

# The Ferris State Torch

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Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of Sept. 27 - Oct. 4

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## Ferris' first Homecoming dance in decades



Photo credit: Levi Waling | Torch Photographer

Students enjoy the Homecoming kick-off dance that took place in the David L. Eisler Center ballrooms.

**Adam Savage**  
Freelance Reporter

Over 200 students became "Ferris Famous" at the university's first Homecoming dance in decades.

Homecoming week kicked off on the night of Saturday, Sept. 23. From 7-10 p.m. in the David L. Eisler Center ballrooms.

Students got the chance to dance with Brutus the bulldog

and take 360-degree pictures with their friends.

The dance was the first in a series of events to be hosted by Entertainment Unlimited. E.U., a registered student organization, took over all planning for Ferris' 2023 Homecoming week. The week's theme is "Ferris Famous," and dance attendees were encouraged to dress in their finest black-tie attire.

E.U. President Kaitlyn Walters

commented on the history of Ferris homecoming dances and how students can support the dance coming back next year.

"It was a tradition stemming all the way back from at least the 50s," Walters said. "Students can attend our meetings this year if they want to have a voice in our future traditions and whether things like the dance will be returning, or if we want to look at other opportunities."

Since this was the first dance in so long, and many upperclassmen missed their high school dances during the pandemic, students were excited to see what the music, turnout and energy would be like.

Pre-veterinary medicine senior Donnie Loy was out on the floor dancing and enjoying having a homecoming dance back at Ferris.

"It's pretty cool," Loy said. "I'm glad we're bringing something like this back."

This sentiment seemed to be shared by most that were there with their beaming faces, dance moves and attire. At the height of the night, over 50 people danced in unison to "Cupid Shuffle" and "Macarena".

Leading these dances was pre-pharmacy freshman Meri Cox. She was excited to see more people coming throughout the night to fill the ballroom.

"There's actually a lot more people now. At the beginning, there was nobody," Cox said.

Although the attendance started slow, over 200 students and guests came to check it out throughout the night.

During dance classics like "Love Shack" and "Wobble," groups of students and one bulldog crowded onto the dance floor to follow Cox's confident choreography.

"[It was] funny. I turned around and Brutus was trying to watch me," Cox said.

Cox also shared that she would

be willing to go if Ferris had more dances in the future.

There are areas where the students believed E.U. could improve dances. Welding freshman Gabby Buerkel would have appreciated more promotional material, similar to the abundance of posters for Trevor Wallace's upcoming performance.

"I think [the dance] was a really good idea," Buerkel said. "Although with a better notice. At the beginning of the year, say, 'Hey, don't forget to bring your nice dress with you for homecoming.' I do hope [Ferris hosts] something like this in the spring as a prom, then a little reminder would be nice too."

Buerkel enjoyed the range of songs played at the dance from the average music often heard at high school homecoming.

"Typical music reminds me a lot of high school in a sense, and the mid-90s, thank God," Buerkel said. "They're playing the classics, they're playing songs that you wouldn't necessarily hear because they've got a few cuss words."

Most attendees stuck to the black-tie attire, wearing formal dresses and suits. Some arrived in costumes. One group of three took to the dance floor wearing carved pumpkin heads, bringing a more light-hearted and fun approach to the dance.

For information on more Homecoming events, visit the university event calendar and poster bulletins across campus.

## Bulldog hockey names captains

### Red Wings head coach Derek Lalonde makes announcement for Bulldogs

**Dylan Rider**  
Sports Editor

Former Ferris assistant coach and current Detroit Red Wings head coach Derek Lalonde surprised the Ferris hockey team on Monday, Sept. 25 when he helped announce the Bulldog captains for the 2023-24 season.

Leading the Bulldogs in the 2023-24 season are captain senior defenseman captain Brendan MacLaren and the alternate captains senior forward Jason Brancheau, senior forward Stepan Pokorny and senior defenseman Nick Hale.

Lalonde's appearance, which was unbeknownst to the entire team, was accompanied by a speech before he had announced the captains. Lalonde felt that his visit had worked out perfectly for him.

"It could not have fell any

better," Lalonde said. "We had our last [Red Wings] practice in Traverse City this morning. I drove straight here on my way home. It worked out great."

Lalonde, who served as an assistant captain from 2003-06, added that it was Ferris head coach Bob Daniels' idea for him to come and surprise the team.

For the newly declared captain MacLaren, having a coach from the National Hockey League come is something the team is honored by.

"[It's] awesome," MacLaren said. "How many teams in the country get an NHL head coach to come in and announce captains? Very, very special and it means a lot to us."

The Bulldogs did not name a single captain last year, as they named both MacLaren and former defenseman Matt Slick co-captains.

Following in the footsteps of Slick is alternate captain Hale. The freshly named alternate captain is a grad-transfer from the College of Holy Cross, which is the same college Slick came from as a grad transfer in 2022-23.

"I think when it comes to guys that are transferring from other schools, they are here because they want to be here," Hale said. "They have had success with their former teams and know what it takes to be a part of a winning team."

With the captains officially named, the Bulldogs' next step is to take the ice against the Miami (OH) RedHawks in their home opener on Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.



Photo by: Dylan Rider | Sports Editor  
Detroit Red Wings head coach Derek Lalonde speaks with the Ferris Hockey team.

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# News

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

## MBA program nationally ranked



Professor Alexander Manga sharing information about the Master of Business Administration program

Photo Provided by Sandy Gholston

**Tate Zellman**  
News Reporter

Ferris' Master of Business Administration recently received recognition coming in as the 8th best online MBA program in the country.

Best College Reviews compared a total of 83 online MBA programs from across the country. The programs were ranked by a variety of class formats, affordability and the ability to customize concentrations.

In addition to earning the #8 ranking from Best College Reviews, Online MBA Today ranked the Ferris MBA program 4th out of the top 15 online programs in the state of Michigan. The MBA program allows students majoring

in business to find easier ways to achieve their academic and educational goals.

The Director of the MBA Program, Associate Professor Alexander Manga, talked about what the MBA program can offer to students if they decide to enroll.

