



The Ferris State Torch

93 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

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www.fsutorch.com

Students tour Holocaust center and Arab American museum Surge of sign-ups exceeds field trip capacity



Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Tour guide Youla Nassif speaks about Abrahamic religions in the Arab world.



Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Students finish tour of Zekelman Holocaust Center by viewing the Anne Frank Tree.

Jessica Oakes
Editor in Chief

Over 40 students of various majors signed up to attend an outing to Farmington Hill's Zekelman Holocaust Center and Dearborn's Arab American National Museum.

Friday's trip offered students a look into Jewish and Arab American culture through museum exhibits,

personal testimonies and Mediterranean cuisine. After tours, the group was treated to lunch at Stage Deli Restaurant, a Jewish deli in West Bloomfield and Al Ameer, a Lebanese restaurant in Dearborn.

Transportation, admission, lunch and dinner were funded by the Innovation Accelerator Grant. Applying for the grant was the collaborative

effort of members of Ferris' Shoah Committee. Shoah Committee director and history professor Dr. Tracy Busch saw this trip as an exercise in "radical tolerance."

"It came from the fact that I think intolerance is so easy right now, to the point where you have to disrupt the flow of hate that comes out of... media," Busch said. "The way to disrupt that is to

pause, spend hours and take something in that you're not normally taking in."

Busch hopes this trip turns into an annual event with up to 50 students. While the majority of students in attendance study in the humanities and social sciences, the trip attracted a group with diverse educational backgrounds.

Freshman math education major Vivian Cash was quick to ask questions about the Arab world while touring the AANM. Museum docent Youla Nassif, Cash's tour guide, answered with enthusiasm and personality.

"I was surprised to hear how countries such as Lebanon, specifically, are very peaceful and aren't war-torn countries like we see in the media," Cash said. "It made me think about how much propaganda I am really consuming without even realizing it."

Nassif is a marketing senior at the University of Detroit Mercy. Throughout the tour, she melded the museum's history with firsthand stories, memories of her grandmother's cooking and how life in both Kuwait and Lebanon has shaped her identity as an Arab American.

"I believe that tying my personal story of why I came here and how my family immigrated to the U.S. helps the guests imagine and understand how it felt going through immigration," Nassif said.

The tour covered a wide range of topics, including the Abrahamic religions and Islamic architecture. Guests entering the AANM were greeted with high ceilings and

mosaics of green, blue and tan; colors that hold deep significance for the natural world in the Quran.

Thorough education of Middle Eastern history is sparse at Ferris. Nassif sensed and appreciated the students' desire to learn during the tour.

"I especially enjoyed the questions I received from [Ferris students], which made it clear to me how much they are interested and curious about learning more about the history and culture of... the Arab world in general," Nassif said. "I would like to also mention how I was very impressed and happy to hear about this university's commitment to raise awareness about the current events in the Middle East and its proactive stance in addressing them."

History sophomore Tyler Lawton attended the trip to further his goal of becoming a historian. Pen and paper in hand, he paid close attention during the guided tour of the Zekelman Holocaust Center.

"There were so many Jewish families that were being separated and slaughtered by German soldiers," Lawton said. "What shocked me the most was that we wait until the end to decide we need to help them."

The Zekelman Holocaust Center is unique in its speaker series of Holocaust survivors' children. Dina Kawer is an artist, photographer and daughter of Holocaust survivor Benjamin Kawer. Students listened intently to her remarks about her father.

Benjamin Kawer was one of four men to escape a death march at a small, widely unheard-of concentra-

tion camp. At the time of his escape, he stood 5'11" and weighed only 70 pounds. He joyfully lived into his late 80s, allowing him to pass down his story through generations, all the way down to his great-grandson.

"Adversity doesn't build character, it reveals it," Dina Kawer said.

Benjamin Kawer survived World War II in his late teens, which makes Dina Kawer especially appreciate the opportunity to speak to young students.

"It's not only a way to honor my dad, and to honor family's memories, but it's a way to make sure that people are cognizant that this level of hate exists in the world. It existed back then and exists to this day. Hopefully, by educating yourself about this, it will allow you to maintain a sense of vigilance and recognize it when it rises again. And he always told me, it will rise again," Dina Kawer said.

When discussing the genocide of the Holocaust, both Dina Kawer and tour guide Henry Smith used language that points to the past, present and future.

"Dehumanizing anyone can open the door to dehumanize everyone," Smith said.

With eyes on the current moment as conflict and hatred persist, Ferris' Shoah Project also arranged a panel titled Understanding the Conflict in Gaza. Speakers include Saeed Khan and Howard Lupovitch of Wayne State University and Ron Stockton of the University of Michigan - Dearborn. Read next week's Torch for full coverage of the event.

SGA to give \$10,000 to food pantry

Ferris to house on-campus food pantry

Tate Zellman
News Reporter

The Student Government Association announced on April 9 that a food pantry will open in the David L. Eisler Center for the next academic year.

The need for an on-campus pantry came after the Wesley House was informed that their grant was nearing

expiration.

The new pantry received a grant and a three-door fridge from the Dairy Association of West Michigan. SGA has also committed to donating \$10,000.

Computer information systems junior and SGA President Stephen Bender hopes the donation will help get the pantry up and running.

"We wanted to do a large

initial donation to guide them and provide some value early on," Bender said. "We're doing \$10,000 off the bat and then hopefully we can allocate extra funding for them for years to come."

Dean of Student Life Lina Blair stated that, nationally, about 35% of college students struggle with food and housing insecurity. About 10% of college students

across the country have been homeless for at least two nights in the last 30 days.

Student Life wants to understand what these percentages look like for Ferris students specifically, so they are preparing a survey to send.

"It's important for students to know that they're not the only one dealing with that," Blair said. "Often I think students feel like they're flying

solo."

Blair also stated that if students struggle with food insecurities, they could be struggling with other things, such as finding a job on campus, financial aid and family stuff. They want to make campus life easier for students by providing help to navigate and connect with resources on campus.

"Food insecurity or housing

insecurity doesn't happen in a vacuum," Blair said. "So how can we help students get connected to all the things when they are walking in the door saying they're struggling with food insecurity when there's more going on? There's always something under the surface."

CONT. ON PG.2



News

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

FOOD PANTRY CONT.

Administrative assistant Maggie Walcott, who works at the President's Office, was one of the first to see the need for a pantry and helped recruit Blair for the project.

"This is something that we hope will be not just a resource for students to utilize because it's so convenient for them, but something the community can be proud of," Walcott said. "Having our students be successful by having access to food resources is important to us."

