

Tribute from Stormy Asanpi's mother



Photos courtesy of Dana Greensky

Stormy Asanpi graduated high school one year early before moving to Big Rapids Michigan to study nursing at Ferris.

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Dana Greensky, Stormy Asanpi's mother, shared memories and goals that her daughter had.

Asanpi was a nursing freshman who lived in Merrell-Travis Hall, before her death on Sept. 5. According to Greensky, Asanpi was diagnosed with epilepsy in the summer of 2022. Greensky was told that her daughter's death was likely caused by a minor epileptic episode, that caused her daughter to pass away.

Home Life:

Friendships came easy to Asanpi, according to her mom, who explained that she had friends from all over the state. She valued her friendships greatly and was excited to start off her fresh-

man year with some of them.

Her mom also explained that Asanpi liked the idea of comfort and living in an aesthetically pleasing space.

"She really liked vanilla scented candles," Greenway said. "She was into essential oils; she understood the value of essential oils and understood the value and like the different elements of Mother Nature. So, you know there's different types of stones, crystals and things like that."

Asanpi was part of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. One of Greensky's memories of Asanpi is with one of the tribe's traditions. This tradition included staying up all night, dancing, singing and doing prayer. It was required for the adults to stay up all night, and according to Greensky, Asanpi was proud of herself for staying up all night at

the last few ceremonies she attended.

"She worked 32 hours a week and she spent a lot of time working during that time and saving money because she had some aspirations to do some traveling," Greensky said. "And she wanted to experience that before she started college because when she did make the decision to start college, she realized she knew that's all it was going to be like. she would have to really buckle down and spend time focusing on her education."

College Life:

Helping others was an important value to Asanpi. She was able to see the difference in how people reacted to being treated and wanted to make a difference in children's lives, who might not un-

derstand how life works yet. She was originally choosing between becoming a nurse or working in juvenile detention facilities, but ultimately decided to become a nurse according to Greensky.

Having went through some difficult things in her life, Asanpi was able to tell how people around her reacted to specific incidences, and understood the importance of having help especially as an adolescent and wanted to be that support system for others.

After college, Asanpi wanted to also get a side career in cosmetology, as she had a passion for doing hair and makeup. She wanted to be in a good place financially before pursuing cosmetology.

"She was excited about moving into a dorm," Greensky said. "The amount of belongings she brought down there, I just was like, 'Man, that to me, it was like too much'

but I didn't want to like rain on her parade."

Greensky asks that if anyone wishes to honor her daughter's memory that they donate to Involved Dad, a program that focuses on helping dads who have been incarcerated be active in their children's lives by providing active training. She explained that this would've meant a lot to Asanpi.

It is believed that she was found by her friends, however, the Torch was unable to connect with them at the time of this article.

News

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

Staying updated on the unexpected

Ways to prepare for unplanned incidents on campus



Photo By: Levi Waling | Torch Photographer

Construction crews replacing roof on the Prakken Building.

Tate Zellman
News Reporter

Several unexpected incidents have happened over the past month, and there are several things that students and staff can do to stay informed. While there have been crime related incidents on campus, there have also been some emergency incidents on campus that were not related to

crime.

One of these incidents took place at the Prakken Building, located near the north side of campus. Workers constructing a new roofing system were the first to notice a bad odor inside the building. The smell inside the building happened during an operation where the new roofing system was being installed.

Associate vice president for

marketing and communications David Murray explained what the occupants did as the odor roamed the indoors.

“As a proactive measure, the facilities team suggested closing the building for the comfort of the occupants,” Murray said. “Occupants were able to relocate to other locations on campus or work remotely. The building was returned to normal operation the

next day with no additional odor complaints.”

The odor was caused by the glue from the roof construction being placed too close to the HVAC system.

Automotive engineering sophomore Rob Tayler touched on what students can learn for when similar incidents happen unexpectedly.

“Infrastructure failures on cam-

pus hold the facility accountable to repair the damage and make sure the indoors are safe for people,” said Tayler. “Things like this happening can be reminders to students and professors alike to be flexible with their schedules in order to make things work out.”

Moving classes from in-person to online can be a big change for students. It’s important to show flexibility when classes need an in-person to a remote change so students can continue to work towards their education.

Fredericka Hayes, associate vice president for human resources, talked about some online and mobile platforms that students and staff should investigate to feel safer on campus and receive campus updates faster.

“We encourage our students and staff to sign up for Rave Alerts to help ensure they have the best possible information in the event of campus emergencies,” said Hayes. “And we strongly encourage our students and staff to pay attention to the ferris.edu homepage and our primary social media accounts.”

Events like an unexpected odor are things that people can’t prepare for on the spot. Checking online resources can help students see what news they’ve received on campus, which can help them be informed of the unexpected incidents that may occur on campus.

Campus enrollment increases

How the on campus enrollment has changed since COVID

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

The enrollment rate for on-campus students this semester at Ferris is the highest it has been since 2021.

While the rate is not as high as it was before COVID-19, the enrollment rate for on campus students continues to climb as the years progress.

The impact of COVID-19 hit Ferris’ enrollment rate hard in the Fall semester of 2021, causing a decrease in enrollment. According to the Fall Enrollment Summaries, the total amount of students enrolled on campus in 2021 was 7,773, which was a 417 drop in attendance from 2020. However, according to the summary for 2023, the total amount of students enrolled is 7,890, which is an increase of 117 students since 2021.

In addition to this, there was a decrease in online enrollment from 2021 to this semester, as there were 737 students enrolled

online in 2021, while this semester there were only 616, which is a decrease of 121 since 2021.

