

Student government for the students

SGA president-elect offers sneak peak into his administrative philosophy



Photo courtesy of Hannah Crouch

Student Government Association Vice President Dylan Andrews (center) promotes the Big Event at last Tuesday's Kickoff, closing off his junior year before ascending to the presidency.

Meghan Hartley
News Reporter

Centered around students, for students and by students is how the Student Government Association's president-elect wishes to run his 2023-24 school year cabinet.

Applied math and computer science major Dylan Andrews ran unopposed for the SGA presidency for the upcoming school year. He isn't shying away from making his ideas and plans heard.

Since joining SGA, Andrews is ready to change the way students experience life on campus by allowing them to voice their concerns and goals.

"My freshman year was 2020. I came in during COVID-19, and I saw how student life completely was flipped because the pandemic was insane," Andrews said. "What shocked me more was now that we moved out of this pandemic, we're still having this big struggle, and things aren't what they used to be... I joined student government to see how it worked and see what I could do to boost student life."

Andrews is a part of the coaching staff for the football team, a senior staff advisor, a liaison for the Residence Hall Association and president of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. He has also spent time with the math club, board game club and Greek life.

Through all of his involvement with different groups, Andrews started to see little things that he believed should have been fixed when COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.

"I feel as though I can make a difference so that we can have a real, strong student life here," Andrews said. "Something that makes a student's experience here last forever. We could make it one of the best moments of their life."

Now that Andrews is in the driver's seat, he is excited to be able to push his ideas forward. From ideas within his cabinet to student issues, Andrews says he is looking forward to making SGA a place for students to be heard.

"Under my presidency, I will grant every single student on this campus and its subsidiaries student representation by the student government," Andrews said. "They will be a member. If they wish to vote, that's another story... I want it to be so the students' voices can be heard."

Biotechnology junior Nora Schwartz, who is the vice president of the biotechnology Registered Student Organization, says not many members have time to sit through an SGA meeting, but if they did, they believe it wouldn't do much for their organization.

"Student government seems

to know what they are doing and have things put together. If there's a large issue on campus, they address it," Schwartz said. "I feel as though students don't really have an issue with student government. Students have issues with housing and financial aid and feel as though student government can't help them with those kinds of issues."

"I'm hoping that we can keep making historic and monumental movements."

Andrews hopes that he can bridge the gap between students and the administration to help with any problem students are having. He stated that, unlike previous presidents, he has been able to set up monthly meetings with Ferris President Dr. Bill Pink and university Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Robert Fleischman. Andrews believes that these meetings can help bring about change, as he will be able to bring issues and ideas right to their desks.

While Andrews says he has a lot of ideas and plans for how he would like to run SGA, he is holding off on revealing too much too soon.

"I'm hoping that we can keep making historic and monumental movements," Andrews said. "I want to make sure I have everything I need first and correct before I make any action or move, because if you don't have a solid foundation, what's the point? That's why I'm not exposing anything. I have very solid plans and they are fully fledged, but I'm not gonna give them to the public just yet."

At the moment, Andrews wants to focus on working through the current president's agenda. In the upcoming school year, medical laboratory science junior Cassidy Engels will be stepping down from her position as president and transitioning to vice president.

Engels says members have not been interested in the role of president. Although Andrews has been looking to run since he joined SGA, she believes he is a great candidate.

"He has attended the Michigan State University Student Government Conference," Engels said. "He went out of his way, drove a while to go to that and spent his weekend chatting with other student government e-board mem-

bers from other universities in the state. He got some really good ideas, brought them back to us and that was just a good example of the ambition he has on bigger sights for us as an organization."

Engels says there is a lot of trust in Andrews' ideas.

"Working with [Andrews] has been really refreshing," Engels said. "He's highly motivated in improving student government, and he's really responsible. We're working out some things for next fall because I'm going to be vice president. We're working to change a few things within student government, such as making the initiation process easier for new members to join and reorganizing the cabinet and general assembly so that it's more functional. He's got a lot of other ideas too that we're still working out."

As the year comes to an end, Andrews is working closely with the current cabinet, and he is planning to work with them throughout the summer to make SGA more accessible for students to learn about and to join.

Andrews will officially be sworn into office at the SGA's spring gala on April 25. Attendees will include other cabinet members, the university president, the university provost and any students who would like to attend the event in Williams Auditorium.

News

Jessica Oakes | News Editor | oakesj3@ferris.edu

Drag queens come to Ferris

Night for dancing, trivia and cake pops

Ember St. Amour
News Reporter

Excited students were greeted with music and snacks as they entered the David L. Eisler Center ballrooms for drag trivia.

Sunday's event, hosted by the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, included performances from Beauty Beyond Drag Productions performers. This was the second drag event put on by the center this year and the first one this semester.

The event took place a little over a month after laws were put into place to ban drag performances in Tennessee. Bills are also currently being filed in several other states targeting drag performers, according to The Guardian.

Drag queen Vivienne Von Dion has been performing drag for two years. She explained how those against drag have changed the feeling of her work environment.

"I just actually had a show at CMU, and we had pictures taken and they were posted online," Von Dion said. "[We] had some keyboard warriors kind of come after us and say some derogatory words that really kind of hit home, and being so new, it overwhelms me.

So it was just a fear of when my next show was in CMU, like am I gonna see them? Are they going to be out there waiting to harass everybody and stuff?"

Drag trivia hostess Cherry Poppins weighed in on how the recent events have impacted her.

"[For the show tonight], we came down to look at the area that we're performing in, and the reason I did that was because I want to know where my exits were in case something were to happen," Poppins said. "There's always that fear that something will happen because it has happened, and we aren't the exception."

For the drag portion of the event, performers danced around the room in colorful outfits to up-beat songs; some did cartwheels, while others did the splits.

Performers encouraged audience members to participate with them, including clapping to the beat and making noise for the other performers. Audience members were also given the opportunity to give the performers dollar bills as they walked around the room, however, it wasn't required.

In addition to performing, Poppins became flirtatious with mar-



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Torch Photographer

Drag queen Cherry Poppins interacts with the crowd of the David L. Eisler Center Ballrooms at Sunday night's trivia event.

keting sophomore Parker Tungate, who in return gave Poppins a gift.

"We left to get drinks and then I thought it'd be funny, because I didn't have any cash, so I was like I work at Starbucks," Tungate said. "I might as well bring her a cake

pop."

Poppins gladly accepted Tungate's gift and continued the show while eating the cake pop.

