

New compensation for SGA leaders

Student government's first bill directs \$4,000 to the organization's president



Photo from Torch archives

President Dylan Andrews and Vice President Cassidy Engles (seated right) spent fall semester preparing President and Vice President compensation legislation.

Kendall Phillips
Culture Reporter

Ferris' Student Government Association approved a bill to allocate an annual \$4,000 to the organization's president and \$3,000 to their vice president.

The bill was referred to as "Bill 001" and was the first of its kind. It was the collaborative effort of SGA's executive board members and passed under the group's recently amended constitution.

Applied math and computer science senior Dylan Andrews is wrapping up his first semester as SGA president with the passage of Bill 001. With official membership falling below 10 students, he believes the group would benefit

from an incentive.

"Some of the schools in Michigan even have a full ride for some of their members," Andrews said. "So we went with an incentive that might encourage more people to run."

Andrews broke down the annual compensation offered to executive board members of other Michigan student governments while presenting Bill 001. For Central Michigan University, both the president and vice president receive 30 free credit hours. At Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University and Oakland University, the positions receive an hourly wage between minimum wage and \$12 per hour.

Before Bill 001, the only executive board position to receive

specific compensation from the university was the chief of staff who receives \$12 per hour.

Andrews hopes that the new bill will encourage more people to run for president and vice president in the future, and will add to not only having a "prestige title" but also an incentive.

"There is more stuff on the line now, that extra scholarship that you will be getting as president and whoever your vice may be," Andrews said. "So adding that I think might be more attractive to people and encourage them to run."

Information security intelligence sophomore Jake McGaha, who is currently a member of the student

government, thinks that this new bill is very "healthy" for student government and their future success.

"It is taking on a huge commitment to give back to the community of students when you are president or vice president," McGaha said. "I think this is a good thing that this has gotten passed, and I think it's a great thing for the direction of the student government."

McGaha's only concern with the new bill is the fact that it has taken this long to get the bill passed. However, McGaha is extremely grateful the student government is headed in the right direction and is hopeful for what is to come.

"There is a lot more that we can do in the future," McGaha said. "I

think this is a great first step, but we can't just stop here and let this bill be the last good thing we do for the student government. We are going to have to keep this momentum going for the future.

McGaha also believes that this will add a lot more "eyes" to student government, due to the new scholarship being offered, and may even encourage current student government members to run for leadership positions.

SGA meets every Tuesday in the Founder's Room in the David Eisler Center at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to come.

Looking at history's future

Maintaining a passion for the past in an era of censorship

Jessica Oakes
Editor in chief

In 2023, various states introduced over 110 bills that aimed to restrict the teaching of topics including race, gender and American history in both primary and secondary education.

These bills are annually cataloged and defined as "gag order bills" by the nonprofit organization PEN America.

While the most notable legislation tends to emerge from the American south, such as those colloquially known as "Don't Say Gay" and Stop WOKE from Florida, the culture surrounding history education can be felt as far north as Big Rapids.

Eye on Ferris

History professor Dr. Tracy Bus-

ch first began teaching at Ferris 17 years ago with a doctorate in Russian and European history. She speaks in on-campus Passion for the Past presentations about the war in Ukraine alongside her husband, a former United States Marine who has gone on multiple self-funded missions to Ukraine.

"I think the reason history has been oppressed, and [people] try control it, is because it's so powerful," Busch said. "It is just a powerful discipline, because there's so much evidence that you can produce."

Another area of Busch's passion is Ferris' Museum of Sexist Objects. After being featured in a 9&10 News Segment, the MoSO attracted the attention of conservative news outlet The College Fix.

The College Fix was founded by Detroit native and Hillsdale College's journalism director John

J. Miller. They aim to train young journalists who will "commit themselves to the principles of a free society."

Busch experienced no hostility from the outlet herself. However, the article titled "Activist professor, DEI officer build 'sexist objects' campus collection inspired by racism museum" garnered some negative comments.

One interaction posted on The College Fix's website reads as follows:

"Whew, it is hard to wade through fresh bull manure."

"Made harder by how deep the manure seems to run in our educational sectors."

Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences and Education, Dr. Randy Cagle, sees higher education as a "lightning rod." When students are taught to think critically, that practice often manifests itself in

questioning authority.

"What we're starting to see is that there are attempts by organizations on the political right to fix what they regard as a kind of a left-leaning or liberal, progressive bias in higher-ed," Cagle said. "It's invariably humanities and social sciences programs that sort of get charged and questioned."

This was not the first time a member of Ferris' history program drew mass attention and criticism. One position has been left vacant for nearly two years following a viral video and court settlement.

In a segment he called "More Bad News," Dr. Barry Mehler encouraged students not to attend his in-person classes during the COVID-19 pandemic. The professor presented the information in the video in character, using profane language and dramatic metaphors.

Mehler's reference to students as "vectors of disease" reached the New York Times.

Mehler, longtime history professor and founder of the Institute for the Study of Academic Racism, was first suspended by the university in January 2022. He settled for \$95,000 and retired in July 2022.

Before signing a three-year gag order prohibiting the professor and the university from publicly criticizing each other, Mehler said his right to free speech was violated as Ferris conducted an investigation of his actions.

Without Mehler, the history program now stands with three tenured or tenure-track professors and one who has worked as an adjunct for six years.

CONT PG. 4

News

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

Gary Green returns to DPS

Previous Ferris member named DPS director

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

The Department of Public Safety has hired Chief Gary Green as their new director.

While Green has been the director of DPS since Nov. 20, he is no stranger to Ferris. Green worked at DPS from 2017 to 2022, working his way from patrol officer to captain. After his time with Ferris, Green left to fill the position of undersheriff with the Mecosta County Sheriff's Office. According to Green, he was reached out to by the HR department on Ferris after the previous director of DPS, Abe Haroon, was no longer working at DPS.

"I've always had a, I guess a soft spot for kids," Green said. "I always kind of had a soft spot for watching them grow and develop and stuff like that. And so, a position like this to help try and provide a secure environment where they can grow and learn and in, learn how to think. That whole process of learning how to reason and make those decisions and providing a safe environment for that. I really liked that."

Green has several goals that he hopes to achieve during his time as director. One of those is to implement more safety measures on campus. While body cameras have already been installed, Green ex-

plained that DPS is in the process of getting more security cameras across campus as well. He hopes that this will deter people from committing crimes on campus.

Another goal that Green has for DPS is more interaction with the Ferris community.

"Don't be afraid to talk to us," Green said. "I'm going to encourage our guys to get out of their cars. Car seems to be a barrier, right? So, get out of your cars, go engage, you know? Not in a police function, but just engage whatever interests them you know, talk to them, throw the football, frisbee whatever. Just show them that we're just people just like everybody else. You know, we all have things that we care about and things that are important to us, just like everybody else."

Green also hopes that in addition to this, he can be honest with the Ferris community.

"You know, I think that you know, a big part of the breakdown between the police and the public is that there is a lack of trust and a lot of areas and a lot of that is because of the transparency," Green said. "Police are a lot of times afraid to say well, we got this wrong because you're free to get sued or whatever. I'm not that guy. I would say if we got it wrong. I will be the first one to tell you we got it wrong, and what we plan to

do to fix that so that's not gonna happen anymore."

