

Faculty contract moves to vote, no strike in sight

Union schedules decision on new collective bargaining agreement



Photo from Torch archives

Members of the Ferris Faculty Association strike during the first week of the 2018 fall semester in the last contract negotiation cycle.

Jessica Oakes
Editor-in-Chief

In the last weeks leading up to fall semester, the Ferris Faculty Association and members of the administration are in the closing stages of contract negotiation.

According to Dr. Charles Bacon, physical science professor and FFA president, union members will decide whether to ratify the new contract following a general membership meeting on Aug. 24.

Bacon offered no other comment on behalf of the FFA while the ratification process is still ongoing.

The previous collective bargaining agreement was in effect from Nov. 13, 2018 through June 30, 2023.

Associate Provost Dr. Steve Reifert previously expressed the desire

to settle the new contract before the June expiration date.

Despite this, Reifert is pleased with this year's contract cycle.

"I'm very complimentary of [the FFA's] team: Dr. Bacon, Professor [John] Caserta, and Jenice Winowiecki," Reifert said. "I don't want you to think there weren't disagreements, because there's always disagreements. But we were able to put our heads together and come up with a good agreement."

Caserta, English professor and FFA vice president, also declined to comment on this ongoing story.

For the first time in 20 years, the FFA and administration have reached the contract ratification stage without the presence of outside attorneys or moving to mediation.

"The union president and myself are committed to doing it this

way," Reifert said. "It was arduous. It was difficult. It was contentious sometimes, but we were just starting to do this the way we wanted to do it. We didn't want outside influence."

Contract discussions and negotiations started early in the spring semester for this cycle, months before the 2018 discussions. Reifert believes this helped both parties reach an agreement on language changes that were two to three contract cycles in the making.

"There's no intention to strike. There's no intention of walkouts. We're looking at a smooth start to this semester," Reifert said.

While the current agreement is tentative, Reifert stated that changes in this year's contract range from wage increases and healthcare coverage to promotion and merit.

It has been five years since the FFA went on strike in 2018, protesting their treatment during contract discussions and the leadership style of former university president David Eisler. Both union members and administrators expressed the desire to avoid a strike in 2023, as it interrupts students' time in the classroom.

Though he was not present for contract negotiation meetings, current university president Dr. Bill Pink respects the teamwork that went into this year's contract.

The president's office provided the following comment on the state of the collective bargaining agreement:

"As a university, we will never reach our full potential if we cannot work together in a collaborative, productive manner. I am thankful to the leadership of the

Ferris Faculty Association and our administrative team for their great work in getting this done. I commend the FFA leadership for suggesting we start this work earlier than previous years. That helped provide more time for addressing contractual issues aside from compensation. I will continue to meet with the FFA leadership, as well as our other bargaining groups, throughout the year with the goal of constant dialogue and relationship building while we are not at the bargaining table."

The Torch will continue coverage on this year's collective bargaining agreement cycle as the story develops through ratification.

News

Ember St. Amour | News Editor | stamoue@ferris.edu

Opportunity to learn virtually is here Center for Virtual Learning opens for classes

Tate Zellman
News Reporter

After five years of planning and two years of construction, Ferris students will attend classes in the Center for Virtual Learning.

The CVL was created to help bring students, educators and technology together.

The programs within the CVL were created along with new opportunities for students to grow mentally and achieve their academic needs.

Glen Okonoski, director of the television and digital media production program and a representative of the School of Digital Media, was one of the many behind bringing the CVL building to existence.

“Planning for the building has been ongoing and started in 2018,” Okonoski said. “In 2019, design work with Stantec, the architecture firm, began that ultimately, through many iterations, resulted in the building design that you see today.”

As of 2023, the CVL is still in the works of expanding. Construction work is held at the building’s location during the week mornings while students walk to class.

With more rooms and facilities being added, the CVL still has key aspects to bringing virtual learning to the students who need it.