According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, there was still not a big change in enrollment in the Spring 2023 semester, however there was a growing increase of roughly 0.2% of enrollment increases happening at four-year universities. The impact was slightly higher at community colleges, which had an increase of roughly 2%. While the increase was small, the National Student Clearinghouse research Center, found that little increases in enrollments were present among all different degrees, including certificates.

Heather Ellison, the assistant manager at The Quad, has been working on campus since Fall 2021. While she was not initially here at the beginning of Fall 2021 year; she did note some differences she has seen since the beginning of her time at Ferris.

“I feel like every year since COVID is officially done with it

seems like there’s more and more students on campus,” Ellison said. “We’ve definitely gotten a lot more people wanting to work on campus too.”

Criminal justice senior, Jalen Johnson, noted one of the major differences that he has seen on campus.

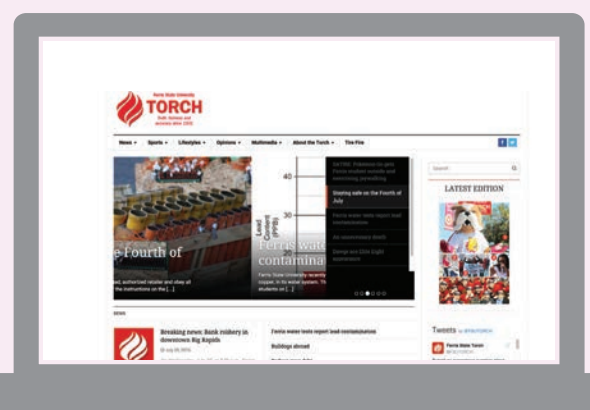
“I had about six seven people in my classroom,” Johnson said. “So, it’s changed a lot because it’s way more people in my classroom, so it’s changed. I don’t want to say how to learn better when it was like a shorter amount of people but it’s definitely like You’re more active and you will have more relationship with a professor when it’s that way.”

Johnson also explained that he believed that the campus feels less active now compared to his freshman year, as there seems to be less events happening and less people socializing. Johnson believes that the cause of this could be a few different things, but COVID-19 may have impacted how the campus atmosphere has

shifted to become quieter than before COVID-19. He has seen things slowly starting to get more student involvement as well and believes that Ferris is beginning to return to its pre-COVID-19 self.

FERRIS STATE TORCH

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Summer Fellows Present Their Research

What The Next Generation Learned from Their Mentors



Photo By: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

One student fellow presenting their research to attendees in the David L. Eisler Center.

Ethan Edsall
News Reporter

Friday Sept. 15th, students who were part of the FSU Student Fellows Program had an opportunity to present the research that these students have gathered over the summer.

The entire event started with a welcome speech which then moved on to the Founders Room where each student was given an opportunity to present the findings of their research.

Each student was given a seven-minute time limit to present their findings which would be followed by a quick Q&A but before the students would come up to the podium, each student was introduced by the professor who was responsible for the oversight of the research product. When introducing their mentees, each professor would talk with pride about the time and effort that each student put into the research product. Overall, the general atmosphere of the event was a mixture of pride

and joy between a mentoring professor and the mentee student.

“I just got to say that I had a super time working with Dr. Owens,” said Danique Walker a recent graduate of Ferris’s nursing program, who spent the summer researching about the healthcare field and carbon emissions. “Dr. Owens was with me every step of the way. Whenever I need an extra pair of eyes or if I needed to meet with her outside of normal office hours, Dr. Owens would be very accommodating.”

Walker had nothing but positive things to say about Dr. Owens and the mentor-like relationship that these two cultivated this summer. “Dr Owens has guided me with her own knowledge and past experiences.” Walker said “I don’t think that this experience could have gone as smoothly as it had without her input”

This is a sentiment that many of the other student researchers shared with the faculty members who helped mentor these students during this summer fellowship.

“I worked with Dr. Janet Vizina-Roubal for this project, and we had a very good working relationship” Bryce Longenberger a recent graduate of the master of social work presented his researcher on the connection between post-traumatic stress disorder and dementia in older adults. “Dr. Vizina-Roual gave me some very good advice and guidance on how to steer the direction of my research project, she mostly gave me the liberty to do what I wanted which was nice because it allowed me to steer the project in my own direction.”

The positive reaction that a lot of these student researchers had towards the mentors who guided them this summer was met with equal praise from the mentors to their mentees.

“Danique took my suggestions and ran with them” Dr. Susan Owens said. “A mentorship is easier when people understand how you are thinking, I knew when to push and when not to push and right at the go we made a calendar and

we kept those end dates in mind which allowed us to stay on schedule.”

When Dr Owens was asked how she think Walker presented, Owens said she thought Walker did very well.

“We practiced it a lot, Danique slowed her presentation down which was a good accomplishment compared to how fast it was going earlier and if there were things that we had to cut out but I think that she handled it perfectly.”

Owens was not the only faculty member to show their pride and excitement about the students presenting their research.

“I thought the students did an amazing job, far beyond what I expected to see” said Dr Greg Gogolin the keynote speaker for this event and director of center for cyber security and data science “There were some very solid results even though some results, I was impressed all the projects were very well done and professionally presented.”

When asked if Gogolin thought

that the student researchers had any room for improvement, he could not think of any critiques he could make.