"The FSU MBA program offers seven-week courses and will allow a full-time MBA student to complete the program in one academic year," Manga said. "The MBA program offers multiple areas of emphasis such as data analysis, marketing and now healthcare."

Manga also mentioned with the various areas of emphasis, candidates can choose electives if they decide not to declare an area of emphasis.

Not only can Ferris' MBA pro-

gram help current students, but it can also help students who are looking for a college for graduate studies. Manga touched on the benefits of joining the program as an MBA graduate, citing statistics from MBA.com.

"An MBA graduate can earn as much as \$115,000 starting salary vs. a starting undergrad salary of \$65,000," Manga said. "According to the AACSB, the MBA is the largest master's degree program in the United States with over 250,000 candidates enrolled worldwide."

In one year, the starting undergrad salary has exceeded approximately \$73,000 per year, growing an additional \$8,000. This demonstrates the growth of the MBA program and shows that

both undergraduate and graduate students can be a part of a powerful investment if they choose to join the program.

University President Dr. Bill Pink credits some of the program's success to the leadership in Ferris' College of Business.

"The faculty in our MBA program is top-notch," Pink said. "They are actual business leaders themselves. That expertise is subsequently reflected by the national rankings that our program has received."

Pink, in addition to talking about the faculty, also stated that everything the program offers to help students was another reason for its success.

"The program is another example of the high quality of offerings

that exist here," Pink said. "And I am so proud of the Bulldog excellence associated with our MBA program."

Manga also encourages students to join the MBA program because of its potential to grow and help more students in need.

"The FSU MBA is a growing program at Ferris that continues to serve the greater Ferris community as it draws students from all over the country and various industries," Manga said. "Thus, helping drive the Ferris brand further and wider to candidates and employers throughout the United States."

For more information, visit <https://www.ferris.edu/mba-online/homepage.htm> to explore what the MBA program has to offer.

### MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

**Ember St. Amour**  
News Editor

**Michigan:** Consumers Energy has launched a new plan to lower the duration of how long power outages occur on Monday.

Consumers Energy has 1.8 million clients in Michigan, making it one of the largest electric companies in the state.

With their new plan, MLive reported that Consumers Energy plans to keep power outages down to 24 hours max, as well as have it effect no more than 100,000 of their customers.

The plan is set to take place over five years and includes making sure

to trim any tree branches above the power lines, replace any outdated poles, and increase the number of lines underground to make them less affected to the damage caused by storms according to the Detroit Free Press.

"We are preparing a grid that is almost hurricane strength as part of this roadmap," said Consumers Energy Vice President Greg Salisbury said.

The plan has been set in place after the recent increase in storm strength over the past few years.

### GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

**Ember St. Amour**  
News Editor

**Russian & Ukraine:** Russia fired missiles and drones at Odesa, a Ukrainian port, on Monday.

The New York Times reported that there were two missiles and 19 drones fired at the city. Most were shot down, but several buildings that were hit.

Odesa has been attacked by Russia since July, after a dispute over the shipment of wheat. Ukraine started sending their shipments through Romanian waters last week.

According to Euronews, the Ukrainian army attacked one of Russia's

bases in Crimea

with a missile, according to the city of Kyiv.

The Ukrainian army also stated that they have killed 34 people, including Russia's commander.





# Humanities colloquium series begins



Dr. Christian Peterson presents the Humanities Colloquium last Thursday at the David L. Eisler Center.

Photo credit: Jordan Wilson | Torch Photographer

## Ember St. Amour News Editor

A free series called the Humanities Colloquium returned to campus on Thursday, where staff and students were able to attend a presentation about global topics.

The series will discuss different ongoing issues and events happening in the world, with meetings taking place at 11 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Each presentation will come from a faculty member on campus.

Dr. Neil Patten, who is the chair of the colloquium and a communications professor, shared his

hope for the humanities colloquium series.

"The colloquium has a very rich history here at Ferris State," Patten said. "At Ferris, the one thing we sometimes don't realize is just the quality of our faculty and hopefully provides them with a showcase for sharing their research and the research that our faculty does. It's not only known domestically in academic circles in the United States for exceptionally high academic quality, but internationally."

Patten also was "delighted to see such a great turnout" for the first presentation of the series this year. There were roughly 30 people in attendance.

Dr. Christian Peterson, a history professor, was the presenter on Thursday. Peterson's topics came from a book that he had co-written called the "Oxford Handbook of Peace History". He used this book as a gateway into his presentation.

"I really wanted to have a deeper history of how societies, not just starting with, say, Africa 1900, but how societies going back as far as we can kind of balance these ideas of legitimate civic order and how they viewed violent conflict," Peterson said. "We wanted to give a broader view of these developments because what historians and social scientists have tended to

do is use normative frameworks to explain different approaches to peace."

The presentation went on to explain the different ways that war and peace relate to different areas. In addition to this, Peterson also went over the different ways of thinking about peace that had occurred from different religious groups and different time periods.

Peterson concluded his presentation with a parting message for the participants.

"At the end of the day, my argument is that what I think is the beauty of history in some ways, is this idea of historical imagination," Peterson said. "The

past is never going to be the past exactly as it was in the past. People say people who don't know the past are condemned to repeat it. That's true, but you're never going to go back to 1939 or 1839 and get a blueprint to navigate today, the problems are different."

The next presentation will be at 11 a.m. on Oct. 19. Dr. Tracy Busch, who has a Ph.D. in Russian and European history, will be presenting information about the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war. Busch will also discuss how the war has impacted geopolitics.

## Ferris State Torch Corrections

In Sept. 20th edition:

In "Off the ice, on the mic"  
Sub-headline was intended to read as "Ferris State athletics debuts new student and alum-hosted podcast."

The author was Opinions Editor Jackie Moglia.

In "Two's a Streak"  
There was a name misspelled in the top players graphic, which should read as "Claire Nowicki".

Corrections can be submitted  
through email at  
fsutorcheditor@gmail.com

## FERRIS STATE TORCH

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# DPS beefs up security

## Update on body cameras, Rave text alerts and more



Photo credit: Torch Archives

The Department of Public Safety is currently using the WatchGuard v.330 for officers body cameras.