Okonoski touches on what the CVL has that not only makes it a well-provided building, but what it has to set itself unique compared to other buildings on campus.

“There are beautiful, purpose built learning spaces in the building that support all the academic programs housed in the building for in-person instruction,” Okonoski said. “In short, there are many ways the building will support a variety of learning modalities and experiences for students.”

Television and digital media production senior Nolan Harris touched on what makes the CVL a great addition to the university that corresponds to students who

are in his same major.

“[The CVL] strengthens the cooperation and cohesion of the university,” Harris said. “And for those who are in my major, there are audio rooms that are accessible for us to use for anything that needs recording purposes. For anyone who needs to record something, they can head straight to the CVL.”

Having audio rooms and other places to record can help those majoring in television & digital media production make more stories and podcasts for the university.

Even if that’s not within a student’s major, they can investigate those rooms and see if they can record something for a class or any other academic use.

Bill Jung, a television engineer at Ferris and a committee member for the interior furnishing of the CVL, gave some insight about a new program that was set to be added to the CVL before it was in the works of being built.

“After the CVL was in the planning stage, Ferris added a program in professional eSports production,” Jung said. “It makes the degree program much more vibrant and relevant.”

By collaborating with esports, the CVL has an eSports arena that is designed to help engage both current and future Ferris students in a growing brand-loyal community.

Ferris knows esports as campus’ fastest growing club sport.

Despite the CVL being a building for virtual students, Jung mentioned that communication between students is important to those who decide to learn virtually.

“Having students talk to one another, even if they aren’t in the same program, has benefits as everyone learns from each other and ideas bounce in interesting and new directions,” Jung said.

Along with TDMP majors and esports enjoyers, Ferris students taking classes in artificial intelli-

gence and product management, information security and intelligence, the school of digital media, the school of education or online learning will have the opportunity to experience the CVL firsthand.

For more information, visit www.ferris.edu and search “Center for Virtual Learning” and contact FerrisFoundation@Ferris.edu for any questions and find how students get involved in a community that helps them succeed academically through virtual learning.

Nolan Harris was formerly employed as a news reporter for the Ferris State Torch.



Photo by: Jessica Oakes | Editor-in-Chief

Located between FLITE and Hallisy Hall, the Center for Virtual Learning will be home to numerous programs, computer labs and an esports arena.

Tuition increases create mixed feelings

How students are handling the tuition increase



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

After an increase in Ferris' tuition costs, students are expressing mixed reviews about how the changes are going to affect them.

According to Ferris' tuition page, the credit hour rate has increased by \$16 for U.S. and Canada freshmen and sophomores, \$21 for U.S. and Canada junior and seniors and \$35 for all international undergraduate students.

Credit rates have also increased by \$29 for U.S. and Canada graduate students and \$43 for international graduate students.

Business administration sophomore Brooke Boron has concerns regarding how the information about the tuition increase was released.

"I would just wish that they would have sent like a warning out to say like, 'Hey, tuition is going up,'" Boron said. "Maybe they did send something out and you had to look for it. But if you had to look for it, then that would kind of just be pointless. So, if they're going to tell us, [they] should probably make it more bold."

Boron explained that she had to take out loans for her tuition, and that because she wasn't warned about the tuition increase sooner, she was caught off guard by the increase, and now has to take out a bigger loan than she had initially planned.

Economics sophomore Pedro Saltini, an international student from Brazil, stated that he had a different reaction to the tuition news.

"I personally didn't feel any changes. I think most of the international students are at a higher tuition and that can represent for

them, [that] it can be more challenging to pay this tuition. I personally could find great opportunities throughout the summer here."

In addition to being upset about not receiving a warning about the tuition increase, Boron also feels frustrated with the increase, as she finds the value of some of her classes lacking.

"Just from last year, I don't even remember half the stuff I learned a geography and you know, I paid a ton of money for that class," Boron said. "If it just continues to go up tuition and the classes aren't gonna have that much resonance with me then when my paying for?"