After presenting their findings in the Founders Room the event was moved to the ballroom in the David L. Eisler center where lunch was presented, and the student researchers had the opportunity to present and answer any questions to the students who had missed the more formal presentation stage of the event. While the students would stand by their diagrams a lot of the Ferris faculty who had mentored these students would not be found far away from their mentees with nothing but absolute looks of pride at all that their students had accomplished not only with the research that these students did this summer, but also pride at how well their students had presented their findings at the 2023 Celebration of Student Research and Creative Activities.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
Editor in Chief

Detroit: Amid the United Auto Workers strike, the CIE Newcor automotive company has threatened to layoff 293 employees at four facilities in the state of Michigan.

The Detroit Free Press reports that CIE Newcor filed a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification on Thursday. They stated that a temporary closure is “possible, but will be determined by the length of the potential UAW – Detroit 3 strike.”

According to the notice from CIE Newcor, the layoff is set to start

on Oct. 2 and run for one month. The UAW strike saw nearly 13,000 workers from three facilities walkout on Thursday and plan to continue the shutdown until both parties reach a new labor agreement.

The three facilities are the Ford Michigan Assembly Plant, the Stellantis Toledo Assembly Complex and General Motors Wentzville Assembly.

CIE Newcor is among the first entities to take action against the striking auto workers.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
Editor in Chief

Ottawa and New Delhi: Hardeep Singh Nijjar’s killing has triggered international tensions between Canada and India.

Al Jazeera reports that India recently expelled a high-level Canadian diplomat soon after Ottawa relieved a top official from India.

Tensions continue to raise between the two countries following the assassination of Nijjar, a separatist leader in June.

India’s government called Canadian Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau’s comments about “credible allegations” of collusion in the assassination “absurd.”

Nijjar was shot at age 45 outside of a Sikh temple in a Vancouver suburb. Three years ago, the Indian government labeled him a “terrorist” after his support of the demand for a Sikh homeland.





Photos By: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Bulldog Bonanza 2023 brought 130 clubs and vendors to the Robinson Quad through both rain and shine.



Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

Who has your vote?

2023 homecoming ambassador voting is here

Kendall Phillips
Culture Reporter

Four lady Bulldogs are on the ballot for this year's homecoming ambassador.

The candidates in the running this year are Keonie Russell, Paige Byrnes, Imari Carl and Telsa McBride. All four seniors are excited and eager for their campaigns and for the possibility of representing the student body.

Keonie Russell - You Beautiful Black Woman

Being involved and getting out of your comfort zone is no foreign thing to senior social work senior, Keonie Russell. Since her start at Ferris, she has been involved in You Beautiful Black Women, Co-chair of Sistah Circle, member of the National Association of Black Social Workers and member of the Social Work Association.

"I am running for ambassador because I feel like I have done a lot for the Ferris community," Russell said. "Since I got here, I have done my best to do as much as I can and go to as much as I can in the community. I love Ferris and I would love to be the one to represent it."

If named homecoming ambassador, Keonie wants to do her best to bring all different types of communities at Ferris together.

"There are a lot of different communities on campus, and it is very rare that we are all together," Russell said. "I would love to bring everyone together for more inclusivity."

Imari Carl - Delta Sigma Theta

Psychology senior, Imari Carl, has spent her last three years at Ferris getting involved in as many things as she can. She is the President of the Black Greek Council, Treasurer of Delta Sigma Theta, Liaison of You Beautiful Black Woman, and a general member of Entertainment Unlimited.

"I decided to run for ambassador because I just really love Ferris," Carl said. "When I first came here I was very shy, but then I started pushing myself to go to more events and activities. This led me to really great people who encouraged me to go out more, and I want the freshman to know that there are people out there that are willing to push for them as well."

Throughout her time here at Ferris, and through her ambassador campaigning, Imari feels that she has had constant support from her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta.

"They are 100% behind me with everything that I do, and they are always pushing me to be great," Carl said.

The most important thing that Imari wants people to take from her campaign is to get involved and not be afraid to meet new people. Imari's advice to future candi-

dates is to go for running because there's always a chance you'll win.

"Just go for it," Carl said. "You won't know the outcome until you do it."

Paige Byrnes - Alpha Sigma Tau

Senior Paige Byrnes has always pushed herself to get involved in whatever she can in the Ferris community. She is a part of the business administration program and Alpha Sigma Theta member and she was a part of the homecoming committee and spent a year on the club volleyball team.

"The idea to run for ambassador this year initially stemmed from my participation in last year's homecoming committee," Byrnes said. "I think that this is going to be a fun and rewarding opportunity in my final year of college."

Becoming an ambassador would be nothing short of an honor for Paige. As a second-generation Ferris student, Bulldog pride is a huge part of her life.

"I would be honored to represent our student body," Byrnes said. "I want to encourage everyone else on this campus to get involved because I feel that it has greatly enriched my experience as a student."

Telsa McBride - Ferris Women's Rugby

Running for ambassador was something that senior social work student, Telsa McBride, never imagined herself doing. But when given the chance she decided to try something new.

"When I got here, my goal was to try new things and put myself in things that I never saw myself doing," McBride said. "It's my senior year too so why not go out with a bang."

She is the vice president of the women's rugby team, a member of the social work association and an Honors student. She values being involved in the community

"Being able to get myself out of my dorm and find new opportunities has kept me very motivated," McBride said.

Being an ambassador would mean something different to McBride. She wants to show all students that it doesn't matter who you are or where you're from, you can still accomplish whatever you put your mind to.

"I want to use the title of Homecoming Ambassador as a way to represent that not everybody has to be super well known in order to receive this title," McBride said. "You can come from any background or have any type of character and still have the same opportunities as anyone else."

The homecoming ambassador voting is taking place from Sept. 21 to Sept. 28 on Entertainment Unlimited's Instagram @ferriseu.

