



# The Ferris State Torch

92 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of Jan. 10 - Jan. 17

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Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

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# News

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## Finalized FFA contract released

Faculty see changes in promotion and tenure in new union contract

Jessica Oakes  
Editor in Chief

The Ferris Faculty Association shared their new collective bargaining agreement over winter break, ending an 11-month long discussion and bargaining cycle.

The most notable changes seen by faculty and administrators during this cycle include a combination of promotion with tenure and overall amicable communication from both parties.

FFA president and science professor Charles Bacon noted that the union has wanted to make such a change to the tenure process for years.

"The coupling of first promotion with tenure plus the increase in pay for each rank will benefit new faculty working to earn tenure," Bacon said. "All faculty striving for promotion will benefit from the increase in pay at each rank."

Professors work to obtain academic tenure in order to achieve job security. A tenured professor is employed indefinitely and may not be dismissed without cause, while non-tenure track professors

often work under nine-month long contracts. Nationally, professors with academic tenure have decreased by nearly 40% in the past 40 years.

The main administrative representative at FFA contract discussions is Associate Provost Steve Reifert. Reifert does not see this change as a sign that the number of tenured faculty members will rapidly increase. Instead, he views it as a logistical change which both parties recognized as a more fair system for promotion.

"What this does is change some confusion in the contract language where previously you could be promoted from assistant professor to associate professor without achieving tenure, and both the administration and the union thought that was a fairness issue," Reifert said.

The FFA and the administration completed several tentative agreements in the past calendar year. Bacon noted that the current contract may still see "incremental modifications" in the future as the changes settle into place. Despite this, there has been consistent

praise from both parties about the efficiency and respect displayed during this bargaining cycle.

"The process was unique because we'd asked Dr. Pink if we could try a more collaborative approach," Bacon said. "We asked if we could meet 'in house' with Ferris stakeholders and no external attorneys, so that both teams had the freedom to fully participate in discussions. Without his support we likely would have been looking at another job action. Both sides were committed to reaching an agreement and avoiding the contention that comes with a job action."

Bacon refers to the previous bargaining cycle of 2018, which resulted in a faculty strike during the first week of fall semester. Reifert agreed with this comment, stating that the two parties may not have reached all of this contract's agreements without such collaboration.

"It was an incredible shift," Reifert said. "Typically what happens, and it happened last time, when you get into a contentious atmosphere [with] outside negotiators

who really don't get us, you don't get anything changed with the economics."

Under the administration of former university president David Eisler, FFA members often discussed with an attorney from Detroit's Dykema Gossett law firm on behalf of the administration.

President Bill Pink has been credited by administrators, FFA members and members of the Ferris Non-Tenure Faculty Organization for an improved relationship between faculty and the administration. Pink stated the following after the new collective bargaining agreement was shared publicly:

"I have been energized by the process of establishing relationships with our FFA leadership as well as so many individual faculty members on campus. Our conversations have been helpful to me in gaining better insight into Ferris State; both as I understand where we've been, and also where we are capable of going. I have found the FFA leadership to be incredibly collaborative in our conversations, and I look forward to continuing to build upon that collaborative spirit.

I have also found this to be the case in my conversations with other unions and the employees within those unions on our campus. While we may not always agree, we have civil discussions and attempt to understand perspectives. This method should always be the practice. We will never reach the heights that we are capable of as an institution without these important relationships."

Provost Bobby Fleischman is the Vice President for Academic Affairs. While he was not present in most contract discussions during this bargaining cycle, Fleischman still sees this contract as a step forward for the university.

"I think everybody came together in an unprecedented way to make this work and move forward so that it's something that we can point to as building on relationships, and delivering the best possible experience for our students," Fleischman said.

Read future editions of the Torch for more news regarding Ferris' on-campus unions.

## Student Government in limbo

President's no-contact orders continue



Photo from Torch archives

**SGA President Dylan Andrews and former Vice President Cassidy Engles at last spring's inauguration.**

Ember St. Amour  
News Editor

As the semester begins, all Student Government Association members are unable to speak to SGA President Dylan Andrews after a no contact order sent on Dec. 7.

The no contact order was sent from Dean of Student Life Lina Blair to members of SGA and outlined the restriction members can have with Andrews. These include the stop of visiting, speak-

ing, phone calls, texts and social media contact. The email also addressed that members who received the no contact order could not use third parties to maintain contact with Andrews. They could, however, reach out to local law enforcement in order to legally investigate the matter, without fear of repercussions by the university.

In addition to the no-contact order, an email was sent out Jan. 6 from Administrative Assistant Sarah Youngs to SGA members cancelling the first meeting of the year.

"We will not be meeting this upcoming Tuesday for our Student Government meeting on 1/9/24," the email read.

As of Tuesday, Jan. 9, there is no available information for when the SGA will again meet.

After reaching out to SGA student leadership and members, the Torch received no comments. SGA's administrative advisors, Vice President of Student Affairs Jeanine Ward-Roof and Executive Assistant to the Vice President of

Student Affairs Angie Hollister, were also unavailable for comment.

Vice President for Marketing and Communications Dave Murray emailed the Torch a statement about the events.

"The safety of our students is a top priority," Murray wrote. "Ferris State takes seriously any concerns raised by students and follows a process to fairly and thoroughly look into those concerns. This process is ongoing, and it would be inappropriate for us to discuss

it at this time."

This comes after President Andrews and fellow executive board members passed a SGA bill allocating funds to the group's president and vice president. Andrews previously explained that the bill was passed with the intention of matching other universities' payment systems and encouraging SGA membership. The groups current membership stands at less than 10 students.

