

Festival of the Arts concludes with Black History Month tribute

Concert band and chamber orchestra perform with young guest composer

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Black History Month closed to the tune of triumphant trumpets, chilling chimes and presidential spoken word on Sunday.

The finale of Big Rapids' 16th annual Festival of the Arts coincided with the closing weekend of a passionately celebrated month on Ferris' campus. Community members of all ages gathered on and off stage at Williams Auditorium for a collaborative tribute to Black composers.

Ferris' West Central concert band and chamber orchestra performed together with Daniel Dade, a 24-year-old guest composer.

"It's really cool to see a community come together to create music. You don't really see that often and you don't see bands this good doing that," Dade said. He traveled to Big Rapids to conduct his song "Attack of the Toy Planes." Dade jogged up the stage stairs in a blue floral suit, further emphasizing his youth, before explaining the wide significance of the piece.

What starts out with an uplifting melody, evoking imagery of children playing with toys, soon turns dark. Military-style marching drums and pointed piccolo notes tensed the attentive audience. The planes and their inherent danger had become

real in the piece. Only periodic flu-season coughs and sneezes from audience members could pull the listener out of Dade's musical world.

Dr. Dale Skornia took a break from directing the chamber orchestra to play alto saxophone on the piece. Both Dade's musicality and the quick transitions from the orchestra pit to center stage took Skornia's breath away.

"He brought what he felt the piece [meant] to him. His piece is fun to play anyway, but it was even more fun with him. That's what music is all about," Skornia said.

Dade, a 2021 Michigan State University graduate, is in his second year of teaching choral music at Grand Ledge High School near Lansing. His original compositions have been performed by university and military concert bands and choirs across the country.

Humanities Chair, music professor and concert band director Dr. Richard Scott Cohen sees collaboration as one of the greatest joys in music. He thoroughly enjoyed working with Dade.

"It was a really, really good opportunity. I think you're going to hear a lot of good things about this young man as time goes by. It's wonderful," Cohen said.

Skornia and Cohen expanded their own musical horizons through research to select all



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Bill Pink read the Gettysburg Address as Ferris West Central concert band and chamber orchestra teamed up to play a moving musical tribute.

nine pieces performed on Sunday. The arrangements ranged from traditional folk music to a compilation of jazz legend Duke Ellington's greatest works.

"We did a lot of research of music, some by composers of African descent, and we became familiar with people that we had not been familiar with," Cohen said. "So that was kind of exciting. And then looking around for

other pieces, we came across the music by our featured composer, Daniel Dade."

The show concluded with the rousing "Lincoln at Gettysburg," featuring narration from Ferris' own President Bill Pink. The concert band and chamber orchestra played together on this piece inspired by the Gettysburg Address.

Any active Ferris student is familiar with Pink's voice. In contrast to his typical lighthearted and personable demeanor, the president recited Lincoln's words with a booming voice and diplomatic articulation.

Pink was pleased to participate in a creative performance for Black History Month, something that is rarely presented to him during his usual executive work.

"This has been a great month for not only our Black History Month celebrations, but also for Ferris State and our involvement in the Festival of the Arts," Pink said. "I think it's interesting, and I think very appropriate for us to end this month with a combination of both."

The president made sure to thank the student performers for their contributions to this university. Information security intelligence sophomore Christian Smith, one of the few people of

color on the stage, was proud of his performance on the upright bass.

"I thought it was a really neat way to end the month," Smith said. "Personally, I probably will continue to look into these composers. It's so easy to get obsessed with big names like Bach and Beethoven. Actually learning about some of the more niche areas that we don't really talk about a lot in music history, I thought that was really cool."

One audience member came to support her friend in the percussion section and may have made a new musical friend at the show. Gianna Finch, a high school student at Niles New Tech Academy, exchanged emails with the guest composer Dade to further discuss the real themes of "Attack of the Toy Planes."

"I loved [the concert]," Finch said. "I like listening to music, thinking about what could be going on behind the producers' mind."

Finch plans to join Ferris' orchestra as a freshman in the fall of 2023.

Visit fsutorch.com to read previous coverage of Black History Month and Festival of the Arts events.



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Clad in a shiny blue suit 24-year-old Daniel Dade guest directed his own piece on Sunday.

News

Jessica Oakes | News Editor | oakesj3@ferris.edu

Alumni Spotlight: Barrett Jones

A conversation with the Super Bowl Bulldog



Photo courtesy of Barrett Jones

Jones still vividly recalls the electric energy of the stadium and suggests it won't be soon forgotten.

Jonathen Hart | Marissa Russell
News Reporter, Multimedia Editor

When the Kansas City Chiefs won Super Bowl LVII, Ferris alumnus Barrett Jones basked from the sidelines to watch the confetti fall.

The young Ferris alumnus was able to kick start his career with the National Football League less than two years after graduating with a degree in sports communication. Even though Jones didn't come from a media arts or D1 school, that didn't stop him from working at the biggest football game of the year.

BEHIND THE LENS OF THE NFL

Jones was one of three interns accepted by the NFL Films production team, the most they have had since COVID-19 started. The first few weeks on the team were dedicated to learning about the NFL systems and organizing equipment.

Interns worked primarily as assistants and could not film professional games. They still used the \$60,000 cameras to shoot local New Jersey high school football games. Jones was lucky enough that some of the cinematographers would let him shoot pregame before NFL games.

The NFL Films team flew to Arizona one week before the Super Bowl. Jones worked on various projects throughout the week with top athletes to prepare for the biggest game of the year. It didn't hit Jones until Saturday night what this trip really meant for his career and for himself.

"We went out [to] kind of like our department dinner, and I was like, 'Oh, we're going to get to work the Super Bowl tomorrow,'" Jones said. "Getting to work one of the best Super Bowls in the past years was unmatched. For me and my cameraman to walk down on the field, that's stuff you're not going to forget. It was pretty special."

Although Jones didn't make it to the Super Bowl as a player, he felt fulfilled with his experience.

"When the NFL comes knocking on your door, you would be crazy not to keep it open for them."

"The whole experience was insane," Jones said. "I was ecstatic. We walked out there for pregame, and you can feel the energy building. I still get chills. I don't know if this is like conditioning, but I still get chills from the national anthem being sung... You always dream about going to the Super Bowl... Hopefully that's not my last, but if it is, I am glad my story was able to come full circle."

Jones' career with the NFL might not have happened if he hadn't taken a media class to fill a credit.

FINDING A NEW PASSION

Jones started his college career playing football for Alma College while majoring in political science. He stayed at Alma for two years before a concussion ended his athletic career. While it was hard to walk

away from the field, he knew that he had to stay around the game.

On a whim, Jones took a class about basic media and fell in love. As a D3 school, Alma didn't have enough resources, so Jones decided to transfer to Ferris to start his junior year studying sports communication and multimedia journalism. This is where he met Rob Bently.

Bently, who is the associate athletic director, became Jones' boss when he started making videos for the Ferris Athletics department. Through the freedom that Bently gave Jones, he was able to grow as a creator and get to where he is today.

Due to the high demand for videographers, Jones and Bently spent a lot of time together at Ferris and on the road. Even though Jones was still a full-time student working a part time job, he still dedicated most of his time to creating content.

"His work ethic was stronger than a majority of the student workers we typically have," Bently said. "He spent countless hours both shooting and editing video content along with other duties. He ranked up there with some of the highest caliber students we have had due to his strong passion for being the best he could be."

In order to achieve the goal of filming Ferris football, Jones delayed his graduation by one semester. His chance to film his senior year was one of the many things taken away by the pandemic. All the long hours paid off when Jones was asked to travel with the football team in 2021 for the national championship game.

Being the only student on the field for Ferris Athletics, Jones stepped up to the challenge. Little did he know this wouldn't be the last time he stood on the field after

a major football game, surrounded by excited fans and falling confetti.

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

As the excitement from winning the national championship game subsided, Jones had to figure out what was next for him. Since he split up his last semester, it was an odd time to find a job, as most professional teams were already fully staffed.