Currently, the West Campus Food Pantry, located in the West Campus Community Center, is open to any students struggling with food insecurity. Students can sign in with their ID, and there are no income requirements for the pantry.



A portion of the food pantry located at the West Campus Community Center.

Photo courtesy of Torch Archives

Art of investigation

Atlantic, New York Times reporter Caitlin Dickerson speaks to media students

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Caitlin Dickerson shared investigative reporting and storytelling skills with Ferris students and faculty on Thursday, April 11.

Dickerson shared her story with the 17 people in attendance, including how she has taken on reporting things from mustard gas testing on soldiers to her latest investigation about the Darien Gap, a region in Panama that immigrants use to escape that is filled with dangerous obstacles. She will publish an article about it in the summer.

Dickerson currently works for The Atlantic but has previously worked for The New York Times, as well as National Public Radio. Dickerson has won several awards for her work, including a Pulitzer Prize in 2023 for her explanatory reporting.

One of the stories Dickerson reported was that of mustard gas experiments that had taken place on soldiers in the U.S. military.

"When I was doing the research for this story, I knew that I was going to have to bring these mustard gas experiments to get people to care about them 50 years later," Dickerson said. "And one of the ways that I did that was visiting the National Archives in Maryland, which is an incredible place full of really important documents and histories."

While looking through

these archives, which Dickerson described as disorganized, she discovered that these experiments were likely linked to soldiers of different races and decided to do more digging.

"Sure enough, I eventually found evidence that eugenics science, science that has been totally debunked today, was used to justify testing based on race," Dickerson said. "So, tests that were conducted on Japanese American troops were actually designed to figure out whether the Japanese enemies the Americans were fighting at the time would react any differently to mustard gas than Americans would."

Dickerson also touched on her work with immigrants, some of whom were able to be reunited with their families following previously hidden family separation at the border.

"It's important to point out that hundreds of these families still have not been reunited with one another," Dickerson said. "And that even those who have been reunited are very much still struggling with the emotional fallout of what they went through. Nothing takes that away, but the result of this lawsuit was helpful and validating to many of them."

Chairman of the Arts and Lectures Committee Glen Okonoski helped decide that Dickerson should do a presentation at Ferris.

"Coming from the disci-



Caitlin Dickerson walking through a camp of asylum seekers located in Matamoros, Mexico.

Photo courtesy of Caitlin Dickerson

pline of storytelling that happens in school digital media, but [also] our journalism program or technical communication, and thinking about the attraction that would be to students," Okonoski said. "What she does reporting on immigration, some of these topics, so it's not just like she's reported. That's one thing but then what she reports on are topics that are extremely relevant to a broad

population."

Digital animation and game design junior Linnea Smith found an interest in the stories that Dickerson shared.

"As someone who is a history buff myself, seeing these veterans' stories come to life and finally getting that recognition just brings me so much joy," Smith said. "And I just love that she took the time to go the national archives and

take the time to look at and research everything that was there."

Dickerson's closing remarks not only addressed her role in society but the audiences' as well.

"My job is to shine a light on what's hidden from public view, in order to further the nonpartisan values, we all share of transparency and accountability," Dickerson said. "Don't forget you have

a job to do too. My job is to tell what's happening in the country and your job is to decide what to do about it."

For anyone who missed Dickerson's presentation but is interested in learning more, Okonoski recorded the presentation, and anyone who would like to watch it can contact him at GlenOkonoski@ferris.edu.

Grand Rapids band comes to Ferris

Pretoria announced as Spring Fling headliner

Isabelle Marks
News Reporter

The Grand Rapids-based band Pretoria will be performing at Spring Fling on April 25.

Spring Fling will be at the Robinson Quad from 2-5 p.m. There will be carnival rides, crafts, food trucks and live music. The Spring Fling is free for Ferris students to attend with the event put on by the campus programming board, Entertainment Unlimited.

Pretoria guitarist Matt Burdick gave some insights on their upcoming set list that they will be performing at Spring Fling.

"It's going to be a lot of original stuff," Burdick said. "But, we have a handful of very fun covers that we have planned. There will be many songs that everybody will recognize. So, I'd say a pretty decent split of original songs and covers."

Pretoria guitarist Josh Bilisko's journey into music traces

back to the virtual realm of Guitar Hero.

"Playing 'Through The Fire and Flames' on medium difficulty, maybe expert, made me really engaged with music," Bilisko said. "I just wanted to take it further and bring it into the real world."

Similarly, Burdick found his musical calling through Guitar Hero, while Pretoria guitarist Matt Pavlock's early exposure to the violin, which his dad used to play, ignited his passion for music.

Pretoria describes their music as alternative indie rock, with some power pop, surf vibes and post-punk in a few songs.

"We're stoked to play the show," Bilisko said. "You guys have a really good music business program, probably one of the best of the schools here in Michigan. We're happy to be supporting that."

One of the openers of the Spring Fling is marketing and music and entertainment business administration junior Johnathan Stroble,

whose artist name is SGB Lil Strobe.

"There has been a lot of controversy at this school regarding who SGB Lil Strobe is, so I am excited to showcase it at the Spring Fling, and I am very appreciative of the opportunity," Stroble said.

Stroble described his music as mainly alternative rap but said it can also be described, at times, as jazz, R&B, country or hard rock, with his start being in his house.

"My cousin had brought home a studio, I hopped on the microphone just to see what I could do," Stroble said. "I showed my dad, who is now my manager, what I did. He introduced me to a couple of people in the industry based on what I had pre-recorded right there. That kind of inspiration drove me to make sure I had quality music and started my brand."

Stroble also wanted to shout out his advisor for helping support his music journey.



Photo courtesy of Brady Olson

Matt Burdick, Josh Bilisko, Matt Pavlock, Ben DeWitt and Rob Gullet of Pretoria.

"A lot of the relationships that I have built around Big Rapids for different venues that I've formed have been specifically through my advisor, Paul Kwant, the music entertainment business as-

sociation is run through him and a lot of the stuff that we have had offered to us would not happen if it was not for Paul," Stroble said.

If you want to support Pretoria and SGB Lil Strobe, you

can see them and other artists perform live at the Spring Fling on April 25.

Survivors' poetry

Hard topics and personal poems shared at Literature in Person

Tate Zellman
News Reporter

On April 9, poets Terri Muuss and Matt Pasca incorporated heavy topics in their poems, including sexual assault and personal backgrounds.

The poets were chosen by the Coordinator of Creative Writing and Literature in Person Dr. Deirdre Fagan to celebrate National Poetry Month. A total of 22 attendees were at the event online as the event took place over Zoom. Muuss and Pasca use poems from their collections to demonstrate where inspiration stems from and that people don't need to keep their difficult experiences in their heads.