# Trayvon Martin's mother to speak on campus

## MLK Day celebration brings author and founder Sybrina Fulton to Ferris

Jessica Oakes  
Editor in Chief

The shooting of Trayvon Martin was heard around the country, resulting in the formation of the Black Lives Matter movement. Twelve years later, Martin's mother will bring her voice and activism to Big Rapids.

Sybrina Fulton will be speaking on campus as part of Ferris' 38th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration on Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 5:30 p.m. in BUS111.

Fulton is now the founder of the Trayvon Martin Foundation, a public speaker and author of "Rest in

Power: The Enduring Life of Trayvon."

According to David Pilgrim, the vice president for Ferris' Diversity, Inclusion and Strategic Initiatives office, Fulton will be interviewed by a student in a moderated discussion and will take audience questions afterwards.

"Since the 2012 death of her son, Trayvon Martin, Sybrina Fulton has become a national leader in the fight for racial justice," Pilgrim said in a university announcement. "She has turned a heartbreaking personal tragedy into the catalyst for a movement that challenges our nation to be

better."

Fulton was invited to Ferris by former leaders of the Office of Multicultural Student Services. Autumn Peoples, a sonography and healthcare administration major and student worker at the OMSS, sees Fulton's discussion as a "great opportunity" for Ferris.

"I believe that what she has to say to us will be very motivational and inspirational," Peoples said. "It's for us to look upon the things that we're doing as a university and as a community at Ferris to maybe change things and do other things differently."

Pilgrim also stated that this

year's theme for MLK Day events is Activism and Social Justice. Events will be held from Monday, Jan. 15 through Thursday, Jan. 18.

These include a choir performance at 6 p.m. on Jan. 16 and the annual Freedom March, beginning at the Interdisciplinary Resource Center at 4 p.m. on Jan. 17.

The week will conclude with an event to recognize student activism and social justice in the David L. Eisler Center Ballrooms on Jan. 18 at 6 p.m.

A pre-recorded virtual event will also be available at the beginning of the week's celebrations.

"We honor Woodbridge Ferris

when we create a campus where everyone, students, faculty and staff believes that the University belongs to them as much as it belongs to others," Pilgrim said in the announcement. "The Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration is when we remind ourselves of our noble past and our need to remain vigilant in creating an inclusive university."

Visit the OMSS for more information and read future Torch articles for continued coverage on MLK Day events.

## 38th Annual MLK Day Events

### Monday, January 15

Pre-recorded virtual event

### Tuesday, January 16

Student-led choir performance, soup and chili provided  
6 pm DEC 202BC

### Wednesday, January 17

Annual MLK march

4 pm IRC

Moderated conversation and Q&A with Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin  
5:30 pm BUS111

### Thursday, January 18

Student activism recognition and trivia  
6 pm DEC 202C

Graphic by: Jessica Oakes | Editor in Chief

## MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour  
News Editor

**Detroit:** GOP Chair Kristina Karamo was voted to be removed during a meeting on Saturday by the Michigan Republican Party.

The party had to go through several steps before the meeting, including turning in their signed petition to the State Secretary Party. The group then met at the Oakland County Conservation Association to discuss the vote.

Karamo did not attend the meeting according to Politico, as she said it was illegally organized. She also stated that she would not recognize the vote if it was passed.

"Their performance has no legal standing," Karamo said in a statement. "I am still chair of the Michigan Republican Party."

In addition to voting for the removal of Karamo, the party also voted to remove general counsel Dan Hartman, according to Bridge Michigan. Hartman said that the

meeting was a "sham."

While the meeting was happening, people on both sides held up signs to support their stance on the situation. While no one except those voting were allowed to be inside the meeting room, people from both sides came out to give updates.

There were reportedly 45 state committee members attended and 40 voted for the removal of Karamo. If Karamo is removed, her position according to party bylaws would be temporarily taken over by co-chair Melinda Pego. If Karamo's removal goes through, the committee of 107 would vote on a permanent replacement to finish her two-year term.

Karamo plans to hold a special meeting on Jan. 13 to discuss a proposal that would allow the Michigan GOP precinct delegates to nominate candidates for elective positions rather than primary voters.

## GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour  
News Editor

**United States:** A Boeing 737 Max 9 plane had to make an emergency landing after a piece of its fuselage came off on Friday.

The plane departed from Portland, Oregon with 177 passengers and crew and was heading to Ontario, California according to BBC News. The incident occurred at approximately 16,000 feet and the pilot had to turn the plane around.

In the days before the incident, the plane was not being used in flights over water due to a pressurization warning light going off during three recent flights according to the New York Times.

The National Transportation Safety Board's chairwomen Jennifer Homendy said that the board is unsure if the incident was related at this time. Homendy also explained that while the light was supposed

to be looked at before the flight on Friday, it was not. Homendy also mentioned that the three recent flights have occurred since Dec. 7.

There were no serious injuries however, the wind caused head rests, one of the pilot's headsets, seat backs and clothes to be scattered.



# New Health Professionals RSO



Photo and graphic courtesy of the Health Information Professionals RSO

**Kourtney Fairchild**  
News Reporter

The Health Information Professionals registered student organization is a new group focused on bringing awareness to the programs and creating community within them.

This group was made for students in the health information technology and health information management programs.

The RSO was created by health information management program seniors Kyara Perez, Sonya Poll, Alexis Harvell and Nicole Ly along with Julie Alles, a professor and the clinical coordinator of the health information programs.