While applying for university jobs, he came across an internship with NFL Films. Originally Jones didn't know much about the position other than who they were and what they were responsible for. He just knew he wanted to "throw [his] hat into the ring."

Jones had applied for this internship in late February and didn't hear back until June. By that time Jones had already taken a job with Minnesota Duluth's production team. Two days before he packed his bags to start his new life, he got a call about doing a virtual interview. Thinking he bombed the interview, Jones headed out to Minnesota to prepare filming fall sports.

In mid-June Jones was asked to do a second interview. Two weeks later he received a call offering him a position.

"When the NFL comes knocking on your door, you would be crazy not to keep it open for them," Jones said. "You would regret it for the rest of your life."

Now, Jones has returned to his Michigan roots, where he is currently helping his parents by filming the Alpena High School robotics team. He is currently waiting to hear where he will go next in his NFL journey.

No more meters

Two sides of the Pango Parking debate



Photo by: Jessica Oakes | News Editor

Meters are out, apps are in. To park in Ferris' non-pass declared lots, drivers must download and pay through Pango.

Ember St. Amour
News Reporter

Ferris' Department of Public Safety recently introduced Pango Parking, a new on-campus parking system, replacing the coin-based meters with an automated system that is accessed and paid for via cell phone.

After months of updated parking regulations and the gradual disappearance of coin-based parking meters, students have mixed feelings about the efficiency and price of Pango Parking.

The Pango meters require the use of the Pango app or website. Users are required to scan a QR code and create an account. Once set up, users are able to select their location and begin using the meter. The specific instructions are different depending on whether users chose the website or app. Students and guests on campus can pay using their credit or debit cards, Venmo, PayPal or Bulldog Bucks.

Construction management senior Sam Sherwood commutes to campus and doesn't have a parking pass. He appreciates the Pango system for its modern usability.

"With this new parking system, I enjoy that I don't have to dig in my car for change," Sherwood said. "I like that I'm able to see when my meter's out. This new app sends me alerts when my time is short on the meter, so I can avoid getting tickets. I like that I can just scan the new sign and go as far as not having to put in quarters or worry about a meter being broken."

Sherwood mentioned that the app is user friendly, shows him what parking spaces are available in each lot and allows him to pick his parking space before he is in the desired lot.

Applied math and computer science major Dylan Andrews has a different take on the new parking system. Andrews used the old coin meters, but has yet to use the new system after seeing how they operate while he was with friends.

"What was once before 25 cents [is] now 50 cents for a half hour, and on top of that, there's a 16% service fee," Andrews said. "So, me being a math major, I did the math. If you were to do a half hour, you're paying 58 cents per half hour instead of what was the old 25 cents."

Andrews, who is also the vice president of the Student Government Association, explained his worry for members of the community who come to campus as well as the students who live and commute to campus.

"I've thought about it, and I've talked with my contemporaries in Student Government, and, you know, we believe that there's also... a learning curve for older individuals that don't know how to use a QR code," Andrews said. "For example, I don't even think my dad or my stepmom knows how to use a QR code reader, so that would already make it difficult. On top of that, there's plenty of people... in that age range that don't use an [online banking service] either."

While Andrews thinks the parking system is a good idea, he wished that the new parking system had been thought out more. He preferred the older system, as it was cheaper, and believes that the old meters could have been replaced with new coin meters instead of Pango.

While Sherwood explained that he enjoys the perks of Pango, he does have one suggestion for improvement. Sherwood explained that, because he commutes to campus each day, he wishes that there were more parking meters around campus for him to park at.

Students and community members looking for a parking spot on campus can park at the Pango meters between 6 a.m. and 2 a.m. each day. There is a limit of four hours on all Pango parking spots.

ON THE RECORD

A roundup of this weeks crime at Ferris State University

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

911 NO-NO

Feb. 25, 3:50 a.m. - A false 911 call was made at Henderson Hall on Saturday. The case is still under investigation, and more information will be revealed if sent to the prosecutor.

NORTH HALL HIT AND RUN

Feb. 23, time unknown - One student reported a hit and run of their vehicle, having noticed damage after parking in lot 3G by North Hall. With no footage of the incident, the case was dropped due to a lack of leads.

BIRD FLEW OVER KNOLLVIEW

Feb. 22, 12 p.m. - In an instance of road rage, one student was flipped off by another driver on Knollview Drive near Brophy/McNerney. The initial driver and reporter of the incident worried that their car would later be keyed. The case was closed and complete before any damage took place.

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Miller Hall renovation

Kylah Robinson
Culture Reporter

Along with the new Center for Virtual Learning, Ferris will soon have a renovated dorm designed for the comfort of students

The board of trustees originally approved to renovate Miller Hall in 2019. Due to COVID-19, they had to put the project on pause, and Miller Hall was used as a quarantine hall. Now, the project has been resumed and plans are being made.

Those in charge of this project believe the changes will make students feel more at home. The plan is to convert a one bedroom suite into a social lounge to get more natural sunlight. Additionally, there will be a study room on each floor to make an area where students can cook, play games or hang out.

By changing up the kitchens in the hall, Director of Housing and Residence Life Lisa Ortiz anticipates that the renovations will create a refreshing space where students can connect with one another.

“We really want to offer spaces where our students can build that community naturally,” Ortiz said. “Not just through programming, but [also through] some of the late night interactions, afternoon interactions and the opportunity to build fellowship over food.”

Right now, there is currently one kitchenette on each floor of Miller Hall. They are approximately 132 square feet and have laundry machines next to them. The plans for the new kitchens will be similar

to the kitchens in Clark and North Hall, which have an island kitchen design. The plan is to have a whole new kitchen in the main level lounge, which will be approximately 200 square feet.

Some parts of the original project back in 2019 were removed due to either space or better choices, however, the thing that Housing wants to make consistent is the larger concept of having better study rooms and gathering spaces.

Coordinator of Housing Facilities Greg Eichenberg is in charge of looking at the original project and double checking to see if it fits into their concept.

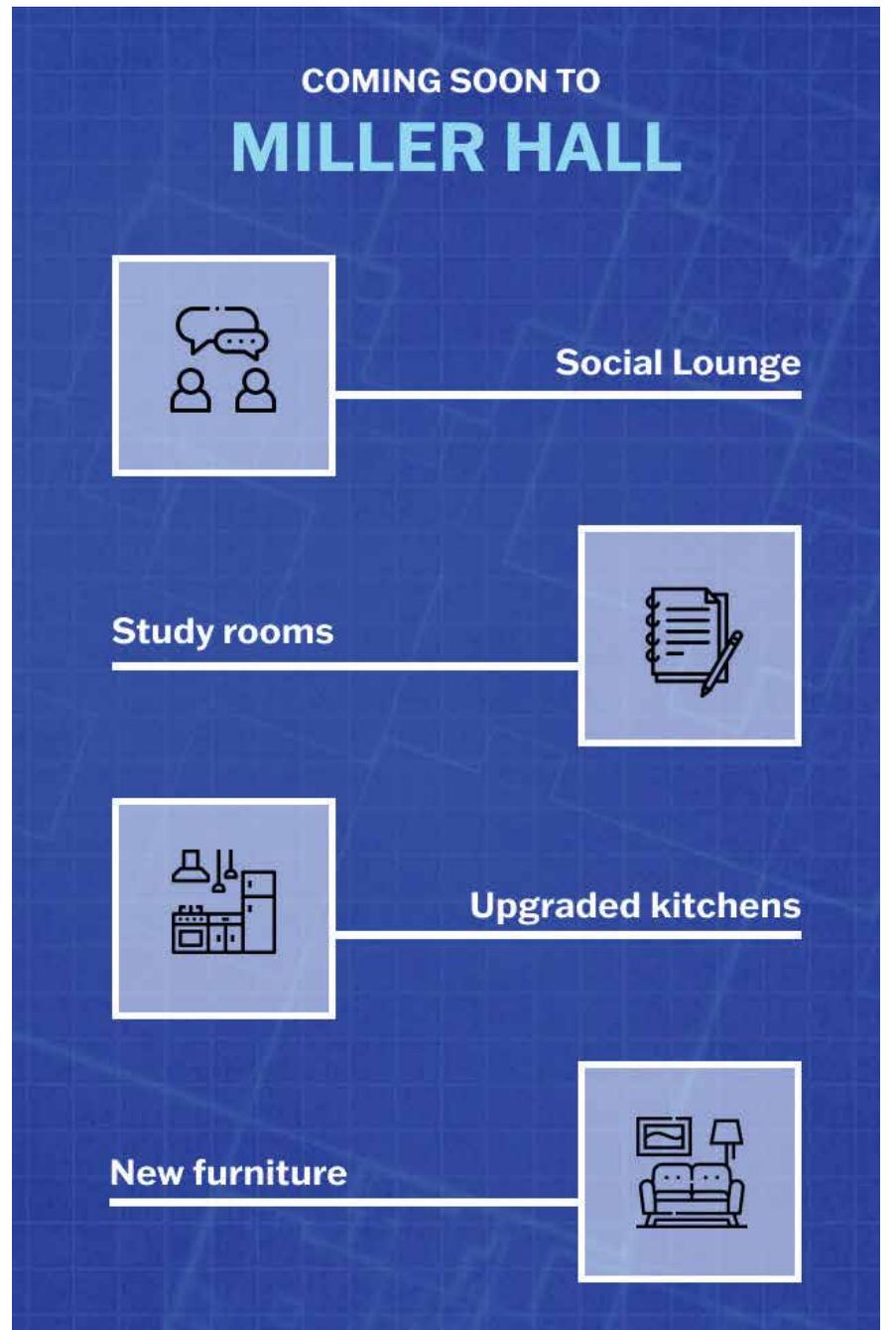
“The biggest thing that I am working on right now is looking into the furniture that we want to have in the hall,” Eichenberg said. “I am also working with Facilities Management to change the wall, floor and furniture color palette.”