Von Dion shared that while she doesn't have a favorite venue to perform at, there is one place that holds a special place in her heart.

"I like getting the feel of different venues," Von Dion said. "I will say probably one of my favorites right now is the Broadway just because it's so close to family and friends. So the love and support that I received back home is worth it."

The trivia portion of the event focused on LGBTQ+ questions, including historical moments and identifying flags.

As trivia produced its last question, it created events that left the audience both laughing and then silent. The question asked who

the best emcee was with Cherry Poppins being the correct answer. Six participants answered incorrectly, which led to Poppins checking everyone's phones to call out those who answered incorrectly. One of the six was never found, despite Poppins' efforts.

The winner of drag trivia was environmental biology senior Holland Snyder, who in addition to winning a \$25 gift card from the LGBTQ+ Resource Center also won two tickets to see a drag show in Grand Rapids in June.

"I'm gonna take my girlfriend out to the show," Snyder said. "She lives in Grand Rapids. I'm so excited to go with her."

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center's next event is their Friday Night Gaymes, which are held every Friday at 5 p.m. in the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, located in the DEC.



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Torch Photographer

Students gift drag queen Countess Hexen dollar bills.

The Ferris State Torch Corrections

For the story *Be an ally outside of April* released on April 12

We incorrectly paraphrased a quote from Kaye Lafond that altered its meaning. We said "She says that a person who is diagnosed with autism later in life is usually diagnosed with ADHD first." Lafond said "often" instead of "usually."

The power of poetry on campus



Photo by: Maddie Epps | Torch Photographer

Michigan poet Brandon Rushton cracks a smile as he reads his original poetry in Ferris' Fine Arts Gallery.

'Art seeks art' at this year's Literature in Person event

Giuliana Denicolo
Culture Editor

During National Poetry Month, love for poetry and hope for the future of writing filled the room at the annual Literature in Person event.

Within the Fine Arts Gallery, 15 people sat before poet Brandon Rushton as he performed and explained five poems from his book, "The Air in the Air Behind It."

Creative Writing Coordinator Deirdre Fagan has organized this event for eight years. She picked Rushton to perform this year because his work offers students "hope for their own writing." Shortly after Rushton's book was published, he won a book prize.

Rushton was born and raised in Michigan and lived in South Carolina for 10 years. A lot of his poems focused on how he felt when he was away from Michigan, his true home, and his desire to return there.

"I spent 10 years away from family and friends in what felt like a foreign region to me," Rushton said. "And then, when the book

came out, I was back home; I was back around all the people that I loved. So it felt like the poems were almost written to bridge the gap that I felt."

He described his invitation to perform on campus as an "honor" because people willingly went to listen to a reading of his poems. He believes that it's important for an event like this to be funded because "they breathe a lot of life" into the English department.

Together, Rushton and Fagan share a love and deep interest in language. As Fagan is a professional writer and professor, she has spent over thirty years of her career on the written word.

"Writing, like all art forms, is about a love of the craft and the discipline and joy of creation," Fagan said. "I write and teach about writing for both the love of words and the meaningful connections made with readers. I am fortunate that my vocation and avocation are one."

Throughout the time Fagan has organized this event, authors of all types of writing and genres have

performed. To Fagan, the Literature in Person series is a way to celebrate the written word and to inspire the Ferris community. She chose to hold the event in the Fine Arts Gallery this year because "art seeks art."

"Words and visual art celebrate each other in the gallery, and I find myself most at home when surrounded by visual art, words on the page and sounds in the ear," Fagan said. "The gallery, to me, is the most intimate space on campus for discussion and connection."

Fagan's inspiration comes from "human experience and intimacy." She sees poetry as one of the purest forms of expressing what it's like to be a human being.

"Celebrating and talking about poetry is celebrating and talking about what it is to be alive and what could be more important than that?" Fagan said.

Similarly, Ferris alumna Alyssa Hubbard finds her inspiration through people and their everyday life.

Hubbard won two awards at Fer-

ris' Prism writing and art competition last year, one of which was for a poem that received an honorable mention. As she has always loved writing, she strived to have her work published. When she found out about Prism, she felt that it was her moment to shine. Although she submitted the year before and didn't win, she wasn't discouraged to resubmit.

"I was determined to prove my talent and my worth as a creative writer," Hubbard said. "I know it's a smaller magazine, but it was my first time getting published, and it was a dream come true."

During her time at Ferris, Hubbard attended a Literature in Person event once. It was her first time ever hearing poetry performed by a professional. She found herself in awe of the performance because of the vulnerability that comes with poetry readings.

"It was interesting to watch somebody who does that for a living and watching them pour their heart out in front of us," Hubbard said.

As a writer, Rushton sees every day as a celebration of the arts, but he appreciates the focus of celebrating from communities that don't regularly interact with poetry. He feels "relief" as he sees the awareness of this art form.

"Reading series for writers are crucial because we spend so much time on our own, locked away from the rest of the world," Rushton said. "So when we have the tangible object of the book come out, we get to celebrate that with other people. And I hope that Ferris continues to fund this and bring in poets that get creative writing students excited about different genres of writing."

Fagan hopes to see the event grow more every year. She believes with more attendees and funding, there can be more events held and more writers brought to campus. With this, Fagan felt proud of the outcome this year and sees great potential for the future.

Alyssa Hubbard is a former employee of the Ferris State Torch.

ON THE RECORD

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

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

WONT SEE YOU IN COURT

April 14, time unknown - A student at Finch Court reported malicious destruction of property. The student decided not to press charges, moving the case to the Office of Student Conduct.

FRAUDULENT FOODS

April 8 - 12, 2:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - A student found fraudulent food charges on their credit card. There is one known suspect, and the student does not plan to press charges.

FIND MY AIRPODS

April 11, 3:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - A suspect allegedly broke and entered into McNery last week. The resident tracked the suspect via stolen AirPods, but the case is still under investigation.

AN EX FOR A REASON

April 10, 5 a.m. - A student reported malicious destruction of property by an ex-romantic partner. The resident reported a broken TV and damaged clothing. The case was sent to Student Conduct.

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Understanding Ukraine on campus

Spring semester's fourth Deliberative Dialogue featured student voices on the war in Ukraine

Nolan Harris
News Reporter

With the war in Ukraine turning into a stalemate, Ferris students and professors explored the United States' involvement in the Ukraine war during a Deliberative Dialogue session.

Deliberative Dialogue events are not a part of a formal organization, but instead are events that associate professor Kristin Conley has coordinated for over five years because of her sheer passion for developing knowledge in the community through the community.