Saltini had a different take on what the increase in tuition could help pay for, for students.

"The opportunities we can get for example for new travels or seminars that we could go, and competitions that we can attend," Saltini said. "If we keep improving all those opportunities and giving those to the students, I think the reason the tuition is justified because you are providing to the students a better service and that requires more money."

Boron expressed concerns for the remainder of her time at Ferris.

"I worry about the more major direct[ed] classes being less proportionate in like, increase in cost than the gen-ed classes," Boron said. "Because, right now, it's not a ton, but I'm just wondering if once we get into more concentrated classes, it would be way more."

As the academic year begins, the effects of the tuition increase will take place among all students.

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25th
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RHA Movie Night
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26th
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 8pm-10pm @ the DEC 120

26th
Late Night Party
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28th
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29th
On campus job fair
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29th
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30th
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Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

Meet the new dean of student life

“My door is open,” Lina Blair said

Giuliana Denicolo
Culture Editor

The fall 2023 school year starts off strong as Lina Blair enters their role as dean of student life.

Blair was hired at the beginning of July and has spent the last of the summer getting comfortable with their new position. As an involved college student and well-versed graduate, Blair feels prepared to start off the school year.

In the past, Blair has been a hall director, director of orientation, assistant director of academic advising and the assistant dean of students at Northern Michigan University.

“It was there that I realized that I wanted to be a generalist in higher education student affairs and kind of dip my toes in all the different pieces of the life of a student,” Blair said.

Associate Dean of Student Life Nicholas Campau is excited that Blair chose to work with Ferris students. Blair was the first candidate brought to campus for an interview and “set a high bar for the remain-

der of the search.”

“My time with Lina has shown me an incredibly kind and compassionate person wanting to help others succeed, with a healthy mix of fun, while always being ready to get serious at any moment,” Campau said.

Campau believes Blair’s work experience is “transferable” to Ferris. Blair felt differently. Although becoming DOSL has been a dream of Blair’s since very early on in their career, they didn’t feel confident enough. However, their passion outweighed their fear.

“I had total imposter syndrome,” Blair said. “I haven’t been a dean of students before, but I’m passionate about the work that I do. It felt crazy to apply, but I gave it a shot because these kinds of jobs don’t come up super often, and I think I can contribute in a meaningful way to students’ lives.”

President Bill Pink met Blair many years ago when they both worked together at Grand Rapids Community College. Pink described Blair as “awesome with students.”

“I am thrilled to have Lina join the Bulldog Nation,” Pink said. “Now that [they are] here, we will have the traction of having the fully hired person in place to make a difference in the lives of many of our students.”

Blair is a part of a behavioral response team and is certified to lead interventions. In addition, they are on the National Board of Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment. This experience makes Blair feel like they have something to “directly contribute to and build upon” in their new role.

Blair feels excited, open and focused about starting the school year as the new DOSL.

“I want to soak it up, learn and hear feedback,” Blair said. “I’m invested and ready to roll up my sleeves and dive in. I’m excited to be a part of it.”

Strategically building relationships and connections across the Ferris campus is an important goal for Blair.

“My door is open, I want to hear from students and what their expe-

rience is like and how I can help if they need something really,” Blair said.



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Lina Blair is excited to kick off the school year and meet Ferris students.

Guide to being a bulldog

A list of resources for incoming students



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Ferris Outfitters is located on the lower floor of the David L. Eisler Center.

Marlow Losey
Copy Editor

Between FLITE, registered student organizations and the tutoring center, it is easy for students of any year to be lost in the long list of resources for them.

Here is an easy guide for any student to get the he and community they may be looking for:

This year along with all others, there are numerous resources available at Ferris State University. Some offer academic support such as FLITE and the tutoring center, and others offer community such as the Office of Multicultural Student Services and many

RSOs. These are ran by both faculty and students, and meant to help students through their journey on campus.

Ferris’ library, known as FLITE, offers a quiet place to study and help with schoolwork for students.