Muuss took the floor first by reading "Alternate Names for Rape Survivors," a poem from her second collection, "Godspine." She is a sexual abuse survivor, and her other poems, "Affidavit" and "I Am the Type to Talk With my Hands," are related to sexual assault, and she uses them to help her overcome the topic and share her story.

"Hard topics are necessary so that they become less hard topics and more like why should I be ashamed of something that happens to me?" Muuss said. "Why should I feel guilty or bad

about something that I had nothing to do with that I was not to blame for? In fact, let me shine a light on this so that other people don't feel so alone."

Furthermore, Muuss stated that not talking about the difficult topic is what can make things harder. She added that talking about them is more necessary than brave, and it's more like breathing.

"Telling the truth about abuse is what keeps it from being painful," Muuss said.

Some of the poems shared by her husband, Pasca, were observing past family experiences, small talk and his personal background. He wrote a poem about how he grew up on Long Island, something he doesn't say with pride. He also wrote a poem called "Throwing at the Sky" after watching a time when their [his and Muuss's] kids get something stuck in a tree. He also shared a poem about people struggling to talk about small things.

With his work appearing in over 50 publications, Pasca stated that getting a poem right can help him take a step forward as a person, which is what he's learned from writing poems.

"When I get a poem right or when I feel good about a poem, I've managed to make something real that I've been

working towards for a long time emotionally and intellectually," Pasca said. "In a way every time I finish a poem that manages to articulate something I've always struggled to articulate; I feel I've taken another step towards building the house of myself that was only a blueprint to that point."

To complete a poem, Pasca also mentioned the Notes app on his phone. On the app, Pasca would put down anything he saw from the outside world that inspired him to write a poem.

Students who attended the event were part of Dr. Fagan's poetry classes. English education senior Brianna Bentley was able to state a couple of her favorite poems from the event.

"I would say Terri's 'Alternate Names for Rape Survivors' and Matt's poem about not being able to make small talk are my favorite," Bentley said. "Terri's because of how real and powerful it is and Matt's for how much I can relate to it."

More information about Literature in Person is on the Department of English, Literature and World Languages ferris.edu website.



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Manager

Media Fest shifts focus

This year's Media Fest shakes things up



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Scott West talking among other panelists about what he sees for the future of video production.

Kourtney Fairchild
News Reporter

Media Fest, hosted by the Media Communications Association, focused on soft skills for the first time.

This was the 23rd annual Media Fest, which took place on April 12 in the David L. Eisler Center ballrooms.

Digital animation and game design sophomore and MCA Vice President Taly Cousineau said in previous years, speakers had focused on their success stories rather

than how they came into that success.

"We asked our presenters to focus on one big idea they felt had impacted their career the most, so we get to not only hear about their experience but they're also teaching the skills they used to get where they are," Cousineau said.

The festival included presentations from James Villar, Mahreen Fatima, Scott West and Ferris alumni Joshua Morgan and Bridgette Pacholka and a panel discussion.

Villar works as an e-sports commentator for the video game Rocket League. Villar talked about his love for video games, how many different ways to get into e-sports and the community it brings.

"E-sports is still a really new industry so a lot of people are figuring it out and it's not a one-size-fits-all approach," Villar said.

Villar is the first e-sports presenter to speak at the Media Fest. MCA said this was important to them because of the new addition of the

e-sports major.

Fatima and Morgan's presentations focused on how to get a job.

Morgan works as a recruiter for a game company and gave examples of questions he asks and the kind answers he looks for. Morgan also discussed what he looks for in a candidate based on their experience level.

Fatima had done work for video games like Halo and Diablo IV. Fatima showed the portfolio she applied to jobs with and gave tips on how to

build a portfolio for game design jobs.

Presenters West and Pacholka have done a lot of work in their industry and focused on what has changed and what they think will change in the future. Both presenters expressed how important networking has been to get them where they are.

West has been in the video production industry for 27 years and showed pictures of the different types of cameras and equipment he's used in the past. West emphasized how important it is to be able to ask questions and learn, even as a more seasoned professional.

Pacholka graduated from Ferris with a television and digital media production degree, but he ended up doing journalism for Scripps News.

Pacholka had presented at the Media Festival before and was excited to be invited back.

"Events like this where people come in and they talk about their careers and those different paths are so important," Pacholka said. "I didn't really know journalism was an option for me and now I'm trying to tap into the next generation to get them involved and interested in news because I don't want to live in a world without journalism."

The panel included the five presenters, joined by two TDMP professors and Alejandro Rodriguez, who also

works in the game industry.

Students asked the panel any questions they had, which ended up focused on personality and teamwork.

All panelists emphasized how crucial being able to work well both by yourself and on a team is for each of their fields.

At the end of the panel, each panelist was asked what advice they would give their college selves. The advice varied, but everyone agrees that putting yourself out there and finding the things you enjoy is essential to growing as a person and as a professional.

Television and digital media production sophomore Sebastian Murphy-Schluter was very impressed with this year's speakers.

"James was my favorite speaker because I loved his energy and it felt really inspiring that a gamer, that pretty much lived in his mom's basement, was able to become a really good e-sports commentator and make a career out of it," Murphy-Schluter said.

Murphy-Schluter said he also really enjoyed Fatima's focus on how the environments she creates tell a story on their own, without any words.

Overall, students agreed that they enjoyed the small changes to this year's Media Festival and are eagerly awaiting the next one.

ON THE RECORD

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Purse snatcher

April 10, 12:10 a.m. - A student reported that they couldn't find their purse. Officers confirmed through surveillance footage that the purse was closed. The subject in the footage could not be identified, and the case was closed.

Don't touch my drink

April 11, 10:00 p.m. - A group of people were drinking in the racquet center parking lot. One of the individuals threatened to hit another when they took a beer from a car. The case was sent to student conduct.

An eye for an eye

April 14, Time unknown. -Officers were dispatched to Brophy Hall when an individual entered someone's room and destroyed their belongings. The officers who responded discovered that the student's room was destroyed and had also destroyed the belongings of the other individual. Neither person wanted to press charges, and the case was sent to judicial referral.

Leaving out evidence

April 14, 11:15 p.m. - An anonymous complaint called that there was a marijuana smell coming from an apartment room. Officers responded and confirmed that the room smelled like marijuana. There was a bag taped over the smoke detector, which is a policy violation. The case was sent to judicial referral.

Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

Call to education

“Educators are what shape society,” Ellicott said

Ni’Jah Rankin
Culture Reporter

A four-year national teacher shortage has revealed a small but dedicated group of students who continue to commit their professional lives to education.

Despite the overall decrease in educators since the COVID-19 pandemic, Ferris’ education program has had an increase of 11 students since the fall of 2019.

Associate professor in education Dr. David Alban thinks that the motivation teachers have for the profession is the same as any other major, and it’s important to have personal reasons to go into education rather than materialistic reasons like money.

“It’s the intrinsic features that are going to last a lot longer,” Alban said. “Teachers don’t get paid enough and while that would always be nice to have more put into these things, it doesn’t deter

me from what I want to do, and that is to teach.”

According to the U.S. Census, the COVID-19 pandemic caused nearly 93% of school-aged children to participate in a socially distanced learning system, including a hybrid or fully online class.

Alban thinks that technology use has increased since having to do online classes and might be a reason for the decrease in educators due to many of the older teachers suddenly having to change their teaching styles.

“Teachers that are farther along in their careers are now faced with more technological demands that we have not had to deal with before,” Alban said. “For some individuals, it just overwhelms them.”

Alban teaches secondary and elementary education students. Many of his students also express their desire to teach.

Secondary education senior Ethan Hamilton started

college as a nursing student. To this day, he’s happy about the choice he made to switch majors.

“I love working with the kids,” Hamilton said. “You learn something new every day.”

After witnessing his peers teach in the classroom, Hamilton believes that they have the same passion he has for teaching.

“A lot of my classmates have a true love for helping people,” Hamilton said. “They’re always very motivated and you can see how much effort they put into teaching.”

Along with Hamilton, Delaney Ellicott is also pursuing a career in education. She was inspired by her parents to go into education because her mother is a teacher and her stepmom is a principal. Because of her connection to educators, Ellicott has always thought highly of her career choice. She is an elementary education senior.

“Educators are what shape society,” Ellicott said. “We’re giving them the education [students] need to go out into the real world.”

During her second semester as a freshman, she switched her psychology major to elementary education.

Ellicott is excited to go into student teaching in the fall. She also felt that her classmates are also excited about this experience.

“That’s when you go every day all day, so that will be fun,” Ellicott said.

The Ferris Aspiring Educators of Michigan is a student organization that will be having an education meet and greet on April 20. This event will give education students a chance to ask questions and win a student teaching gift.

For more information, visit the organization’s Instagram @ferrisstateaem.



Graphic courtesy of Aspiring Educators of Michigan

Best in show

Bulldog Motorsports Club hosts second annual spring car show



Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Students admire classic vehicles competing in the Bulldog Motorsports Club car show.

Blase Gapinski
Culture Reporter

The Bulldog Motorsports Club held its annual spring car show on Saturday, April 13, and managed to raise over \$500 for a local non-profit organization.

The car show allowed students and community members a chance to show off their cars and trucks. Entries for each vehicle were \$10, and BMC apparel was also available for purchase. All proceeds from the show were donated to Angels of Action, a Big Rapids non-profit organization dedicated to providing children and their families access to essential needs and community resources.

This is the second fundraiser held by the BMC since 2019 due to COVID-19 restrictions and electoral board discrepancies. The car show was put on hold, but after a successful reinstatement in 2023, they restored the tradition to make it bigger than before.

This year’s show included live music from local band the Lazy Suzan, two differ-

ent food truck options and a large variety of vehicles displayed for attendees to observe and vote for the winners. There were over 50 vehicles entered in this show with various off-roaders, sports cars, muscle cars and budget builds.

Automotive management senior Brian Myers won the “Best Classic” category for the second year in a row with his 1972 Dodge Challenger. He has slowly restored most of the car during his four years of ownership and has entered it in numerous other shows. He used this car to further his passion by learning about it and using the resources he had to fix it himself.

“Anyone can get into this. My advice is just get something and start working on it,” Myers said. “The best way to do that is to dive right into it. Take something apart, take lots of pictures and just keep track of what you are doing. It might be hard to find the right car. It took me a lot of years but there’s a car out there for everyone.”

Myers appreciated the car show’s return for his final

year at school. Being able to share his passion with the community was something he found joy in and he plans on returning even after graduating.

“It was cool to be able to attend this event as a senior and win one last time here as a student. I hope to be back again supporting the club and the school,” Myers said. “It’s not only a good look for the clubs that are involved here at Ferris, it’s overall a good look for the town. A lot of people from all over the state attend this event. It’s a community event and it’s for more than just the car club as there are more non-students here than students themselves so it hardly feels like a school-hosted event. It’s for the community and the town.”

CONT. ON PG.6

Campus kiddos

Phi Sigma Sigma hosts kids' day on the Quad



Photo by: Kate Babel | Freelance Reporter

Local kids enjoying the multiple carnival games and obstacle courses set up on the Robinson Quad.

Kate Babel
Freelance Reporter

For kids, April 13 marked a day away from school with their families to enjoy inflat-

able obstacle courses, carnival games with prizes, face painting and free food.

Around 50 people were in attendance despite the windy weather, bringing their

kids out into the sunshine of Robinson Quad. Phi Sigma Sigma hosted the event to raise money for their charity, "The Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation for School and

College Readiness" where their money went towards the children's education.

Community Impact Chairman for Phi Sigma Sigma Allison Leslie organized the

event with help from the Student Activity Fund Allocation Committee.

"Our goal is to just have kids come out and have fun," Leslie said. "We just want to give kids the opportunity to come out, have a fun day for free, kind of be a stress reliever and get to know our philanthropy a little bit more. We have a large focus on helping kids in need and making sure they have resources and can get a good education. This is just a way for them to come and have a fun day."

As kids attended the event, the Phi Sigma Sigma sisters also brought some of their families over for the games and free food to take advantage of the warm weather and to provide more information about their sorority's charity goal on campus.

President of Phi Sigma Sigma Carrington DeShone believed the event also benefitted the parents who got to take the day off work to spend more time with their kids.

"I think it's cool for them to be able to come to the school and do stuff and then also I think it helps the parents," DeShone said. "Our partner school is Riverview Elementary right in town so I know that a lot of them probably come from right here in town just because we work with them."

By partnering with schools inside the Big Rapids area, Phi Sigma Sigma will use the proceeds donated to their charity to buy much-needed school supplies and obtain resources for the children's educational needs.

Forensic science and chemistry professor Mary Bacon is the faculty advisor to Phi Sigma Sigma. She states that the charity focuses on school and college readiness.