"We do a lot of things in our safe worlds and bubbles, so this is an opportunity," Conley said. "You are meeting new people and hearing different opinions."

Recently, these events have been recognized by the university and have received university funding, which mostly goes to student

workers and food for the events.

Working off the national issue forum and their Deliberative Dialogue packets, the student discussion was segmented into three different arguments and potential consequences for such arguments.

Each argument was about the level of intervention the US should commit to. The first reasoning was an isolationist attitude, the second focused on financial and diplomatic intervention and the third advocated for varying levels of militaristic intervention.

Four tables of six to eight person groups progressed through these arguments to discuss their thoughts and the merits and faults of each argument.

At the end, each group gave their takeaways from their discussions. Overall, the groups were in agreement that America should have an isolationist attitude, focus



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Torch Photographer

Students met in FLITE for refreshments and open conversation about Russia and Ukraine.

on its domestic issues and doesn't have the right to enforce its morals throughout the world.

With many of the students coming for extra credit, a good portion felt they were uninformed on the topic.

"I honestly did not know a lot about the Ukraine war as I thought I did," social studies education junior Zachary Rhodes said. "It's like there is a negative for every positive and vice versa."

The talk did not provide much info on the current state of the war or how much intervention America currently had.

One student felt this impacted

the quality of dialogue.

"I was learning from people during the discussion, but I also know already that many people are pretty uninformed on world geopolitics," welding junior Forrest Hamilton said. "We didn't have much to talk about because people did not know as much."

In response to this, history professor Dr. Tracy Busch urges those with an interest in the war in Ukraine and the Russian mindset to enroll in her Russian history class.

"To understand the Russian mentality today, you have to know the historical background," Bus-

ch said. "There are centuries of precedent that develops Russian nationalism."

In response to the ongoing war, Busch has updated her curriculum to encourage modern cultural comparison to the history of Russia.

"We have ignored the Russian condition for too long and now the chickens have come home to roost," Busch said.

Although the semester is nearly at an end, there is still one Deliberative Dialogue session to attend on Wednesday, April 19. It will focus on the modern discussion surrounding climate change.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed new gun legislation Thursday, requiring background checks and safe storage of firearms and ammunition around minors.

Whitmer signed the legislation at her alma mater, Michigan State University, where a gunman killed two students and injured five others in February.

As reported by the Associated Press, over 100 people were present in East Lansing when Whitmer told the audience to "buckle up, we're going to continue this work."

The legislation has been in the works since shortly after the shooting at Oxford High School in November 2021, in which a gunman killed four and injured seven. Along with 10 other gun control bills included in the package, it gained minimal traction as Republicans held control of the Legislature.

The goal of the package goes beyond background checks and safe storage. It also aims to pass red flag laws, extreme

risk protection orders, which Whitmer has voiced support for. Though Democrats control both chambers of Michigan's state legislature, the bills still face strong Republican opposition.

"Tyrannical government, like we're witnessing here today, is why the Second Amendment is here in the first place," Rep. Angela Rigas said on the House floor.

Rep. Luke Meerman told AP that gun control needs proper enforcement rather than sweeping alteration.

"If they don't pick up a gun, they could drive a car into a school," Meerman said. "We need to try to find the mental health for these individuals. If they've had some kind of criminal history, we have to make sure that they're getting right sentences or that they're okay to come out of prison."

Republican support is crucial to the passage of the remaining bills in Democrat's gun control package. The AP reached out to Republican leaders Aric Nesbitt and Matt Hall, asking if they planned to support the legislation. Neither lawmaker responded.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

Former journalist and politician Vladimir Kara-Murza is the latest critic of Vladimir Putin to face a long-term prison sentence in Russia.

The BBC reports that the 41-year-old opposition activist denies all claims of spreading "false" information about Russia's army and belonging to an "undesirable" organization.

"I subscribe to every word that I have said... Not only do I not repent any of this, I am proud of it," Kara-Murza said in a public statement last week.

Kara-Murza's 25-year sentence was the maximum punishment suggested by Russian authorities. It is the longest sentence faced by a political critic since the war in Ukraine began.

He was named a "foreign agent" after his arrest in April 2022. In a CNN broadcast, Kara-Murza said that Russia was run by a "regime of murderers."

According to Reuters, he was accused of spreading false information after telling the Arizona House of Representatives that

Putin was "dropping cluster bombs on residential areas, mothers' homes, hospitals, and schools."

He was additionally charged in July for his work in two foreign opposition columns that the Russian state considers "undesirable." In October, he was charged with treason for speeches delivered in Helsinki and Lisbon.

Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

HSO's quinceañera back from COVID hiatus

Celebration of a Hispanic tradition

Blase Gapinski
Freelance Reporter

The Hispanic Student Organization dressed in vivid party attire to celebrate Hispanic culture, where members and friends learned about the traditional quinceañera, danced to Latin music and opened its arms to the community.

On Friday, April 14, the IRC connector was filled with pastel colored balloon decor, which set the mood for the night. This party offered an introduction ceremony that taught the cultural aspects behind the event, a dance floor, food and drinks and colorful tapestries for photo opportunities.

A quinceañera is a ceremony that is held for a Hispanic girl's fifteenth birthday. It represents the young girl becoming a young woman. A quinceañera is an important celebration because it is a chance for a girl to truly express herself and reach for her dreams while being supported by loved ones and friends.

The HSO's event was different from a traditional quinceañera. The inspiration for this particular event was to educate others on Hispanic culture. HSO President Alondra Reyna was one of four quinceañeras that were a part of the quinceañera court. Although each of them already had a quinceañera of their own, they wanted others to have this experience.

"A lot of people get pushed away by the word Hispanic," Reyna said. "The reality is we want everyone in our space, and the only reason why we carry the HSO is that our goal is to introduce everyone to this Hispanic space and view."

Members of the quinceañera court, led by Reyna, walked in one at a time with their chambelans, their escorts, by their side, and each performed a dance on their own. They then all joined together to perform a waltz dance number, which is a classic quinceañera tradition. Members of the HSO, friends and family danced the night away after enjoying food and cake.

Reyna decided on reintroducing this event because many of the Latino and Latina students that she has met haven't had the chance to experience Hispanic culture firsthand.

"Some of us have lost our identity growing up in places where we didn't get to celebrate our heritage," Reyna said. "Some of the Latino and Latina students haven't ever been to a quinceañera or had their own quinceañera, and that's part of our culture. We are supposed to experience those things."