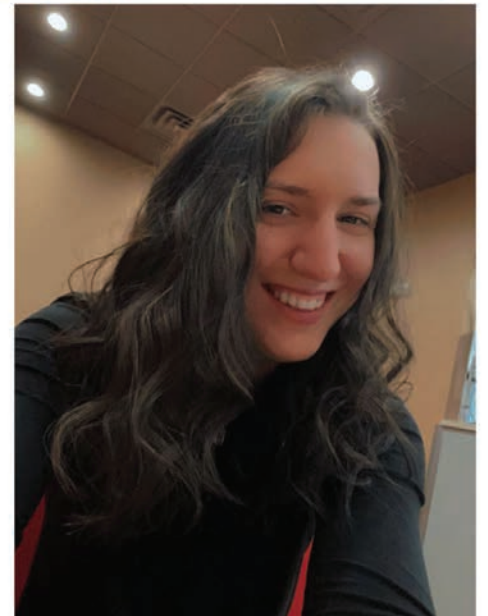


Photo Credits to Homecoming Ambassadors

Paige Byrnes (Top Left) Imari Carl (Top Right) Reonie Russell (Bottom Left) Tesla McBride (Bottom Right)

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Kicking off homecoming

The return of a Bulldog tradition

Brook Blausey
Culture Reporter

The homecoming dance tradition makes its return back to Ferris after a long absence.

The dance is a formal black-tie event which traditionally means men wear tuxedos and women wear floor length gowns. However, the dress code is not strictly enforced. Though it's geared towards Ferris students, everyone is invited. Admission is free for all attendees and will include a red carpet, snacks, a DJ and a 360 camera.

Activities coordinator and advisor Ben Avery knew that bringing the dance back was the right thing

to do once they learned it used to be a bulldog tradition.

"Once we heard that there used to be a homecoming dance here at Ferris, we knew we had to resurrect the tradition," Avery said.

Marketing sophomore David Carrier is a part of EU and participated in planning homecoming. He believes that all of the planning is "on track." As the dance is almost here, the homecoming committee members hope to have a big turnout this year.

"I am so excited for everybody to come and hang out with us," Carrier said. "The more the merrier."

EU has spent weeks planning this event and they are ready for

it to happen. As the upperclassman had their senior year of high school during the beginning of the pandemic, a lot of them missed out on a last dance. According to Carrier, this dance gives them that chance. This played a big part into bringing the dance back, Carrier describes it as a "selling point" for people to dress up, dance and have a good time.

"A lot of us didn't get a senior prom, a bunch of my friends had dresses that they never got to wear," Carrier said. "So, we were thinking about what we could add to make this year different. I was like, what if we did a dance so people can use the dresses that they

never got a chance to use back in 2020?"

Hospitality management sophomore Maeve Cortti will be participating in the homecoming parade. She believes the dance is a good addition to homecoming week.

"I'm going to the dance but there needs to be good music," Cortti said. "It's a good event for people to meet each other and it'll be sad and no fun if no one goes to it."

Carrier believes that preparing for homecoming is trying to find what will get students to want to go to their events. With this, he encourages students to participate in

homecoming events.

Nursing sophomore Rachel Foster is excited to see the decorations and overall outcome of the dance. She will be attending because this will be Ferris' first dance since she's started school here.

The dance will kick off the start of homecoming week on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Visit <https://www.ferris.edu/homecoming.htm> to see the countdown to start of homecoming week and more homecoming week events.

Culture Editor Giuliana Denicolo contributed to the writing of this article.



Homecoming 2023 Events

Saturday 9/23

Homecoming
Kick-Off Dance

David L. Eisler Center, Ballrooms
7-10 pm

Wednesday 9/27

Comedian:
Trevor Wallace

Williams Auditorium
7:30-9 pm

Thursday, 9/28

Field Day & Cornhole
Tournament

(RSVP Required)
Robinson Quad
5-7 pm

Friday, 9/29

2023 Fall Reunion

(Registration Required)
David L. Eisler Center, Ballrooms
5:30-9 pm

Bonfire Pep Rally

Robinson Quad
7-10 pm

Saturday 9/30

Homecoming Parade

Downtown Big Rapids
10:30 am - 12 pm

Tailgate & Football
Game

Top Taggart Field
11 am - 5 pm

Scan for more
information



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant



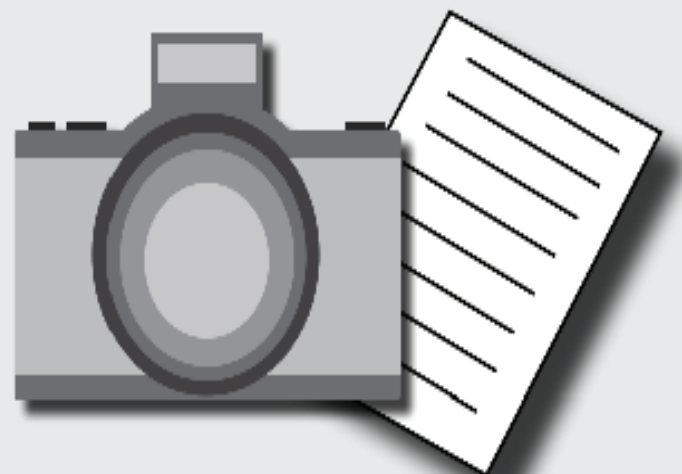
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EDITORS COLUMN:

What is a writer worth?