The organization just started and only has a few members, so they are focused on recruitment and retention. To kickstart this effort, they will attend the RSO fair on Jan. 17 in the David L. Eisler Center ballrooms.

The group plans to start hosting meetings after this fair. These meetings will act as a sort of study group for those within the programs.

"Years and years ago we had SLA [Structured Learning Assistance], but the funding just isn't there," Alles said. "So by bringing this RSO, we could have group studies, help our own, and work together as a group."

Alles encourages students in these programs to join and recruit their classmates. In addition to help with classes, these meetings will give students resources to begin preparing for credential tests, which are required for those both

in the health information management and health information technology programs.

While the group hasn't had any meetings yet, they did host a bake sale at the beginning of December. This allowed for them to raise money and spread awareness about the group within the campus community. A second bake sale is currently planned for the first part of January.

Alles said she suggested creating the RSO to help bring more awareness to the program in place of a training presentation the students were supposed to give. She said she was surprised at how much the students wanted to do it and how enthusiastic they were about it.

"I told them that I would do anything, I would be their backup, I would be their support, I would do anything because our program is hidden," Alles said. "Everyone knows what a nurse is and everyone knows what a PA is, but they have no idea what health information management is."

Alles and the students that helped create the RSO hope it will be an effective way to get more information out about health information programs and bring more students to them.

The students have crafted a motto for the RSO: "health information professionals: charting a course to health information success with a dash of fun along the way!"

For more information about the RSO or health information programs, contact Julie Alles at [juliealles@ferris.edu](mailto:juliealles@ferris.edu).

## FAFSA UPDATE

FAFSA is now open with a soft launch

- FAFSA is currently open in short periods to track user experience and add updated changes
- If the form is filled out during the soft launch, the information will be saved and there will be no need to redo the form
- With the setup of the FAFSA questions, students are able to skip up to 26 questions depending on personal circumstances
- Some students may also only have to answer 18 questions, which would take approximately 10 minutes

Scan to fill  
out the FAFSA



# Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

## Study abroad programs return to Ferris



Photo Credit: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

The International office located inside the Interdisciplinary Resource Center is once again offering summer study abroad programs.

**Kendall Phillips**  
Culture Reporter

Ferris is bringing back their faculty-run study abroad programs for the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Office of International Education ended the short-term faculty-run programs due to the pandemic.

Executive Director of the Office of International Education, Tara Braun, is excited about the return of these programs and how they will improve in the following years.

Braun stated that Ferris decided to suspend these trips altogether for a short duration of time, but now that they are getting the sup-

port that they need, they will be returning.

"When other schools were re-launching their faculty short-term programs, there was kind of a stage of reviewing them and making sure that the relaunch of the programs was done in a slightly different way," Braun said. "There will be many improvements and what's being relaunched is really the overall initiatives for study abroad in general and for the faculty-led programs."

Braun explained how the relaunch includes extra precaution and safety measures with a new faculty handbook that has been revised and "beefed up." Both safety and health concerns have

been enhanced in the revision of the program.

Professor Eric Warner is no stranger to study abroad programs. As a language professor, these programs are an integral part of their programs, but Warner has also participated in many programs in his undergraduate years as a student.

Warner led faculty-run programs before they were shut down and is excited to be coming back for the new and improved ones.

"I am really excited that the students have the opportunity to travel again," Warner said. "COVID, in my mind, was very detrimental to international education. Students are craving just to get out of their

homes and their home communities and to experience something different. They see lots of other people's experiences on the Internet of them living life and going places, so this is an exciting opportunity to bring more students."

Warner explains how the goal of the programs is to bring as many students as they can at a low cost so that as many students as possible can experience studying abroad.

Warner also encourages anyone who is considering studying abroad to do it.

"It is possible for everybody. As long as you are creative at fundraising and finding funding sources, you can do it," Warner said. "

Also, no one has ever regretted going on a study abroad program. It is so helpful for you professionally and personally, and it is something that I see all of my alumni reflect on and view as one of the really important key things that they did during undergrad."

Ferris will have five programs available for next summer, including Turkey, France, Italy, Costa Rica and Little Haiti Florida. For more information on these programs and how to sign up, visit the Ferris Study Abroad website under the faculty short-term programs.

Scan here to find out more



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# Goals for the new year

Ferris' identity centers share their organizations new year goals



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Produccion Assistant

**Brook Blausey**  
Culture Reporter

As we celebrate the beginning of the new year, different Ferris communities share their plans and goals for the upcoming spring semester.

Last semester, the Hispanic/Latino Cultural Center changed its name from Center for Latin@ Studies. Though there won't be any "drastic changes" within the Center, HLCC director Sonia Treviño wants to focus this semester on making the university aware of its recent name change. Along with this, Treviño is working to develop a new logo for HLCC and update signage in the Interdisciplinary Resource Center.

"One ongoing [goal] is the continuation of spreading the word regarding our new name of the center," Treviño said. "Our old name was so outdated, so the members of the Center are happy that the new name is more representative of the actual work we do in the Center."

Treviño stated that another goal for HLCC is to continue to "strengthen partnerships with the

community." They plan to do this by working with organizations such as the Hispanic Center of West Michigan and the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

HLCC plans to host different events this semester to "promote" student engagement with them as another New Year resolution. These events will be announced in Bulldog News and HLCC welcomes everyone to attend.

"I encourage all students to visit our center to learn about the events we have planned," Treviño said. "We are located in IRC 131 and no appointment is needed. Feel free to stop by and say hello."