This is the first time the HSO has hosted their quinceañera in over two years, so Reyna wanted to make it an opportunity for others outside of the HSO to get involved.

"This is an event for the whole community," Reyna said. "I want to see everyone getting involved. It's all about having fun and meeting new people. Exploring a new community can be shocking sometimes. Each community is vastly different, and sometimes that pushes people away from feeling like they would belong in that space. We want everyone to learn our dances and join in with us."

Alejandro Garrido-Pacheco, an HSO member and Reyna's chambelan, supported Reyna throughout the night. He enjoyed being there for her.

"I enjoy getting to dress up and share something that has already happened for her, but now I get to be a part of her quinceañera again," Garrido-Pacheco said.

Garrido-Pacheco believes that having a quinceañera party like this is an inviting way to represent and teach Hispanic culture.

"This event shows a portion of Hispanic culture to a lot of different people and communities in an exciting way," Garrido-Pacheco said. "We can definitely represent that with a social gathering, where we can all intermingle and learn about each other as the night goes on."

HSO social media chair Cynthia Baeza didn't think she would have a second quinceañera. She loved being able to put her dress back on and have the time to share that feeling with others.

"It's a way to relive my quinceañera," Baeza said. "I never thought I would wear my dress again, so it's really cool to be a part of it and share it with my friends."

Baeza takes pride in her Hispanic identity. She recognizes that having this event not only acknowledges her background, but also brings more diversity to campus.

"This is the perfect type of event because it's more of a party. It's fun, and it's a good way to honor our heritage," Baeza said. "It's an amazing experience to reintroduce our culture on campus, and it's something some people may have never even heard of. We wanted to share it with others, and it's nice to be able to bring that cultural aspect to Ferris."

Alondra Campos, sisterhood chair of Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority and an HSO member, also never thought she would put her quinceañera dress on again. The atmosphere of the quinceañera itself is what she credits for bringing everyone closer together, and she enjoys the different take on the traditional event.

"This event is full of community, love, passion and music," Campos said. "You can feel the love in the air, and the community bond is there when everyone is together. Typical quinceañeras have only one quinceañera, so having four and seeing all the different colors

and how it has changed overtime is really nice."

Campos believes that there can be a lack of social awareness throughout the vast number of communities the Ferris campus has to offer. She believes that hosting events like this will spread cultural awareness and connect everyone, which is a main goal of the HSO.

"It's definitely something the community needed, so I think it's something that should continue on moving forward," Campos said. "I think just to kind of spread cultural awareness throughout campus, especially since we aren't a very diverse campus. Having things like this and showing what other cultures do to celebrate is very eye opening. It's a great way to get everyone involved."

The HSO will continue to host more events and plans on hosting a quinceañera again. To stay up to date with these events, refer to the HSO's Instagram account @hso_fsu.



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Torch Photographer

From left to right; Alondra Reyna, Alondra Campos and Valeria Gonzalez demonstrate a traditional quinceañera dance.

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Welcoming our alumni back on stage



Photo by: Harmony Goodman | Freelance Reporter

Ferris alumni jazz band members of all ages perform together for the last concert of the year.

Ferris alumni play in the jazz band

Harmony Goodman
Freelance Reporter

Spotlights and eyes were on the Ferris Alumni Jazz Band members who were invited to share the stage with the 2023 Jazz Band during their final concert on Saturday, April 15.

It has been a tradition for Ferris alumni to play with the current jazz band since 1981. This concert was not only a celebration of the last jazz band concert of the 2022-23 school year, but it was also the first time the alumni have been invited back on stage since the beginning of the COVID-19

pandemic.

The alumni band was created by Harry Dempsey. His goal was to reunite with the people he directed in years past. The alumni band isn't just full of graduates from the '70s, every graduate is welcomed back to the stage, regardless of how recent their graduation year

was.

This was seen in action on Saturday night when the current band members gave their stage to the alumni for the first half of their last concert. Cheers from the audience that came to see students and alumni never stopped.

During the last of their songs, claps were held out for long periods of time for the performers. When the stage was turned over to the current jazz band members, alumni were quick to show their support with comments of excitement and hoots and hollers for the current members of the same band they made so many good memories with.

Dave Lintula, an optometry graduate from 1979, has been around ever since the jazz band's first alumni concert. Though Lintula has been a part of other bands, such as an eighteen-piece dance band in Spring Lake, he still holds a special place in his heart for the Ferris Jazz Band. As one of the few remaining members of the original alumni jazz band, he always looks forward to coming back and will continue to be a part of the Ferris Alumni Jazz Band for years to come.

"They're my friends," Lintula said. "We had a bond back then, and I didn't want to give that up. It's a rare opportunity to come back and play with your friends that you knew when you were younger."

When he watches the current jazz band members on stage, he sees that the band is in good hands. He looks forward to seeing some of them join the alumni band after they graduate from Ferris.

"I encourage the people who are playing now in the band to continue on and look at what's available for you and come back for it," Lintula said.

Though not all members have been here since the beginning, some are stepping foot on the Williams Auditorium stage this year for the first time since their graduation. Kendra Wright, a 2002 dental hygiene graduate and current clinical dental hygienist at Ferris,

plays the trumpet in the alumni band. She came back for the first time after finding the Facebook group years ago.

"I just always loved music, and it's really fun to play and be with like-minded people who also love music," Wright said.

Wright planned to attend the 2020 concert, but it was canceled. Thanks to the Rockford Michigan Community Band, Wright has been able to keep playing, which encouraged her to come back to play at Ferris. She heard the concert was happening this year and wanted to get back into playing. After getting back on stage, Wright believes that she will continue to come back for future Ferris alumni concerts. The same community that welcomed her on stage for the first time all those years ago continues to cheer her on.

Accounting and finance graduate Jay O'Dell was also a part of the band when Dempsey was directing. Even though it's different to have a new director for the Ferris band, the new director doesn't change his eagerness to keep coming back to be involved.

"We miss [Dempsey] obviously; he was here when we were playing back thirty years ago, but [Moresi is] a good guy, and we like him," O'Dell said.

Though O'Dell plays in other bands back home, he found his passion for playing through the Ferris Jazz Band.

"I really fell in love with the genre, and [then] I came in here and got involved in the band and met some great people and just kept playing ever since," O'Dell said.

With so much support from the Ferris and Big Rapids community, graduates keep coming back for more. Every time they step foot on stage, no matter how old, they are greeted with the same cheers that they received back in their college days. The jazz band has made it clear that once a member becomes a part of the band's family, they never leave.