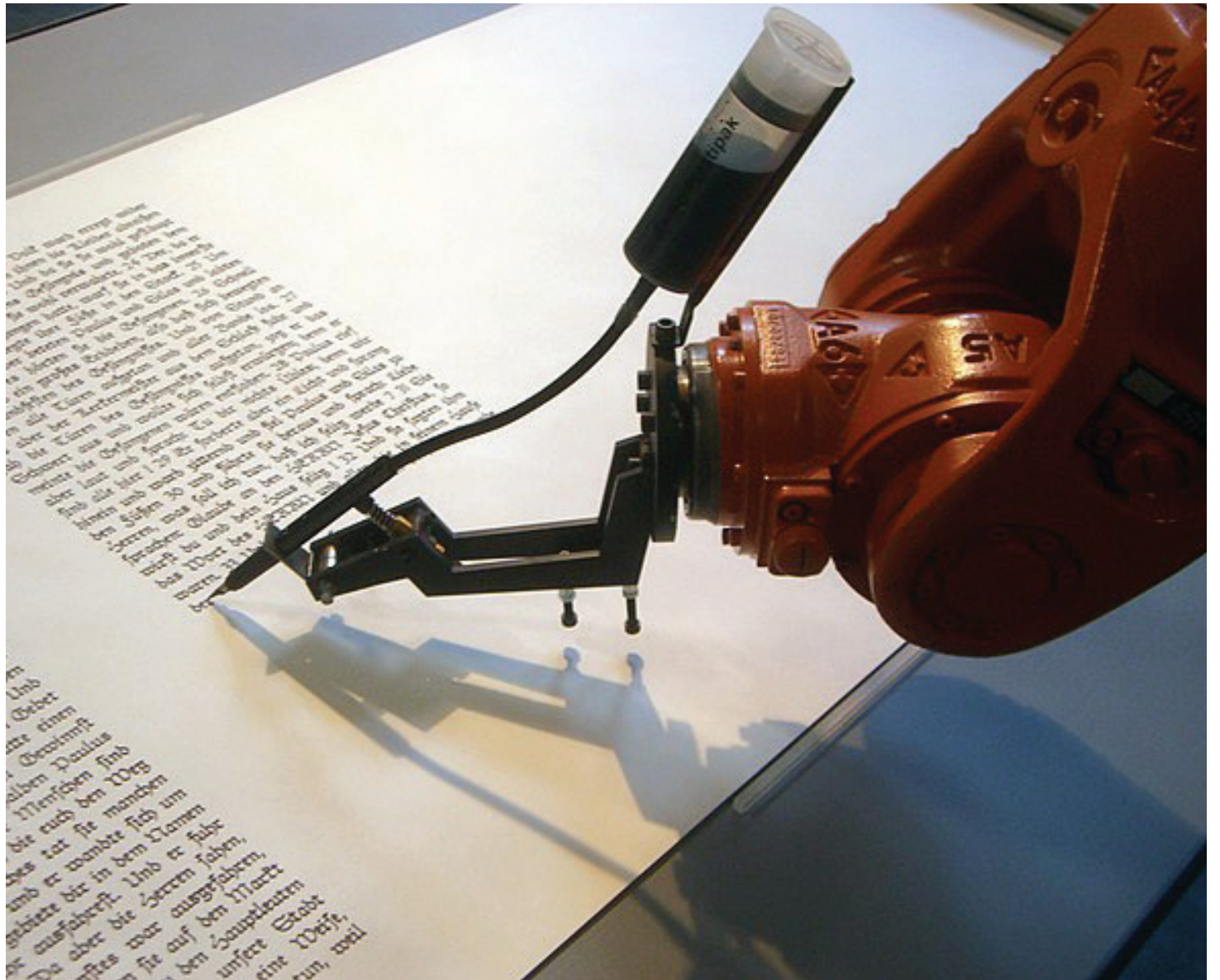


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Jessica Oakes Editor-In-Chief

Four months into the Writers Guild of America strike, debates surrounding the value of human creativity are returning to Hollywood's negotiation table.

Along with standard contractual disputes including benefits and payment models, the WGA strike has highlighted the presence of artificial intelligence in professional writing.

I am a writer, editor and communicator to my professional core. I love preparing and giving speeches. Even in the news section and my technical communications major, I have been able to find the humanity and creativity in serious writing.

Throughout my life as a student and a worker, my strengths have consistently avoided the realm of STEM fields. I proudly took any jokes people made about communications majors because of one piece of assurance: my job could never be replaced by a machine.

AI-generated homework assign-

ments, movie trailers and news articles now show that I may have felt a little too comfortable in my job security. I am confident that AI is bad at my job. I am also confident that wealthy production company executives would still prefer a cheap, inadequate algorithm to a real worker that thinks, breathes and asks for a fair contract.

In 2020, Microsoft MSN laid off dozens of journalists in order to replace them with AI software. Last week, they published an AI-generated obituary with a headline reading "Brandon Hunter useless at 42."

One Twitter user, @THESagerbomb, expressed, "I would love for the room of people who approved using AI to write obituaries to have to explain to Brandon Hunter's family exactly how much money they're saving."

The rest of the article ranged from insensitive to unintelligible. This situation shows how many people are negatively affected by AI-generated content. Writers lose their paychecks, people featured in articles are poorly and disre-

spectfully portrayed and media outlets damage their own credibility.

Writing about death is one of the most difficult things a journalist has to do. We at the Torch understand how much extra work is required to properly pay tribute to someone's life in print. This goes far beyond the writing process. Reporters are expected to build rapport and establish a respectful relationship with their sources, especially when covering a sensitive topic.

The press does not always adhere to ethical journalistic standards. I am aware of the negative effects of news in the TMZ era. Regardless, I believe a human being striving to write a story through connections made with other human beings will consistently win the battle against AI. Even if it wouldn't, I believe it should.