Diveristy Advocacy for Identity and Sexuality Empowerment is a safe space for people with all sexualities and gender identities. Social work senior and DAISE co-founder Al Alley stated that the registered student organization has been planning to be more involved on campus with new events, RSO meetings and support groups.

"One of our biggest goals for this semester, and this year in general, is the upkeep and growth of the programs we had this school year,"

Alley said. "As well as expanding our programming to meet different needs since we have a base to start from now."

Along with this, Alley wants to continue the DAISE traditions that were started last year by hosting a welcome ceremony to introduce their RSO to new students. DAISE plans on reaching out to other Big Rapids organizations and on-campus RSO's to create a "concrete plan" for the fall semester.

"DAISE would like to collaborate more with other organizations and work on educational programming," Alley said. "We have been working on building to back up the LGBTQIA+ Community."

Alley encourages students to "expand their bubble" by attending other groups' events.

"I am grateful for all of the support and love that we have received from other RSO's on campus," Alley said. "There are so many wonderful, safe, supportive multicultural groups on campus that deserve our attention."

To learn more about RSO's and identity centers, visit Ferris' website and Bulldog Connect.

## Media Minute

"The Iron Claw"

**Lucas Gill**  
Web Editor

Studio A24's latest film, "The Iron Claw," recently made its theatrical debut on Dec. 22, meeting rapid critical success and acclaim. Directed by Sean Durkin, "The Iron Claw" is a biopic that centers around the Von Erichs, the family of brothers that rose to fame during the earlier days of professional wrestling.

It is a story about what the effects of generational trauma and toxic masculinity can have on a one's mental state growing up. The head of the family, Fritz Von Erich, whose played by Holt McCallary, pushes each of his sons to become professional wrestlers after he was denied the NWA Worlds Heavyweight Championship title during his career which created a hierarchy among his own family members. It presents four young men, though physically at their apex, at their most vulnerable states.

"The Iron Claw" features some of my favorite performances from this past year. The film contains excellent and emotionally charged performances from Zac Efron as Kevin Von Erich, Jeremy Allen White as Kerry Von Erich, Harris Dickinson as David Von Erich and Stanley Simons as Mike Von Erich.

Throughout the movie, you can feel their strong brotherly relationship and see how their character dynamics change with the inevitable tragedy their careers take them through. The brothers' trials and triumphs are amplified by the incredible acting on display. The way this cast can portray pain,

trauma and heartbreak is on another level.

There's so much to love about what the visual aspects have to offer. The heavy amount of dedication that went to portraying Texas, including recreating the Dallas Sportatorium, during the early '80s is apparent.

The recreations of the many television highlights and news reels that focused on the Von Erichs are stunning visuals that further immerse you into the movie's world and its time period.

The lighting amplifies the intense scenes in the ring. The top-down lights cast dramatic shadows on each wrestler, practically covering their faces. The colors used in the film are equally as powerful. The yellow, warm glow of the stadium lights contrast with the blue, cooler Dallas nights.

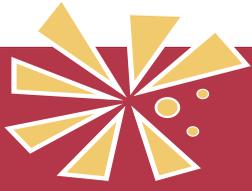
The movie doesn't shy away from the darker aspects of the spectacle that is professional wrestling. Every bead of sweat and drop of blood is captured for the audience. I almost felt the impact of each blow while watching in the theater.

"The Iron Claw" is an emotional whirlwind and a cinematic masterpiece. I have never seen a more impactful, soul-crushing biopic. I thoroughly recommend this film to anyone who enjoys sports movies and dramatic storytelling. This is one of my favorite movies released in 2023 and I am dying to rewatch it again.

The film is currently only in theaters, with Warner Brothers confirming that the movie will be available to stream on Max later this spring.



Graphic by: Lucas Gill | Web Editor



# New Year Word Search



F J F C A L E N D A R T W H D  
 C E G K W R G C O K S D U F W  
 T E S F H Y E X F Y I T U P E  
 L K L T X L J S D B E P B A D  
 F Q Z E I L W N O T B A S R C  
 W O K C B V G X G L U M R T E  
 S V F O E R E U O S U W Q Y D  
 V A X U C H A Z H P E T P G C  
 Z T A N Y N J T J S K S I S B  
 M Y G T Z S F A E O Y I Q O J  
 T M J D E D P G N Z X A T J N  
 H G D O Y A B E R U Y E P B Z  
 S N U W G I C M O U A B Q F F  
 F E K N L U L J X U X R S W C  
 L W C J X J N I Q Y T X Y C T

## Word List

- Resolution
- Celebrate
- Party
- January
- Calender
- Countdown
- Festive
- New Year



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

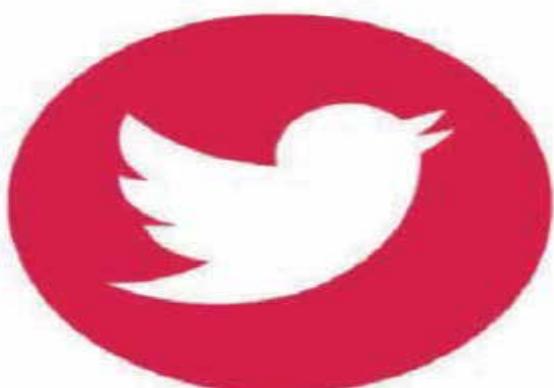


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# Opinions

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN:

# Art for art's sake

Be creative in 2024



Photo Credit: Jessica Oakes | Editor in Chief

Frank Oakes with his paintings in the 1990s and in 2024.