Miller Hall has been vacant since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, students have the opportunity to move into Miller Hall after the renovations are complete.

Ortiz has heard some chatter from students on campus about the changes.

“I’ve heard a level of excitement, especially... since we did the renovation of Clark [Hall],” Ortiz said. “They absolutely love that, and I certainly want to continue that positive experience across campus.”

The renovations will start in May of this year and will continue during the summer. Housing expects for the renovations to be complete by the fall 2023 semester so students can move into the upgraded hall.



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Wayne County: The Detroit Free Press reports that the Environmental Protection Agency paused shipments of toxic waste from East Palestine, Ohio to Wayne County.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy announced the pause in transport late on Friday.

Waste from Feb. 3’s train derailment, including contaminated water and soil waste, were originally shipped to Romulus and Van Buren Township, respectively. The Ohio Emergency Management Agency stated in a news release that the EPA manages waste disposal and initially worked with

Ohio officials to transport substances across the Michigan border.

Debbie Dingell, U.S. Rep. Of Ann Arbor, stated on Friday that Michigan officials were left out of the conversation to move waste to the area.

“We are making inquiries of EPA, DOT, Norfolk Southern, U.S. Ecolo-

gy, the state of Ohio and all others involved to understand what is being shipped, whether these are approved storage facilities, the implications of this decision, and how we ensure the safety of all Michigan residents,” Dingell said.

Detroit: The Detroit Institute of Arts was named the number one art museum in the United States by USA Today.

“Housed within a Beaux Arts building, the Detroit Institute of Arts maintains a collection of some 65,000 works - among the largest and most comprehensive in the United States,” USA Today wrote about the DIA.

Mlive reports that the DIA was first nominated by art experts and editors from USA Today and 10Best.com.

From there, the public decided the top 10. A statement on the museum’s Facebook page expressed pride and gratitude over the title.

“We couldn’t be prouder of our museum, our amazing team, and the community we serve,” the statement read.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Italy: Rescuers off the coast of Italy recovered nearly 60 bodies following the crash of a refugee boat early Sunday morning. With 80 people found alive, the Italian Coast Guard and local authorities report that dozens may still be missing.

Red Cross volunteer Ignazio Mangione told state TV that all of the survivors were adults.

“Unfortunately, all the children are among the missing or were found dead on the beach,” Mangione said.

The 66-foot wooden boat set out from Turkey with roughly 200 passengers, according to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. Their countries of origin include Pakistan, Afghanistan and Somalia.

According to coverage from the Associated Press, Meloni expressed “sorrow for the many human lives torn away by human traffickers.” One survivor was taken into custody after authorities heard others accuse him of being a trafficker.

Meloni, leader of the far-right Brothers

of Italy party, encouraged other European leaders to follow her lead in further restricting the departure of refugee boats by human smugglers.

“It’s inhumane to exchange the lives of men, women and children for the ‘price’ of a ticket paid by them in the false prospect for a safe voyage,” Meloni said.

Laura Ferrara, an Italian lawmaker in the European Parliament and 5-Star Movement, sees the refugee deaths as a reflection of Italy’s flawed migration policies.

“The truth is that the [European Union] today doesn’t offer effective alternatives for those who are forced to abandon their country of origin,” Ferrara said.

Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

Latin art brought to life

A carnival to highlight the Latin resilience in Brazil and the Dominican Republic



Photo by: Maddie Epps | Torch Photographer

Members of the Center of Latin@ Studies dressed in culturally inspired outfits.

Meghan Hartley
News Reporter

Bringing to life the party from Latin America right into the ballrooms of the David L. Eisler Center.

On Thursday, March 23, the Latine Cultural Celebracion was in full motion with color, lights and music fit for a festival. The origins of the event stemmed from the Center of Latin@ Studies and their desire for more attention to be given to Latin culture and their students.

Digital animation and game design senior Lucas DeCampos came up with the idea of having an event to represent and celebrate his culture as a Brazilian.

“We’ve been trying to make something representative of our culture,” DeCampos said. “We do have a lot of other events on campus that are also Latino/Hispanic, but at the end of the day, as Brazilians we’re not Hispanics, we’re just Latinos. We come and we support all the events, but sometimes we don’t really fully feel represented. So we thought that it would be a really good idea to do a carnival because carnivals are huge in Brazil and in the Dominican Republic.”

DeCampos said he thought the event would be very fun and inclusive, especially since Promesa Scholars Coordinator Massiel Calderon is from the Dominican Republic. He pitched the idea to Calderon as a Jeopardy game night, but more ideas came up to make the night into a celebration.

With talks between DeCampos,

Calderon and the Center for Latin@ Studies Interim Director Sonia Trevino, the Latine Cultural Celebracion was created.

DeCampos decided to collaborate with the Office of International Education, where fellow classmate and architecture and sustainability junior Rayssa Schmitt Reinert works. DeCampos knew how much Reinert wanted to do something to celebrate, since she is also Brazilian.

“Carnival is a really important festival in Brazilian culture, and for a while I had been talking about doing a Brazilian celebration at Ferris,” Reinert said. “One day, [DeCampos] just came up to me and said we should do a carnival celebration... I just always loved talking about Brazil since I moved to the U.S. I love sharing my culture with others and learning about new cultures as well, so I’m always happy about telling others about my culture and showing what it’s like.”

Reinert was especially happy to share the Brazilian carnivals in a way that stop harmful stereotypes and helps people engage with other cultures in an affirming way.

The Latine Cultural Celebracion showcased the authentic Dominican Republic masks that are worn during the festival to symbolize the mockery of Spanish soldiers when they occupied the country. An El Lechon, or a boar costume, was worn by a man who demonstrated the harsh treatment Dominicans received with a whip and a La Roba Gallina. Calderon dressed as a La Roba Gallina, which represents a mischievous woman who would steal chickens and keep them in

her purse.

A presentation, given by Calderon and Reinert, said these masks and costumes were only allowed to be worn one day a year for the people to release their energy while they were under repression by the Spaniards. Today, what were once outfits of mockery are now symbols of the liveliness these countries have.

From the clothing to the decorations in the ballroom, the room was filled with color. DeCampos said there are many meanings behind each color in the celebrations that occur in Brazil, including the country’s flag. The green, in particular, symbolizes the flora and fauna found in the country.