**Ethan Edsall**  
News Reporter

Ferris' Department of Public Safety has implemented new safety procedures and reintroduced old traditions this year.

With the increase in gun violence on college campuses, some students at Ferris feel a little fear about going to classes on campus.

It has been almost a year since the shooting at Michigan State University and almost two years since the school shooting at Oxford High School.

According to an article on CNN as of Sept. 19th, 2023, there have been 16 shootings on a college campus while there were 37 incidents of shootings at K-12 schools in the United States.

"I feel campus security is lacking," pre-optometry student Ashley Wally said. "With the [shooting] that happened at Campus Creek during the first week of school, I think that DPS is doing the best that they can, but I don't think that there is a big enough presence on campus."

With the uptake in threats

to campus security, Ferris DPS has expressed that the department will still fulfill their mission statement "to serve and protect the students, faculty, staff and visitors" of Ferris.

With the recent uptake in school shootings and other natural disasters one of the biggest tools that the department is recommending all members of the Ferris community to get is the Rave system.

The Rave system is a mass communication system that law enforcement uses to communicate with the public in the quickest time possible.

"There are a lot of different components to Rave," Brittany Taylor, DPS dispatch specialist said. "As a student staff or faculty member you are automatically added to the alerts system, but parents can opt to sign up as well. We are responsible for sending out a Rave alert if there was an active shooter or if there was clearing warning."

To sign up for the Rave system, visit DPS's website. Alerts can be received by text message, phone call, email or social networks

including Facebook and X.

New captain and DPS Assistant Director Timothy Jacobs explained the importance of working as a team for campus safety.

"We are bringing on officers to work key hours," Jacobs said. "This is an overtime shift created for a quicker response to any incidents and to increase the department's visibility on campus to keep people safe. We are dedicated to building our relationship with our team members. Our team members are the faculty/staff at Ferris but especially the students here at Ferris. That's ultimately the biggest group that we serve. Making sure everyone is safe is our top priority."

After its disappearance in 2019 due to budget cuts, DPS is reintroducing the foot patrol program.

This program is one where the department will have student workers working a shift from 9 p.m.-3 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The worker's sole purpose will be to patrol the campus at night, escort students who don't feel

comfortable walking by themselves on or off campus and keep a lookout for any suspicious activity. The student workers will work together with DPS patrol officers.

Another tool that DPS uses is officer-worn body cameras. Jacobs weighed in on how he feels about the body cameras.

"Transparency is everything in law enforcement" Jacobs said. "The camera video is going to help protect a citizen and it's going to protect the police officer,

it's a trust and when you have a good trust with the community it builds good relations"

Despite the changing landscape that schools in the United States are experiencing as it regarding gun violence on school property, DPS is working to be prepared for situations that happen both on and off campus.

### Rave Alerts

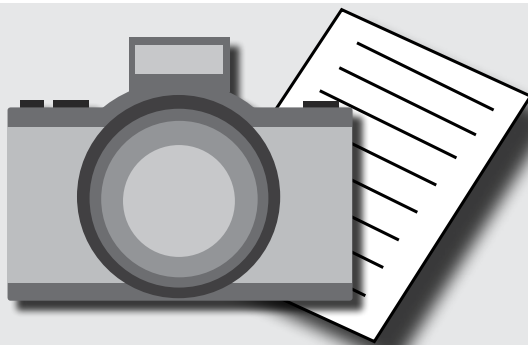
Sign up for Rave to receive text alerts about emergency situations on campus.

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Rave sign up available on DPS website.

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# Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

## Artworks' first Hispanic Heritage Month exhibit



Photo by: Kendall Phillips | Culture Reporter

Roxanne Cullen is an active volunteer at Artworks.

**Kendall Phillips**  
Culture Reporter

Local arts non-profit organization Artworks is integrating new culture and diversity into the Big Rapids community through its first Hispanic Heritage Month exhibit.

The exhibit opened on Friday, Sept. 15 with an opening reception and authentic Hispanic food.

The exhibit itself has photos from Eric Bouwens, paintings from the artist Arturo Romero and a variety of art from the artists at Guelaguetza Designs of Grand Rapids, as well as interactive art for children.

Over the last couple of years, Artworks has had multiple different cultural-based exhibits. One of which was called History of Tradition, in desire to surround the Big Rapids community with a variety of cultures.

The exhibits have spanned from all over the world, but this was the first exhibit to represent Hispanic heritage.

"We want people to learn more about other cultures," Artworks volunteer Roxanne Cullen said. "As well as the impact that other cultures have had on our own. We try to expose Big Rapids to some other cultures as best as we can."

The Hispanic Heritage Exhibit was very special to one artwork board member and Ferris alumna, Kaylee Moreno Burke.

As a Latina, this exhibit has meant a lot to her, and she took the lead in making sure that the idea came to life.

One of the most important parts to her was how educational this experience would be to those who don't know much about Hispanic culture.

"To see the amount of questions and inquiry that was derived out of these paintings and photographs, I

think that really speaks to what we do at Artworks," Burke said. "We help to educate the community, we help to bring people together through art, and we help to uplift artists from all different backgrounds through our exhibits."

Since the start of History of Tradition, Burke has noticed how it has attracted people from a number of communities, and become a way for the community to learn more about one another.

This exhibit, and many others, have been a way to introduce people of all backgrounds to those that they may not have known much about.