FLITE provides students with an open space filled with large tables to study with groups of friends. There are options to reserve a quiet study room with table space and a whiteboard with markers that can be checked out from the front desk.

At the front desk, laptops are available to check out for six hours in the building. There are also

three floors of the library worth of desktop computers, as well as a place to print for a small fee. The front desk can also check out any book of interest in the building, TV remotes and board games.

FLITE user engagement librarian David Scott recommends that students interact with the librarians Mari-Kermitt Canfield and Stacy Anderson as soon as possible because they are able to teach how to use the FLITE database.

The online database carries free articles, books, speeches and more sources for students to use in their academic research.

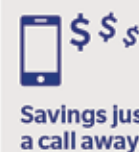
“It’s collections of articles, speeches, things that are specifically designed to help you with your assignment,” Scott said. “Library resources are curated for you, rather than the internet which is a wild goose chase. Our stuff is going to be accepted by your professor. It’s going to be more accu-

rate and more reliable.”

In the same building, there is both a tutoring and writing center. In the tutoring center, appointment with a tutor in any subject is free. The writing center is where an appointment can be made for someone to look over and provide feedback on any kind of writing.

Visit fsutorch.com for the complete article.

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Torch Tunes

Back-to-school mix to set the fall scene

Evan Hibbard
Freelance Reporter

The school year is already right around the corner which means it's time for another back-to-school playlist full of tunes to calm your nerves.

Campus - Vampire Weekend

The first song on this playlist comes from one of the quintessential college rock groups in American music history, Vampire Weekend. The song "Campus" was released on their self-titled debut album, widely regarded as one of the most important alternative rock records of the 2000s. The bouncy confidence of Chris Tomson's frenetic drumming gives a new life to the choppy guitar falling behind singer Ezra Koenig's soft-spoken lilt.

We're Going to Be Friends - The White Stripes

Before Jack White had a solo career and a thousand side projects, he wrote the classic "We're Going to Be Friends" with then-wife and bandmate, Meg White. The child-like simplicity of the song paired with Jack White's more sensitive side that was rarely revealed with The White Stripes have made the tune a classic in years past and years to come.

Festival Song - Jeff Rosenstock

"I want the song of the American dorm room," declared the

Long Island punker at the end of "Pash Rash", before breaking into the lively and rambunctious, "Festival Song", which truly does sound like a song you'd hear spilling out into the hallway, muffled through someone's brick dorm wall.

A lot of Rosenstock's songs would honestly work for this playlist since his songs are so emotive and relatable to a younger generation, although I feel like this is the one you blast at inhumane volumes through your headphones after getting done with studying for the night.

Call It Good Times - Winkler

The New England outfit released "For You, Now", their first full-length record earlier this year in February, with this delightful ditty being one of the highlights. Originally gaining a sizable following on TikTok, the young indie pop band has capitalized on their newfound popularity with an enchanting debut album to follow their promising singles from the past.

The band combines breezy pop rhythms and fuzzy guitars with a crunchy lo-fi aesthetic that's sure to shake those back-to-school jitters everyone seems to experience the first few weeks back on campus.