“How rich the countries are, not rich in wealth, but in the mat-

ter,” DeCampos said. “Diversity, huge diversity, and that’s what the colors also represent. There’s a lot of colors, a lot of life too. Colors are for the animals and plants that we have. The parrot is a big symbol in Brazil too because of its color. Just a little bit more behind the scenes as to why we do that in everything.”

DeCampos and Reinert hope that the carnival will allow students to take more interest in the other cultures in Latin America and participate more by attending events hosted by the CLS and OIE.

Business administration senior Hilary Sanchez was able to learn more about the festivities and the country’s history. Sanchez enjoyed the vibrancy in the dec-

orations.

“This is the first time that they’ve done an event like this here at Ferris to celebrate the Latin culture in Brazil,” Sanchez said. “The people who put on the event have talked about how it’s celebrated five days before Ash Wednesday. I think that it’s a good group, especially [Calderon]. She put her heart into organizing this event, and she put a lot of love and effort into this.”

According to Calderon, the Dominican Republic and Brazil host these carnivals all month long. While Ferris’ celebratory carnival may be over, the liveliness and opportunities to learn about Latin culture continue in the CLS and OIE.

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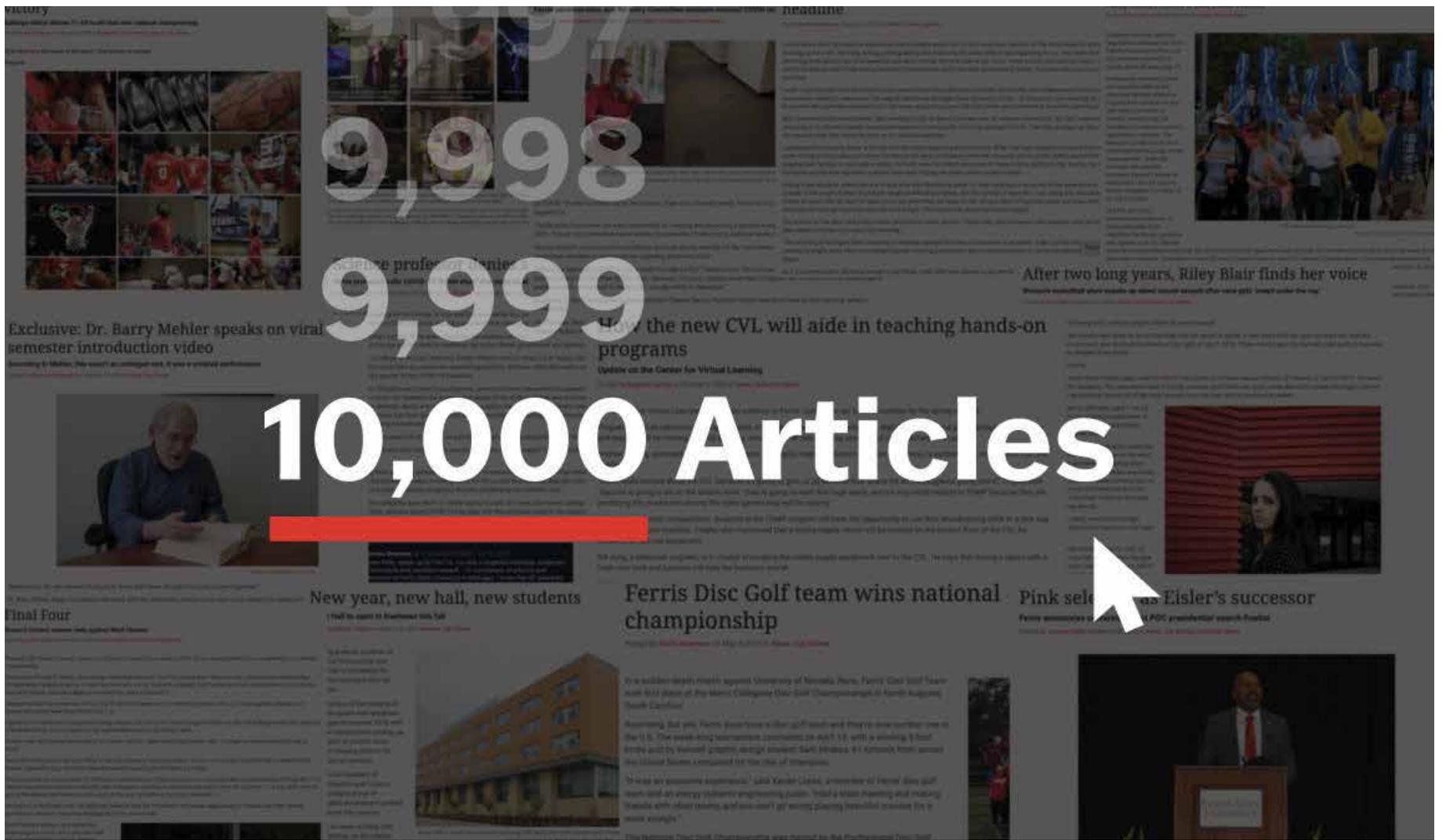
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Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

The Torch reaches a big web milestone

Noah Kurkjan
Editor-In-Chief

From informing, illuminating, sharing, conversing, shocking, thrilling, and chilling, the Ferris State University Torch has done it all in 92 years. Thenn, in the last 15 we've done all of that but made it accessible to you on a device that fits in your pocket or bag.

Last week with the release of my column "They're more than a headline," our website reached a huge milestone of 10,000 posts. From news to sports, opinions to culture, lifestyle and arts and entertainment, we've transmitted an estimated five and a half million words to our readers through their screens since August of 2009.

BORN OUT OF TRADEGY

To learn where this all began, we had to look back to an old leader of ours to get the story.

Former 2009 Torch Editor in Chief turned marketing and communication professional Kelsey Schnell filled us in on the history.

"An accident happened on Wednesday after [production] and obviously, it was a huge deal that one student had an accident with another," Schnell said. "It was nobody's fault. It was bad weather. It was a problem. But we had no way of telling people what happened."

Schnell explained that while the Torch did have a website, it was nothing like we know it today. Before the Torch launched any type of living website, one did exist from the university, but it could only have static PDF added to it. It wasn't even searchable.

"We had a good relationship with the Public Safety units where they would tell us everything they knew," Schnell said. "But we couldn't change the website for another week. We had a Facebook page, but we didn't

have a deep following. Facebook and Twitter still really limited the content that you could put out there. so we created a Tumblr."

While Tumblr worked for the time being, it was just a stepping stone for what we know today. After a year of idea generation and development, the Torch moved away from its static university site and live blog to what we know and love today courtesy of the work of Torch alumni Brandon Martinez.

The website also breathed new life into the Torch in another way: revenue. While we were still selling ad space in our physical papers, a little extra money in the budget never hurt.

"The website provided a new revenue stream in that we could sell ads and they were economical," Schnell said. "We didn't do anything with paid social, but you know, that was the first time we actually broke even."

WHERE WE'RE AT TODAY

As we sit, we're still putting more of our focus and energy into our print edition. Our target audience may be full of web-first users, sure, but a university newspaper just fits in a different box for most people. Due to our production schedule, and the fact we're all still students, we're just not producing the up-to-the-minute coverage those platforms are designed for.

While we still do have a presence on social media and the web, we just serve a different audience. News editor Jessica Oakes puts it best.

"We're in an interesting realm for news," Oakes said. "I do see young people pick up the Torch

and read it physically because it's already there. But if we want people to use the Torch website, we have to put it in front of them like we put it in front of them at the Eisler center."

We've definitely started to do that through our social media, and we're already seeing more engagement just from our consistency alone. Thank you for that, without you joining us on social media, we wouldn't be able to inform in quite the same way as we do now. We also would not be able to as easily garner your feedback and commentary on issues that matter most to you.

These digital tools have given us the power to add your voice to the conversation in real-time. Whether it be for something as basic as polling you on whether you'd get a folding phone or collecting your thoughts and concerns on a tragedy, it has enabled us to include our readership in our journalism like we never have before.

It has also allowed us to connect you with our work like never before. Freshman Torch reporter Harmony Goodman spoke on how the integration between the physical and digital worlds makes now the best time to be a consumer.