Jessica Oakes  
Editor In Chief

We shouldn't leave the arts only to prodigies.

I have been around art my whole life. My mom taught choir and my dad moved from painting to furniture making.

If I were in a fire, the one thing I would save would be my collection of journals from the past decade.

Even though I've written countless pieces for class and this newspaper, it's the things in those journals that nobody reads that may be the most important to me.

I don't know how I'd process or express anything without writing it down. Too many times I've encouraged people to write in similar ways, or find an outlet of their own, and they reject the idea because they're "not good" at it.

This fear of making art incorrectly, something I'm not sure is possible, holds people back. Never starting guarantees never improving.

When you write a poem or draw a picture for yourself, you are proving that your time and effort do not always need to be spent on activities that make money for a boss or impress a professor. You can create things for yourself, for loved ones or for the simple joy of it.

I find it too easy to fall into a cycle where I'm too tired outside of work and school to be active with my time. We become passive consumers

every hour we aren't productive for someone else.

Art does not only exist for those who can profit off of it. Our time is actually worth more than just money.

My dad was able to make some money through art before a hand injury got in his way.

While I can think of one restaurant in my hometown that may still have "The Frankie" written at the bottom of one of its paintings, that's not where the value lies.

My dad's art lives now in the furniture he's allowed me to keep in my apartment, the paintings I hang on my own walls and the hours he spent trying to teach me how to properly shade.

Even after years of parenting, working and fighting battles with his health, I see familiar life in my dad whenever we discuss art.

It's not in a studio with expensive watercolors, sometimes it was in the computer room with printer paper and a pen. It's not profitable, but I know it's valuable to us.

In 2024, your goals do not need to be full of side hustles, grade point averages and graduate programs. You can take a stand against the ideology that you are only able to make deliverables in corporate settings by creating for yourself and those around you. You'll probably progress and gain skills along the way, but you'll first see the progress in your own mental clarity.

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# A tale of three Wonkas

Wonka: A world of pure imagination

Kate Babel  
Freelance Reporter

A classic children's book gets a new in-depth look at one of its main star characters in the new "Wonka" movie and it's the best one yet.

Released on Dec. 15, 2023, this movie sheds light on Willy Wonka's backstory, describing his incredible journey as to how he became the iconic and delightfully weird chocolate maker we know and love today. This movie gives the best backstory compared to the other movies.

The movie marks the third movie adaptation of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl. The first being "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" (1971), starring Gene Wilder and the second being "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" (2005), starring

Johnny Depp.

"Wonka" stars Timothée Chalamet in the lead role as he tries to launch his line of chocolate in the middle of a town with three major chocolate makers. Warning, there are spoilers.

The movie describes how Wonka begins his career in the big city and befriends an orphan girl named Noodle while competing with the top chocolatiers, Arther Sluggworth, Mr. Fickelgruber and Mr. Prodnose.

It leans more towards the 1971 Wilder version than it does for the 2005 Depp version. The Wilder version doesn't necessarily explain Wonka's backstory, luckily the new "Wonka" movie answers that question.

Weekend reporter and editor of the Today Show, Becca Wood, interviews the director of Wonka, Paul King, in her article, "Willy

Wonka over the years: Which actors have played the kooky chocolatier?" who stated, "I grew up with the book and that is very near and dear to my heart," King says. "But because I am the age I am, the Gene Wilder movie was the movie that was on TV, so I think in my childhood imagination, I sort of merged the two and that just felt like who Willy Wonka was."

Since King grew up seeing Wilder on the big screen, he combined his love of the movie with his imagination after reading the book and was able to produce a cinematic masterpiece, all while staying true to the character and creating a new backstory for the amazing chocolatier.

"Wonka" was beautifully produced, bringing childlike wonder to the big screen. There is amazing use of choreography and subtle humor. As for the storyline, there

is a slight difference.

"Wonka" primarily focuses on how Wonka became extraordinary whereas the other movies describe him as already wealthy and successful and focuses more on Charlie, as he is the main character in the book.

As far as backstories go, in the book, Wonka seems to be an already-developed character. Readers don't know any details other than his famous chocolate-making reputation, not where he's from or his family. However, this movie gives readers and fans alike an origin story of Wonka, answering all the questions they might have.

Wonka is inspired by his mother who made chocolate whenever she could scrape together enough money for cocoa beans in this new adaptation.

CONT. ON PG. 9

**WONKA CONT.**

His family was poor at the time, a stark comparison to where we see him in the other movies. His mother makes a promise that if he opens his shop and shares his chocolate with the world, she'll be right there beside him, even with her passing.

In her Today Show article, Becca Wood describes her interview with Chalamet for his opinion. Chalamet explains that this younger model of the wild character isn't based on Wilder nor Depp's portrayals because "the story's different."

"It's an original take," he says. "There isn't the factory, there aren't the golden tickets, but those themes are kind of snuck in there."

In the Depp version, Wonka falls in love with chocolate despite his father being a renowned dentist. After being addicted to chocolate his father kicked him out of the house and as an act of defiance, Wonka started his own factory. It accurately portrays the book but also takes on a slightly darker, more whimsical feel.

What all three movies have in common is that they each have taken bits and pieces from the book but put their own creative spin on it. There are some notable differences between each take on the classic story. For example, the replacement of the squirrels with geese who lay golden eggs in the

1971 version, rather than wanting a pet squirrel, Veruca wants a golden egg-laying goose.