"Anything we can do to help promote education and learn by having fun too," Bacon said. "Some of the girls are in elementary education, and some of them have worked at elementary schools as part of their schoolwork. Families are always looking for something to do. So this gives the people an opportunity to get out and come to campus. Some families don't always come to campus because of their lives and work."

Big Rapids community member Andrea Renas was excited about this day for the kids.

"It's good to have events like this for them because there's not a lot of things for kids to do in the community," Renas said.

For more information on Phi Sigma Sigma's charity and more inquiries, visit their Instagram @phisig_ferris.

BEST IN SHOW CONT.

The BMC President Joel Kerper's goal for this event was to make it run as efficiently as possible. With last year's show being the first, he admitted it was hard putting it together. With new members who had joined the club, they were able to create an event larger than in previous years.

"An event like this not only helps the club itself, it helps the community and we're helping groups within the community," Kerper said. "We're able to support a local charity, there's a pretty new band playing so they are able to reach out to a new crowd. We also have food trucks here and they're able to make some money and put their name out there. It not only helps the club, but it helps everybody around it and allows everyone to benefit from it."

As the president, Kerper does his best to make sure that everyone within the club has a role and feels like they belong. He encourages anyone looking for a community of their own to get involved

with the BMC.

"Anybody that's looking to meet new people and looking to make new friendships is more than welcome to join. We really try to make it an easy transition for those who might not know anybody here," Kerper said. "The passion that people have for cars bring them together and kind of makes a nice tight-knit community. It's not for any specific major or person. We'd like to have everybody and anybody that we can get."

Biochemistry sophomore and BMC Vice President Corey Vanochten is one of the last members of the club that is not a part of the automotive program. He is one of the examples that no matter the major or background, anyone can join. As a car enthusiast, he understands that not all owners want to put too many miles on their ride, and this serves as a closer alternative to those near the area.

"It's nice to see everybody come out here and show support," Vanochten said. "People like to bring out their cars to show them off. We're pretty close to Grand Rapids so a

lot of people there and north of Grand Rapids don't want to drive so far down south where car shows are more common. We like to host something here so there's closer options for them and there's also people within our community with nice cars that show up as well."

Vanochten plans on taking over as the BMC president after Kerper graduates, and his goal is to continue the exposure the club receives and bring in as many students as he can. Throughout the week, the BMC hosts two car meets and board meetings which are open to everyone. Vanochten encourages everyone to get involved with their weekly events as it allows students to check out the club and get a feel for it without having to make prior commitments.

"I plan to be president of the club and I'm not in the automotive program," Vanochten said. "I want to let people know even if you're not in the auto program, you can still enjoy cars. You can still come to our weekly car meets, attend our board meetings and get involved



Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

A 1979 Ferrari 308 GTB competes in a car limbo contest.

with us through our social media. This club really is for everyone."

The BMC meets every Monday at 7 p.m. in room

135 of FLITEf for their weekly board meeting. They also host weekly car meets with details regarding location and time posted on their Ins-

tagram. For further inquiries, visit the BMC Instagram @bulldog_motorsports_club.

Welcome back Mr. Wonderful

Zeta Rho Deltas bring back annual pageant show

Ni’Jah Rankin
Culture Reporter

Ferris’ Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. brought back their Mr. Wonderful pageant, a chance for men to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship.

Around 115 people came to watch six contestants show off their talents and fashion sense during five rounds in the David L. Eisler Center Ballrooms on Saturday, April 13.

Guests were also welcomed with refreshments and a table of charcuterie to eat before the pageant and took turns posing in the 360-photo booth.

This year was the first time the Mr. Wonderful pageant has happened in 10 years because there weren’t any Deltas on campus. Radiography senior Taliyah Garrett wanted to bring the pageant back because she wanted to give more scholarship opportunities to men.

“We don’t see a lot of scholarships for them specifically, so we wanted to give them that opportunity,” Garrett said.

Economics junior Nicholas Green was a contestant in the pageant. He thought scholarships were vital for Black men to steer away from bad decisions and focus more on education.

“As Black men, it is important for us to stay in school

and get our education,” Green said. “Having a scholarship is an incentive to want to stay in school.”

Criminal justice senior Quartez Shah was also a contestant and believed it’s important to have events like this where scholarships are opportunities to succeed.

“It’s hard to be able to branch out and look at opportunities as far as money, internship and even staying in school,” Shah said. “There is a tough percentage of Black men trying to succeed, so being able to see that Delta Sigma Theta Inc. is doing this event is amazing.”

Business administration junior Ralph Donaldson was crowned “Mr. Wonderful” this year and got to show off his poetry, evening wear and swimwear.

Donaldson’s favorite part of the pageant was reading his poem to everyone. After the pageant, he felt great winning the pageant despite being anxious in the beginning.

“It’s such a surreal feeling, to be honest,” Donaldson said. “I was pretty nervous before, but I had a great time doing it.”

Biology sophomore Tanea Keys came to the pageant because she enjoys going to events like this. Her favorite part was the various fraternities and sororities strolling, a cultural tradition amongst

Black fraternities and sororities.

“I like going to Black events like this,” Keys said. “It’s comforting and fun.”

Digital animation and game design sophomore Sherlyn Trejo-Villegas was excited that she was able to make it to the pageant and felt like it did not disappoint.

“I was really excited when I found out the idea for the event,” Trejo-Villegas said. “I think the contestants were great and the Deltas put in a lot of work.”

Delta Sigma Theta Inc. also received help funding the event from Ferris’ Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee.

The Mr. Wonderful pageant intended to have another constant along with a majorette performance but was unable to due to last-minute difficulties. Imari Carl of Delta Sigma Theta Inc. acknowledged on stage that there were some inconveniences because it was the event and that Delta Sigma Theta would strive to improve for years to come.

Delta Sigma Theta Inc. plans to continue this event annually and will have updates on the Mr. Wonderful pageant and other events on their Instagram page @zp_deltas.



Photo by: Ni’Jah Rankin | Culture Reporter

Mr. Wonderful pageant winner Ralph Donaldson accepts his award.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month events

Pop-Culture Series: Rape Culture

Date
4/22

Time
6:00 p.m.

Location
DEC 166

Healing is Not Linear: Survivor's Art Exhibit

Date
4/24 - 4/26

Time
10:00 a.m.

Location
DEC 116

Denim Day Informational Labeling

Date
4/25

Time
2:30 p.m.