"Take the QR code, for example," Goodman said. "It's just that when you print it out on paper, but when you scan it with your phone, it can open you up to a whole new world. Like last month when we did the playlists or the calendar of events."

We've hit a sweet spot where we can marry these two worlds and make a cohesive, immersive experience that piques your interest, then gets you all of the

information you could further need.

IF WE HAVE IT SO GOOD NOW, WHAT'S NEXT

If we have it so good now, what's next?

Well, everyone I spoke to in regard to this topic gave me very similar answers. Print news isn't going anywhere just yet.

"I think it's not going to fully disappear," Oakes said. "If it becomes rare, I think it'll be something that's cyclical. Where if something crazy happens, and we have a fully digital society, we will probably pay some type of consequence."

As for the Torch, we're going to be print forward until it no longer makes sense to be. Until we can be in front of you online as easily as reaching over and grabbing one of our editions off a table, you'll still be able to find us all around campus and Big Rapids.

"I think smaller publications need to remember what their specific value is," Oakes said. "Someone will like the Torch or the Pioneer more than they like the Wall Street Journal or MSNBC because they know them. They know who wrote the stories, and they might be in them. So without sacrificing quality, we have to remember what it takes to get an 18 to 24-year-old to read news and make it digestible for them to maintain a relationship with the audience online."

While you can always pick us up at a newsstand around campus, take a moment and join us online at fsutorch.com or on our socials @fsutorch on our road to the next 10,000 online posts.



Journey from coffee to crafts

Rebranding the LGBTQ+ Resource Center's Wednesday afternoons

Marlow Losey
Freelance Reporter

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center has recently changed its most popular event, Coffeehouse, to the new weekly Wednesday afternoon event called Get Craf-Tea.

In this rebranded event, the center welcomes people to join in on crafts and enjoy tea, pertaining to both the drink and news regarding LGBTQ+ topics.

LGBTQ+ Resource Center Director Becca Osborne was motivated to change the event to what students said they'd be more interested in.

"I heard from a couple of students that they didn't like the idea of drinking coffee at 4 p.m., so we decided to do something different," Osborne said. "One of the things we have in the LGBTQ center is a lot of craft supplies."

On Wednesdays at 4 p.m., a bin in the middle of the resource center holds a surplus of supplies, such as beads, embroidery tools, coloring books, paint, construction paper and more, so students can put their creative minds

to use. Along with the crafts, snacks and tea, music or TV programs related to the celebration of LGBTQ+ representation in the media are played.

The resource center welcomes all to join and participate, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity.

Communication senior Jason Fitzpatrick was inspired to join the resource center to find "fellow queer people and allies to socialize with."

"I just enjoy the moment with whoever is there," Fitzpatrick said. "It's welcome to pretty much everyone, despite what your sexuality is. You don't have to be a part of the community to hang out there."

Fitzpatrick believes that there have been more events, snacks and resources available now that the director's position has been filled.

Television and digital media production sophomore and student worker at the center Derk Poortenga was excited to share what positive changes have been made.

"It's been a slow yet steady progress," Poortenga said. "We have been making good changes and starting good

programs again. We're finally having more reliable help involving staff in the resource center. Now that we have a coordinator, we can get things done."

The resource center soon plans on starting a registered student organization on campus called D.A.I.S.E., which is pronounced like the word daisy. This name stands for Diversity, Advocacy, Identity and Sexual Empowerment.

"Becca has been such an amazing help getting this organization started," Poortenga said. "Just like Craf-Tea, we are rebranding things and making them our own and ensuring they are up to date with the people currently attending Ferris State University."

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center welcomes students at any time of the day to spend their time in the community. The group may not always have coffee and tea prepared, but students don't have to come in at these specific times to enjoy the atmosphere, bring something to study or pick up any of the books in their library.

Mardi Gras at the roller rink

Students are 100% in charge of their own fun

Jasmine Baar
Freelance Reporter

An electrifying event took place at the Big Rapids Roller Rink on Tuesday, Feb. 21. Ferris Housing hosted a free Mardi Gras skate event for students, where they gave out free Mardi Gras themed necklaces and masks. There was also a wheel for students to spin for a chance to win free merchandise.

Music filled the room as adrenaline filled the Bulldogs who skated around in circles. Ferris events like this give students the opportunity to expand their friendships.

Graphic media management freshman Faith Robinson and graphic communications sophomore Harmony Blanz decided to attend the event together after a month of being friends in the classroom.

"I'm glad we were able to finally go to an event like this together because it's just helped us get time away from school and get some exercise," Blanz said.

Robinson has been skating for seven years, while Blanz had only skated a few times before the two went together. The Mardi Gras skate opened the possibility of building a deeper friendship between the two.

"I figured I would try even though I can't skate very well because it's something Faith likes to do, and I just wanted to come to have fun with her," Blanz said.

A variety of Bulldog packs stepped out of their comfort zones for the Mardi Gras skate. Dental hygiene freshman Hannah Elmore went with two of her senior friends, whom she met when she joined a Christian fellowship.

"It's been amazing being surrounded by people with the same values as me," Elmore said.

According to Elmore, it was encouraging for her new friends to teach her how to rollerblade. As a first-time skater, it wasn't easy. As she started off on four-wheel skates and eventually was talked into trying blades, Elmore embraced the wall of the rink for most of the night.

"I wanted to give up, but Bailey was really supportive in helping me get the hang of it," Elmore said.

To delay burnout, college students must maintain their mental and physical health. Events like the Mardi Gras skate are the perfect way to stimulate social community, make new friends and build deeper relationships. Finding alternative ways to get exercise is important for many students.

User experience design senior Baylee Devos is a big fan of rollerblading, she didn't have to utilize the rentals because she brought her own blades, which "don't get pulled out enough."

"I spend a lot of time sitting down, staring at a computer screen for my major," Devos said. "It's what I love to do, but I make sure to seek out physical activities when I can."

As her busy schedule often prevents her from going out, she looked forward to going skating with her friend.

"I haven't been able to go to many events because I've been insanely busy, but I'm a senior now, and I know I need to make as many memories as I can before I graduate," Devos said.

At the end of the night, the remaining skaters soaked in the last song and took their final laps around the rink. By 10 p.m., there was a line of grateful students exiting the building. There was no lack of excitement from the crowd, as chatter and laughter filled the roller rink until only the employees remained.

Ferris Housing hosts many

events throughout the school year to get students involved. Although freshmen are their intended audience, these events are meant for students of all

class standings to enjoy and feel a powerful sense of community.

Keep an eye out for events that interest you on the Ferris Housing and Entertainment Unlimited

Instagram accounts or look out for flyers posted in the David L. Eisler Center.



Photo provided by: Hannah Crouch | Ferris State University

Students enjoyed the Mardi Gras Skate Event hosted by Housing and Residence Life held at the Big Rapids Roller Rink.

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EDITORS COLUMN:

Seniors, it's almost go time

Noah Kurkjan
Editor-In-Chief

This week marks the spring semester's half way point, meaning there are less than ten weeks before over 1,000 students are thrown out into the world to do life. This semester I have been blessed with professors who want me to quickly get a good job almost as much as I do, and they have been doing their best to prepare me for that. I wanted to pass along their knowledge, as it's helped me narrow my search and get more calls back.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

So many of the degree programs offered here are multi-faceted and versatile. Many roles out there are so similar that it's worth putting some effort into researching exactly what area of your field you want to land in. If you're not already applying for jobs or internships, start looking through postings to determine just how many roles are out there for you. Investigate their nuance and gauge your interest.

The best way I have found so far of doing this is by talking to someone in that position already. I had been tasked with multiple networking assignments during my studies, which allowed me to take my own advice. I've just kept doing them on my own because I found it to be so informative.

These interviews with professionals who are already doing the work I want to do has helped me narrow my search drastically. They are also saving me from possibly having to job-hop because I'm not happy with where I landed. I have already rescinded applications based on these interviews because certain aspects of their jobs sounded monotonous or outside my wheelhouse. I would not have known this otherwise.