"Wonka" still made references to "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and still managed to keep Wonka as the center of attention. From the Oompa Loompa's iconic orange skin and green hair to the inside of Wonka's first Wonka bar being golden, "Wonka" is a stunning display of magic and wonder that tells his backstory better than any adaptation thus far.

If you want to see the best Wonka story thus far, "Wonka" is playing in theaters now, so make your inner child happy and see it while you can!

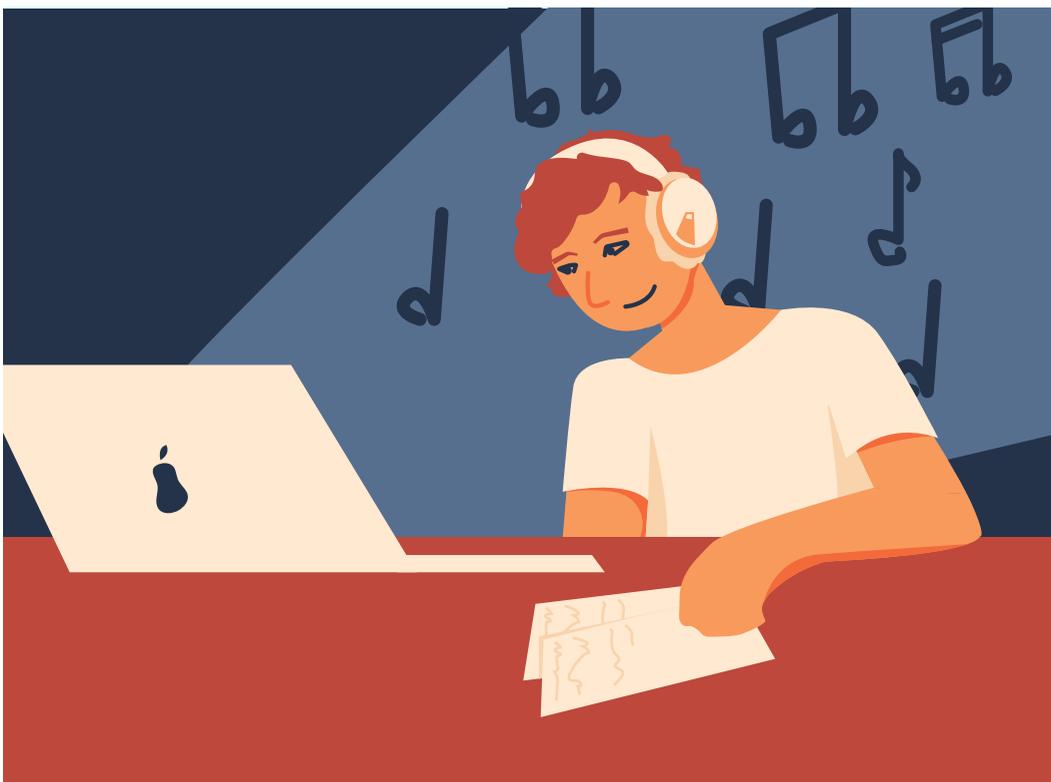
SCAN ME

WATCH THE  
WONKA TRAILER

Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

# Listening to music while studying

## How music helps students when studying



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

**Tate Zellman**  
News Reporter

Music is something that people listen to daily, and students have their different opinions on whether it does help or doesn't help them with studying. For me, it helps, but it's all about finding the right balance.

Whether it's listening to music on your phone, your computer or any other electronic device, stu-

dents will listen to it while they study. An estimated 50 to 60% of students across the United States listen to music while studying according to raytextimes.com.

Students, like myself, listen to music while studying because it helps them concentrate. Others avoid music while studying because it decreases their ability to focus.

Personally, I feel like music helps me study.

Music puts me at ease and limits the number of distractions around me. When I study, I don't listen to music on my phone, I listen to music on my computer. However, I do not listen to music with lyrics; I listen to gaming music.

Give me a 30 minute to an hour loop of my favorite soundtracks from the Mario Kart series or the New Super Mario Bros series and I can get through almost any as-

signment.

These help me concentrate, limit my distractions and help me maintain my focus on studying. Music from video games is designed to help the players focus in on the game, and in turn, help students focus in on their assignments.

While listening to music with lyrics may help some, for me that's just not realistic.

Lyrics, for me, are more of a distraction than something that can help me concentrate.

Psychology sophomore James Held agrees.

"Music helps me concentrate more than if I didn't have music," Held said. "Studying with light ambient music has definitely helped me study. Plus, it makes me feel at peace."

I agree with Held's reasoning that the music he listens to makes him feel at peace, as exams and tests can be nerve-racking, and homework can be stressful.

That is something I can relate to as I use studying music as a form of relaxation during school work. Listening to any calm music can help ease the mind.

Living on a college campus brings its own set of distractions that can occur sporadically.

People could interrupt your work flow with wild, interruptive noises, bang on doors or do any other sort of crazy things that results in unwanted noises.

I think that music can limit dis-

tractions since you can adjust its volume to where you can't hear much else that's going on around you.

Environmental biology junior Sophia Scott explained why music does not help her study and is more so a distraction.

"I do not listen to music while I study only because it is distracting," said Scott. "I love music, but when I'm trying to study, I will get distracted by changing a song on my phone and then I'll be on my phone and not get anything done. I only listen to music when doing homework because I do not need to be as focused and as on task compared to studying."

In addition to talking about how music doesn't help her study, Scott also explained why she wouldn't listen to music if she was studying with friends or with a study group.