We have algorithms and automation to make our lives easier. There are countless important jobs that require minimal soul and produce minimal joy for the worker. It is nonsensical to use this

technology to take away jobs from creatives instead.

Finally, let's not forget that these algorithms do not avoid human bias. Programs are written by programmers. Like many others, the programming industry is overrun by wealthy, cisgender white men. I don't trust a computer to understand social ramifications or important concepts like intersectionality and the need for better diverse representation in media. When these machines learn through what has already been posted and printed, it hinders our ability to progress with new ideas.

As I prepare myself to join the workforce full-time, I need to understand the value of a writer. It is now my responsibility to convince hiring managers that I am a valuable worker who deserves steady work and decent pay. If these industries decide to replace writers while Gen-Z is just getting started to work, they will be doing a disservice to everyone involved.

Men's struggle with mental health



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Assistant Production Manager

Ethan Edsall
News reporter

How do men ask for help?

It's okay to be vulnerable, that is a phrase that I have heard many times. It's okay to ask for help, that's a phrase that a lot of men hear in 2023, but how does a man

ask for help or even show any type of vulnerability, when growing up we are taught to be the strong, quiet type?

The society that many men, including myself, grew up in, taught us that talking about our feelings is unmanly; this type of upbringing has led to a lot of men refusing to seek help even when some men

really do need that type of help.

This is especially true for men that go to college. College is a naturally stressful environment because of the countless hours studying and time management. These are skills that any student needs to learn, especially for people that work a job while going to school and maintaining a social

life.

The question then becomes how do people cope with all this stress? For some, this process is quite easy, but for others it can quickly take a toll on one's mental health. With college there comes expectations and with those expectations there comes a lot of second guessing, self-doubt and dare I say it, a breakdown if someone doesn't properly take care of themselves. For woman it is easy to ask for help, but for men that is a different story.

Men have always been seen as the protector; this has dated back to when people were still living in caves. However, in that span of time, what makes a man a man has been defined by what we now see as toxic masculinity. Growing up in the early 2000's, I was taught that men are tough and disciplined. One thing that I learned as a child is that if a man cried, he was weak, if a man asked for help, he was weak, and most importantly if a man didn't enjoy stereotypically masculine interest such as sports or hunting or G.I Joe then he was considered gay, feminine or that there was just something wrong with him.

It is because of those stereotypes that for the longest time I pretended to show interest in football instead of Harry Potter, that I preferred to watch *The Lord of the Rings* instead of joining the other boys in the neighborhood. Many people wondered what was wrong with me and the doctors would want to say that these interests are because I have Aspergers Syndrome when in truth I just wanted to do what interested me.

The experiences that I had growing up led me to create a wall around myself where I portrayed

a version of myself that did enjoy the stereotypical manly interests. That has done a lot of harm to my mental health because I was always afraid that no one would like the real me. Sadly, to this day I still struggle with that fear of not being accepted because of my nerdier interests and I am not the only one.

Since men are taught to never show emotion, a lot of them refuse to accept that it is okay to act like a kid in a candy store when something interests them. Instead of not asking for help, men should ask for help from someone if they truly need it. I could have saved myself a lot of pain on campus last year if I would have had the courage to understand that sometimes even a man needs a break.

If I had been more open with people that I was struggling with school, I wouldn't have suffered as badly as I did. It wasn't until I got home, and I finally had a chance to admit to myself that yes, I am a man, but I need help, that I was truly able to start healing.

I'm not alone in my struggle for understanding that men have just as much of a right to ask for help. In fact, the stigma surrounding men showing weakness and vulnerability has led to many men turning to suicide. If you are a man and you are having a hard time with school or are struggling with your mental health, then please have the courage to do what took me so long to do, and ask for help. It doesn't have to be help from a therapist, reach out to your friends or family; this small act of saying 'I need help' to your loved ones can not only save you from a mental breakdown, but it can also help you handle the stress of college.

Cs get degrees, As are a pain

Why striving for academic perfection is a disservice

Giuliana Denicolo
Culture Editor

For as long as I can remember, I've tried to achieve academic perfection. And for as long as I can remember, I have failed to reach that goal. As a senior in college, I've officially decided that I'm tired of draining myself to get to a place that doesn't exist for me.

Last year, I hit rock bottom in my academic career. I passed all my classes, and I nearly got straight A's, but school made me feel the smallest and lowest I have ever felt. I was disappointed in myself for my grades and my GPA.

Every year at the end of summer, I had to intentionally be aware of the change in my quality of life that was coming with school starting. I knew I'd have to start preparing to sleep and eat less and hate myself more.

Since I was a junior in high school, I always wondered why I needed to work so hard to average a B. I've brought myself down so many times because I have never

had a 4.0 and I never will. I always answer the question, "what do you want to get out of this class?" with the no brainer, "an A."

As this is my last year, I would like to reframe my perspective. I don't need an A. I don't need to strive for a perfect GPA. And I don't want to anymore.

I want to graduate knowing my best was enough. I want to learn more this year than ever before and I want to know that I made sure to spend valuable time with my friends because we'll never be 21-year-olds together in college ever again.

I want to take it all in and remember every moment this year aside from struggling in school and feeling bad about it. I will not be letting school hold me back from going out with my friends or watching a movie at night instead of writing a paper. I want to live for myself and not for my grades. I want to be present.

Since I'm so close to no longer identifying as a student, I've never been more aware of the fact that I

need to get a life outside of school. It's a difficult task to unlearn these practices I've known since I was a little girl, but I owe it to myself.