Location
Near Starbucks



Find more event details by scanning the QR above

Events hosted by the Anti-Violence Alliance

Opinions

Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor | mogliaj@ferris.edu

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

Bare faced

Why I stay away from makeup



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Jessica Oakes
Editor in Chief

In preparation for big moves following graduation, I've started the journey of donating or throwing away half of everything I own. One item to recently meet the trash was a five-year-old Morphe Jaclyn Hill Eyeshadow palette, gifted to me by my well-intended but misguided father in high school. The palette was called Ring The Alarm. Its shades included bright reds and golds labeled Lolli, Siren, Mugshot and Bomb Ass. I don't doubt it was a good product, but it felt strange to have it. Aside from a few clear or pink lip glosses, it was the only makeup product I had ever owned. I still don't know what exactly prompted my dad to buy me something I'd never used or even spoken about before, but it at least made for a few nice Instagram posts. It was

the assumption that any 16-year-old girl would jump at pink makeup, I suppose. Similar to my aversion to drinking alcohol, part of me feels like I missed the entryway to wearing makeup, which keeps me away to this day. At ages four and five, I had surgery on each of my eyes to remove cysts. They were extremely minor and seemed like a great reason to miss school at the time, but left me slightly changed. My left eye remains scarred underneath, and I never got all of its eyelashes back. It's the kind of abnormality that an onlooker could completely miss but is beyond obvious in my own gaze. I was advised to stay away from all eye makeup for a number of years. I lived with the cysts and got the scar before I was old enough to know insecurity. A five-year-old in 2007, thank-

fully, rarely saw her own face. I'm grateful this all happened before everyone had front-facing phone cameras. Eventually, I watched girls my age become interested in candy-scented blush from Claire's. This feels so innocent compared to the deep-seated need for Kylie Jenner's lip kit that came over girls as young as 14. If I ever tried to join in on this fun, something in me rejected it. My sensitive skin reacted to certain products, and I wasn't particularly good at using any of them. More than anything else, I felt like I was lying when I left the house with darker eyelashes or brighter cheeks. Then I'd spend hours trying to take it off, sometimes to no avail. I knew that wasn't what I looked like, and I didn't care to convince anyone that it was. I also saw that no boy or man had the expectation

to spend the time and money required to change their face the way women often did. While men receive a terrible amount of societal pressure to look and act a certain way, it is not nearly an equal comparison to the way women and girls are preyed upon for their lucrative insecurities the second they have memorized the imperfections on their faces. One feminist interpretation of beauty products is that people of all genders should be free to spend their money and present themselves any way they see fit. I believe in this wholeheartedly, but to leave the conversation there would be reductionist at best. I don't look down on individual women who enjoy makeup, as it can truly be an art. Instead, I resent the marketers who make money by convincing girls of all ages that they need to be painted,

covered and altered. Estée Lauder, Maybelline, L'Oréal, Mac, Mary Kay, Sephora and Ulta are all run by male millionaires and billionaires. Men in these industries build their wealth by stepping on girl's insecurities under women's names. As much as I can help it, I do not want to contribute to their success. I understand the desire to change my appearance. Young people were never meant to look at their faces as often as we do today. I can see in every photo how my eyes are forever uneven, my skin is pal as paper and my top lip nearly disappears when I smile. To waste my time, energy and money on changing these things would be disrespectful to myself and all the women before me whose genes made me look exactly the way I do.

Am I not important to you?

How it feels to be a student who's not a freshman



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

When I first came to campus, it was meant to be this beautiful place with good food, and I was excited to be here.

Now that I'm concluding my second year, I feel like the campus doesn't focus on being a place for students and instead puts on a show for incoming tours and orientation groups.

Freshmen are the primary residents of North Hall and its modern, air-conditioned rooms. Those who continue at Ferris live in the older, outdated halls or find off-campus housing.

It's not that I think that

the dorm rooms on campus are bad, but I believe that Ferris should try and make it worthwhile for those who remain on campus. And some dorms are much older than North Hall.

This, of course, doesn't just include the dorm rooms. The food made on campus is always the best during tours and recruitment days. Shouldn't it be food that is always the best, considering that we, on campus, are paying for it?

There's also the issue of how space is used on campus. The number of different statues that I pass anytime I walk to class is at least three. Meanwhile, there are only a few tables on either side of

campus, alongside some benches for students to use. These tables, have the chairs attached to them as well, meaning registered student organizations want to set up a table outside, then they must find their own.

If Ferris could spend a little bit of the money they have and put it towards investing in the students here, I feel like they would also help recruit new students, too.

Even something as simple as more seating around campus would be beneficial, as I could hang out with my friends easily. There are some areas where random statues on campus would be perfect spots for Ferris to set up benches, tables or just

something to build connections with other students.

If you want something statue-like on campus, why not add a fountain? It would not only be visually appealing, but it would attract new students, allow current students to relive their childhood of throwing in a coin occasionally and let that flame of hope and wishing to linger inside them once more.

Campus isn't terrible, but there are aspects of it that make it feel geared toward the incoming and potential students. Leaving those of us who are current students grasping for confirmation that we are also valued on campus.

Pro wrestling boom



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Isaias Rivera
Guest Writer

Just over a week ago, World Wrestling Entertainment hosted their biggest event of the year, WrestleMania 40. As Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson puts it, professional wrestling is "cool" again. But what does that exactly mean?

Social media has given a chance for professional wrestling to reach new audiences and capitalize on its current

state. Many professional sports organizations utilized TikTok during the buildup to WrestleMania with a trend targeting WWE superstar Roman Reigns. Even Barstool Sports, Farming Simulator and Universities in England jumped in on it too.

In a changing entertainment landscape, professional wrestling has kept its audience hooked on weekly episodic programs. That said, it can easily become stale or

repetitive.

Wrestling across the U.S. catered their matches towards college students in the 90s, a period in which it became mainstream, that saw them experience a surge in popularity and ratings. But as mentioned, it can become stale.

As the programming shifted over time, this drove the older fans towards alternative promotions that offered what they sought. Does pro wres-

ting still appeal to college students?

According to a study by *Wrestlenomics*, approximately 52% of households with a head of household tuning into the two largest weekly professional wrestling shows in 2023 had completed between one to four years of college education.

It's important to note the focus on understanding and engaging with the current state of college students. There's a unique opportunity to revitalize interest in pro wrestling among this demographic.

The WWE has started with help from their program titled *Next in Line*. This program came into the limelight when college athletes could profit from their name, image and likeness. Its intent is to provide a clear pathway for collegiate athletes to the WWE, by providing resources such as building their brands and acquiring media training. Signing collegiate athletes is a way they seem to go and bring more eyes onto the product. But that isn't the only change they have started.

The product has changed in a way that has, once again, begun to bring in more viewership. Changing its approaches with matches, storylines and giving it a more sports-based presentation to the product. The company is doing numbers, with all their weekly shows breaking attendance records over *WrestleMania* week.