Helping Green implement these goals is Captain Timothy Jacobs. Jacobs was the interim chief and director before Green was hired. He explained why he continued in the position of captain

"I can be more influential in [as captain] at this time," Jacobs said. "So, for me it wasn't an option to promote to look at or to achieve position. Although I think I'm fine. So, but it's getting the players to incorporate a good team and Gary's definitely the right fit."

The connection Green has with the staff is strong, according to Jacobs.

"So, we're fortunate at Ferris DPS, but our Ferris community and local community are also fortunate to have a person as humble, as experienced," Jacobs said. "He brings a huge array of experience from the Michigan State Police. From there he was an undersheriff here for a year, but he also worked at Ferris I think in 2018, but he was in my position for four years, so he was a captain or the assistant director here at Ferris. [He is] just an incredible human being."

The previous director and chief, Abe Haroon was unavailable for comment at the time of this article's release.



Photo courtesy of FSU Department of Public Safety

Gary Green, FSU's new DPS director and chief of police.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Lansing: Chairperson Kristina Karamo could be removed from the position.

On Saturday, a group of Republicans made the request for a special meeting to be held to consider her removal, according to the Detroit Free Press. The meeting would take place on Dec. 27 and discuss the possible removal of Karamo, as well as three others: Dan Hartman, Robert Owens and Jim Copas.

There were thirty-nine members of the committee that signed the petition for the meeting, as of Monday. If the request is passed, the special meeting will happen.

The request for the meeting came after there was some failed fundraising as well as allegedly working against her opponents on the committee.

In addition to the meeting re-

quest, members of the committee who want Karamo out of the office staged a block for her meeting she was supposed to hold on Saturday.

The meeting, which was supposed to be held virtually, came after their meeting had fallen through on Friday. However, members decided to hold the meeting in person on Saturday instead and caused Karamo to not meet her quota in her virtual meeting.

After the meeting Karamo wrote an email stating that time should be spent on things other than debating if a meeting would be better in person or online.

"We were elected to win elections, not fight over how the deck chairs are arranged while the Titanic is sinking," Karamo wrote.

If the meeting gets approved, members will meet in Commerce to review these members, and to consider removing them from office.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Peru: A constitutional complaint was filed against Peru's President, Dina Boluarte on Monday.

The complaint was filed after Attorney General Patricia Benavides' 11-month long investigation according to BBC News.

The charges against Boluarte were filed after Benavides was accused of leading a corruption ring. She was allegedly dropping investigations on lawmakers if they appointed her allies. Boluarte stated that Benavides' complaint was to distract everyone from her accusations.

The investigation started back in January and was looking into the deaths of protesters.

a trial is unlikely to happen soon. According to Peru's constitution, they cannot be put on trial while in these positions if the alleged crimes

are part of their role in the government.

If the complaint is approved, any trial would have to wait until Boluarte is out of office. Unless impeachment or resignation occurs, Boluarte will continue to serve as president until July 2026.

On-campus speech tournament

Ferris hosts speech tournament for first time in over a decade

Tate Zellman
News Reporter

On Dec. 2, Ferris' Speech and Debate Team hosted a speech tournament for the first time in over a decade in the university's Starr Building.

The tournament lasted from 9 am to about 6 pm. There were 45 competitors at the tournament coming from seven different college teams from the state of Michigan. Besides Ferris, the teams that competed were Eastern Michigan University, Saginaw Valley State University, Northwood University, Oakland Community College and Delta Community College.

Aimee Miller, the director of the speech and debate team and an instructor of communication, explained why it was important for Ferris to host the speech tournament for the first time in over a decade.

"Our program is going through a rebuilding period after the pandemic," Miller said. "This tournament helps to put us on the map in Michigan and establish a better presence. We got to see a lot of faculty, staff and community members participating in the day. It's a rewarding feeling to watch students enjoy the competition, to see the judges impressed by the events and to have spectators stop by to support the activity."

Ferris had a total of eight students in the tournament. One of the contestants, information security and intelligence sophomore Seth Brott, talked about his speech and his experience at the tournament.

"I participated in Impromptu Speaking and Impromptu Sales. I earned 3rd and 2nd place respectively," Brott said. "My experience has been wonderful. Being able to travel and compete with my best friends is a great experience. The tournament went very smoothly, and all of the rounds were fun and competitive."

Brott and the other Ferris contestants gave speeches in their respected categories. The categories included were Extemporaneous Speaking, Impromptu Sales Speaking, Poetry Speaking and Dramatic Interpretation. The individual results from the awards ceremony were:

- Deion Vo won 1st Place in Extemporaneous Speaking**
- Chris Rowland won 3rd Place in Extemporaneous Speaking**
- Chris Rowland won Top Novice in Extemporaneous Speaking**
- Adam Savage won 5th Place in Extemporaneous Speaking**
- Seth Brott won 2nd Place in Impromptu Sales Speaking**
- Chris Rowland won 5th Place**

- in Impromptu Sales Speaking**
- Seth Brott won 3rd Place in Impromptu Speaking**
- Morgan Keller won 6th Place in Impromptu Speaking**
- Abigail Trowbridge won 2nd Place in Poetry Speaking**
- Abigail Trowbridge won Top Novice in Poetry Speaking**
- Jonathen Hart won 4th Place in Dramatic Interpretation**

As a college reward, Ferris got 3rd place in the Team Sweepstakes. Saginaw Valley received 2nd place while Eastern Michigan received 1st place. The students and universities received trophies during the awards ceremony. The plastics engineering department created the trophies. The trophies were designed with 3D-printed torches reminiscent of Ferris' seal.

In addition to explaining the importance of Ferris hosting the tournament, Miller finds it important for other universities to host this type of tournament.

"It's important to support our state in its speech and debate activities, especially to encourage more people to join," Miller said. "Also, the travel component to speech and debate provides students with the opportunity to widen their horizons. It can be a cultural experience, so having other universities host tournaments means that students can experience other towns or states."

The team president, environmental biology junior Holland Synder, has hope that students will gain a positive experience participating in the tournament. The university provided thirteen judges who were faculty members, Big Rapids community members and members of the administration.

"I hope that students competing this weekend gain wonderful memories," Synder said. "While winning is wonderful, ultimately I want people to come out of the tournament to have gained something more from the experience, whether that's a new found confidence or pride in a performance well done."

During the next academic semester, the team will participate in more tournaments. They will attend the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League Novice State Championship in February at Northwood University, and the NISL State Championship in March at Wayne State University. In addition to those events, the team will also attend the National Forensics Association's annual championship tournament in April at Central Michigan University.



Photo courtesy of Aimee Miller.

Students from schools across Michigan gather in Starr for a speech and debate competition.

Indulge in a Cookie Butter Latte, Winter Wonderland Latte, Peppermint Stick Mocha Latte, Snow Mint Mocha Latte, and Maple Waffle Sandwich at Biggby Coffee!

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Photo courtesy of the Ferris State history program.

Former history professor Dr. Barry Mehler (left) with Dr. Gary Huey (right).



Photo courtesy of the Ferris State history program.

History professors Dr. Tracy Busch (left) with Dr. Jana Pisani (right).

LOOKING AT HISTORYS FUTURE CONT.

The university's role

Professors Dr. Gary Huey and Dr. Jana Pisani both moved from southern states to work closer to family in Big Rapids. They have taught in the history program for 37 and 21 years, respectively.

