.

"[I'm] trying to uplift everybody and get us going," Reng said. "I want us all to be really strong and just continue to grow and build."

This injury comes after Reng missed all of last season as well. Before preseason play began last year, Reng tore his ACL, MCL and LCL, which required surgery.

Reng had also been injured during the start of the COVID-19 season. He decided that he would get surgery to clean up his patellar tendon.

It has been a tough road to recovery for Reng, as he's been injured for most of his college career.

"That whole process was just really stressful," Reng said. "I've never missed a whole season of basketball before, and I really had to find things that I enjoy doing outside of basketball, and there wasn't really much that I [liked] doing other than going to a

gym and just getting some shots up."

Reng's recovery was not always easy, but support from his family, teammates and coaches helped him.

"Everybody sees Deng as like the star player at our house," Kar Reng, Deng's older brother, said. "We just wanted to keep him... positive. We always gave him... words of encouragement that this was like a minor setback for a major comeback, which he got to like and grew to... fall in love with."

While on the bench all last season, Deng encouraged his teammates and always showed great energy.

"He was awesome," assistant coach Josh Fleming said. "He was always in the huddle. He was always giving feedback and... giving advice to his teammates."

After missing the 2021 basketball season due to a knee injury, Deng returned to the court and was looking to help his team to a GLIAC championship.

The 6'6 redshirt sophomore forward averaged 5.5 points and shot 45% from the field as a freshman.

"It just really gave me the confidence that I needed... going forward with the season, and, you know, I did pretty good, which

was enough to help the team and win the GLIAC championship," Deng said about his play during his freshman season.

With time off from his injuries, Deng believes he has improved his game while on the bench because he has seen a different perspective.

The work that Deng has put in during his injury process comes as no surprise to those that know him.

"Deng is a very hard worker, so he puts in the work, and I'm ready to see him reap the benefits of all that work," former teammate and Bulldog Dorian Aluyi said.

Deng's return to the court was much needed this season, as the Bulldogs saw many players graduate last season. Stepping into a larger role coming back, all of Deng's work had been paying

off, as he found himself back on the court playing good minutes this season.

Throughout 14 games this season, Deng helped the Bulldogs to a 10-4 overall record and a 2-2 record in GLIAC play on the season. Deng appeared in 13 games and started in eight this season, averaging 9.7 points and four rebounds while shooting 57.7% from the field, 47.1% from three-point range and 75.7% from the free-throw line in 19.3 minutes per game.

"Coming off the bench or starting," Fleming said, "to have somebody with that type of energy [and] putting forth that type of effort on every play... Deng's the type of guy that never seems like he's tired... He's always everywhere on the court."

As the Bulldogs look to win a GLIAC championship, Deng had a

big role to play on this team this season.

After his hiatus, Deng was looking to make an impact.

"I have a lot of goals," Deng said. "One is trying to make first-team all-conference defensive player. I think the main one is just trying to win the championship at the end of the year. I think that will be the icing on the cake."

Due to his injury this season, he will miss the opportunity to be on the court to accomplish those goals.

The team is 21-6 on the season and 12-4 in GLIAC play and holds the first place in the GLIAC standings.

Deng still wants to help this team win a championship, even though now it means helping from off the court.

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Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

Building blocks of a Ferris legacy

Ferris alumni Scott and Sarah Hinkley share their love story



Photo provided by the Hinkley's

Sarah and Scott Hinkley at the optometry "Eye Ball" in November 2000.

Harmony Goodman
Freelance Reporter

The Ferris Foundation, located in the Prakken Building, has a collection of bricks from dorm halls that the university has torn down, which some Ferris alumni are putting to good use.

A poll done by the Healthy Journal states that 15% of married couples met their spouse in college. Ferris optometry professor and Vision Rehabilitation Services Chief Sarah Hinkley and her husband, Scott Hinkley, who works in Ferris' facilities management and is Ferris' current maintenance management system administrator, are a part of this 15%.

Sarah and Scott met during their freshman year in Helen Hall, which was Ferris' honors hall in 1997. They were both a part of the first running year of the Ferris honors program. Their dorm rooms were just a few doors away from one another.

At the beginning of their freshman year, the Ferris Faculty Association went on strike, which resulted in students not having class for the first few days. It was within this first week that both Sarah and Scott decided to spend their free time socializing on their dorm floor. They ended

up in the same friend group, and, after a few weeks, their love story began.

With Ferris' reputation for optometry and the help of scholarship aid, Sarah decided Ferris was the school for her. Scott grew up in Adrian, Michigan and chose Ferris because it checked all three of his boxes in what he was looking for in a school.

As the two were both in the honors program, they were required to attend cultural enrichment events. They took the opportunity to go to these events together and call it a date. When they weren't going to performing arts events, they showed their Bulldog spirit at hockey and basketball games.

"They were free or cheap [and] good entertainment," Sarah said. "[We went to] some really good musical performances and plays."

Sarah and Scott are both Catholic and were in a student group together where they'd go to church and Sunday dinners. Despite the couple being on different career paths, they were able to spend a lot of time together because of their shared interests.

"We had a lot in common in terms of our faith and our family backgrounds and our



Photo provided by the Hinkley's

The couple and their three children.

enjoyment of the smaller community of Big Rapids," Sarah said.

Throughout the years at Ferris, their love only grew. They commemorated this love in June of 2002, when they tied the knot and got married shortly after Scott graduated. When Sarah finished up her schooling and graduated in 2004, she moved to Ohio to be with Scott. The couple spent seven years in Ohio, where Sarah had her own practice. Though it wasn't the plan for them to move back to Big Rapids, a job opportunity at Ferris arose for Sarah.