There are also amazing resources from the Department of Labor Statistics that can help you pinpoint the best markets for your field and give you real-world estimates of what the role should be earning you. LinkedIn can also be a great resource for discovering new roles in your field, finding group discussions related to your field or simply making connections for those interviews I discussed above.

SELL YOURSELF LIKE A PRO

I have also had the privilege of getting dozens of professional and peer eyes on my resume, and I garnered feedback that has increased my callback and interview rate. First and most importantly, you do have experience, even if you haven't worked a day in your field.

Using a line item on my resume as an example, I took ENGL 419 last semester. In that course, we were tasked to create a fake company and make all its marketing materials. Through that, I developed a website, instructions, infographics, flyers, a newsletter and a sales brochure. So now I have an experience entry as a marketing material developer for my fictitious company with a note that this was for a class at the end.

I still performed the same functions as I would in this type of role at a real company, received the same feedback from a professional and made the same revisions I would for any other client. So what if it was for a class? This can translate to just about any program and its major courses. Just get ethically crafty with your language and sell your experience. Also, it's time to get down to a one-page resume and lose your non-career-based experiences if you haven't already.

Consider making a template for your cover letter as well. You're going to be writing a ton, as they're quite role-specific, so make your life easier and have the basics at the ready. Consider including things like why you're interested in the role and company, a data-driven snapshot of your applicable experience, your skills written in a way to match what they're looking for and going so far as to use keywords from their post to stand out as a match.

PREPARE TO HUMBLLY TALK THE TALK

So now that you've narrowed your search and delivered the perfect resume, they want to interview you. Preparation is key. Do some research about the company, its history and the role you'd be working in so you're ready for any question they throw at you. Then it's time to turn inward. Polish your elevator pitch, formulate some commentary about your experiences and even do some recon and Google potential interview questions for the role you're applying for.

Then, once you've got some rough answers, grab a friend, a professor, an advisor or anyone and have them ask some questions and record it. Reviewing your mannerisms and seeing where you think you could do better is immensely helpful in ensuring that you're ready when it's game time.

For me, this exercise revealed I needed to think a bit harder about boiling my responses down. I meandered around my point for far too long and sometimes that led to missing it entirely.

Then, come up with good questions to ask back. This is your opportunity to interview them as well. Consider asking questions about company culture, whether there are opportunities to move up within and even how they responded to the pandemic. You're committing to them as much as they are committing to you, so it's worth a little bit of tire-kicking.

This hunt can be scary, especially if it's your first time in your field. But with practice, research and detailed supporting materials, you've got this in the bag. Good luck, seniors. We're going to need it.

A problematic legacy

The controversy surrounding 'Hogwarts Legacy' is nothing new

Charles Reister
Web Manager

"Hogwarts Legacy" is the game every "Harry Potter" fan has dreamed of, yet the game is surrounded by controversy.

The game has been receiving acclaim from critics and players alike, receiving a 9/10 on both IGN and Metacritic's audience score. The most criticism the game has received in respect to gameplay is that it is mundane and relies heavily on creating "Harry Potter" fan service. The true source of controversy,

however, stems from the game's origins and plot.

J.K. Rowling, creator of the "Harry Potter" universe and writer of the book series, has been recorded making comments invalidating the identities of trans people, specifically trans women. This has caused many members of the LGBTQ+ community to detach themselves from the series, whose themes of found family they once found solace in.

By extension, many of those who do not support Rowling's transphobic comments have become outspoken against

purchases of the game, seeing it as an endorsement of her. While she does receive royalties for any licensed content created using the "Harry Potter" universe, the official "Hogwarts Legacy" website states that "J.K. Rowling was not involved in the creation of the game," making the connection to her simply referential.

Rowling's history is not the only source of outrage amidst the gaming community. Many people have reported themes of antisemitism through one of the races that plays a pivotal role in game: the goblins.

In the game, a goblin named Ranrok starts a rebellion to revolt against the wizarding world and obtains magical powers, something the wizard community has restricted access to in the past. This rebellion of an oppressed group, paired with the goblins large, hooked nose and their characterization as stingy bankers has led many to draw similarities between the goblins in "Hogwarts Legacy", as well as "Harry Potter" as a whole, and the stereotypes of Jewish people

Hogwarts Legacy | see page 9

The influence on de-influencing

Why ‘de-influencing’ is the best trend to ever come to TikTok

Giuliana Denicolo
Culture Editor

De-influencing is a trend where people on TikTok make videos about how some products that have gone viral are not needed or worth the price. Within this trend, creators urge their viewers to actually think about the purchases they’re making and to not allow TikTok to force them to buy something so quickly. I think that it’s the best trend to ever surface on the app.

The first time I came across a de-influencing video was when TikToker Michelle Skidelsky, who has around 86k followers, made her very first video about it. She now has a series on everything she believes “you don’t need.”

She starts these videos off by saying how she has a “spending problem” and wants to “cut back on overconsumption” and advises her followers to do so as well. In her first de-influencing video, she states that no one needs a perfume collection because they’re expensive, they expire and it’s nice to have a signature scent.

“This may sound controversial, but I don’t think you need multiple sets of fancy loungewear sets,” Skidelsky said in one of her de-influencing videos.

According to Jordan Greene, a magazine journalist at Today, the de-influencing hashtag has over 76 million views on TikTok and is gaining a lot of popularity. And stated in an article written

in Marketing Dive News, 44% of Gen Z’s purchases are based on recommendations from influencers, and 26% of the general population have bought something suggested by an influencer.

Now, I am guilty of partaking in buying random things I see on TikTok because of how good and necessary they seem to be. However, I have never been one to go out and buy everything. Though this may not relate entirely to me, I know that so many people buy anything just because they saw it on TikTok.

Let’s first talk about how quickly things fly off the shelves when it goes viral on this app. A more recent and specific example of this is when a girl posted a video about her father’s book that’s been out for 11 years but never sold very well. Her video blew up and so did the book. The father’s book currently sits at #2 on Amazon’s most sold list and has spent the past two weeks on the top 20 list.

Though this is a positive instance of how TikTok can help some people, it also shows the influence it has on its users. The struggle with trends on this app is that users encourage overconsumption and overspending either to go viral or stay viral and become an influencer.

Influencing new “must haves” makes TikTok users feel pressured into buying everything they see and feeling like they need to keep up with all of the new trends. Most TikTokers complain

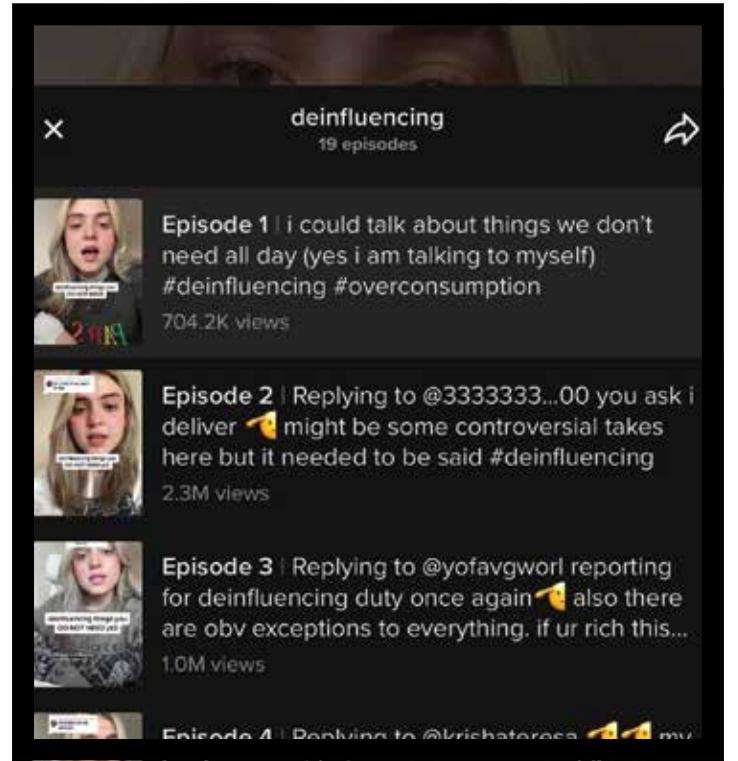
that the app is the reason they don’t have any money. According to World Today News, this trend of de-influencing helps users watch their spending habits.