History classes are typically not required for students outside the history program. Still, faculty believe that the skills offered in a history classroom will be relevant in any occupation.

"Soft skills are life skills," Pisani said.

These skills include research, collaboration, constructing arguments and understanding the world's diversity.

When Ferris introduced a bachelor's degree in history two decades ago, Huey believed things were "looking up" for the program. Today, neither professor expects to see an increase in tenured faculty members in the near future.

Huey sees the university as "enrollment driven," which may overlook the student credit hours that history courses bring in. Dean Cagle, however, remains hopeful. He does not see any program at a

"disadvantage" for gaining tenured faculty simply because they work in the humanities department.

"It's my job then to get with the history department and envision where we might go next," Cagle said. "They're all very innovative thinkers. It's a discussion that really has to happen between the history faculty, the humanities faculty, me and the provost in coordination with academic affairs as a whole. I'm very optimistic about the history department."

Huey believes that proper university support for the program is visible inside and outside of the classroom. This could come in the form of funding for new technology and conferences, or the infrastructure to arrange interdisciplinary history courses.

This desire for more support from the university is shared among Ferris' own history scholars.

Next generations

Senior Brent Baumunk calls himself a non-traditional student. He spent 20 years as a blue-collar warehouse worker before studying history. He is now the president of Ferris' Phi Alpha Theta history honor society and works with Dr. Busch in the MoSO.

"It would be nice to see Ferris put more effort into its humanities program instead of trying to erase it, which is what it seems like it's doing. I think it's a crying shame," Baumunk said.

Baumunk has hope that the attitude may change under President Bill Pink's administration. Until then, Baumunk feels that his program is less prioritized than others. He believes that Ferris is and should remain more than a "tech-school."

"For such a small school, we're incredibly lucky to have the history program that we do, and I really wish the university would acknowledge that," Baumunk said. "All four of these professors are incredibly dedicated and wonderful people that could probably get paid a hell of a lot more if they went somewhere else. But instead, they choose to come and stay here."

As the efforts to restrict history education continue to roll out across the country, Baumunk commends Ferris' faculty for calling those attempts what they are.

"The only thing you can do is speak out about it," Baumunk said. "You have to point out that what you're doing is erasing history. What you're doing is wrong. What you're doing is a form of propaganda. It's shaping the nar-

rative. At Ferris, we have four extremely wonderful history professors that do just that," Baumunk said.

It's hard to discuss historical revision and propaganda in the 2020s without mentioning Russia. Ferris alum Richard Byington lived in Arkhangelsk for three and a half years to earn his master's degree from the Northern (Arctic) Federal

"Those kinds of things are really dangerous because the data is there, the history is there, what happened is there." Byington said. "When you can look at things and say that this is categorically untrue, or unsound logically, that's when you start having problems. Unfortunately, some governments are in control of that information."

Ferris' history courses sent By-

"It would be nice to see Ferris put more effort into its humanities program instead of trying to erase it, which is what it seems like it's doing. I think it's a crying shame."

Russian University.

After studying in the U.S. and Russia, Byington believes that both countries have had a "similar problem" of misconstruing historical events to fit a certain narrative. He compared Russia's historical justification for the war in Ukraine to American politicians' efforts to restrict information taught in critical race theory.

Byington on an educational journey that has stretched across hemispheres. To him, it doesn't matter where you're educated, but what you do with your education.

It's impossible to predict the future of history, whether it be on campus or across the nation. The story will continue as long as there are dedicated instructors to teach it and eager students to learn it.

DECEMBER

8th Last Day of Classes	11th-15th Examination Week Good luck, Bulldogs!	15th Commencement	18th Final Grades Due Grades due by 1pm
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Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

A time to give back

Learn more about the nonprofit organizations in the area



Photo Credit: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

The Angels of Action food pantry is behind the Big Rapids first Baptist church, directly across from the Mecosta county building.

Kendall Phillips
Culture Reporter

As temperatures drop and the holidays approach, Big Rapids is home to several nonprofit organizations that appreciate extra help during the winter months.

Angels of Action, located on 200 S Stuart Ave, is a Big Rapids nonprofit organization that helps families address physical, emotional and educational needs.

Angels of Action Hub Director Laurie Kohn spends her time connecting people to resources they may need in the Mecosta community.

“We are not technically a food pantry, which is a common misconception we get,” Kohn said. “But when people call me, I put them in the right direction for the help they need, and I give them a heads up of what to expect.”

In the Angles of Action headquarters, they have a “gift shop” that allows people to go shopping for free to get essentials like clothing. According to Kohn, the shop offers children and adult sizes, both professional and casual clothing along with smaller wardrobes like socks and shoes.

“It’s all donations and everything is completely free,” Kohn said. “Everything is constantly changing. If we don’t have something one week, we may have it the next.”

Kohn also explained that they’re busy consistently throughout the year, but during the holiday season, they see an increase in both

volunteers as well as people in need.

“Big Rapids is already a pretty giving community and towards the end of the year, around the holidays, people tend to think about it a lot more,” Kohn said. “The need for help seems to be growing a lot each year as well.”

Project Starburst, located on 120 S State St, is both a food pantry as well as a place to get personal care items.

A volunteer at Project Starburst, Kristina Russo, explained that their food pantry started almost 50 years ago, and has been helping the community since. Within the past year, they’ve seen an 87% increase in people utilizing the pantries.

“Inflation and the COVID funding has been cut, and with that, there has been a really big need for help,” Russo said. “And we are now seeing over 300 families each month.”

Executive director of the Manna Pantry emergency food pantry, Bonnie Clark, says that when the need is there, people come no matter what time of year it is.

“We don’t turn anyone away, and we give out food for a week depending on the family size,” Clark said. “People call, we take their order, pull it and bag it and then they pull up and pick it up.”

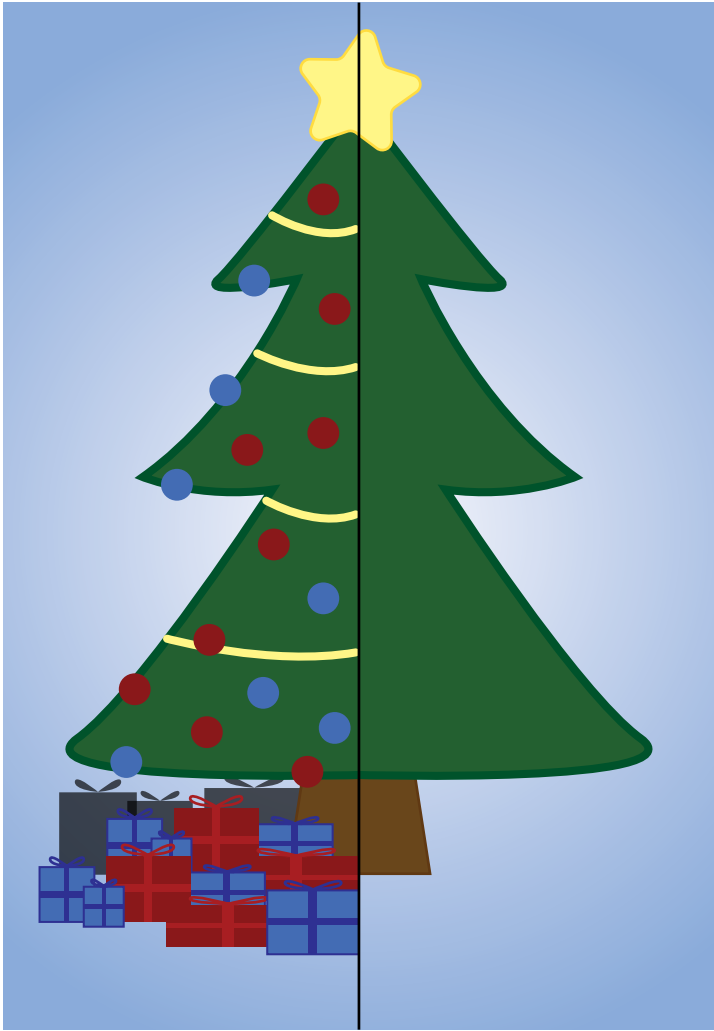
All of the pantries in Mecosta County are available to help anyone in need this holiday season. If you’re interested in volunteering or donating, please visit these locations.