Confessions Pt. II - BADBADNOTGOOD, Colin Stetson

Continued on next page



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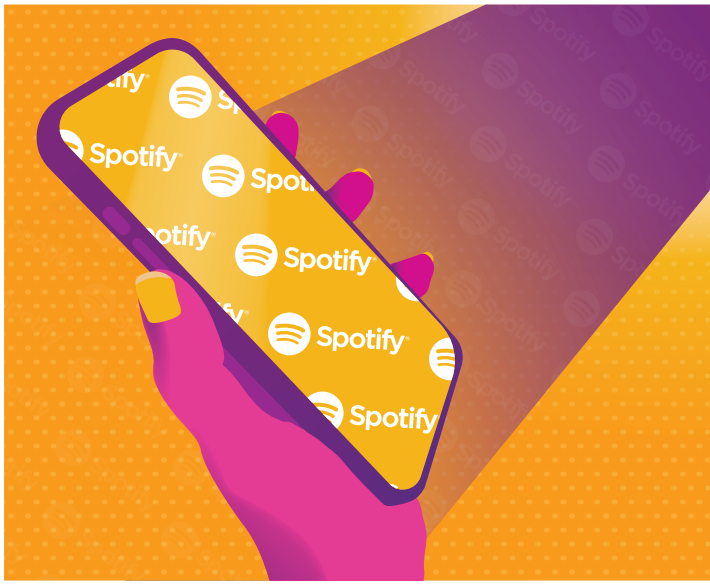
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Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Now we approach the instrumental side of the playlists, with tracks intended to stimulate the senses and provide background noise for an intense study session. While anything off the Toronto outfit's IV could be used as studying music, Confessions Pt. II is a powerful and triumphant attack on traditional jazz, boasting a more creative and arguably abrasive sound by Colin Stetson.

Stetson is now known for his work in Hollywood, composing the dark ethereal score that accompanied Ari Aster's debut feature film "Hereditary", although previously he was known and respected as a master of complex and abrasive saxophone melodies, no better captured than on this song with the Canadian jazz troupe.

A Love Supreme Pt. 1 - Ac-

knowledge - John Coltrane

And finally to cap off this list with some more instrumental jazz is who other than arguably the greatest jazz saxophonist of all time, John Coltrane. Although the entirety of his 1965 masterpiece, "A Love Supreme", could be used as study/reading music, "Acknowledgement" is the track that truly jumps out at the listener upon the first listen, offering a small sample of what is to come with the rest of the album.

Put on this track or album after a long day of work, kick back, and relax to the sultry melodies of John Coltrane. Hopefully this playlist can serve as a stabilizing force during the frantic first few days of school and guide the listener into some new music interests at the same time.



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Karissa Lange | Opinions Editor | langek5@ferris.edu

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Torch Editorial Staff

Editor in Chief
Jessica Oakes
oakesj3@ferris.edu

Production Manager
Harmony Goodman

News Editor
Ember St. Amour

Culture Editor
Giulliana Denicolo

Sports Editor
Dylan Rider

Opinions Editor
Karissa Lange

Multimedia Editor
Jordan Wilson

Web Editor
Lucas Gill

Special Editions Editor

Copy Editors
Marlow Losey

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

EDITORS COLUMN:

Is Vienna waiting for you?

Jessica Oakes
Editor-In-Chief

Growing up in northern Michigan, European cities were more like figures of speech than places I could ever see. Much of the world outside of Roscommon felt like this to me until I finally "got out."

For many, college is our first chance to get out into the world. It is a time to learn who you are outside of your hometown and find identity aside from a high school mascot.

The next step we choose to take after graduation ranges from the workforce to universities, or maybe even a gap year to some place like Vienna for a fortunate few. As a class of 2020 graduate, the world seemed to end as soon as it was my turn to explore it.

Despite the terrible anxiety of coming of age in a pandemic, I was relieved to have a reason to stay home for my first year of college. Living on my own seemed impossible, even in a place as in-

nocuous as Big Rapids. I had all the reasons in the world to stay in.

Moving to another state for work or school was unimaginable. That was only something that people with more money or better grades ever did. Soon enough, I had to learn how small my world was. My mom, my primary caregiver and roommate for the previous five years, decided to move 1,000 miles away to the anti-Michigan of Florida.

Splitting my time between Big Rapids and Dunedin, Florida for the past two years has shown me how trapped I was in rural Michigan for so long. I believe others are still in a similar spot.

Over 90% of Ferris students are full-time Michigan residents. According to the 2020-2021 Ferris State University Fact Book, roughly 43% of our students are from a 50-mile radius of the Big Rapids campus. A considerable portion of our student body is practically still in their backyard.

I've said about counties in west

Michigan, "if you've seen one, you've seen most." While I love this state, its nature, its people and all the ways it has built me, I encourage Ferris students to experience more.