“Get ready with me’s” or “hauls” are the videos that get people to beg creators to share where they got every clothing item or every makeup product. If creators don’t do this, they get accused of “gatekeeping,” which is the act of withholding information of a product, good or service. In the TikTok community, “gatekeeping” is frowned upon, and no one likes a gatekeeper. So everyone shares where they get everything, and that leads to more people buying things they don’t need.

This is why people have a ton of different makeup products, an overfilled closet of clothes, all the same housing decor and only a couple dollars to their name. Which brings me to why de-influencing benefits everyone.

The trend encourages viewers to stop buying things just because they’re trending and calls out influencer’s credibility. It talks people out of buying a surplus of products and items when they have enough just because, and it puts a need versus a want into perspective. Finally, the questions of whether the product is really worth the money and if it’s really needed are being asked.

When I scroll on TikTok, I eventually leave the app feeling like I don’t have enough and I need more. I’ll tell you, it’s not a great



@michelleskaidelsky on TikTok

Michelle says it best herself, “Yes, deinfluencing is just influencing (but better)”

feeling. Seeing the occasional de-influencing video makes me feel grounded, practical and better about the things I don’t have and the things I have stupidly bought.

Almost every makeup video I see, I end up saving and then writing in my notes the products I feel like I need. Don’t get me wrong, I have tons of blush and mascara, but I feel like I need another because of how flawless that creator made the product look.

A lot of people are more impulsive with their purchases and will go buy an item immediately after they see a video about it. If they see enough of these de-influencing videos, I think it’ll teach them to think about it first.

TikTok has made it okay to buy something as soon as possible regardless of the reason, and now with this trend of de-influencing, TikTok is making it okay to stop and think rationally about it.

Hogwarts Legacy

Continued from page 8

that are perpetuated by antisemitism.

I do not think that goblins themselves are an antisemitic symbol. The only instance in which goblins and Jews were historically linked was a specific folklore creature called a knocker. They were the spirit of Jewish tin miners who caused mischief and

stole tools and materials from miners, and its depiction was not inherently antisemitic.

The issues come with the depiction of goblins in the “Harry Potter” universe and, subsequently, “Hogwarts Legacy.” Their depiction very closely resembles the antisemitic propaganda propagated throughout the Nazi regime, which heavily dehumanized the Jewish population and equated them to evil creatures.

Down to specific characteristics like the hooked nose, stingy greed and control over the financial system, the parallels between antisemitic stereotypes and the characterization of the goblins in “Harry Potter” makes

the game’s driving plot to stop their rebellion against an oppressive system concerning at the very least.

I don’t see myself playing “Hogwarts Legacy” anytime soon, but I ask anyone looking to pick up the

game and experience the “Harry Potter” world like they’ve always dreamed to at least acknowledge the shortcomings of that story before doing so.

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Sports

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

Bulldog hockey ends regular season with two losses



Photo by: Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor

Mitch Deelstra dives for a puck in front of Lake State's net during Ferris' 3-2 overtime loss to the Lakers on Friday. Deelstra recorded a goal in Saturday's 4-2 loss.

Lakers break out brooms on Bulldogs for their last regular season series

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

Bulldog hockey finished their regular season after being swept by the Lake Superior State Lakers.

The Bulldogs (12-18-4) dropped their final two games against the last place Lakers (9-23-2) in a 3-2 overtime loss and a 4-2 loss. These two losses add up to a five game loss streak, which lands the Bulldogs in sixth place in the CCHA.

The Bulldogs began Friday's contest with a Laker goal to put them down 1-0. In the second frame, freshman forward Caiden Gault capitalized on the power-play to tie the game 1-1. Halfway through the third period, senior captain defenseman Matt Slick put the Bulldogs on top, 2-1, with 10 minutes left to play. The Bulldogs

ceded a game-tying goal three minutes later making the score 2-2. The Bulldogs were caught off-guard and allowed a Laker breakaway in overtime which allowed former Bulldog Jake Willets to bury his own rebound to win the game for the Lakers.

Head coach Bob Daniels had no issue with the Bulldogs' performance and understood the overtime mishap.

"It was a story of a pretty good game by us," Daniels said. "I actually thought we played pretty well ... In overtime, our guy blew a wheel. Mitch Deelstra just fell. What are you gonna do? Bradley Marek had a really good opportunity just before that in front of the net. All in all, the guys played hard. I thought we carried the play for the most part."

Daniels also added that they would "get after it tomorrow."

The first eight minutes of the first period in Saturday's game displayed an offensive battle as the Lakers and Bulldogs traded four goals. The Lakers struck first, but Ferris followed with a tying goal by Deelstra. The Lakers scored again for the lead, however, it was quickly erased by Marek's second tying goal on the power play. Scoring did not pick up until the third period when the Lakers went up 3-2 and then sealed the game on an empty net goal for a 4-2 Bulldog loss.

In the loss, Marek did not feel like they were outplayed.

"We outplayed them and just didn't get the outcome we needed," Marek said. "We need to be more confident in scoring goals and play how we know we can play. Big and fast is [the] game we need to play. We can't go in playing soft."

With the conclusion of the regular season, the Bulldogs have their sights set on the CCHA playoffs.

Heading into their final game of the regular season, the Bulldogs still had a chance to win home ice. A Bulldog regulation win, Bemidji State regulation loss and a Northern Michigan regulation loss would have rocketed the Bulldogs to fourth place, where they would have gained home ice.

As it is, the Bulldogs sit in sixth place following their losses and will go on the road to play Bowling Green. This season, the Bulldogs are 5-6-3 on the road and 2-1-1 against the Falcons.

The best-of-three series in the CCHA quarterfinals will begin on March 3 at Bowling Green.

SCORECARD

Track and Field

GLIAC Indoor Championships
Men's - Donis Harris 1st 3000 meters
Women's - Claudia Wilkinson 2nd in high jump

Softball

Feb. 23 - Minnesota Duluth 2, Ferris 1
Feb. 23 - Minn. St. Moorhead 8, Ferris 3

Softball (cont)

Feb. 24 - Ferris 2, Truman 1
Feb. 24 - Winona St. 7, Ferris 0
Feb. 25 - Ferris 3, Walsh 1

McCartney and Oraegbu lead Bulldogs



Photo by: Ben Amato | Ferris Athletics photographer.

Mallory McCartney drives to the basket during Ferris' home victory over Davenport on Dec. 4. In the Bulldogs' victory at Davenport on Feb. 23, she broke the all time assist record for Ferris.

Men's and women's basketball teams wrap up regular season

Brody Keiser
Sports Editor

Mallory McCartney became Ferris' all-time career assists leader and Solomon Oraegbu recorded another 30-point performance in wins for both the men's and women's teams over Davenport.

In the women's 72-54 victory, McCartney recorded six assists, good for 504 for her career at the time of the game. That passed Carrie Roys' mark of 503 for the most in Ferris women's basketball history.

"My goal coming in was to try to take that title," McCartney said. "It means nothing without my teammates. My teammates make me look good."

On the men's side, the Bulldogs beat Davenport 90-75. Oraegbu contributed 32 points in his second straight game over the 30-point mark.

Both teams then lost to Grand Valley in the regular season finale on Saturday, with the women falling 72-55 and the men losing 90-84.

The men earned the second seed in the GLIAC tournament and will play Purdue-Northwest in Big Rapids for the first round of the GLIAC tournament on March 1.

The women earned the sixth seed in the GLIAC tournament and play at Wisconsin-Parkside on March 1.

On the women's side, Chloe Idoni had 23 points in the victory over Davenport. Elle Irwin had 15 points and Kenzie Bowers contributed 13. She recorded a double-double with 11 rebounds.

The game was tied at 29 going into halftime, but head coach Kurt Westendorp was not unhappy with his team's performance.

"We didn't feel like we really played that poorly in the first half," Westendorp said. "I felt like the ball moved alright, we just

shot the ball pretty poor."