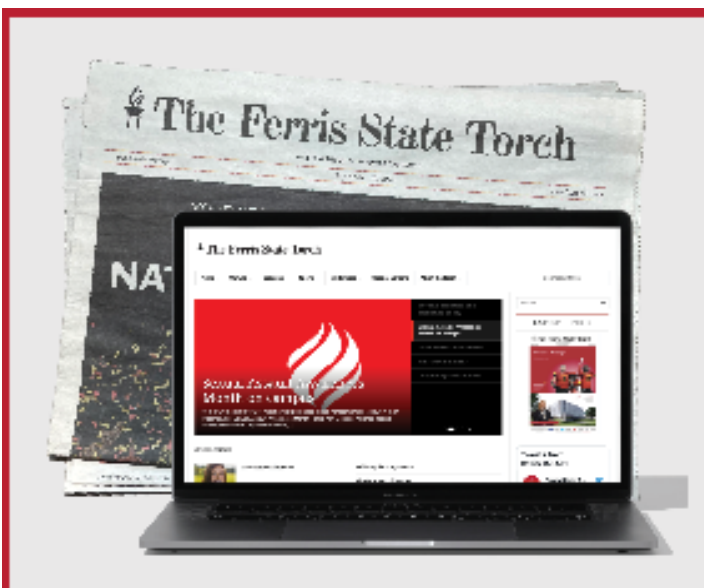
"It has helped to create and cultivate stories of other community members in the Mecosta County area," Burke said. "We have been really excited to see the way that art, especially through this discovery of traditions, has really helped to invigorate storytelling in our community and understanding the different histories of the people who live and have lived in Big Rapids."

This exhibit will run until Nov. 4, with some special events throughout the remaining weeks.

On Sept. 29 at 7 p.m., they will be holding a Day of The Dead Presentation which will be led by Eric Bouwens.

On Oct. 20, during Big Rapids Fall Fest, ArtWorks will have students from the Ferris State Spanish program talking about traditional kites made in Guatemala, followed by kite making.

Finally, on Nov. 2, Day of the Dead, they will have a talk about Mexican cuisine and a lesson on how to make authentic tamales.



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# Fiesta at Ferris

## CLS celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Torch Multimedia Editor

**Staff from CLS promote their cultural group at the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.**

**Marlow Losey**  
Copy Editor

On a hot afternoon at Robinson Quad, mariachi vocals and rhythms of a samba band brought students to the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month with the Center of Latin@ Studies.

Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 proves to be an important time for Hispanic students on campus. To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, the CLS hosted their first kick-off event with their director, Sonia Trevino.

Trevino grew up in Texas in an area that is “95% Hispanic-Latino.” Because of this, having a community with other Hispanic people has held a place of importance in her mind when she thinks about the meaning behind Hispanic Heritage Month. Trevino shares the importance of community and inclusion for Hispanic students on campus during this time.

“Hispanic Heritage Month to me is a sense of community and a sense of belonging. We’re really just excited to bring that sense of community here. We want the Ferris community to know [CLS is] here not only as a resource but also as a place of celebration and inclusion,” Trevino said.

In her first semester as CLS director, Trevino’s goal is to bring a sense of community to the Hispanic culture at Ferris. Along with this, others enjoy the celebration of Hispanic music and food. To celebrate this, mariachi singer Veronica Quintino-Ananda was welcomed to the stage along with a samba band. Along with this, Mexican food booths and a donut truck featuring donuts with raspberry habanero sauce served as food for hungry students.

“We’ve come to represent a part of our culture,” Quintino-Ananda said. “Our tradition is through traditional mariachi music, so everything I’m singing is going to be in Spanish. Music and food play a big role in our culture. It plays at every family gathering. If the food and music are not good, the whole party is no longer good.”

In Hispanic culture, music is used to tell stories, express emotions and encourage those in the community to be proud of their shared culture. This is why CLS found it so important to include music in their celebration.

“If a song talks about a story with identity with or a feeling that we’ve gone through, it brings us all together. Music brings us together as a family, as a community and

as neighbors,” Quintino-Ananda said.

Music and food emphasize the importance of the Hispanic community. They are both key to celebrating shared experiences and bringing people together. It shows appreciation for family and friends. In the case of Ferris, community is celebrated in the form of relationships between Hispanic students on campus.

“Being able to be around more Hispanics and being able to talk to them more on campus really brings me a smile,” radiography junior Nathan Martinez said. “I’m enjoying the people and the tacos too. I’m just playing games and having fun.”

This month, CLS will be celebrating with an intercultural discussion panel, Hispanic film showcase, salsa and bomba dance celebration, and CLS got Talent.

“It’s important that we continue to be proud of where we come from. Even though we may be Americans and we are established here, Hispanics look so different and we stand out,” Quintino-Ananda said.

For more information, find the Center of Latin@ Studies on Instagram, @ferriscls.

# What it means to be a Bulldog Brother

**Brook Blausey**  
Culture Reporter

Bulldog Brotherhood is a group formed for residents to do community service, bond with one another and develop leadership skills in the community. Many of the original members are still part of this group today.

The goal of Bulldog Brotherhood’s community service is to show how young people can come together to serve others. The brotherhood strives to create skills that will help the members with their future careers.

The group was originally created by the hall director for Brophy and McNerny, Emmanuel Ogua. Members Markel King and Tayjon Smith believe that it is a safe space that allows the members to support each other in mental health.

Ogua created the group originally in 2022 as a way for residents who violated the rules of their housing arrangement to do community service. The group started as a small project but has now turned into what Ogua believes to be a “powerful force” for good in Big Rapids.

“The Bulldog Brotherhood has not only made a difference in the lives of those they serve, but it has also had a positive impact on the members themselves,” Ogua said. “You could put a bunch of good men in a group and good things are bound to happen from that.”

King, a dental hygiene sophomore, feels that this group has helped him step out of his comfort zone. Joining the Bulldog Brotherhood helped him meet people from different groups and not just stick to what he knew.

“I’m far away from South Florida,” King said. “I didn’t know anyone coming here but I was able to meet a few guys from the group. If we didn’t have the group, I would have never spoken to [Smith] and become friends with him.”

Community service is one of the group’s main focuses. By working together on service projects, the men can build stronger connections with one another, and have also allowed them to “develop leadership skills” for their future careers.

Ogua is passionate about the group’s service project which was the kickoff event for the fall. They have done several events across campus such as a mental health walk. The group always welcomes new ideas for community service and has even been recognized by President Bill Pink for their service.

“We did a service project called Project Hero, where we sewed up stuffed teddy bears and gave them to homeless veterans who don’t have families,” Ogua said. “We also gave the stuffed bears to families who lost loved ones in the battle.”

Ogua founder of Bulldog Brotherhood was the one to reach out

to get new members to join and make sure that the boys felt as though they were in a safe space where they could open up about their lives and express themselves.