Photo Credits: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Project Starburst is located inside St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on the corner of 120 S. State Street.

The different meanings of Christmas



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Marlow Losey
Copy Editor

As the holiday season draws closer, Ferris students share their different reasons and ways of celebrating winter holidays.

While the history behind Christmas is known to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the holiday is not limited to those who hold Christian faiths. According to a survey by Pew Research Center, “81% of non-Christians in the United States celebrate Christmas.”

Digital animation and game design junior Reine Carrasquillo grew up in a mixed-religion household. She defines herself as “agnostic,” which means she’s open to the idea of a creator but doesn’t fully believe.

“I don’t deny the existence of a God, but I don’t believe in a specific God either,” Carrasquillo said. “Most of my household is Catholic, but we didn’t have a lot of traditional Catholic values. We would go to church on important holidays and whenever the priest asked where we’ve been.”

While most of Carrasquillo’s family celebrates the birth of Christ, the holiday still holds meaning in family and good memories for those who don’t practice the Christian faith.

“Christmas to me is a time for me to spend time with my family,” Carrasquillo said. “I have family members that come from across the country to visit for the season.”

For Carrasquillo, the holiday season holds a feeling of “nostalgia” and childhood memories. Each year, the family continues to apply traditions from the years past.

“My great grandma would sew us pajamas to wear on Christmas Eve and we would all get together to look at Santa Tracker on my cousin’s computer,” Carrasquillo said. “Now that I’m older, my family has shifted to the tradition of having Christmas-themed pajamas.”

According to Carrasquillo, the distinction between the different reasons for celebrating relies on intention and tradition.

“I think there is some cross-over in intentions, but the traditions and meanings are different among religions celebrating the same holiday,” Carrasquillo said. “I also know that there are individual traditions that make religious beliefs unique from each other, and I think that it’s incredibly important for traditions to be explored and learned about.”

Mechanical engineering junior Leo Forestall considers himself

non-religious. As someone who does not participate in any religion, Forestall believes he has no reason to celebrate Christmas. For him, spending time with family and friends holds more value than materialistic gifts.

“All [Christmas] does is put economic pressure on people,” Forestall said. “I’ll go to parties and be festive, but as someone who is going to college full time with bills, I am surprised my family expects me to get a present for at least ten people. I also don’t expect any gifts. It would be bad of me to not give anything and expect something in return.”

Manufacturing engineering sophomore Brendon Johnson considers Christmas a time to spend with family and friends and to give and receive gifts while holding tradition in a Christian household.

“I celebrate Christmas because I grew up in a Christian household, and it’s a tradition I don’t want to break,” Johnson said. “I believe that the difference between people who celebrate with religion and those who don’t is that Christians are celebrating the beauty of the time and sharing it with others, and others are celebrating out of good feeling.”

MATCHES WITHOUT FRICTION

by Maksymilian Sidorowicz

The bees are starting to die off again

You can see the little bits of frost when they let out their last breaths and the sadness that follows

We pretend like it’s normal to watch them fall from the sky as if they were nuclear raindrops

But you know how it goes,

Never ask questions

Never care about a damn thing

Time and time again there will be a seasonal change

And with it will come new weather and new ground to walk over

Time and time again

You’ll feel yourself needing a shift

A sort of change in direction from how you view the world right now

Needing anything but what you want to grow and live longer

Here it goes,

The never-ending battle of fog.

How to prepare for finals

Tips, tricks and resources

Kathleen Camp
Culture Reporter

With exam week right around the corner, here are some ways Ferris students and faculty advise you to study for your finals and finish the semester off strong.

First, preparation is key. Maintaining your physical and mental health while keeping your physical space in mind are three ways to prepare yourself ready for the long week of exams.

Prep work:

Maintain your physical health- Exercise, eat healthy and have a consistent sleep pattern of seven to eight hours per night.

Monitor your mental health- Make time for yourself, practice mindfulness and be confident because you got this.

Check your physical space- Find a place to study that's comfortable and has the least number of distractions and make sure to declutter this space before you study.

Biology freshman Janayia Edwards explains that "brain dumping" helped with her procrastination before exams.

"I write down whatever comes to mind, and then I review my homework and start remembering things I learned in class," Edwards said.

Staying organized is one way to make sure you stay on top of things. Prioritizing your assignments and scheduling your time will help you focus on checking everything off your to-do list.

Get organized:

Prioritize- Figure out which projects, papers and exams are due. Based on that, decide which are more important to complete first.

Make a schedule- Clear your calendar of things that are not essential.

Chemistry junior Ava Tavarone uses her organization tactics to make sure she has enough time to study and to take care of herself.

"I write out a plan for the day," Tavarone said. "Like when I have to go to class, go to the gym and do extracurricular activities. I always try to make sure I have at least an hour a day set so I can study for my exams."

When it comes to studying for exams, everyone has their way of doing it. It's important to find a way that works for you.

Studying tips:

Study in small chunks of about 30 minutes to an hour and switch up studying between different subjects.

Create flashcards, rhymes, phrases or acronyms for the things that you need to remember.

Create practice quizzes on Quizlet or Knowit.

Color code your notes and use pictures to visualize what you're studying.

Make sure to pace yourself and take breaks when you feel necessary to give yourself time to destress.

Create a study group with classmates to review harder material.

After studying and right before the exam, make sure to focus on your wellbeing.

Before the test:

Put things into perspective and remember that one test does not determine if you will be a successful student.

Make sure to be prepared for the test but don't cram too much information because this will create test anxiety.

Arrive positive and prepared and know that this test is going to be okay.

While you're taking the exam, stay calm and positive.

During the test:

Take a deep breath and use positive, affirming self-talk to calm your nerves.

Expect the exam may have some curve balls but don't dwell on one question for too long.

Congratulations! You finished your exam. Now what?

After the test:

Make sure to reward yourself. Take a night off with friends and go to a movie or have dinner out.

Remember the test is over and how you can't change the outcome now. Do not punish yourself for something you think you did wrong during the exam.

Director of Academic Literacies and Structured Learning Assistance Center Karen Royster-James, advises students to believe in themselves, especially during finals week.

"I just know that students around study time get nervous, but they can do it because I know students can succeed," Royster-James said.