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Glow-n-go

A post-COVID campus revival effort

Marlow Losey | Giuliana Denicolo
Copy Editor | Culture Editor

On a late Saturday afternoon, the Robinson Quad filled up with people, booths, food and bright colors to “bring the fun back to campus.”

Hospitality majors were tasked with to creating, organizing and executing a glow run for their senior capstone project. Project Lead of Operations Paris Burton and Lead of Guest Services Breanna Swift worked together to organize everything as hospitality seniors for hospitality director and professor Amy Dorey’s class.

“The students were highly dedicated to the overall goal of the project that they set up as a group in our second week of class to help bring the fun back to campus,” Dorey said.

Swift described planning the glow run as “one of the biggest learning accomplishments” she has ever received at Ferris. The process took many hours of networking with industry professionals, presenting the idea to the Student Activity Fund Allocation Committee board, budgeting and working with Excel, according to Swift. However, in the end, it bettered her and her classmate’s skills.

“Before this semester, I was an avid event planner. Now, with the help of professor Amy Dorey and my other colleagues on this event team, I feel beyond confident that I have the skills to excel in this event industry,” Swift said.

To Burton, their team was small but mighty. Though Dorey guided them throughout the process, the students ensured their independence. This strengthened Burton’s confidence in her skills as an event planner.

“From securing funds through a SAFAC board meeting, to working closely with [Department of Public Safety] chief [Abe] Haroon to ensure safety for the students as well as working alongside Nick Campau and Jennie Strange to tie together some of the moving parts in the planning process, I have been able to confidently develop skills that I will implement in my professional career,” Burton said.

Before the run began, students registered for the race. They had the chance to explore other tables, see the raffle prizes and enjoy the snacks and brightly colored accessories. Across the Quad, students were glowing in brightly colored clothing, glow sticks, bracelets and paint.

Kicking off with an ice cream social, runners then coated them-

selves in neon-colored paint to prepare for the competition. Students, faculty, staff and community members battled to see who would be the first to cross the finish line after circling campus. The participants were encouraged to decorate themselves with brightly colored glow sticks and accessories to fit the theme.

Medical laboratory science junior Adrianna Arce walked the long race. As she used to hike a lot, she figured this would be a fun event for her to attend. It ended up exceeding her expectations with the fun activities that were offered.

The hospitality class decided that they wanted to “create the level of engagement that has been difficult to accomplish since the pandemic” before they graduate.

“We wanted to bring the fun back to campus,” Swift said. “Our professor is a big fan of the ‘80’s. We said, ‘Let’s get some exercise. A race? ‘80’s? Ice cream? That’s the best of all worlds.’”

When racers returned from their lap around the entirety of campus, they were cheered on by hospitality students and Frutus, the pineapple mascot. As their semester-long project successfully came to a close, Burton felt that the experience had been “bittersweet” and “surreal.”

“I have learned so much throughout the entirety of this process, and I am forever grateful for the experience that not only this event, but my classmates and Amy Dorey have given me,” Burton said.

Students weren’t the only ones pleased with the outcome, either. Dorey felt overjoyed with the success of the event. She is excited to see her students become leaders in the event industry.

“This project is an illustration of everything Ferris stands for: opportunity, innovation and collaboration driven by hands-on, student-centric learning,” Dorey said. “This has been an incredibly cohesive team with one of the most diverse, established skill sets in event management I have had in a single classroom in all my years of teaching. So watching the event unfold successfully was a career highlight for me.”

At the end of the night, the top three winners of the race were announced and awarded a trophy for first, second and third place, which was donated by the welding program. Dorey, Swift and Burton felt they had a strong attendance for the day’s events. While no future glow run has been confirmed, the trio hopes that another office or class picks up the event to carry on the fun and camaraderie of this year’s event.



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Torch Photographer

Students and members of the community take-off under the balloon arches at the ‘80s themed color run.

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EDITORS COLUMN:

You're not an imposter

Noah Kolenda
Editor-In-Chief

From work, to school, to a dreadful travel experience I didn't think I could make my way out of; I have struggled with imposter syndrome my entire teen and now adult life.

Imposter syndrome — something that 70% of people face, according to the International Journal of Behavioral Science — is a phenomenon that suggests we think we only got where we are because of luck. Consciously, I know that I put in hundreds, if not thousands, of hours of effort and grit to land where I am. But that nagging feeling still sits in the back of my head.

Take my position at the Torch, for instance. The first month I was in charge, I was internally screaming 24/7 and felt I might not be the right fit for the job, even though

my predecessors and faculty advisor had trained me well and given me all the tools I needed to succeed. Further, they were standing behind me the entire time, ready to catch me and help me back up if I slipped. I wasn't doing this alone.

Throughout my tenure as editor-in-chief, I've come to realize that I was made for this work. It just took me way longer to see that than everyone else. I focused on the flaws that I saw in my work and never focused on the good, even though that significantly outweighed the bad. It took a lot of self-reflection to get to a place where that nagging feeling was a bit duller.

Even outside of the Torch, when applying for internships and graduate school, I feared that my Torch or journalism and technical com-

munication echo chamber may have given me false confidence. I was unsure if I could make anything of myself outside of the bounds of this publication and this school. So much so I did a double, then triple take just to make sure I was reading my acceptance letters correctly.

Though I am still dealing with this — and likely will be for the rest of my life — I've found some things that ease the burden of these feelings. First, it was finding the right people to surround myself with. People that would push me to do my best work and who would be honest with me when I wasn't quite there yet. Getting into positions with new people who had similar goals as I did was a massive step forward because they didn't have any reason to, for lack of a better phrase, cushion

my feelings.

Finally, a thought hit me like a freight train: I wouldn't be feeling these feelings if I didn't care deeply about the work I was doing and the impact that it has. Further, people wouldn't continue to promote, admit or accept me for bigger and better opportunities if I was not qualified.

While it's for sure going to be a long process to deprogram these feelings, I leave you with this: trust yourself a bit more and cut yourself some slack. I know, I know, easier said than done. But you've made it this far on your own, so you're obviously doing something right. Bask in the accomplishments, but also take constructive criticism in stride. You're usually more capable than you think.

Dating apps make dating culture too casual

Jonathen Hart
News Reporter

College students have grown used to dating applications such as Tinder and Bumble. In today's environment, it can be difficult to tell whether someone likes you for who you are in real life, or if they are only interested in your online persona.