Smith, a heavy equipment sophomore, believes this group has changed his experience at Ferris. He first joined the group to stay active and be an involved student.

“When I first joined the group, I was a freshman and mainly stayed in my room,” Smith said. “[Ogua] brought up the group to me and told me how it could be an outlet. It gave me something to do and gave me people to talk to.”

According to Ogua, the group’s core values are unity, leadership and community service. Ogua believes the brotherhood is built on the unity and trust that the members have.

“People share real things. The information that is shared is kept between the members” Ogua said. “This encourages people to open up even if the conversation is difficult to have. We operate on the understanding that nothing leaves this group so people can feel secure.”

The group has 10-15 male members. They meet weekly on Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the basement of Brophy Hall. The group is always open to having new members. If interested in joining the group, contact Emmanuel Ogua by email at Em-

manuelOgua@ferris.edu or direct message the brotherhood page

on Instagram @bulldawg\_brotherhood.



Photo Provided by Emmanuel Ogua

**Bulldog Brother Markel King presents the importance of the group to students in the Robinson Quad.**

# Media Minute

## A review of Doja Cat's latest album "Scarlet"

**Blase Gapinski**  
*Freelance Reporter*

Doja Cat's highly anticipated fourth studio album "Scarlet" was released Friday, Sept. 22, after declaring she was done making music in March 2022.

This record begins with her single "Paint The Town Red," released earlier this summer. It is a fun and upbeat track that features background vocals from Dionne Warwick's "Walk On By." It's a great start to this project as Doja essentially recaps all the backlash she has received in recent years. Regardless, she will still paint the town red with her music.

We are met again with another single that Doja put out before the release of the project, "Demons." This wasn't one of my favorites. Doja flexes on the haters who have doubted her in the past and brags about some of her recent accomplishments. This track has an aggressive tone and the chorus features distorted vocals to match it. I felt like the beat was unfitting

for this song and didn't match her flow.

"Wet V\*gina" follows the same premise as the previous song and is honestly the only other low on this record. The vibe isn't as aggressive but has a similar confident message. This track is ruined with the over-the-top distortion and overbearing autotune. This seems to be an experimental track for Doja as she plays around with new flows.

"F\*ck the Girls (FTG)," is a track all about women being pitted against each other in the industry. Doja plays off this idea by declaring she is one of the greatest female artists without even trying. This is the first track we really start to see Doja's rapping capabilities in full force.

"Ouchies" contains background vocals and a remixed beat of American rapper Luke's 1994 hit, "Come On." This gives it a funky vibe that suits Doja's rapping very well. She even gives a couple of nods to Kanye West on this track. Like Kanye, Doja played around

with a lot of samples on this record, so paying homage to him was cool to see.

One of my favorites on this record is "Schutcho." It gives off the same vibe as her "Hot Pink" era and I really enjoyed that project. This is another song that shows off Doja's lyricism and ability to switch flows quickly. "Balut" also does a great job showcasing her ability to focus on the lyricism of the track.

The project takes a turn at "Agora Hills," focusing on an eccentric theme of love. The beat is a remix of Troop's 1989 hit "All I Do Is Think of You." This track is all about a secret love interest that Doja wants to flaunt to the world, but can't because of her fame. Doja uses a valley girl-esque tone which accompanies the late 80's themed beat very well.

Immediately following, "Can't Wait" coincides with the same theme. Her background vocals are beautiful and set the tone of the track perfectly. Doja states it's another one about you, her love interest, and expresses all the love she

has and all the things she would do for him, which isn't like her.

"Often" is the finale to this theme of love and it shows off how amazing of a singer Doja is. It's a beautiful track that anyone who has that special someone can relate to.

"Skull And Bones" definitely deserves a mention due to its eerie vibe. Doja addresses claims of selling her soul and pokes fun at making it out of the 27 Club. The 27 Club is a group of artists who passed at the age of 27 due to allegedly selling their souls for fame.

Keeping the unsettling yet engaging tone, "Attention" has ghostly background vocals that accompany the guitar and drums well. This was another single released in June and is another favorite of mine. Doja talks about the parasocial relationship between her and her fans and all the backlash she has received about her weight loss and changing hairstyles.

To conclude this record, Doja put out a surprise track omitted from the original tracklist. "WYM

Freestyle" shows that Doja can come up with coherent concepts and ideas without writing anything down. It takes the whole message of the album and puts it right in front of you. Doja knows people will continue to hate just to hate. She essentially laughs them off in this track and lets her competition know she isn't going anywhere, anytime soon.

This is probably Doja's best record to date and long-time fans will likely agree with this. She increased her production value and proved she's a great rapper while still keeping some of her pop star tropes. I especially enjoyed the variety of samples across the record and overall think the tracks will continue to grow on me and over time relate to each of them differently. 8/10.

Rating  
**8/10**





# Opinions

Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor | mogliaj@ferris.edu

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## EDITORS COLUMN:

# “I don’t”

### Focus on your degree, not a diamond



Graphic By: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

#### Jessica Oakes Editor-In-Chief

The fall time is full of red leaves and white dresses. This wedding season, I feel more strongly than ever that focusing on a lifelong partnership would be a great way to stunt my growth as a young adult.

Ferris is far from a religious institution, where the “ring by spring” phenomenon encourages students to pop the question in time for graduation. Still, I’m starting to see an alarming number of people my age posting engagement photos.

College untethered me from nearly everything I thought defined me. I have lost childhood friends, gotten new jobs, found new extracurricular activities, and outgrown romantic relationships. In a few months, I will be starting over once again.

Learning from my senior year of high school, I know that I personally can not plan my future inside

of someone else’s. I’m not sure what city I want to be in come May 2024, but I want to get there on my own.

Right now, I am juggling the ideas of going to graduate school, finding a dream job, traveling or taking a break. It’s hard enough to know what’s right for me. How anyone is able to make their next step coincide with another person is beyond my understanding.

Growing up requires a healthy level of self-centeredness. College-aged people are simultaneously learning how to keep ourselves alive and trying to convince potential employers that we are outstanding. To apply to school or join the workforce, we have to believe that we deserve success.