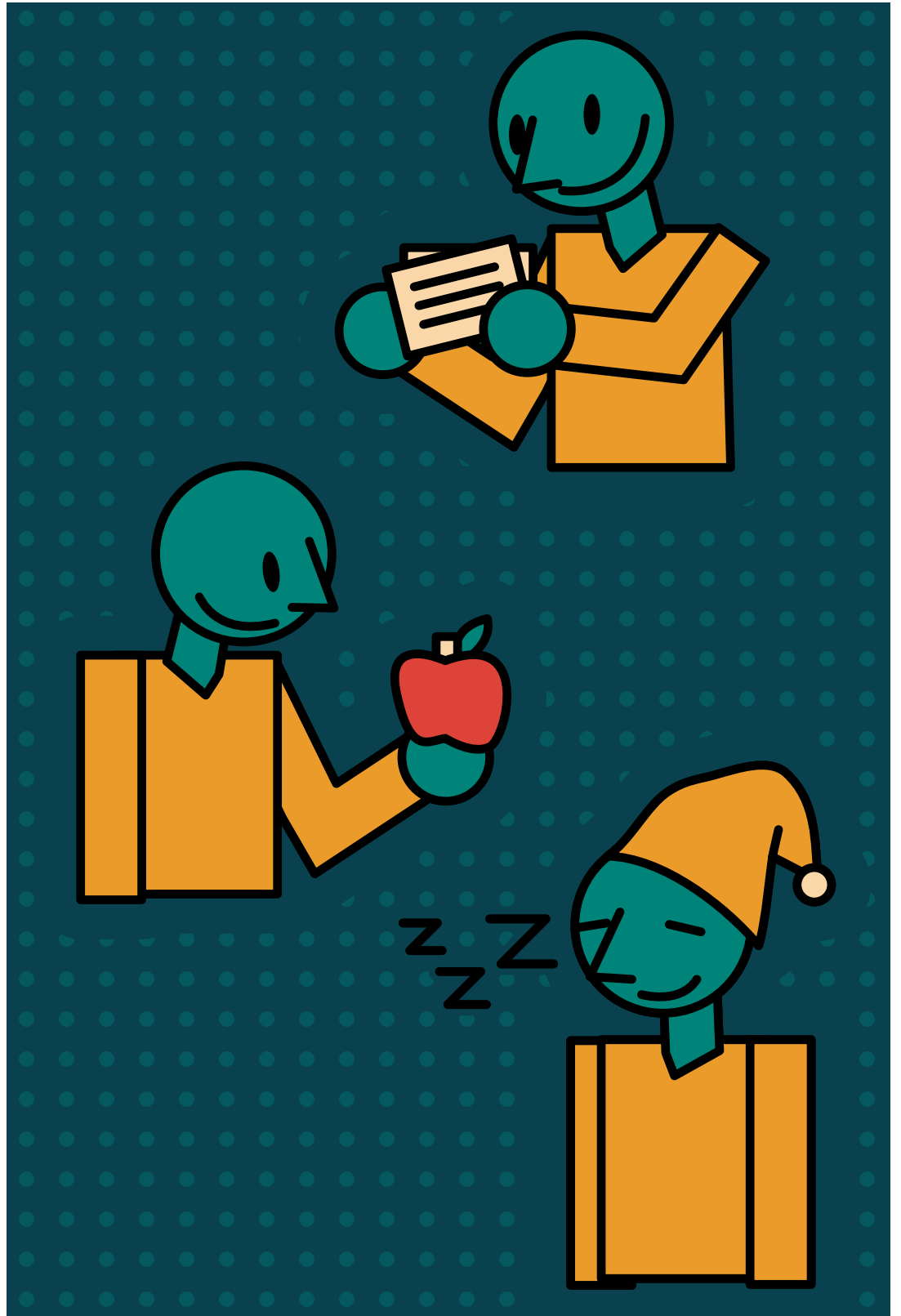
Additional resources:

YouTube and Khan Academy have a lot of great resources if you are a visual or auditory learner.

If you experience test anxiety or need relaxation tips, please contact the Personal Counseling Center at Birkam Health Center at 231-591-5968 or email them at thepcc@ferris.edu

During the week of exams walk-in tutoring is available Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for 30-minute consultations in the Academic Literacies, Tutoring Services and Structured Learning Assistance Center in FLITE room 120, or you can reach them at (231) 591-3543 or ASC@Ferris.edu

Remember, the last day of classes is Friday, Dec. 8 and exam week is Dec. 11 through Dec. 15.



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant



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Opinions

Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor | mogliaj@ferris.edu

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

The other side

Final tuition payment reflections



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Jessica Oakes Editor-In-Chief

I am months away from replacing the stress of getting a degree with the stress of using the degree.

At every holiday party and meeting with a former professor, I go through the following interaction:

“Hey, how is school going?”

“Good, I’m almost done!”

I recently paid my last e-bill. I’m on the other side of it, and I will never worry about Ferris’ tuition again.

It is impossible not to think about what’s next. In a perfect world, I’d graduate in May and move straight into my own place in a new city with an exciting job in my field. Unfortunately, a college degree no longer guarantees success.

Bloomberg recently cited a

study by intelligent.com, reporting that most college graduates work in fields unrelated to their major. Among graduates 25 and older, a quarter make less than \$35,000 per year.

With a national average of \$37,000 in federal student debt and rent increases exceeding the rate of inflation, it seems impossible for my generation to find stability without a leg-up.

I’ve been beyond fortunate as a student. Countless people have helped me get this degree. I’d be nowhere near it without my advisors, professors, classmates, co-workers and family.

Unfortunately, once I am truly on the other side of earning my degree, I will be far away from so many of these people. You get so close to the people you meet in college just for it to slingshot you

a thousand miles away into a new future.

I planned on staying up through all hours of the morning this week to work on projects and articles. Instead, I stayed up with my co-worker, roommate and best friend.

She and I talked about how similar our struggles are and how different our coping mechanisms are. We commiserated in a way you only can with someone you share both an office and a kitchen with.

Right when we dug deep into the insane speed with which senior year moves, and how different each first of the month have been, I saw that it was December first. I thought, “I’m almost done,” and almost felt dread.

I have one more semester on campus, with the Torch and in the state of Michigan. My goals include slowing the time down by

just a few seconds. We will have the rest of our lives to work full time and climb some corporate ladder. I may never live so close to this many people who value me again, and certainly not in such affordable housing.

While I spend this spring job hunting, reporting and editing, I will also spend it counting all the things that Big Rapids provides me with. I encourage other seniors to remain present in our final stretch.

Senioritis kicks in almost every time I open a broken InDesign file or have to drive an hour for sushi in this town. It suddenly melts whenever I unlock my front door to see a full kitchen and living room of people cooking and laughing.

It may almost be over, but so many other things have only just begun.

The ego death of a champion

Discussing the purpose of collegiate sports in a losing season



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Nolan Harris
Guest Writer

This semester, I went from never thinking about football to having a backstage pass to all our games and working with the head coaches as a producer for Ferris Sports Television. I even had a bird's eye view and a 4k camera when the

Ferris football dynasty ended.

With the loss of the playoff game at Grand Valley State on Nov. 18, I witnessed the intense celebration from the fans of Grand Valley and Ferris folks hanging their heads with grief as the chance for a "three-peat" was lost.

Profound emotion was all around me. Ferris is a champion

no longer, but honestly, the way I see it, we, the students, never were.

Ferris did not win a championship these past two years; the athletics program won a championship and more specifically, the hundred or so football players and their coaches are the ring bearers.