I can see why Scott finds music a distraction, especially when changing songs on your phone repeatedly can waste study time.

That is why I don't listen to music with lyrics or listen to music on my phone.

Changing the songs from my phone is too much of a temptation, so it's easier to listen to music through other sources.

And I find listening to ambient music while doing homework a smart idea because the attention of focusing isn't as big of deal compared to studying for an exam.

# Sports

Dylan Rider | Sports Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

## Bulldogs split series with Beavers

Saturday's win snaps a seven-game losing streak for the Bulldogs



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Teammates Kaleb Ergang and Jacob Dirks steal the puck away from a Bemidji rival during the Saturday evening game at Brutus's Ice Arena.

Connor Grypma  
Sports Reporter

Ferris State hockey split a pair of games against the Bemidji State Beavers at home on Friday, Jan. 5 and Saturday, Jan. 6.

The Bulldogs (6-14-1, 4-9 in CCHA) dropped the first matchup to the Beavers (9-13, 8-6 in CCHA) on Friday 4-1 before evening out with a big win on Saturday 5-3.

With the loss on Friday, head coach Bob Daniels wasn't upset with his team's play despite the final score.

"I thought we took a stride in the right direction in a lot of ways,"

Daniels said. "We were just a little bit off in the first. We gave them so few opportunities but when we did, it was a big one. We got to finish our own chances when we get them. I don't mind if we roll the same game out tomorrow, finish our opportunities, and eliminate a couple squeaky plays."

The Beavers struck first midway through the first frame and added to their total within the next minute to go up two after a period. They continued their run, scoring another early in the second before Senior forward Antonio Venuto put the Bulldogs in the scoring column a few minutes later. This marked

Venuto's 12th goal of the season. From there, it became a defensive battle for the Bulldogs trying to catch up. The game ended a few minutes after the Beavers scored on an empty net to make it 4-1.

Senior forward Jason Brancheau commented on the Bulldogs' losing streak after the game.

"Everyone knows we just have to put our heads down and keep working," Brancheau said. "Eventually, it's going to come."

The Bulldogs did just that on Saturday night when they came away with their first win since early December and evened the series with a 5-3 final score. Daniels

credited the team's effort for the win.

"It was really a team win," Daniels said. "The scoring was really spread out. We got three goals from defensemen and we were able to play all four lines. Big difference was we were able to finish our chances tonight."

The Bulldogs came out firing with a score by defenseman senior Nick Hale less than a minute into the game, followed up by a goal from Brancheau five minutes later. The Beavers scored a goal late in the first to lighten the lead. Yet, the Bulldogs outscored them 2-1 in the second to go up

4-2 with goals from defenseman freshman Jack Mesic and defenseman freshman Trevor Taulien. The third stayed even with each team tacking on another goal, including one from sophomore forward Tyler Schleppe of the Bulldogs to make the final score 5-3.

Venuto talked about getting back in the win column after splitting the series.

"Obviously, nobody in the locker room likes losing," Venuto said. "It feels good to go out there and get some points tonight."

The Bulldogs are back in action on the road this weekend to face the Minnesota State Mavericks

## What you missed: Ferris Hockey

Dylan Rider  
Sports Editor

Bulldog hockey played in five contests between Dec. 8 and Dec. 29 where they went 0-5.

The stretch of games included a series against the Bowling Green Falcons, a game against Lake Superior State and an appearance in the GLI tournament where they faced the Michigan State Spartans and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Nanooks. The 0-5 record

contributed to a seven-game losing streak, which bled into the Bulldogs' series against Bemidji State on Jan. 5 and 6.

Ferris' series against the Falcons, whom the Bulldogs swept in the CCHA quarterfinals last March, ended in a sweep for the Falcons. Bowling Green shut out the Bulldogs 1-0 before beating Ferris 4-3. Following them being swept on the road, the Bulldogs' home finale of 2023 resulted in a 5-1 loss at the hands of the Lake Superior State

Lakers. Finally, Ferris was swept out of the GLI Tournament while landing in fourth place following a 4-1 loss to the Spartans and a 3-2 loss to the Nanooks.

Head coach Bob Daniels believed the team should not focus on the losing streak at hand.

"We can't start thinking about six [losses]," Daniels said. "We got to worry about this Friday night [against] Bemidji. Come Monday, we'll get after it hard."



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Forward Austin McCarthy passes the puck past a rival player of the Alaskan Nanooks.

# Superiority complex

## Women's basketball demolishes Lake Superior State



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Guard/Forward DeShonna Day makes her way past opposing defense.

Jael Snowden  
Sports Reporter

Bulldog women's basketball returned to the win column with a 49-point blowout over their GLIAC rival Lake Superior State University at Jim Wink Arena on Saturday, Jan. 6.

The Bulldogs' (8-2, 2-1 in GLIAC) 109-60 victory over the Lakers (1-11, 0-3 in GLIAC) marks a season-high for points scored alongside it being their largest margin of victory since their 59-point victory over Grace Christian on Nov. 26, 2022.

Head coach Kurt Westendorp believed that the team played hard from the start and was able to control the Lakers' pace with how the Bulldogs played.

"They played with a ton of energy right from the tipoff and on both ends of the court," Westendorp said. "I felt like we ran the floor really well. When we got those stops, we were able to turn it into some

of those transition opportunities. For our ball pressure, [it] was one of the best games we had all year long. I think we forced 22 turnovers. We did a pretty good job of making them feel a little bit out of sorts. We tried to speed them up and make them play a little faster than they wanted to play. It all kinda clicked together for us today."