Billy Joel's "Vienna" has been an anthem for young adults on the edge of escaping the first phase of their life for decades. For me, Vienna is still more figurative than geographical. I made Dunedin my Vienna. It was representative of a whole world that I'd only ever caught glimpses of. It was always waiting for me with its warmer weather, beaches and more restaurants than bars and chains (no offense to Crankers or Applebee's).

I believe that Ferris is a great place to get your bearings, save money and start flexing some adult muscles. Still, we should not get so comfortable in a nice place that we never learn more.

Working in Pinellas County, Florida put me in truly diverse rooms for the first time in my life. I heard

people speak different languages, describe their various backgrounds and occasionally gawk at my humble Midwestern tendencies like saying "pop" rather than "soda" or driving 20 minutes to find a Walmart.

It goes without saying that Florida's state politics are strikingly different than Michigan's. When I tell Michiganders about my life down south, they either pity or fear me. Actually living in Florida, though, has kept me from caricaturizing an entire state of people. I see more Confederate flags in rural Michigan than I do in the Gulf. There is, of course, important work to be done in Florida. It is difficult to watch their trajectory as a feminist, an LGBTQ+ ally and a student of history.

I have faith in the state of Michigan to keep positive momentum. In Florida, there are clear causes that need all the help they can get. I am grateful to have gotten out so I have the chance to join them.



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Recreating Barbenheimer

Why forcing another movie trend won't work

Lucas Gill
Web Editor

It was an eventful summer for movie fans online, largely due to the internet phenomenon dubbed 'Barbenheimer'.

'Barbenheimer' refers to the social media trend around the simultaneous releases of Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" and Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer." Both were released on July 21, resulting in impressive box office numbers and broken filmmaking records.

One point that sparked the trend was the pure tonal contrast between the two films. Gerwig's "Barbie" is a bright fantasy comedy based on Mattel's fashion dolls.

It follows Barbie and Ken, played by Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, as they travel to the real world on a quest of self discovery and worth. "Barbie's" bright, creative set and costume design are in stark contrast to the other half of this trend.

Nolan's "Oppenheimer," is an intense biopic portraying the life and career of physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, played by Cillian Murphy. The film mainly focuses on the Manhattan Project during World War II, the creation of the atom bomb and the political fallout the physicist had with the



Graphic by: Lucas Gill | Web Editor

JUMP TO PAGE 9

Making Ferris for the students

Why students are about to have their greatest year yet

Dylan Andrews
Guest Contributor

Hello, my fellow students. My name is Dylan Andrews, and I am your student body president. First things first, I want to welcome you all back with open arms and a big smile. For this academic year is going to be one of the best years Ferris states has ever had.

We in the Student Government Association are going to make this year the best year because we are going to rebuild the unity among all students and student groups, provide more resources to make a difference on this campus and be the greatest support system for all students. That is my duty as your student body president to make sure all of you have successful and eventful times here at Ferris State.

My goal is clear: I want to make this university for the students. That is why I've had the drive to become your student body president. I want all of you to feel as though this is your second home away from home. And the little things that we do here at the SGA are what's going to drive that feeling home. This year I plan on making positive advancements to the SGA itself, create one of the most successful and everlasting philanthropic events for both the fall and

the spring, and work diligently with our president Dr. Bill Pink to keep the connection between him and our students as open as possible.

I've spent a lot of time at this university. Going on three years now, I see what students need. I reach out and I talk with all of you the best I can, and it is my pursuit to take those common goals and make them a reality. One of the biggest things that I want to do when I step into that first meeting is try to make it so that every single student is truly represented by the SGA. And by doing that, all of you are members. If you wish to partake in helping the university with your actions, my plan is so that you have to only attend two meetings to receive voting privileges.