In the Grand Valley loss, Idoni was held to just 12 points. McCartney had 15 points and added four more assists.

Grand Valley outrebounded Ferris 41-26 and shot 47% from the floor compared to 35% for Ferris.

"I felt like our kids played with passion," Westendorp said. "Grand Valley just played better."

On the men's side, Ben Davidson added 17 points in the victory over Davenport to go with Oraegbu's 32.

Ferris held the Panthers to 35% shooting and shot 50% themselves.

"We made a lot of nice plays," head coach Andy Bronkema said. "They go back and forth between man-to-man and zone and that can hurt your rhythm, but I thought we did a good job recognizing it."

In their loss to Grand Valley, the men's team got 23 points off the bench from Ethan Erickson, who made four three-pointers and was a perfect 9-9 from the free throw line. Oraegbu had 16 points, Dolapo Olayinka had 14 and Davidson also had 14.

"They played harder than us for [the] majority of the game," Bronkema said. "They were ready and prepared. We got some great experience today."

The Lakers started the game on a 15-0 run. The Bulldogs cut the lead to six, but Grand Valley pushed their lead to 54-37 at halftime.

Ferris brought the energy to start the second half and got the lead down to five. However, the Lakers held their lead and claimed victory.

Both Bulldog teams play on Wednesday, March 1, in the GLIAC tournament. The men play in Big Rapids at 7 p.m. against Purdue-Northwest, and the women play at Wisconsin-Parkside at 6:30 p.m.



Photo by: Ben Amato | Ferris Athletics photographer.

Solomon Oraegbu drives to the bucket during Ferris' victory over Davenport in Big Rapids on Dec. 4. He had 32 points in the Bulldogs' victory at Davenport on Feb. 23.



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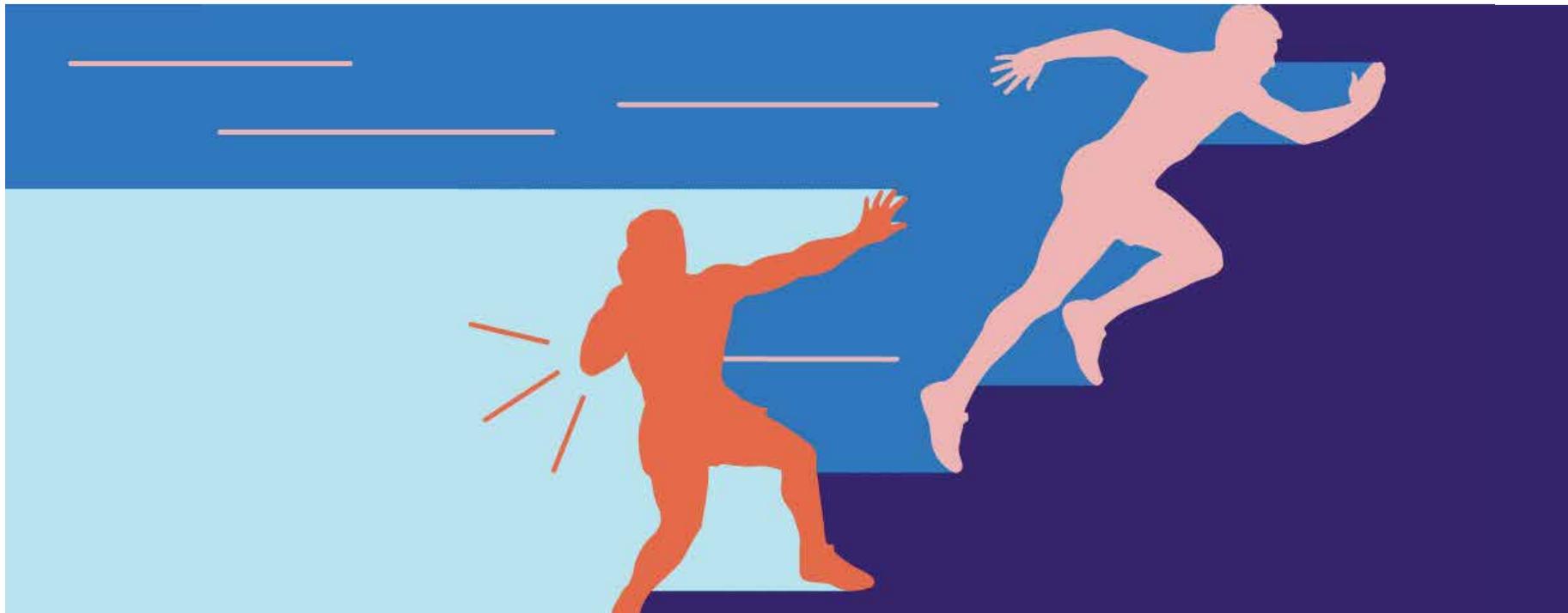
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Joseph Nagy
Sports Reporter

After two days of grueling competition, the Ferris track and field team put on a strong showing at the 2023 GLIAC Indoor Championship.

With the Saturday events coming to a close, the Bulldogs returned to Saginaw Valley State to close out the championship on Sunday. Throughout the weekend, an impressive display of grit and hard work led to a culmination of personal bests, podium finishes and new names being put into the history books.

At the conclusion of the final event, it was Grand Valley who took both the men's and women's team championships. Ferris found themselves at fifth overall for the men with 43 points, and the women came in seventh with 23 points overall. The finish for the men is the most points that the team has achieved since 1993, where they recorded 87 points. This is the fourth time in the last five seasons that the women placed seventh overall.

The best individual performance of the weekend came from the 3,000 meter run on the final day of action. Donis Harris ran a 8:22.11 to claim the individual championship. Additionally, he set a new school record the day before in the 5,000 meters, clocking in a 14:27.43 to place fourth overall and earning an NCAA Division II provisional qualifying mark.

In the 60 meters, Taariik Brett placed third overall with a time of 6.96 seconds, earning one of the Bulldogs' three podium finishes from the weekend. Bryce George finished seventh in the shotput (14.75m), Aaron Pierce leaped his way into sixth in the long jump at 6.42m and Kyle Drouillard's participation in the weight throw earned him a fifth place finish (16.34m).

In the distance categories, Noah Griffith ran a 4:18.05 to place seventh in the mile. Just behind him was Dan Hardesty who ran a 4:18.95. Andrew Shafley took seventh place in the 800 meter dash with a time of 1:55.14 and in the 3,000

meters Brandon Wirth earned an 11th overall finish with a time of 8:50.92.

In relays, the distance medley squad of Griffith, Shafley, Hardesty and Lucas Vanda just missed the podium with a time of 10:22.45. The 4x400 meter race brought a sixth place (3:30.44) finish to Vandam, Shafley, Ethan Hamilton and Josiah Florey. The men's performance from the weekend is an improvement from last year, where they placed sixth overall.

The women's squad started strong on Saturday in the high jump. Claudia Wilkinson raised the bar to 5-3.75 to earn a second place finish in the event and the only podium finish for the women.

The field section saw competitive showings from multiple Bulldogs. Emma Stephayn was seventh overall in the weight throw (16.36m), and Rebecca Marvin was four spots after her at 11th (13.31m). Marvin also placed eighth in the shot put with an 11.74 meter toss.

Head coach Jared Kelsh was proud of all his athletes for their performances.

In the 800 meters, Danae Feldpausch placed fifth with a time of 2:15.56, missing her mark from the tune up meet just a week before. Daisy Englund also participated in the 800 meters and came in ninth (5:13.46). Sydney Kubiak and Melanea Strauss competed in the 5,000 meters for the Bulldogs, finishing 11th (18:16.96) and 12th (18:27.85) respectively.

The relays closed out the competition for the women with the team of Feldspauch, Englund, Makayla Roberts and Abigail Winkle who placed fifth in the 4x400 (4:03.43). The distance medley relay of nearly an identical squad of Feldspauch, Englund, Winkle and Farrell finished with a time of 12:15.74.

The Bulldogs will return with the outdoor season on March 31.

Brandon Wirth is both an athlete on the track and field team and a sports reporter for the Torch. He did not contribute to the reporting of this article.

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