As someone who lost interest in the product over time, international crowds are the best thing that WWE has going for them in this recent success.

From the rowdy crowds in London and Puerto Rico to running a stadium show in Australia, the demand is there. The WWE is doing an incredible overseas and has no plans to stop with PLEs in France, Scotland and Germany later this year.

Over the years, many people will lose interest in a company. That is the thing about pro wrestling is it goes through periods of growth and decline. Many people disliked the direction during Vince McMahon's final run, leading many to believe WWE was declining back in 2019.

That's the great thing about the current state that pro wrestling is in. Some would say a boom period where the formation of All Elite Wrestling has given fans a wrestling promotion on a major tv network and been a stable competitor for the WWE since premiering in 2019.

In its small tenure, AEW signed some of this year's most prominent free agents to work with other promotions. They also ran *Wembley Stadium* for a pay-per-view last August, selling the most tickets ever for a pro wrestling event.

It really isn't the competition that is the focus. Seeing a different company besides WWE being able to draw an attendance of over 70,000 shows the passion the fans possess. Whether its stadium shows, companies working with other promotions or chaotic weekly episodic television, the landscape of pro wrestling has come a long way thanks to the fans.

What is often overlooked is the parallels between wrestling and other forms of en-

tertainment. Take superhero movies as an example. We enjoy watching these characters with extraordinary abilities, offering viewers a temporary escape from the constraints of reality.

There are moments where we also enjoy hearing what the bad guy has to say, just as wrestling fans enjoy seeing their favorite wrestlers portray the bad guy, referenced in wrestling as a "heel."

Fans immerse themselves in the drama unfolding in the ring. They know matches are booked, yet want to see the best potential result. This is why fans voice their frustrations with the ones producing the matches or stories.

The fan's passion has kept wrestling alive, but we are beginning to see things take off once more for pro wrestling. *WrestleMania 40* just became Peacock's most streamed entertainment event of all time, and WWE looks into the possibilities of working with other companies.

The recent success only encourages other promotions to stay competitive and find ways to keep the pro wrestling industry in the mainstream media news cycle. Whether you watch one company or multiple, it's one of the best times to tune in as a fan. Pro wrestling is having a resurgence period, capitalizing off media consumption and reaching different target audiences and looks to continue throughout the year.

Sports

Dylan Rider | Sports Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

Kings of the fairway

Men's golf wins program's 22nd GLIAC championship

Connor Grypma
Sports Reporter

The Ferris State men's golf team finished first in the GLIAC championship tournament this weekend on Sunday, April 14, after a 3-0-2 win over arch-rival Grand Valley State University.

The Bulldogs played three straight days of competition at the Gull Lake View Golf Club & Resort in Augusta, Mich. completing over 36 holes of golf while winning the GLIAC championship. This is the program's 22nd championship and its first title win since 2021.

Ferris began stroke play on Friday, April 12, on the Stoat-in Brae Golf Club course. At the conclusion of play on Friday, the Bulldogs sat in second place with a team stroke score of 290, putting Ferris seven strokes ahead of third-place Parkside. Sophomore Sam Havey led the way with an even-par score of 71.

On Saturday, April 13,

spectators saw the Bulldogs fall into third place with a score of 296 but set up a medal match play round against the Wayne State Warriors. Ferris took a 3-2 victory to advance to the championship round.

Freshman McCoy Biagioli and junior Nathan Kraynyk secured two-stroke wins in the medal match to tie the score for the Bulldogs. Sophomore Caleb Bond sealed the match with a one-stroke win.

"A quote I like to live by is 'winners never quit and quitters never win,'" Biagioli said. "Down four strokes with seven holes to play against Wayne State explains this perfectly. We all pushed each other in the offseason to get ready for moments like this."

The three-seeded Bulldogs faced off against the reigning champion and one-seeded Lakers in the weekend's final round on Sunday.

In the championship match, the Bulldogs didn't

drop any flights in their upset victory, winning 3-0-2, including a seven-stroke victory from junior Zach Koerner. Biagioli won by four strokes, and Bond etched a three-stroke win.

Kraynyk and Havey tied their individual matchups to put Ferris on top of the GLIAC conference again.

"As a fifth year this was my last chance to win that championship," Kraynyk said. "I feel very lucky to have this team around me to help make that happen. I had full trust in them to deliver and every one of them did."

The men's team season will continue in early May, where they will compete in the NCAA Regional Championship tournament. The seeding selections for the tournament will be announced later this month. Ferris was ranked fifth in the Midwest regional rankings before their championship win.



Photo courtesy of Ferris State Golf

GLIAC champions Zach Koerner, Sam Harvey, Arif Madzri, Shayne Beufait, Kole Putnam, Caleb Bond and Nathan Kraynyk.

Bulldog tennis heats up

Men's win lone game, women split matches

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

Ferris State men's and women's tennis took action this past weekend, with the men beating Wayne State on Sunday, April 14, and the women splitting their weekend against Saginaw Valley on Saturday, April 13 and Wayne State on Sunday, April 14.

Ferris State tennis is heating up for both men's and women's teams, as the men enjoy an eight-game win streak while the women posted a six-game streak before their loss to Wayne State. The men's lone victory came in a 4-3 win over the Warriors. The women's split came from a 5-2 win over the Cardinals before a 6-1 loss against the Warriors.

Women's tennis

Four wins in the women's six-game streak came in conference play. The Bulldogs now host a record of 10-8 and 4-1 in GLIAC.

In the match against Saginaw Valley, the Bulldogs won the doubles point as sophomore Ana Sofia Hernandez

Ferrer and senior Morgan Waller would win their match-up 6-4, and sophomore Maria Fernanda Hernandez Ferrer and freshman Katherine Earnest won 7-6.

In singles competition, Ferris dominated with senior Sophie Daavetilla, Ana, Maria and freshman Aimee Reynoso, all winning their matches in two sets to secure the victory.

Sunday's loss to the Warriors ended the Bulldogs' win streak, which dated back to March 16.

Daavetilla feels the team's energy and how it has helped this team and herself be better.

"I feel that everyone has been bringing so much energy and that motivates me to improve and be better," Daavetilla said. "Everyone is so passionate and loves the sport, so it makes me want to be better for them. I think this team has stepped up individually in their roles, both on and off the court. This really helps the team chemistry and I feel has contributed a significant amount to our wins."

Men's tennis

The men's team defeated Wayne State in their lone match this weekend to improve their overall record of 13-4 and 4-0 in GLIAC.