Academic perfection is a lie. It's setting yourself up for failure because you'll never achieve it. I believe I wanted to reach it more than anything. It was the accomplishment. But what does a 4.0 GPA give a middle-aged college graduate to brag about? Nothing.

To me, a perfect GPA meant that I was smart. It meant that I'd get a good-paying job that I loved. It meant that I mattered, and everyone knew it. But I've been wrong this entire time. A perfect GPA doesn't mean a thing. That number expires the day I graduate. That number has never been relevant to me.

This doesn't mean I'm going to give up on school. I want to learn, nonetheless. I'm not hoping for lower grades, but I'm not going to beat myself up over getting a B anymore. I'm letting go little by little, and I'm not letting my grades define my intelligence anymore.



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

A word of advice, being perfect isn't a real goal. The sooner you learn that there should be a balance, the better.

So, I stand here today with only seven months, one week, six days

and 20 hours to learn how to stop striving for what has been my number one goal for the better part of my life, and to get a damn hobby. But who's counting?

Sports

Dylan Rider | Sports Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

Don't poke the bear

Bulldogs fall short of upsetting Division I FCS #13 ranked University of Montana



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Sophomore quarterback Carson Gulker attempts to rush while being grabbed by two defenders.

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

Ferris State football takes its first loss of the season after traveling to Missoula, Mont. to take on the Division I FCS Montana Grizzlies of the Big Sky conference on Saturday, Sept. 16.

The Division II number one ranked Ferris State Bulldogs (2-1, 0-0 in conference play) exploded on the scene in Missoula, taking a 10-3 lead at halftime. The Bulldogs hoped to complete an enormous upset and knock off the FCS #13 ranked Grizzlies (3-0) who ultimately fought back and scored 14 unanswered points in the second half to avoid the Bulldog upset and remain undefeated.

The match-up opened with the Grizzlies knocking through a field goal for the only points in the first quarter. However, it was the Bulldog defense that would dominate in the first half, forcing the Grizzlies to punt twice and miss a field goal

attempt. Senior defensive back Shon Stephens then came up with an interception.

Following the interception by Stephens, the trailing Bulldogs took control and went down the field and scored the first touchdown of the game. Sophomore quarterback Carson Gulker and senior wide-receiver Xavier Wade connected for an 11-yard touchdown pass, which is the second straight game that the duo combined for a touchdown. With time expiring, sophomore kicker Eddie Jewett knocked a field goal through for a 10-3 lead at half.

With the strong first half behind them, the Bulldogs could not keep the tempo up. The rough second half saw the Bulldog offense stall out and fail to add to their lead. For the opposing Grizzlies, they reached the end zone twice in the third quarter to put them back on top, 17-10. The third quarter offense from the FCS power allowed for them to hang on for a win, leav-

ing the Bulldogs with their first loss since Oct 15, 2022.

With a Washington-Grizzly stadium packed with near 27,000 people, head coach Tony Annese felt as if he did not prepare his team for the atmosphere.

"No excuses, but the crowd noise was so extraordinarily wild tonight," Annese said. "We just struggled with it. That's my fault. I told [the team] I failed them. To be prepared for the crowd noise, I don't know what the answer is."

Annese followed up by saying that the only answer the team really has for the issue is to get Top Taggart "so loud that no one can even really hear." Recreating such a level of crowd noise may pose an issue for the Bulldogs. In their only home game this year, they only drew an approximate crowd of 5,114. That number is approximately only 18% of what the Bulldogs faced against the Grizzlies.

Leading the Bulldogs in receiving against Montana was senior

wide-receiver Tyrese Hunt-Thompson. The Cassopolis, Mich. native had five receptions for 53 yards. Alongside his receiving, he was also utilized as a runner carrying the ball three times for 10 yards. Hunt-Thompson believes this game has helped the team even though it came in a loss.

"We learned who we are," Hunt-Thompson said. "As a team, we are not pushovers, we are not going to be easy to beat and we will stand on business."

Joining Hunt-Thompson in having a solid performance was Gulker. The quarterback went 5-8 through the air for 53 yards and one touchdown. Outside his limited passing role, Gulker picked up 41 yards on 14 rushing attempts.

The defense held the Grizzlies in check and kept this game close for the entirety of the match-up. The Grizzlies were held to 189 yards of total offense, was sacked twice on the day once by senior defensive end Ian Hall and the other came

from junior defensive end Sheldon Cage. The Bulldogs also forced the Grizzlies to punt five times.

In what seemed to be a David vs. Goliath matchup, the Bulldogs put up a fight and took the Grizzlies to the brink. Junior slot receiver Emari O'Brien believed the game, despite the loss, to be a great experience.

"It was a great experience for the team," O'Brien said. "Playing in front of 26,000 people was a great opportunity to showcase Division II football. It showed why we were the number one team in Division II and coming that close could also scare the Division II as a whole."

For now, the Bulldogs will shift their focus to the bye week. Resting up and getting healthy will be a priority as their first match-up in conference play this year awaits as they take on Northern Michigan for the homecoming game on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 3 p.m.

Two's a streak!

Bulldogs fight off Wayne State, dominate Wisconsin-Parkside



Photo by: Maddie Epps | Torch Photographer

The Ferris State volleyball team compete against the Wisconsin Parkside Rangers during an intense match.

Brook Blausey
Reporter

Ferris State volleyball picked up their winning ways with wins against the Wayne State Warriors on Sept. 14 and the Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers on Sept. 16.

The Bulldogs (7-3, 2-0 in conference) gritted out a close 3-2 win over the Warriors (3-7, 0-2 in conference) on the road to begin their weekend. The Bulldogs then added another win in a 3-0 sweep of the Rangers at home.