Putting another person’s well-being above mine is not a sacrifice I’m willing to make at this stage. I don’t mean that my life is only about me. However, I do believe that I’m too young to have a dependent. Too often, that’s what a partner becomes.

If I want to be successful after I graduate, I need to prepare now. This success doesn’t exist in a specific tax bracket or job title. It’s in a life that I design on my own. I’ve found it so frustrating when romantic partners assumed that I’d follow them anywhere. My future hasn’t even been written yet, and they still insisted that they could edit it.

Even after I find a career and a house that I enjoy enough to unpack in, I want to be able to pivot. I feel ignorant about most of the world. If I have a husband and a mortgage, moving or even traveling to a new state will be way more difficult than I want it to be.

The marriages I watched growing up did little to encourage me to try it out for myself. Before I get reduced down to a child of divorce, which nearly half of all Americans are, I want to zoom out.

Paul Doan is a professor of behavioral science the London School of Economics and Political Science. He’s known for his stud-

ies in happiness, which revealed that the happiest demographic is single women without children.

As broken down in Psychology Today, Dolan’s work reflects that men tend to get healthier in marriage. They take fewer risks, earn more money and live longer lives. The statistics do not support similar results for married women. Today, nearly 70% of divorces are initiated by women. If I, as a woman, value independent leisure time and personal hobbies more than domestic labor, marriage may never look like the route for me.

Let it be known that I have not sworn off marriage as an institution. It is probably the best way to raise children, and I’m sure there are some couples out there who truly get it right. For now, I’m not sold on the concept of spending the rest of my life with someone. Of course, I’m always open to pivoting if something changes.



# Turf wars

## Why all football organizations should get rid of artificial turf fields



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

**Jonathen Hart**  
Freelance Reporter

Artificial turf field has been a hot topic in the NFL since the 1970's because of injury problems that players can face.

College football has also been using turf for years, and many high school fields have made the change from the natural grass over to the artificial turf.

The Bulldogs are one of the few college teams that play on turf. Top Taggart field has used artificial field since 2014. Former Bulldogs quarterback Jayru Campbell missed the 2018-2019 post-season with an ankle injury that was a result of a non-contact injury on the turf field.

Over the past ten years, the NFL has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to improve player safety. Of course, the majority of these initiatives have focused on head injuries, as youth contact football participation is dropping at an alarming rate. A little over \$1 billion has been distributed by the league as part of the NFL concussion settlement program.

New regulations that aim to safeguard helpless players, prevent high-speed collisions and lessen concussions have been put into place and enforced. Additionally, players are now required to wear "Guardian Caps" during training camp.

However, the NFL appears to have overlooked another signifi-

cant issue that is there in front of them: the argument over whether artificial turf fields or real grass are preferable. New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers suffered a torn achilles while playing at MetLife stadium on Sept. 11, where the Jets play on turf.

For those who are unaware of the background, artificial turf fields were created in the 1950s as a method for urban communities to cover the asphalt on their playgrounds and resemble the grass that children enjoyed in suburban areas. However, sports organizations soon grew interested in them, and the Houston Astros became the first major league sports franchise to install an artificial surface in their brand new

Astrodome.

There are already more than 8,000 artificial turf fields in the United States alone. This swiftly spread over clubs, leagues, communities and the entire nation. In the NFL, 16 of the 32 teams have synthetic turf in their home stadiums, or 50% of the league.

It may seem obvious why this is the case. Artificial turf fields are more expensive to install than grass, but they are significantly less expensive to maintain over time. They also give NFL owners the freedom to host other revenue-generating events like conferences and concerts in their stadium during the offseason.

Simply put, this enables owners to reduce annual maintenance expenditures by seven to eight figures and creatively transform what is typically considered a liability into an asset that generates income. It's not as clear-cut as you may assume, though. NFL players have complained about artificial turf grounds. Because stars like Odell Beckham Jr. and Nick Bosa have blamed previous injuries on artificial turf, the NFL Players Association has taken action.

In a letter to the NFL published in 2021, former Cleveland Browns player and NFLPA President JC Tretter said that "artificial turf is significantly harder on the body than grass." But after that, he displayed the figures:

"Based on NFL injury data collected from 2012 to 2018, not only was the contact injury rate for lower extremities higher during practices and games held on artificial turf, NFL players consistently

experienced a much higher rate of non-contact lower extremity injuries on turf compared to natural surfaces," Tretter said. "Specifically, players have a 28% higher rate of non-contact lower extremity injuries when playing on artificial turf. Of those non-contact injuries, players have a 32% higher rate of non-contact knee injuries on turf and a staggering 69% higher rate of non-contact foot/ankle injuries on turf compared to grass."

Why then haven't all NFL owners shifted to grass fields if the data is so clear? Their players are multi-million dollar investments, after all. The truth is that several stadiums have made an effort to be inventive.

Consider Arizona or Las Vegas as examples. Both the Cardinals and the Raiders play in enclosed stadiums, which normally demand for a grass field owing to the lack of sunshine. Instead, they each developed ways to make the field retractable, pulling it inside for game day via an electric motor system during the week so it can receive the necessary upkeep and sunlight.

They have the greatest flexibility possible thanks to the procedure, which takes roughly 60 minutes. For the other sixteen NFL teams, there are no longer any good justifications. The most lucrative sport in the world has made player safety a major concern, and while owners have the most power over specific players, my prediction is that the NFLPA will eventually push for this during future CBA negotiations.

# Staying in vs going out

**Ethan Edsall**  
News Reporter

Imagine this: it's Friday evening after a long week of school and work, and you're deciding on what you are going to do tonight.

Now, you could go to Shooters, but that's only fun if you are 21. You could go to one of the many frat parties, or you could just stay at home.

One of the biggest stereotypes of college is that all the students are a bunch of party animals. In fact, I came to Ferris expecting to go to hundreds of parties because I had heard that it was a big party school.

What I found was disappointing. Even though Big Rapids has quite a selection of bars to choose from, with one of the most popular being Shooters, most of those bars were mediocre at best. This wasn't too surprising for a small town.