The accomplishments of a di-

vision two sport, while a dazzling spectacle, have as much relation to the students and University as the success of our Ferris bowling team.

We lost nothing while student-athletes lost another yearly contest. To lament this happening without being a member is a strange warping of the ego, a participation in tribalism that football is famous for.

We, the fans, have nothing to do with the losses or victories of our sports clubs. Loss or victory, it has no association with us. Consequently, this does not correlate with the quality of Ferris State University. Let this be a calming realization of the fundamental triviality of these competitions.

As Grand Valley begins its journey thirsting for superiority in winning sports matches, let us reflect on what the Ferris athletics program even is.

Ferris athletics is an organization that spends millions of dollars so that student-athletes have the opportunity to compete in sports competitively and rigorously to supplement the educational value of our students.

According to College Factual, the cost of Ferris football is more than the money it brings in. With an expenditure of 2 million dollars, half of the approved funding for athletics as a whole, the program has a net loss of \$5,690.

I do not see this as a bad thing. It is refreshing that an organization would forgo profit to enrich the experience of its students.

With this in mind, let us frame the purpose of this large expenditure and ultimate deficit. If it is spent on people's quest for rings, or feathers in the metaphorical cap of our campus, that is a strange thing for a University to celebrate.

If this money is lost so that the students of Ferris have the opportunity to balance responsibilities, make memories of a lifetime or any other ways that athleticism enriches the community that seems more fitting to the culture of the Ferris I know.

To quote the founder of our university, Woodbridge Nathan Ferris, "Millions of dollars for stadiums, millions of dollars for athletics. Do I fight athletics? No. Not athletics for the student body. We are paying far too extravagantly for educational substitutes, winning football games without winning games legitimately in the field of intelligence."

To supplement the loss of the Ferris football team, what games of intelligence did we win on Nov. 18?

For me, it is to welcome the ego death of being a champion. Victory and prestige is not the goal of student athleticism. In the words of the NCAA, it is personal development and alternative avenues toward education.

To wish for more is the intrusion of the ego, an empty and corrupting motivator.

Why everyone should work a fast food job

Working in retail or fast food might give you skills you didn't know you needed

Jael Snowden
Sports Reporter

I believe everyone should work in a retail or fast food job at least once in their life.

I think this because it would drastically increase the amount of compassion, patience and understanding of the average person ordering from fast-food restaurants or shopping at any retail store. On top of that, it also will teach also young people extremely useful life lessons and skills.

This in turn could increase positive perception around fast food and retail workers, which could lead to much needed pay increases and hopefully, a decrease in number of "Karen" and "Ken" customers.

A Karen or Ken is a customer who is overly demanding, impatient and rude to fast-food or retail workers. They are most often found at fast food establishments or shopping in retail stores and demanding managers. Since these customers are prone to arguments, situations may arise where tensions are high, and it could become dangerous for both parties.

I think that most these types of

people have likely never worked in a fast food or retail environment in their lives, so their perception of the difficulty of working in those environments can be inexact.

If they worked in one of those environments before, it could create a sense of understanding since they have been there and experienced it for themselves, increasing their patience for others. This would result in a better experience for both parties as they can relate to the workers with increased compassion, patience and understanding.

For many people, working in fast-food or retail creates some of the most memorable moments in their lives, whether those memories were good or bad; it leaves you appreciating every worker a little bit more than you did before.

Having a job in retail or fast-food earlier in life would also teach you many life skills. For example, how to work in a busy fast paced environment, time management skills, patience and important communication skills.

Being able to complete tasks in stressful situations while staying calm and handling time-based tasks are important life skills that many people lack, and working in

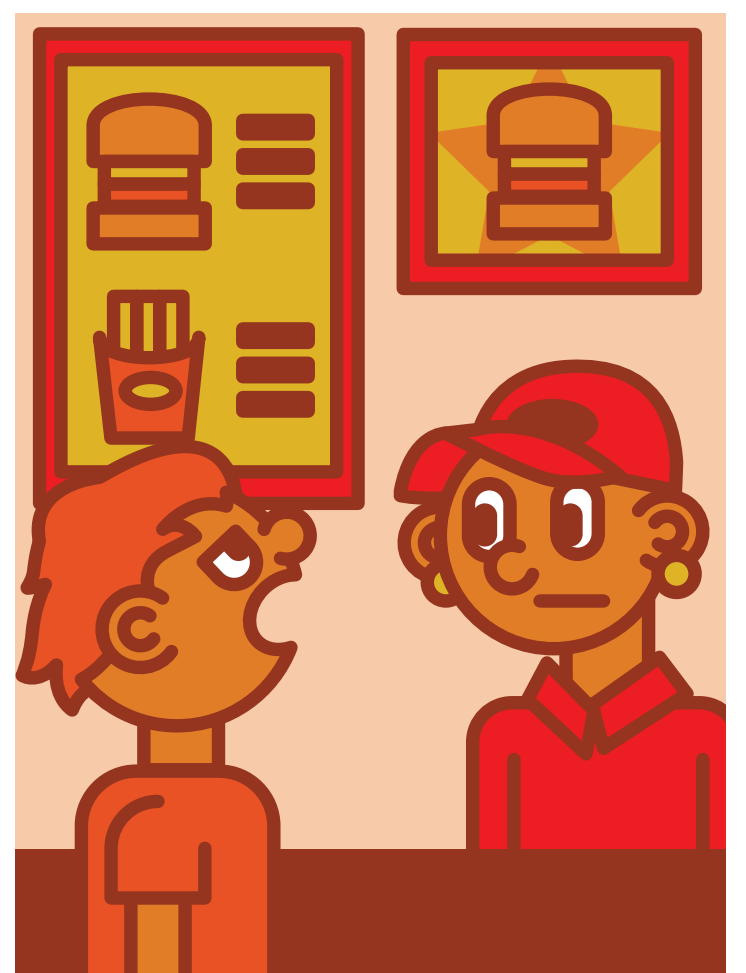
retail or fast-food is a perfect environment to build those skills.

In my opinion, working at a retail store or fast-food restaurant is not only a good first job, but an important one.

You will learn many of the ins and outs of what to do and not to do in a variety of situations, and in most cases, it will create a drive within yourself to achieve more and find a better paying job with far better conditions.

I can attest to these claims since I have worked at several fast-food restaurants and retail businesses over the years, I have gained so much experience and knowledge because I have worked at those types of places. These experiences have led me to be more patient any time I'm at a restaurant and the service is slow, because I know what the workers are going through.

If you don't know what workers are going through, you don't really care enough to have patience with them. That is why I believe everyone should work at a fast-food restaurant or at a retail store at least once in their lives.