Most likely you have experienced the circumstance where you meet someone in person or online and you immediately click. You swap numbers over the phone or, more frequently, add each other on Snapchat. You gradually work up to social rewards such as having a Snapchat streak, where the app will keep track of how many days in a row the two of you send a picture or a snap to each other. They may even have a pink heart next to their name, which signals that this is the person you talk to most often and you have been each other's best friend for more than a few weeks. Things appear to be going well.

You spend time in person, but you spend most of your time communicating through messaging on various social networking platforms. Over time, you begin to communicate less and less with the person online. They may respond slower than usual or open your message without responding. Seeing the friend respond slower, or seeing that "streak" disappear may make you feel a bit uneasy. You start to reflect on your entire relationship and ask, "Where did I go wrong?"

Many students on campus relate to the above scenario.

Is this a healthy way to begin a

new relationship? Is basing your self worth on your significant other liking your most recent Instagram photo good for your emotional health? Is it healthy to believe that they don't care about you because they didn't mention you online on Valentine's Day? I believe the answer is a resounding no. If you live your life craving the validation of someone you just met on the internet, I do not believe this is a healthy way for you and the other person to live.

Anyone can set aside a few minutes to text, send a Snapchat reply or post something on social media. There is no connection between how much my partner values and loves me and how much she enjoys my selfies or amusing tweets.

If you believe relationships can be rated on that scale, you may want to reconsider your perspective.

Does this make you feel content? When your crush or significant other loves your photos, or the cute Tinder match you've been talking with for a while invites you out on a date, there will undoubtedly be feelings of immediate fulfillment, but does that really fill you with happiness?

In my personal experience, any kind of friendship I've forged online has not endured until I really interacted with people in person. Now, this isn't always the case, and many individuals have found their true love online. Additionally, many college students are only seeking a brief fling, but for those

Due to the widespread use of social media, college students now have an unreasonably permissive and casual dating culture

who are out to find something more serious, these apps and the new normality of dating might be harder for them.

Everyone's dating preferences are different. But for me, emotionless hookups, casual discussions and Snapchat messages don't make me feel fulfilled. While the world of internet dating can introduce you to people you probably wouldn't have met otherwise, there is really nothing that compares to making strong, platonic or romantic connections with people you meet in person.

I have had my share of experiences on different apps, but I can say that all of my past relationships grew into something more when we met in person.



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How important is online privacy?



The case for more privacy

Ember St. Amour
News Reporter

With the non-stop ads and peer pressure, it feels like more than ever you need a presence on social media to fit in.

I, however, find that constant pressure to be flawed. I have accounts on most social media platforms, though I choose to use them privately and post rarely.

Employers are constantly looking for how their future employees may act at work, and having a public social media presence is a way to let them know the real you. What I mean by the real you is your unprofessional, human self. Employers are going to look at the pictures of you on spring break, and, depending on which ones you post, they might not consider you for the position.

I also choose to keep my accounts private for security reasons. While I don't post very often, the photos I do post usually have information about where I live or where

I am currently located. If strangers can pinpoint where I live and know I'm not at home, this information allows me to become an easy target for home invasions or robberies.

While most people don't, I choose to keep my posts minimal on social media. I think that this is an important aspect of having social media. I want to live in the moment I'm in and not worry about snapping the perfect photo for a post. Plus, the people I care about seeing the post are usually there with me. I don't think posting should be a competition for who has the most awesome vacation. Instead, it should be used on those special occasions you want to share with people you know.

The pressure and need to fit in can weigh on someone to create a public image of themselves. However, I find that it's easier to keep yourself private when online. If you step back and think about it, keeping your accounts private can save you from some embarrassing moments in the future.

The case for less privacy

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

I know I wasn't born in the wrong generation because of the joy I get from editing VSCO photos and genuinely laughing at my friends' stories.

My public social media accounts have led me to student sources for news articles, volunteer work on a political campaign and, perhaps the most important, free stickers from La Croix sparkling water.

To me, social networks can be beneficial beyond keeping up with friends and family. As a campus-based journalist and activist, media is a large part of my work. Sure, I use Instagram for the aesthetics and quasi-social interactions, but also to spread whatever word is most important on a given day.

Surveys conducted by the

Pew Research Center show that over half of American adults get news from social media, for better or worse. News consumption reports from research company YPulse state that over 70% of 13–39 year olds read news on their phone, and 30% of Gen-Zers called social media their primary news source.

As major news outlets covered the death of Iranian woman Mahsa Amini and the subsequent protests last fall, I unknowingly missed part of her story. It wasn't until I found a TikTok posted by another Iranian woman, a difficult feat as the country cracked down on media usage, that I learned of the importance of Amini's ethnic identity as a Kurd.

Left-wing British media organization Novara Media and the Middle East Media Research Institute soon con-

tinued this narrative, but it was grassroots social media sharing that first opened my eyes.

Instant news and the rise of so-called "infotainment" have undeniable pitfalls. Still, genuinely trustworthy media outlets have some responsibility to adapt. Today, this means joining social media conversations. This has certainly been present in my experience in the news section. I also plan to reflect this in my upcoming role as the Torch's next editor-in-chief.

By following accounts run by people that I do not know personally, I am able to broaden my cultural horizons. This can help in my professional life in news media, but it also enriches my personal life. I am able to use social media as a tool to find everything from news stories to new music and clothing styles.

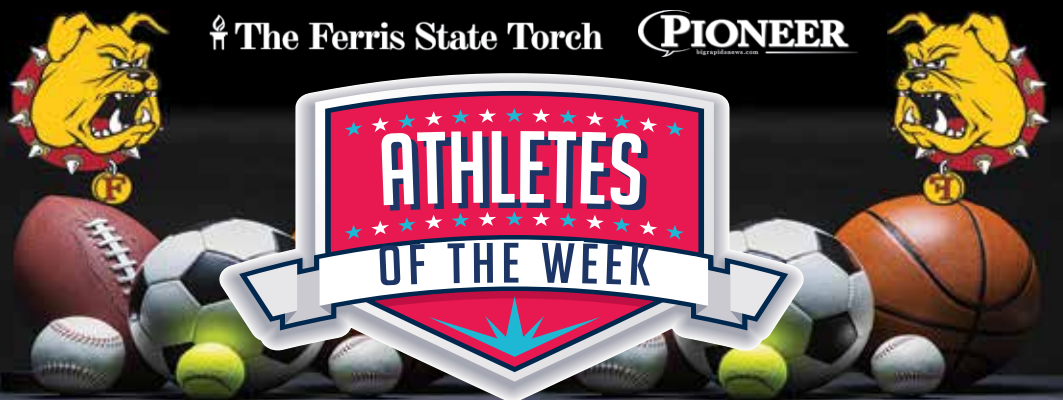


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Sports

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

Between the pipes

Noah Giesbrecht, Logan Stein form dynamic duo for Bulldog hockey

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

Despite competition of who will start in net, junior Logan Stein and sophomore Noah Giesbrecht have formed a strong relationship on and off the ice.