Their first match started rough for the Bulldogs, going down 2-1 against Wayne State. However, the Bulldogs ended up taking the match with two straight wins. The team earned themselves their first in-conference win of the season.

Junior libero Leah Bylut preached the team's readiness

when going into a game.

"We do a lot of scouting before the game," Bylut said. "We come to the game very prepared, and we set our defense and offense up based on what we have seen them do."

The victory on the road marks a small bit of vengeance as their last game against Wayne State ended in a 3-2 loss for the Bulldogs.

Head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm, now in her 28th year with the Bulldogs, knew what the team was up against when playing Wayne State on the road.

"They're young and have some really powerful players," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "They are a great defensive team, so we had to watch film to find opportunities to either serve or hit the ball a certain way. Whether we are at home or traveling, we do okay. We love

to be at home with our fans and the crowd but being on the road is fantastic too."

In their match against Wisconsin-Parkside (6-4, 1-1 in conference), both teams were coming off previous conference victories. However, the Bulldogs continued their all-time dominance of the Rangers and cleanly swept the team for a 3-0 victory. The Bulldogs have never lost a match to the Rangers and have only lost a single set to them since they joined the GLIAC in 2018. The Bulldogs won each set in the match by double digits, winning by 14, 11 and then 10.

Brandel-Wilhelm and the team's focus has never been on the undefeated streak against Wisconsin-Parkside.

"I wouldn't even know that we were undefeated," Brandel-Wil-

helm said. "We take it one game at a time and just want to get a little better each day. That's all we are ever thinking about."

Brandel-Wilhelm believed her team "played hard" in their match-up against Wisconsin-Parkside. The long-time stalwart of Ferris volleyball added on saying that "when people went into the game, they really made an impact."

The Bulldogs played an offensive game against Wisconsin Parkside.

Junior middle-hitter Olivia Henneman-Dallape stole the show with 15 kills on 29 attacks, three digs, two aces and three blocks.

Alongside her, junior setter Kaylee Maat added 38 assists and 11 digs.

The Bulldogs started strong in the first set, Henneman-Dallape added eight of the 25 points. In

the second set, the Bulldogs did even better with a hitting percentage of .436.

Henneman-Dallape had a great performance against Wisconsin-Parkside. However, to her, it's mostly trust.

"Most of what I do is just trusting Kaylee and everyone around me," Henneman-Dallape said. "We also watch a lot of film on our opponents for the next game. I'm very excited for our next one."

The Bulldogs will continue their march through GLIAC play with a five game road-trip. First on the docket for the team is the Saginaw Valley Cardinals on Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. The Bulldogs will not return home until their tilt with the Daventry Panthers on Oct. 6.

Ferris Volleyball Top Players

Ferris vs. Wayne State

(OH) Emma Bleacher
13 kills 15 points

(MH) Syann Fairfield
11 kills 16 points

Ferris vs. Wisconsin Parkside

(MH) Olivia Henneman-Dallape
15 kills 19 points

(OH) Claire Nowiki
9 kills 9.5 points



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Off the ice, on the mic

Ferris State Athletics debuts new student and alumni-hosted podcast



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Brook Blausey
Reporter

What do you get when you cross a Ferris State alum and a current Ferris State athletics intern? A hockey podcast that's not about hockey.

Instead of average of average recap and hockey talk, the "Off the Ice" podcast focuses on the everyday lives of Ferris State hockey players.

Ferris State alum Brody Keiser and sports communication senior and athletics intern Bethany McKinney debuted the new podcast on both Spotify on Tuesday and Sunny 97.3 FM on Tuesday evening.

Keiser, who graduated in May and joined athletics in July, had begun to think of the podcast even before he was hired.

"It was something that I was considering when I was actually applying for the position," Keiser said. "When I brought the idea to [associate athletic director] Rob [Bentley] and the hockey coaches, they loved it. So I thought I'd run with it."

So far, the podcast has featured senior goaltender Logan Stein and junior forward Nick Nardecchia.

While the podcast solely features hockey players, the goal of the podcast goes much deeper than the sport they play.

"The goal is to let people see a different side of them, to listen to the actual people," McKinney said, "They're not just the Ferris State hockey team."

Episodes of "Off the Ice" will air on Sunny 97.3 FM at 6 p.m. throughout the season and then will be released on Spotify the following day.

McKinney has high expectations for the next episodes after releasing the first.

"There's definitely things that we can improve on," McKinney said. "That's to be expected with anything new, just kind of getting into our flow and kind of how we want to structure it. I think we're gonna work on and kind of fine tune [it]."

McKinney and Keiser both also have high hopes for the podcast to gain more traction among Ferris State hockey fans.

Each episode will allow Bulldog's fans to learn more about the players outside of their hockey careers, including who they are outside of the sport, what they do when not playing or practicing and some ordinary things like what media they are consuming. The podcast allows for hockey players to be speak longer and more in depth compared to what they would face in a press conference.

While the podcast solely features hockey players, Keiser and McKinney's goal is far from the sport itself.

"The main goal is obviously to help fans and listeners learn more about our players," Keiser said. "They might know a lot about who they are on the ice, but we want to help people know who these guys are as people, not just as players."

With only two episodes out, "Off the Ice" is already showing players in a new light. When it comes to hockey, it's easy to criticize player's every move, every missed shot and every failed save, but knowing players on a more personal level certainly will help fans feel more connected to the players as people, not just student-athletes.

Keiser and McKinney's goal for the podcast is to interview all of the players on the team. The podcasters are aiming for weekly episode releases.

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