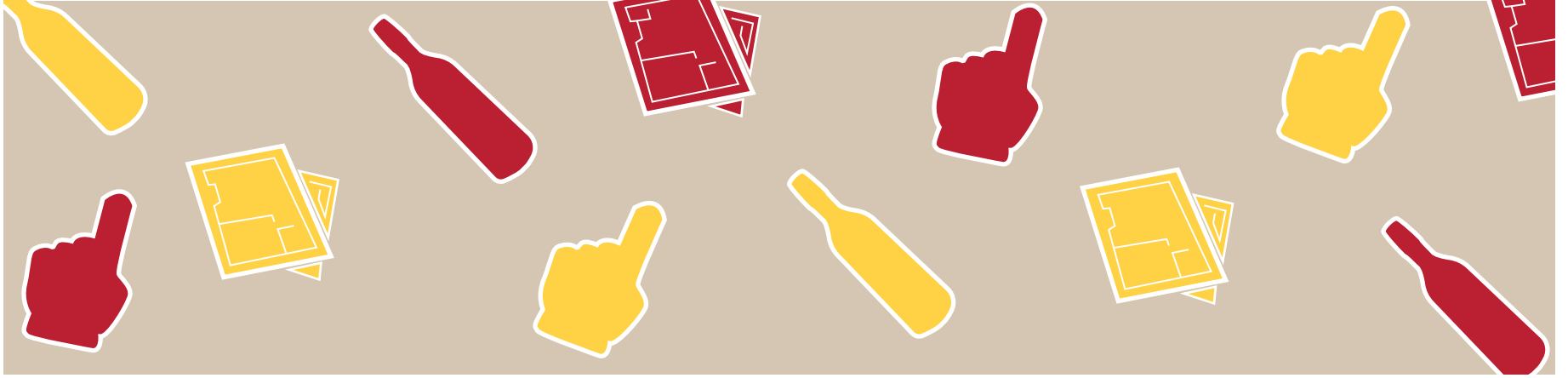
Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Sports

Dylan Rider | Sports Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

Ferris Athletics' state of the union

Hear from executive and athletic sources on the future of university athletics



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager



Ferris State hockey split their series with the St. Thomas Tommies on Friday, Dec. 1 and Saturday, Dec. 2 at Ewigleben Arena. The Bulldogs (5-8-1, 3-5 in CCHA) pulled off a 5-2 win on Friday before feeling St. Thomas' (8-7-1, 6-4 in CCHA) revenge in a 7-1 blowout on Saturday.

Head coach Bob Daniels believed Friday's win to be their best of the season so far. "It was probably our most complete game of the year from start to finish," Daniels said. Five different Bulldogs scored in the victory, which was the team's first regulation win of the year.

The Bulldogs' loss on Saturday signified their worse loss of the season, ending with a goal differential of six in favor of St. Thomas. Daniels liked the team's effort in the first and second periods, but was not a fan of the third period play. "The third period is where I was disappointed in our guys," Daniels said. "I didn't feel like we battled in the third. Felt like we were going through the motions." The Bulldogs will go on the road to play the Bowling Green Falcons on Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9.

Photo Courtesy of Ferris State Athletics

Dylan Rider
Sports Editor

With the end of the sole-fall sport season, President Bill Pink, Athletic Director Steve Brockelbank and Assistant AD for Facilities and Event Operations Tim Blashill gave their thoughts on the current state of Ferris Athletics and the possible future additions.

The trio all spoke about the importance of athletics, a liquor license for athletics, graduate assistants and future plans for Top Taggart Field.

Athletics at Ferris

The three discussed success, visions and what they see in Ferris athletics currently.

Pink: "Ferris State University has a well deserved reputation, both statewide and nationally, for having successful athletic programs and being successful in many regards. You look at many of our programs on campus, not only are they successful in terms of their competition, many of our programs are successful in terms of their student athletes completing [their degree] and going out and doing great things."

Brockelbank: "I think for us, our vision is to continue to be a premier NCAA program. [Our programs] continue to compete at a high level, which we've been able to do for a number of years here. We're awfully proud of the fact that we're capable of doing that and we want to continue to do that going forward for a long time. [Our vision] is defined by winning championships. It's also defined by academic excellence and personal responsibility. So those are the three things that we talked about in our vision that we believe is really important for us as an athletic department."

Blashill: "I think [the Center for Athletic Performance was] kind of a starting point. I've been very optimistic about what we've done here. Certainly right now, I think we recognize that we need some facility upgrades. We need to con-

tinue building on the momentum... Hockey went to the Frozen Four and the championship game in 2012. I don't know that we built on it at that time. You have to kind of hit those things while the success is happening."

Alcohol at sporting events

Over the summer, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed off on a bill which allows Michigan's public universities to sell alcohol at their sporting events. The University of Michigan and Michigan State University have begun efforts to start the sale at their respective athletic events. This begs the question of if Ferris State will follow suit.

Pink: "We've started that conversation as far as our board is concerned. When you look at it, that's gonna be a Board of Trustees checkbox whenever you get to that place. So we have looked at that pretty closely. I'm slow rolling that one right now, because I want to make sure that as we make those kinds of decisions, that those are well thought out and well planned out decisions... Is there something that says to us it's a good move to make? Doesn't mean yes or no, but we need to look at that because that legislation also says that it may be in one venue but not another venue."

Brockelbank: "If it enhances the fan experience and motivates them to come back to our venues and watch our student athletes compete. That's where I see the greatest benefit in it for us. Do I think we can generate some revenue? Yes. But I also think that it's important that we make sure that we can do it safely, that we have processes and protocols in place so that we can execute it safely so everybody has a good experience, right? We don't want alcohol to take away from the experience."

Blashill: "I think it would be very beneficial for us to be a part of that. I certainly know there's lots of steps to go to get to that point, you can't just jump into anything. But I do think it would be extremely beneficial to our athletics

department, and then that fan experience as well in terms of what people want these days and you have to be able to act accordingly to what your fans want."

Future plans regarding football

With Top Taggart Field and its age a topic of conversation at Ferris, the three spoke on potential future plans for the field. Pink first acknowledged the circulation of drawings for this potential field.

Pink: "Any drawings or renderings out there were, to say the word, preliminary would be an understatement. Those were helpful to us to kind of gain a grasp of what the possibilities could be. I do believe that as we get further down that road in the next several months, I think we'll be able to get further down that road of having some of those determinations. So I think that once we are ready to be formal in what those announcements are, I think those announcements will be exciting to the campus community."

Brockelbank: "We have some facility needs and upgrades that still need to take place. So I think when we look at our football facility, it's old. It's done what we've asked it to do well beyond its expected lifespan. And I think we look at other DII facilities, and even high school facilities, and we recognize that we have a need to do some work down there. I guess we have a bead on that. We're working towards that and hopefully we'll get some movement on that soon."

Blashill: "There is a thought process that we're gonna have to move forward here and we have to have some updated facilities period you know, like it like you had mentioned that these have kind of served their purpose. I think it's already the groundwork in your mind about what we need to do for hopefully a new football stadium or upgrades and, and then with the ice arena. What can we do? That starts with us just looking at some of these different projects."

Upgrading facilities

Alongside Top Taggart, athletics views facilities as a very big target for upgrades. Pink, Brockelbank and Blashill all believe that adapting the facilities are important.

Pink: "As far as Ferris State is concerned, we have to be as forward thinking as possible when it comes to athletics from a standpoint of making sure that we are being as responsive to our programs as we should be ... It's also a matter of pride for the campus community. If I'm a student, I want to feel good when I drive by the stadium and say 'that's my stadium' That's where I go and watch our team play."

Brockelbank: "From a facility standpoint, at some point, I would love to see something done with football. We know that needs to happen. We know at some point we probably need to have an indoor [facility] and at some point we need to do something with hockey ... Those things would be fantastic to see happen at some point. I don't know when or where but I think it's at some point ... Our student-athletes have been fortunate to experience a high level of competitive and academic success. For this to continue as an institution we need to be intentional about investing the resources necessary for long term success."