Since the bars in town were a bust, that meant the next option to go out would be the frat houses.

Now, no disrespect to any of the frat parties. Most of them are quite fun to go to, but the parties can be boring if you do not go out with your friends.

These are the options for those who are stuck in Big Rapids to cut loose after a long week of studying.

Quite a few students on campus have cars, so those students have the option of leaving campus and going to bigger towns like Grand Rapids or Mount Pleasant.

With the cost of gas these days, quite a few students choose to just stay near the campus.

With very few things to do in a town this small, is it so bad to stay home on a Friday night? With so few choices of what to do on the weekends here in Big Rapids, would it really be a surprise that some students choose to stay home most weekends?

Despite the stereotype of college students always going to parties, I've found that there are many people who intentionally choose to stay home.

"I don't feel like going out and talking to people," Social work sophomore Sydney Hill said. "I have social anxiety, so I don't like talking to people. I have a lot more fun wearing comfy P.J.s and watching movies on a Friday and Saturday night."

This is a sentiment that I am

sure a lot of people share. There are other reasons why someone might stay in on the weekends. Sometimes I enjoy going out on the weekend, especially when I have something to celebrate, but there are always a few weekends where I don't want to go out.

One of those reasons may be that I am tired. I spend a lot of my time during the week going to class, working for the Torch, doing some of the club sports on campus and being available for my social life that I don't usually have any me-time until Friday.

When it comes to the free time I get on Friday and Saturday, sometimes I'm just so tired that all I want to do is have a cup of tea and watch *The Dark Night*, or make a late-night McDonald's run and play UFC.

The alternative is putting on nice looking but uncomfortable clothes for what becomes at best, three hours of fun. Another reason I choose to stay in is because I don't feel like going out alone, and this is a sentiment shared by a couple of other students.

"On a Friday night I'm usually hanging out with my friends," music and entertainment business

senior Madison Lockwood said. "That's the main reason why I go out."

Whatever the reason is that you go out or stay in, it doesn't make you less of a college student. It just means that you have your own

preferences on how you want to spend your free time. The beautiful thing about being a young, free college student is that you get to decide how you want to spend your time on the weekends.



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant



# Sports

Dylan Rider | Sports Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

## Bulldogs look to tame Wildcats

A preview into Ferris State's matchup against Northern Michigan



Photo courtesy of Ferris State Athletics

The last time the Bulldogs and Wildcats met, it was a 56-20 victory for the Bulldogs in Marquette.

**Jeffery Walker**  
Sports Reporter

The Ferris State Bulldogs are entering GLIAC play standing at 2-1 on the season as they are set to face Northern Michigan in their homecoming game on Saturday, Sept. 30.

The Bulldogs are coming off a defeat at the hands of the University of Montana Grizzlies in a close matchup. Even after the loss, the Bulldogs remain the number one Division II team in the nation as they took the FCS Montana Grizzlies to their limits.

The team has had the bye week to rest and recover before conference play begins. The Bulldogs

will be looking to get back in the win column as they continue their campaign of the three-peat.

Senior offensive lineman Brendan Bengtsson feels the bye week was good for the team.

"After a big game like that it's nice to get everybody healthy," Bengtsson said. "This is really good preparation for us and it helps us every day."

Well rested, the Bulldogs will now first have to make their way through the GLIAC. That will start with the Northern Michigan Wildcats. For Northern Michigan, their mission is seemingly to upset the #1 ranked D2 team in the country for their first win of the season. A win for Northern would also break

their 13 year drought of losing to Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs have already shown growth throughout the season. A big part of the team moving forward will be its defense. The defense is averaging 19 points against per game, has recorded five sacks and has had an interception in each game this year.

Leading the Bulldogs in interceptions this year this season is defensive back Shon Stephens. The Bakersfield, Calif. native knows that the defense must prove themselves and gives credit to the coaches for helping them get there.

"The coaches are getting on us everyday in practice and saying we

could get better," Stephens said. "We just showed them how to prove ourselves because the week before we did not show up like we were supposed to, so we definitely had to show up against Montana."

The Bulldogs will need their defense to continue to improve and prove themselves now that conference play is to begin. The offense has also been impressive so far this season as they have averaged 34 points per game, with 445 yards of total offense a game, the offensive yards are evenly split with 220 yards rushing and 224 yards passing. The offense will look to remain strong and continue to grow throughout conference play.

Head coach Tony Annese is proud of how hard the team has competed at this point in the season and now wants to keep that competitive spirit going.

"The thing that you really look for is how hard are you going to compete," Annese said. "We were very competitive and so I'm proud of that and I hope we just can bottle that and continue to play that way."

For the Bulldogs to keep up with the rest of the GLIAC, every game from is a must-win for the team. Their fight against the Wildcats begins at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30 at Top Taggart Field.





# Winless weekend

Bulldog soccer continues six-game winless streak with losses to Wildcats and Huskies



Photo by: Levi Waling | Torch Photographer

**Sophomore defender Ella Wolf winds up to kick the ball in the Bulldog's 2-1 loss against Northern Michigan University on Friday.**

**Sean Anderson**  
Freelance Reporter

The Bulldogs were looking to get back to their winning ways at home this weekend, as they faced the Northern Michigan Wildcats on Friday, Sept. 22 and then played the Michigan Tech Huskies on Sunday, Sept. 24.

After a tough run of away games, in which the Bulldogs went 0-2-2, they were hoping to turn it around and come away with two conference wins. Unfortunately for the women, back-to-back 2-1 losses have them looking at a six-game winless streak that leaves them at 2-4-2 on the season and 0-3-1 in conference games.

Head coach Greg Henson felt that all the Bulldogs need to do to succeed is to play a full game.

"We just got to put it all together in a 90 minute segment and we're gonna be a dangerous team," Henson said. "We didn't give up a goal

in the run of play this weekend, but we got to do better."

Head coach Greg Henson also stated that they will "do whatever we need to do to win games."