Senior forward DeShonna Day and sophomore center Mya Hiram contributed to the turnovers by leading the Bulldogs in steals with three each.

The Bulldogs put up at least 24 points in every quarter while holding the Lakers to under 17 points in each quarter. Seven different Bulldogs registered double-digit points in the win. Day and senior forward Chloe Idoni registered 11 points each while Hiram led the team in scoring with 13 points off the bench.

With such a large margin of victory, the game allowed for every single Bulldog to get playing time

while also allowing all 13 Bulldogs to register two or more points. Westendorp knew how important it was for everyone to get more playing time while understanding what it meant for the players.

"It's really important to get that game flow action," Westendorp said. "Everyone gets opportunities every day in practice to go against each other to make each other better. There's a little bit of added importance when you actually have the chance to do it in front of people. It's great for some of those kids to see the ball go into the basket and have a little bit more confidence in it."

The game against Lake Superior State starts an uninterrupted streak of games against GLIAC opponents that will run until the end of the season. The Bulldogs will go on the road to play the Michigan Tech Huskies on Thursday, Jan. 11 before facing the Northern Michigan Wildcats on Sat. Jan. 13.

# What you missed: Ferris basketball



Photo Credit: Ciara Brooks | Torch Photographer

Senior Jack Ammerman dribbling the ball to score against the Lakers.

Jeffery Walker  
Sports Reporter

The Ferris State men's basketball team has a record of (12-2, 2-1 in conference play) at this point in the season. The Bulldogs had a record of (6-1, 2-1 in conference play) in that seven-game stretch and were able to pull off an upset against the Ashland Eagles who were ranked the #16 team in the nation at the time while the Bulldogs were ranked #23. The Bulldogs played in that stretch and have been ranked as the #15 team overall, with the heart of conference play set to begin.

The Bulldog women's basketball team has been very impressive to this point in the season hosting a record of (8-2, 2-1 in conference play). Over the break, the Bulldogs have gone (4-2, 2-1 in conference play) with one of their games being canceled. The women's team also had their own upset against reigning DII National Champion #1 ranked Ashland Eagles snapping their nation-leading 45 game-winning streak, it was the first win the Bulldogs had over the Eagles since 2014. With only two losses on the season, the Bulldogs find themselves ranked as the #5 best team in the nation as conference play starts to get going.

The Bulldog women's basketball



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# Bulldogs are superior

## Ferris State defeats Lake Superior State to extend winning streak



Dolapo Olayinka makes strides across the court in order to score against the Lakers.

Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Jack Alcorn  
Sports Reporter

Ferris State men's basketball defeats the longtime GLIAC rival Lake Superior State Lakers at Jim Wink Arena on Saturday, Jan. 6.

The Bulldogs (12-2, 2-1 in GLIAC) heading into the game were on a five-game winning streak and had reached the #15 ranking in the country by the NCAA while also ranking 10th in the nation in points per game. The Lakers (9-4, 1-2 in GLIAC) had the 10th-best defense in Division II by only allowing 64 points per game.

Head Coach Andy Bronkema credits the win to the resiliency of his players.

"Our strength is in our depth," Bronkema said. "We were down at halftime so that can be really discouraging but we have so many guys that can step up and fix the mistakes. Five guys finish a game but there might be seven guys playing well for us so I'm really proud of that."

In the first half, the Lakers stellar defense won out and they were able to create easy scoring opportunities as they shot 70% from the field in the first half which built a 47-36 lead over the Bulldogs. One of the team's best defenders is junior guard Jimmy Scholler who shared his team's frustrations in guarding the Lakers.

"It was a battle," Scholler said. "We struggled to guard them in the first half and let a lot of very good shooters get open threes. We defended much better in the second half which allowed us to get out in transition and score some easier baskets."

The second half was a different story as Ferris was able to erase the 11-point deficit in a matter of five minutes. The rest of the second half was back and forth but Ferris ended up building a six-point lead with only a couple minutes to go. The Bulldogs ended up winning 90-86 which is their eighth game scoring at least 90 points this season. Ferris had four players score

in double figures which was led by graduate senior forward Dolapo Olayinka with a game-high 21 points.

With the win over Lake Superior State, Ferris finished the Christmas break 5-0. In that span, they defeated Ashland, Cedarville, Fanshawe and Kuyper. In all five games, the Bulldogs scored more than 90 points which continues their hot offensive start to the season and has made them the 10th highest-scoring team in all of Division II.

The break also featured some awards and a broken record. Ethan Erickson received GLIAC offensive player of the week after a 19-point performance against Ashland. Erickson didn't stop there as he set a new school record with 11 three-pointers against Kuyper. In the same week, Scholler received GLIAC defensive player of the week after recording four steals and six defensive rebounds against Ashland.

Scholler prides himself on his ability to defend so getting acknowledged for his efforts was meaningful to him.

"Winning defensive player of the week is a nice award to receive as I pride myself on defense," Scholler said. "My role is typically to guard the team's best player so winning that award can be hard to receive."

Ferris State has two games next week against two Upper Peninsula GLIAC teams. Bronkema shares why he is excited about the road trip up north.

"It's a long trip that some people might complain about but I love playing up there," Bronkema said. "They are hard places to play and I love the challenge of going against two quality opponents. The trip can also be a time for the guys to spend time together and make memories."

The Bulldogs continue GLIAC play at Michigan Tech on Thursday, Jan. 11 and then travel to play Northern Michigan on Saturday, Jan. 13.

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