Blashill: "The [Center for Athletic Performance] kind of instigated the thought of 'we need to start upgrading some other facilities.' The reality is the rink is from 1974. Top Taggart is from the late 90s, maybe early 80s. So, these are facilities that are aging, and there's things that we deal with every day that we have to kind of fight through ... You're also competing with other teams in the league. And I think that's kind of striking when it's hot."

To read the full article, visit fsutorch.com

Exhibition Victories

Men beat Grace Christian Tigers, women beat Spring Arbor Cougars



Photos courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Dolapo Olayinka goes up for a bucket.



Photos courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Kenzie Bowers dribbles the ball between her legs.

Jack Alcorn and Jael Snowden
Sports Reporters

Men's Basketball

Ferris State men's basketball defeated the Grace Christian Tigers of the National Christian College Athletic Association in an exhibition match at Jim Wink Arena on Saturday, Dec. 2.

The Bulldogs (5-1, 0-0 in GLIAC) are now 3-0 in the past five years against the Tigers (1-7, 1-3 in conference) with a 106-57 win. Ferris has scored more than 100 points in all three of those matchups against Grace Christian.

Head Coach Andy Bronkema shared why a big win like that was very important for the Bulldogs even in an exhibition game.

"We got to see a lot of younger guys play and if somebody goes down later in the season we can insert them into the rotation," Bronkema said. "You can see they are talented, and I was proud of those guys for being ready and making some good plays out there."

Right from the opening tip-off, Ferris used their size advantage to get easy looks as 34 of their first half points came from the paint. Because of the dominance inside they were able to kick it out to shooters who were able to knock down six threes in the first half. Leading the way was junior forward Reece Hazelton, who caught fire early, scoring 10 of his 18 points in the opening 10 minutes. Hazelton credits the explosive offensive performance to the unselfishness of every one of his teammates.

"We shared the ball really well today which gave us all good looks," Hazelton said. "We work really hard in practice, so we know if we get good looks they are usually going to fall."

The second half started off slow for Ferris as the Tigers got off to a quick 8-0 run, but were quickly shut down by the Bulldogs high pressure full court press which forced 14 second half turnovers. Coming off the turnovers Ferris

was able to get everyone involved and get easy buckets to end the game with a 49 point victory. The Bulldogs featured 12 players in the scoring column seven of whom scored in the double digits.

One of the biggest storylines heading into the game was the return of junior forward Deng Reng, who after playing his entire freshman year and starting nearly every game has missed 50% of Ferris's games with injuries.

"I'm just happy to be able to be back on the floor to help my team win," Reng said. "I always try to do whatever my team needs me to do to win, whether that's give energy, play defense or score."

Reng started in his first game back since Dec. 31, 2022 and scored nine points in 14 minutes.

Bronkema was also incredibly excited for Reng's return to the floor.

"He has got such a great spirit and to have him back is wonderful," Bronkema said. "He was a great leader on the bench but when he is on the floor it brings it out a little bit more and just gives all the guys so much energy."

Their 5-1 start has given them the number 14 team in the country ranking now heading into conference play. Last season the GLIAC featured three teams with more than 20 wins and 60% of the teams had a .500 record or above. To start this season, eight teams have a winning record entering conference play. Bronkema believes his team is ready for the gauntlet ahead of them.

"It's a whole different animal and all the teams are off to good starts and have very talented players," Bronkema said. "It's a black and blue league starting next week which is during exams, but we are excited and are ready to take one game at a time."

The Bulldogs will open GLIAC play with two games on the road facing Purdue Northwest on Thursday, Dec. 7 and Wisconsin Parkside on Saturday, Dec. 9.

Women's Basketball

The Ferris State women's basketball team took down the Spring Arbor Cougars in an home-opening exhibition game on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at Jim Wink Arena.

The Bulldogs' (3-0, 0-0 in GLIAC) 85-70 win over Spring Arbor (7-2, 2-1), a NAIA school, will not go down in the win column but will act as a bridge into GLIAC play.

Coach Kurt Westendorp believes this game, despite it being an exhibition game against a NAIA school, was good experience for the team.

"[Spring Arbor] is talented and also high character," Westendorp said. "A lot of teams can get down 24-8 after the first quarter and they can fold. But they're definitely

a bunch of high character kids with a lot of talent. Their coach does a really good job. That's why this game was awesome for us to play."

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Bulldog volleyball comes to an end



Photo by Patrick Clark, courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Junior outside hitter Claire Nowicki attempts to spike the ball with graduate senior libero Kenzy Corstange behind her.

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

Ferris State volleyball's season ended with the Bulldogs losing to the University of Missouri-St. Louis in the NCAA DII midwest regional championship in St. Louis, MO on Saturday, Dec. 2.

The Bulldogs reached the midwest regional championship by defeating Hillsdale in the quarterfinal and then Rockhurst in the semifinals.

The Bulldogs defeated Hillsdale in a five-set thriller, winning sets one and three the Bulldogs found themselves split at two sets apiece going into the final set. The team rallied to win the final set 15-12 and advanced to the semifinal match against Rockhurst.

It was a match where junior libero Leah Bylut set a school record of 42 digs in a single match and head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm raved about Bylut's record-setting performance.

"I just want to highlight one thing real quick," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "Our libero, Leah Bylut, set a career record here by 10 digs with 42 digs tonight. I thought she was really key because Hillsdale has a very potent offense. I thought her making some of those really big digs was a big deal for us so I just want to highlight that superstar."

Leading the way for assists was junior setter Kaylee Maat with 57, and junior middle hitter Olivia Henneman-Dallape led the way with 25 kills.

Junior middle hitter Syann Fairfield feels that the bond that the team has as a whole helps the team win.

"It was a battle and it was hard to like find things to work for us," Fairfield said. "I think us believing in each other and being so close on and off the court helps out. I can look at Henneman-Dallape and she can tell me do this and do

that ... that's something that helps everyone on the court."

In the semifinal match against Rockhurst, the Bulldogs lost the first set (26-24) they would go on to win the next three sets to win the match and advance to the regional championship. Fairfield led the team in kills with 14, Maat led the team with 45 assists and Bylut led with 28 digs for the Bulldogs.

Maat believes the Bulldog offense is built upon the trust between the positions.

"We have a lot of time that goes into scouting," Maat said. "I trust my hitters. What they're seeing and whenever they tell me anything, I take that information and try and put that out there so I can put them in the best situations. It all goes back to them."

In their match against the hosting and no. 1 ranked team in Midwest region, the Missouri St. Louis Tritons, the Bulldogs were able to take the second set to go into the half 1-1. Out of the half, the Bulldogs did not get it going and lost sets three and four to end their season. Leading the way in kills was Henneman-Dallape with 13, Maat led with 47 assists and Bylut led with 17 digs.

The Bulldogs finished the season (27-8, 15-3 in conference) and won the GLIAC Championship for the second year in a row. Henneman-Dallape was named the offensive player of the year in the GLIAC, and her teammate, Maat, was named setter of the year in the GLIAC. The Bulldogs had three players named to the first team all-GLIAC in Henneman-Dallape, Maat, and junior outside hitter Claire Nowicki. Both Fairfield and Bylut were named to the all-GLIAC second team.

After a successful season, the Bulldogs will now look to next year to go even further.

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