Since both goaltenders began their journey as Bulldogs, they've created consistency in net for the team. This consistency certainly is a part of Bulldog hockey's improvement.

"I think we both push each other at the end of the day," Giesbrecht said. "I feel like both our numbers and our play out on the ice wouldn't really be there without us pushing each other."

Giesbrecht believes that their competitiveness is how they can build off one another. Stein added that the two's ability to bounce ideas off each other as goalies helps build their game.

The tandem of Giesbrecht and Stein recorded a combined 1,053 saves in the 2022-23 season. Giesbrecht recorded an 11-12-1 record in 33 games played (26 started). On the other end of the tandem, Stein played in 18 games (started 11) and recorded a 3-7-3 record.

Before a 6-0 loss to Bowling Green earlier this season, the tandem would split the weekends with Stein starting on Friday and Giesbrecht playing on Saturday. Following the loss, head coach Bob Daniels had said the team was "past that point" of the schedule.

This is where Giesbrecht took

over a full-time starting role as the Bulldog's number one goaltender. Night in and night out, Giesbrecht had consistently strong performances. He had a top-50 save percentage in all of NCAA DI hockey. However, this would leave Stein out of the net.

According to Stein, the pair didn't have any hard feelings over this change.

"Me and Noah are friends outside of hockey," Stein said. "We aren't just friends because we play hockey... We like to do the same things. We live the same lifestyle. Whether I was playing or not, [it] wasn't a huge deal on our friendship because he's still one of my good buddies that I like to play video games, hang out and talk with."

Giesbrecht confirmed this by saying that he only wants to see Stein succeed.

The two goalies aren't all competition, however. They make sure to have their fun. The two told the story of how Giesbrecht, who doesn't let people wear his gear, let Stein wear his gear one time last season. Stein then walked out of the locker room where he ran into Coordinator of Athletic Performance Dave Cencer, who, confused, just stared at Stein in Giesbrecht's gear.

Unfortunately, not every moment with the goalies is competitively driven or fun. One of these moments was seen during the Bulldogs' road series against Northern Michigan.

Both goalies were under pressure. Giesbrecht, who started in



Photo by: Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor

Logan Stein makes a save against Lake State. He recorded a 3-7-3 record in the 2022-23 season.

both games, was ill. Stein, who was backup, had an injury that would mainly keep him off the ice until late on Saturday. Through that series, the Bulldogs were outscored 17-5. Head coach Bob Daniels believed that the weekend at Northern helps reinforce the importance of the tandem.

"I think it highlights to their teammates how important those two are in the chance of both of

them not being really in a position where they can play," Daniels said. "I was really proud of [Stein] for stepping into that situation. He hadn't played in a while and [had] a broken hand. For him to go in there and play is why he wears a letter. He's very selfless, and I thought it was [a] really good sign to his teammates that he would do whatever he had to do to help the team."

Daniels, who is excited for next season, highlighted that both goalies will have to compete for the role of starter next year.

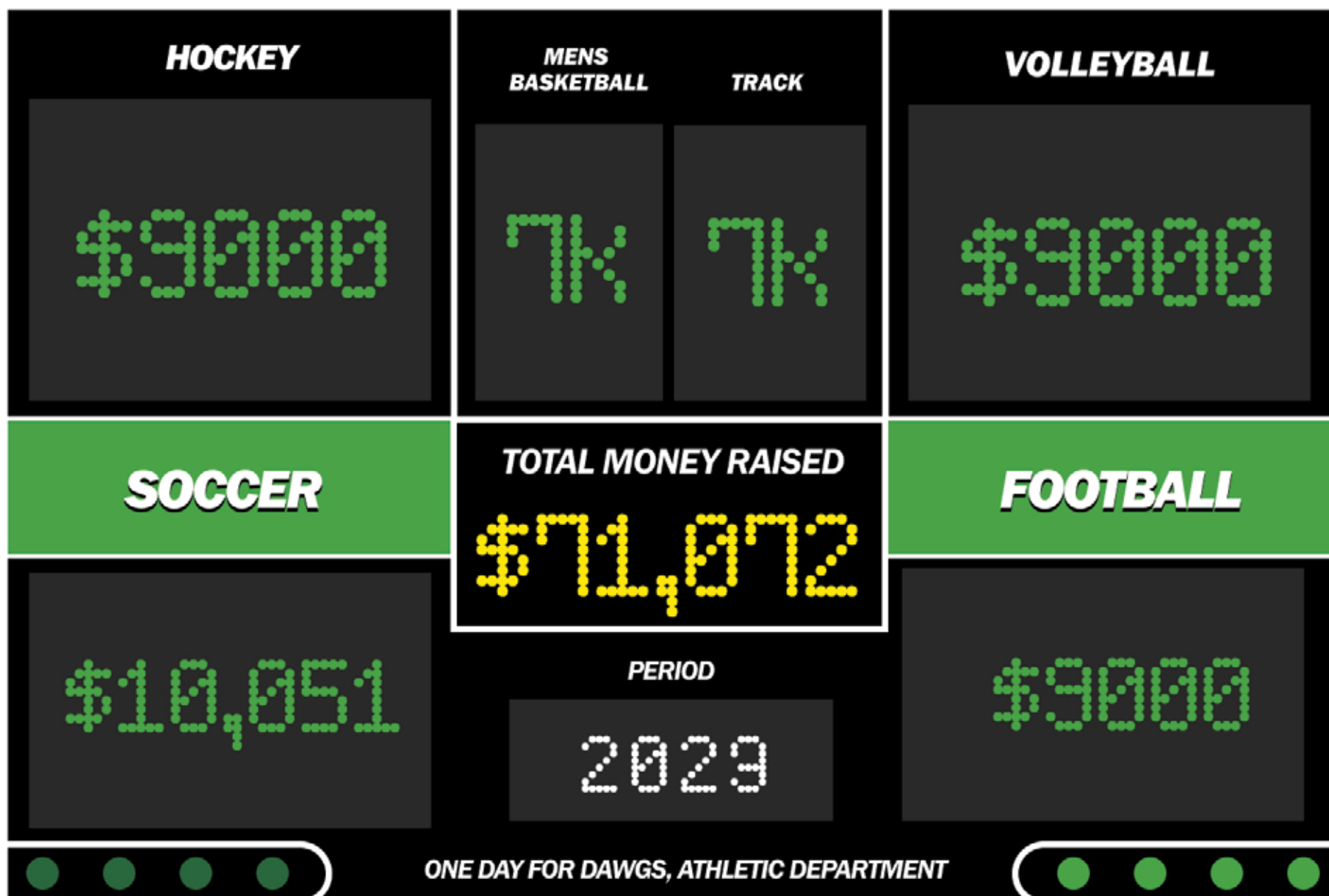
Through ups and downs this past year, the Suwanee, Georgia native Stein and the White Rock, British Columbia native Giesbrecht have found their footing as the top two options for the Bulldogs when it comes to playing between the pipes.