Once you attend these two meetings, you will truly have a voice in these actions your university takes. I encourage all of you to join because the more people we have that are fighting for the cause, the better our university is going to be. With all that being said, the first event that we're going to do in the fall is going to benefit all of you students. I know times can be tough. No student should ever go hungry. Our canned drive is estimated to kick off between the second and third week of school and last the entire

semester. The purpose of this can drive is to build food pantries and fill those food pantries for every single residence hall on this campus. And then to celebrate.

SGA is also going to throw its first ever fall dance. We're still working on the name, but we want to give back to the students that put in hard work, effort and time. Our next event is going to help out not just the students, but also bridge the gap between us and the community that we live in. I've been working diligently with the Big Rapids mayor in coming up with a new idea to help the community of Big Rapids and garner support for the students at this prestigious university. By making these different advancements we will make it the best year ever.

On a final note, we at the SGA are here to represent you, your friends and fellow students. I will make sure to speak with all of you the best I can. I encourage you to join and make a difference for your fellow students and yourself. If you see me out in public, don't be afraid to say hello. I want to hear your opinions and I want to make sure you are being the best you can possibly be. This is your president, Dylan Andrews, have a great school year.



Photo courtesy of Dylan Andrews

Senior Dylan Andrews is optimistic about his first semester as SGA president.

BARBENHEIMER CONT.

American government. The darker subject matter makes for a consistently thrilling and dramatic narrative.

Rather than starting a rivalry between the two films, internet users brewed excitement about the idea of watching both back-to-back. This trend grew naturally on social media apps such as Twitter and Instagram.

The collaboration was supported by the two directors and some members of the main casts. The official "Barbie" movie Twitter account posted pictures of Gerwig and Margot Robbie showing off tickets for a triple feature of newer films releasing in July, "Oppenheimer" included. Cillian Murphy stated in an interview with IGN "I'll be going to see Barbie, one hundred percent."

At the time of writing, both movies have been out for four weeks and have both been highly successful for their respective studios. "Oppenheimer" has made over \$650 million for Universal, steadily making its way to the \$700 million mark.

On the other hand, "Barbie" has broken records for Warner Bros, grossing over \$1.2 billion for the studio. Greta Gerwig has become the first solo female director to have a film cross the \$1 billion mark. The hype around and success of 'Barbenheimer' has definitely caught the attention of Hollywood. It surely seems like a winning strategy for studios to use in the future. Surprisingly, another similar instance is coming up next month.

Directed by Kevin Greutert, "Saw X" is the tenth and newest

installment in the Saw film series. This upcoming horror movie takes place between the events of "Saw" and "Saw 2." The film was originally set to be released on October 27th. Earlier this year at the San Diego Comic-Con, Lionsgate announced that the movie was set to be released almost a whole month earlier. "Saw X" is now set to release on September 29th. The same day as the new "PAW Patrol" movie.

"PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie" is the upcoming computer animated superhero movie based on the children's television series "Paw Patrol". The film is directed by Cal Bruner and is a sequel to 2021's "Paw Patrol: The Movie," also directed by Bruner.

These two films releasing on the same day seem like a quick attempt to ride the success of 'Barbenheimer.' Online news sites came to call this trend 'SAW Patrol' or 'the next Barbenheimer.' The official Lionsgate Twitter account even wrote "reporting for SAW PATROL, sir." This has been met with mixed and even negative feedback from internet users.

To me, the 'SAW Patrol' trend feels very shallow and corporate. With the change in the release date for "Saw X," it's easy to see why. This new pair is even more tonally different than "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" and have drastically different target audiences. Rather than a celebration of two talented directors, it's closer to a marketing stunt.

I personally think it will be at least another decade before we get a natural double feature that resembles the hype that "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" had.

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What you missed: sports



Photo from Torch archives

Noah Giesbrecht (left) and Bradley Marek (right) take the ice at Ewingleben.

The Back-to-Back Champions visit the White House:

On June 12th, the White House invited 52 NCAA champions, including the Ferris State football team, to the nation's capitol for "College Athlete Day."