In Friday's match, the Bulldogs started off on the wrong side of things when they conceded a goal to Northern Michigan (6-1-1, 2-1-1 in conference) from a corner kick. Following the goal from Northern, scoring went silent. Starting the second half, the Bulldogs would find the equalizer courtesy of freshman forward Maryn Rettenmund for her first collegiate goal. The Bulldogs' burst of life would not last for long as, after multiple corner kicks late in the game, the Wildcats slipped one past Ferris goalkeeper Darya Mosallei. The Bulldogs could not find another equalizer and fell 2-1.

Mosallei noticed a trend in opposition scoring through the last couple of games.

"Three of our goals in the last

two games have been off of set pieces so it's definitely something that we will plan on working on," Mosallei said.

Henson, like Mosallei, noticed the set piece scoring and believed that Northern was a "very dangerous team with set pieces."

With the loss to Northern Michigan behind them, the Bulldogs looked for redemption in their next match against the Michigan Tech Huskies (4-1-3, 3-0-1 in conference). However, the Bulldogs failed to find victory and continued their skid.

Despite the loss, senior Payton Price was pleased with the team's effort and feels there's one thing they can do to start getting back into the win column.

"We just need to win one to continue winning," Price said. "We never gave up the entire game so I'm proud of us for that."

Head coach Greg Henson decided to make a goalie change this

game and started Junior Lauren Kubacki in net for the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs opted for a change in goal following Friday's loss, choosing to start junior goalkeeper Lauren Kubacki. The change does not seem out of the ordinary as the Bulldogs did the same in their last home stand with Mosallei starting on Friday then Kubacki starting on Sunday.

The Bulldogs found themselves down early again in the first half, and it did not end there. The Huskies then scored from a free kick in the second half. It wasn't over just yet for the Bulldogs as Price scored her second goal of the season late in the second half. The Bulldogs were not able to score another goal and fell in a 2-1 loss again.

Henson still has a lot of hope still in this team and believes they can improve.

"I'm really proud of the effort in the second half, especially the response after giving the second goal," Henson said. "I think we played really well at that moment fighting our way back into the match."

The Bulldogs will look to next weekend to stop their winless skid. The Bulldogs will be on the road and to play against Purdue-Northwest on Friday, Sept. 29 and then at Wisconsin-Parkside on Sunday, Oct. 1. The team will return home on Oct. 6 to play the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals in another interconference matchup.

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# Golf in full swing



Photos by: Paige Williams | Ferris Athletics

From left: Sophomore Kamryn Shannon, junior Nathan Kraynyk, senior Dani Staskowski and freshman Kole Putnam take action in their respective invitationals.

## Confidence has never been higher for Ferris golf

**Jack Alcorn**  
Sports Reporter

This fall season, men's and women's golf look to reach the GLIAC championships with their respective teams.

For the women, they look to repeat as GLIAC champions. Their championship win last year broke a 16 year drought of Ferris women's golf being GLIAC champs. For the men, they look to return to GLIAC glory. Their last GLIAC championship win came in 2021.

### Women's golf

Since their championship win last May, the team has experienced some roster turnover. The women's golf team lost four golfers from last year's team. However, they have key golfers returning like Senior Dani Staskowski, who has her eyes set on a repeat, and much more.

"Obviously, I want to win GLIAC again. But making nationals is a personal goal for me this year and also with the team," Staskowski said.

After losing their leaders and upperclassmen, Staskowski is expected to step up and take on the role of leader for their team. Staskowski cited that one of the golfers who did not come back was a "strong leader on our team" and that she plans on taking after her.

Following a rough start for the women's team, who finished 14th at the Ulndy Fall Invite, the team finished second at the Gilda's Club Laker Invite. Last season, the women found themselves in a similar spot by finishing 13th in the Ulndy Fall invite. But, as history would have it, they ended up winning the conference.

Leading both Bulldogs golf teams is coach Sam Stark, who is in his third season with both teams. Stark is there to make sure that the women's team does not take their foot off the gas pedal.

"Our ladies have done a good job of maintaining their focus while remaining proud of their past accomplishments," Stark said. "With how strong our region is, there's no time to take our minds off the challenge of competing in the fall, and that keeps us sharp."

Stark receives high praise from Staskowski. She says that Stark has been a massive figure of encouragement for the team, stating "He's just always supported us as people and as golfers."

As Stark steers the ship and Staskowski helps lead the women's team, it seems that their confidence could not be higher with the season just getting started.

"We've always had a team that works really well together, gets along really well, and encourages everyone to be the best versions of themselves," Staskowski said. "Four of us from last year are still on the team this year. Even with new girls coming in, I know we'll be able to put on a great mindset for everybody again this year."

Most recently, the women's team captured a third place finish in the Lady Bulldog Invitational in Big Rapids.

### Men's golf

The men's team isn't shy about winning either, as they have the most GLIAC championships with 21 and their most recent coming in 2021.

Sophomore Caleb Bond landed in a tie for third place at the B&R Investments Bulldog Fall Classic.

Bond, like Staskowski, is confident this year's team will make some noise.

"We didn't lose a lot from last year, and we picked up two really good freshmen," Bond said. "Everyone else has gotten a lot better."

Bond also set the goal for the team this season, saying they want "at least two team wins and a scoring average below 290."

The men's team has gotten off to a hot start with two invitationals behind them. The team claimed a third place finish at the Malone Fall classic and then a first place finish at the B&R Investments Bulldog Fall Classic last week. As of publishing, the men will have played at their respective Ulndy Fall invitational.

For Stark, the culture that he's helped build is everything.

"Although we are an individual sport, the team element of golf is so important," Stark said. "We emphasize the importance of grinding out every round and every shot to save the team score as much as possible ... That attitude of never giving up leads to a culture where that's the norm and the expectation."

Both golf teams will play through their current invitationals then each team has two invitationals in Oct. before wrapping up their fall seasons. Both Bulldog squads have their fair share of expectations set for them. For the women, they don't seem keen on settling for anything short of another trophy on the shelf. For the men, a return to GLIAC glory seemingly is the goal.



Photo by: Paige Williams | Ferris Athletics

Junior Abby Grevel putts at the Lady Bulldog Invitational



Photo by: Paige Williams | Ferris Athletics

Sophomore Caleb Bond takes a swing at the B&R Investments Fall Classic