Photo by: Dylan Rider | Opinions Editor

Noah Giesbrecht was a Richter Watch List goaltender for much of the second half of the season. He had an 11-12-1 record for the Bulldogs in 26 starts this season.

Funding the future



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

Ferris athletics hauls in over \$70,000 in one donation day

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

Alongside major success within the whole university, Bulldog Athletics made a huge stride forward last Wednesday through their One Day for Dawgs campaign.

Ferris sport-related programs, according to the online giving site, brought in a total of \$71,072 during the 24-hour window. This chunk amassed approximately 31% of the total funds given through the day amongst all 157 fundraisers.

“It means a lot to me that people care about our program and want to help it grow,” senior soccer player Isabella Sabo said. “People are recognizing our hard work and want to donate to us.”

While the number of dollars was very high, the total amount raised during One Day for Dawgs was about 25 percent less than the effort a year ago. This came after

a 25 percent increase from 2021 to 2022.

According to Associate Athletic Director Rob Bentley, this likely could have been caused by a slight structure change that tightened up the 24-hour window compared to years past.

“A change was made this year in that it truly was a one-day and 24-hour giving window for this cause,” Bentley said. “In years past, it typically opened in advance of the scheduled date and there was a larger window in which these funds were counted toward this initiative.”

Out of the 13 athletics-related programs involved, it was soccer who led the teams in fundraising efforts this year with \$10,051. Soccer coach Greg Henson’s team was shooting for a \$9,000 final goal, but faithful family, friends and fans helped them surpass their goal for the third year in a row. The team will now be able

to afford a digital video camera system that tracks the action of practices and games, allowing an advanced, portable and non-player required method of filming.

“We couldn’t do it without the donors, and we are so grateful they chose to help us,” Sabo said. “The equipment and gear we will be able to get with this money will help us grow as a program and continue to be the best team we can be.”

Following soccer was the hockey and football teams with over \$9,000 worth of funds with each program. Both teams were looking to improve facilities — hockey with an enlarged team weight room and football with new tackling and blocking sleds on the practice field.

When asking returning hockey team captain Brenden MacLaren, he said any improvement makes a large difference in their dynamic.

“The improvement of our facili-

ties has led to our arena and locker room being a place our team can enjoy coming in and working hard every day. Advancing our facilities every year, whether it’s a small improvement or large, can make a huge difference.”

Other notable team efforts included volleyball earning \$8,000, men’s basketball receiving \$7,379 and track and field getting \$7,005.

Some other programs receiving donations included broadcast communications, the Bulldog Athletic Association and the strength and conditioning program. These supportive programs benefit all the athletes at Ferris State in one form or another.

“The support of our donors is essential to our athletics programs,” Bentley said. “The One Day for Dawgs event has been important to each of our teams to provide funding for initiatives outside of the normal budget and other fundraising activities they do

throughout the year.”

This day often means a lot to many Bulldog fans, coaches and athletes, as much of the annual funding comes through this 24-hour effort. Seeing the Bulldog support system is very inspiring to many athletes, especially for MacLaren.

“The consistent improvement of our athletic programs not only impact our current student athletes, but also shows the value of our programs for our future Ferris State athletes.”

As many spring seasons enter their final stretches, be on the lookout for huge advancements coming soon for Ferris State Athletics by this fall.

Brandon Wirth is both a student-athlete for the Ferris’ track and field team and a sports reporter for the Torch.

SCORECARD

Softball

April 15 (game 1) - Ferris 4, Davenport 2

April 15 (game 2) - Ferris 9, Davenport 1

Men’s Tennis

April 14 - Ferris 4, Lake State 3

April 15 - Ferris 7, Michigan Tech 0

Women’s Tennis

April 14 - Ferris 6, Lake State 1

April 15 - Michigan Tech 5, Ferris 2



Photo by: Evan Hibbard | Torch Photographer

The Bulldogs huddle around the pitching mound during a pitching change in Ferris' 10-0 loss to Grand Valley.

Softball loses big to Grand Valley

Bulldogs blasted in 10-0 loss to arch-rival

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

The Bulldogs women's softball team (18-28, 6-8 GLIAC) suffered a 10-0 loss to division rival Grand Valley State University in the first game of a scheduled doubleheader. However, bad weather postponed the second game.

The scheduled first game went five innings and resulted in a mercy rule win for Grand Valley. A stoppage due to heavy rain momentarily paused the game at the beginning of the 5th inning.

The Bulldogs struggled to keep Grand Valley off the bases, as they gave up 11 hits and three walks that resulted in 10 runs.

Pitching for the Bulldogs to start the game and receiving the loss was Kristie Gray (2-5). She pitched three innings and gave up five earned runs off six hits, one walk and two strikeouts.

Aubrie Lafferty came in relief for Gray and pitched one inning. She gave up five earned runs off of five

hits, two walks and surrendered a two-run homer.

Sophie Wisniski relieved Lafferty in the 5th inning. She threw one inning and allowed no hits, walks or earned runs.

Grand Valley did most of the damage in the fourth inning, as they recorded eight runs.

The Bulldogs had three hits in the game on the offensive side with no runs in the game. They also recorded an error.

Josie Prince had a single in her two at-bats, Catherine O'Donohue had a single in her two at-bats and Natalie Teague had a single in her lone at-bat on the day.

The Bulldogs struck out seven times in the game and left two on base, drawing no walks.

Ferris will be back in action on Saturday in a double-header at Wisconsin-Parkside and on Sunday in a double-header at Purdue-Northwest.

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