The event was attended by 25 student-athletes from the Bulldog football team, head coach Tony Annese and some staff. The event was led by Vice President Kamala Harris, as President Joe Biden was unavailable due to a root canal.

Ferris President Bill Pink was elated that the Bulldogs had the opportunity to be nationally recognized.

"I'm so thrilled that our team can make the trip to D.C. and be back-to-back national champions, it is such a great opportunity and great honor," Pink said. "It's hard

enough to win one national championship but we have twice in a row. We've been able to celebrate this year. It's a special occasion and I love the fact that the Office of the President wants to recognize that."

Pink was very grateful in general with the White House's honoring of all student athletes, saying, "what a strong statement from our friends in Washington, D.C."

The Bulldogs are believed to be the first DII national champion to visit the White House and be honored since North Alabama visited the Bill Clinton-led White House in 1995. The Bulldogs were only joined by the DIII football national champions North Central (Ill.) as the DI national champions, the Georgia Bulldogs, declined the invitation.

Dylan Rider
Sports Editor

Bulldog hockey attends NHL camps, Brad Marek signs with AHL

Current Ferris State goaltender Noah Giesbrecht and now former forward Bradley Marek attended NHL development camps during the summer.

Giesbrecht spent time with both the Philadelphia Flyers and Winnipeg Jets in early July while Marek spent time with the San Jose Sharks. Weeks after Marek attended, he signed with the Sharks' AHL affiliate, the San Jose Barracuda.

Assistant coach Dave Cencer wished the ex-Bulldog well and was thankful of his contributions to the team during his time with the team.

"First and foremost, I'm excited and happy for him and happy for what he brought to the team the last two years," Cencer said. "Selfishly, we wish he would have been here longer."

Marek, a Big Rapids native, played a big role for the Bulldogs when it came to taking faceoffs which, according to Cencer, would be an immediate need for the Bulldogs to fill.

Giesbrecht split his time between Philadelphia and Winnipeg, spending the majority of his time in Philadelphia. The Canadian-born goaltender worked with Winnipeg in their last two days of camp.

Giesbrecht, who had plenty of options to choose from for NHL development camps, specifically chose Philadelphia and Winnipeg

for the opportunity they present.

"Both of them are in a rebuilding stage and have question marks around a lot of positions," Giesbrecht said. "I thought it was a good opportunity to put myself in areas that were lacking in that department and that I saw holes in so I could possibly make a friendship with that organization."

Giesbrecht also expressed excitement for his former teammate's opportunity in San Jose, saying that "everyone will be keeping a close eye on him and cheer for him."

Bulldog hockey training camp is well underway as they work their way towards their season opener against Miami (OH) on Oct. 7 at Ewingleben Arena.



Photo courtesy of Ferris State Athletics

Ferris' two time championship winning football team visit the White House.

Bulldog football and women's soccer rank highly in preseason:

Both Bulldog football and women's soccer received high praise in preseason polling as both teams received top-10 rankings.

Bulldog football is the favorite to win the GLIAC title according to the GLIAC coaches preseason poll while also being ranked #1 in the country by the American Football Coaches Association and D2Football.com among others. The women's soccer team received a ranking of #6 in the nation in the United Soccer Coaches top 25 list.












Both teams' ranking should be no surprise as the Bulldog teams reached new levels of success last year. Bulldog football captured its second straight DII football national championship when they beat Colorado School of Mines in the

national championship. Bulldog women's soccer took the program to new heights when reaching their first NCAA DII soccer semifinals after beating archrival Grand Valley on penalty-kicks in the regional finals and then beating Bemidji State in the quarter finals. The Bulldogs would ultimately face a hard 2-1 loss to the eventual national champion Westchester in the semifinals.

The bar is seemingly set high for both sets of Bulldogs with the ranking they've received heading into their respective seasons. With both teams set to be the first sports to return to Ferris (Women's soccer- Aug. 20, Football- Aug. 31), their destinies are in their hands to either exceed expectations -or disappoint- on their campaigns.



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

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