"We've always had a soft spot for the Big Rapids area," Sarah said. "[We] really like the community, and the pace of life has a laid back life style."

The couple has three children and would love for them to build onto their Ferris legacy. Though college may seem far away for the young kids, the two oldest are already interested in their parents alma mater, so long as Ferris has the programs to support their career paths.

In 2015, a little over a decade after the two got married, Helen Hall was set to be torn down.

"I work in facilities, so I knew the building was coming down," Scott said. "I knew in the past they had given

opportunities for people to come and get bricks from some of the previous dorms that went down."

Scott was quick to email MaryKay Maclver, the associate director for Advancement and Prospect Management. Scott told Maclver that the building held a lot of sentimental value to both him and Sarah. He told Maclver that they were thinking of using some bricks from Helen Hall to create a garden walkway or a campfire ring in their backyard.

"The eventual goal is a good story to talk about when you're sitting around the campfire," Scott said.

MaryKay was able to give Sarah and Scott enough bricks to move forward with this project. Unfortunately, the project has not been started because the pair moved houses shortly after receiving the bricks. They are hopeful to get around to starting and completing the project soon.

Giuliana Denicolo contributed to the writing of this article.

Michigan Made College Tour's fifth stop

'It's so much more than rap,' Nick LaVelle said

Blase Gapinski
Freelance Reporter

For over three hours, around 400 students moshed in Williams Auditorium to appreciate a new sound brought to campus by the Michigan Made College Tour.

On Friday, Feb. 17, Truu Colors Entertainment's Michigan Made College Tour made its fifth stop at Ferris. This tour features YN Jay, Skilla Baby and other up and coming Michigan rappers.

At 7 p.m. the show started with tour

host Toheeb taking the floor. His presence set the tone for the night. Students rushed their way through the mob to try and get a spot at the front of the auditorium. Each performer brought something unique to the stage, keeping the crowd's energy high. Other performers included Louie Ray, MylesxDope, Big Jungle and Kenyatta Rashon.

Nick LaVelle, Truu Colors Entertainment's owner and tour organizer, believes giving these performers a platform and an audience is crucial to establishing the energy of the show.

"I wanted to take artists that have a smaller audience, put them in front of a crowd while on stage with other artists and see what they can do with it," LaVelle said. "It's rewarding to see the smiles on the smaller performer's faces because, at the end of the day, it's about making them happy along with the crowd."

LaVelle wanted to devote a whole tour to Michigan universities, so the show was not limited to one school. It also gives students the chance to enjoy a new demographic of live music at a low price.

The Michigan Made College Tour also

partnered up with Score Gold, a student resource network, to randomly select two full-time college students at each show. The two students will receive a textbook scholarship to help them out financially for the next semester.

Students enjoyed their time and danced with intensity. A traditional mosh pit even opened up when Skilla Baby threw his sweatshirt into the crowd. The show carried on until 10:45 p.m. Skilla Baby eventually called the audience on stage,

MICHIGAN MADE
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Photo by: Blase Gapinski | Freelance Reporter

YN Jay hypes up the crowd at Williams Auditorium as he performs his song "Triple S."



Photo by: Blase Gapinski | Freelance Reporter

Toheeb, Michigan Made College Tour's host, captured the audience's attention with his unique flow and dancing.

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Photo by: Blase Gapinski | Freelance Reporter

Skilla Baby called the crowd on stage to end the night off with one final song.

MICHIGAN MADE

Continued from page 15

where everyone joined him to end the night with one final song.

LaVelle has been planning the tour since October and explained how difficult it has been to coordinate with each university and to plan around the artist's schedules.

"It's been a battle, an up and down roller coaster process," LaVelle said. "It has not been smooth or easy at all. I have had universities pull out a day before the show after months of planning and even universities try to breach our already signed contracts. It gets discouraging."

According to LaVelle, these last minute changes seem to be racially motivated, and when planning for a tour like this, it is something he has to look out for.

"I have dealt with a lot of prejudice and indirect racism," LaVelle said. "When you have a lot of urban students and Black students, and that's the primary target market, a lot of these universities fear that. They

fear all of us together in a concentrated area. Believe it or not, we haven't had one issue at any event.

But when it comes to planning it, that's the stuff I have to look into."

Although LaVelle has experienced some racial discrepancies, he is devoted to bringing the community together through music and proving that urban events can work.

"We can bring everyone together," LaVelle said. "These event turnouts have been more than just African Americans. All races have come out, and that's been the biggest draw from this whole tour. We're showing them the target market isn't just for Black people, it's for everybody. It's so much more than rap."

The Michigan Made College Tour's final stop at Michigan State University, which was scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 18, has been postponed. For updates, ticket inquiries and more, visit the Michigan Made College Tour website.



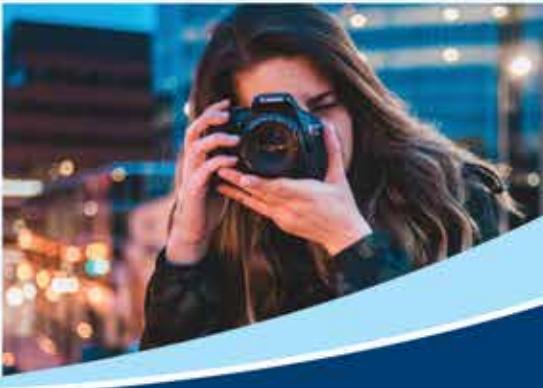
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