The Bulldogs won all of the doubles matches, with Jan Koupil and Benjamin Lortie winning 6-3, Esunge Ndumbe and Alessandro Santangelo winning 7-6, and Kevin Kovacs and Yannic-Alexander Mader winning 6-4.

In singles competition, Ferris State's Koupil won in three sets, Santangelo in two sets, and Kovacs in three sets to secure the 4-3 win for the Bulldogs.

Head coach Mark Doren is ecstatic about the team's performance as they enact revenge on Wayne State.

"[It] was absolutely awesome," Doren said. "We won the regular season last year and then lost in the championship tournament to Wayne State. It was great to beat them at their place today. Their number one doubles is ranked number two in the country and we won all three doubles today. Our goal was to win the doubles point and we dominated doubles."

Both teams will be at

home this weekend, Friday, April 19. Match time is set for 10:00 a.m. for the women, and men's match time

is set for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 20, with match time set for 10:00 a.m. for the women and 2:00 p.m. for

the men's team.



Photo courtesy of Torch Archives

Sophomore Esunge Ndumbe serves during a previous match on March 15.

Learning to love the game

Chloe Idoni leaves her mark on Ferris women's basketball



Chloe Idoni

- 1x First team All-GLIAC
- 1x Second team All-GLIAC
- 113 games played as a Bulldog
- 1,640 points scored as a Bulldog
- Averaged 14.5 points per game through four seasons

Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Connor Grypma Sports Reporter

Chloe Idoni has one of the most successful careers in Ferris women's basketball history.

The 5-foot-11 senior's athletic career has been nothing short of dominant. As a kid growing up in Fenton, MI, on the east side of the state, Idoni played just about every sport she could.

Idoni's introduction to basketball started in third grade and wasn't the usual story when you come across a player of her caliber. It wasn't the typical love at first sight or born with a basketball in their hands type narrative, as Marni Sullivan, Chloe's mother, had to push her into the sport.

"Chloe's softball coach's husband was starting a basketball team with some of the local girls and asked Chloe if she wanted to play," Sullivan said. "Chloe didn't like sports that involved running, so when I told her she had to run in basketball, she said no, but I thought she would like it, so I signed her up anyway.

It's safe to say that was the right choice by Sullivan, as Idoni fell in love with the sport and finding her passion.

In fifth grade, Idoni joined her Amateur Athletic Union team, the Michigan Mystics, which helped her attract col-

legiate attention.

"Joining the Mystics really got my name out there to college coaches and skyrocketed my career," Idoni said.

Current Bulldog senior Mallory McCartney was also a member of the Mystics and is very grateful for how welcoming Idoni was when she first started there.

"I remember the first day of practice I was very nervous because I'm going to a new team and I hardly knew anybody," McCartney said. "Chloe was the first person to come up to me at practice, she told me how great it was to meet me and how excited she was to have me there. I think that shows how inclusive Chloe is and how welcoming of a person she is."

In her time at Fenton High School, Idoni posted a total of 1,228 points, which included a single-game scoring record of 35 points, standing as only one of her accolades. She is also one of 12 players to be selected to the All-Metro first team for volleyball three years in a row and one of three athletes to be selected to the All-Metro team all four years in basketball. Her achievements at the high school level led her to be touted as "one of Flint Metro League's best athletes ever" by a 2019 MLive article. Idoni's four years of high school were filled with four sports, as she played soccer, volleyball, basketball

and ran track.

As Idoni was excelling and receiving college interest in both volleyball and basketball, she knew it was impossible to play both at the next level and needed to choose.

"Volleyball and basketball were neck and neck as my favorite sport," Idoni said. "I knew I had better connections for basketball and was on a better travel team so I went that route and I don't regret it at all."

It was not until late in the recruiting process that she decided to play basketball. Idoni had it narrowed down to three schools, none of them named Ferris State, until a former Bulldog player invited her to a camp over the summer.

During that camp, Idoni found what she was looking for.

"The girls and the culture here at Ferris is unmatched," Idoni said. "It felt like family here, as soon as I took my visits it felt like I fit right in."

McCartney, who was already committed to Ferris recalls the moment at the summer camp Idoni decided Ferris was where she wanted to be.

"We were at our elite camp and out of nowhere she turns to me and tells me she thinks she's going to commit, I think she definitely had that gut feeling," McCartney said.

Going into her freshman year, the Bulldogs only

brought in two new players, Idoni and current senior McCartney.

Ferris' coach at the time held a parent meeting for the incoming freshman, that informed the parents only one of the freshmen would see immediate playtime, and that happened to be McCartney.

Idoni remained humble, waited for her turn and made her first start eleven games into the season. She then started the rest of the season until she suffered a knee injury towards the end of the season that sidelined her for not just the end of the 2020 season but the entire 2020-21 season as well.

Even with COVID-19 and the injury ending her season, Idoni kept a positive outlook.

"No athlete wants to hear that they're not going to be able to play their sport," Idoni said. "It was tough but it made me resilient and was out of my control and part of God's plan"

Idoni would return for the 2021-22 season with her knee not at 100%, but she was able to start every game she played in that season and help lead the Bulldogs to an NCAA tournament appearance. The summer going into the 2022-2023 season, Idoni would make sure that her knee was to its original strength.

"That summer is the hardest I have ever seen Chloe train," Sullivan said. "She

spent hours in the gym every day and became the strongest I have ever seen her."

The 2022-23 season was a different one for Idoni, she was not a young player on the team anymore, she was an upperclassman and as a leader. She embraced it.

"It was a big transition but I took that role and took it with pride," Idoni said. "I learned from all of the upperclassmen before me, I knew if I stayed confident I could take that role and do good at it."

Idoni put up a career-high in points, rebounds and assists that season, averaging a team-high 19.3 points per game to go along with 7.6 rebounds per game and 1.8 assists per game. Idoni earned All-GLIAC first-team honors in the 2022-23 season as well.

The team suffered a few key injuries but had a successful season with a 17-12 record and a loss in the GLIAC semi-finals.

Idoni's senior season was one to remember, as she led the team in points with 16.7 per game and rebounds with six per game. She played a key part in the school's program reaching new heights this year, setting the program record for wins in a season with 26 and leading the Bulldogs to the first Final Four appearance in school history.

Idoni also received many individual awards, as she

won DII Player of The Week and won either GLIAC Offensive Player of the Week or GLIAC Defensive Player of the Week on six different occasions. She also earned All-GLIAC first team for the second time in her career and was a member of the All-GLIAC defensive team this past season.

Idoni was humble when talking about her role in their success-filled season.

"I was able to step into the leadership role and lead our team but honestly my teammates did half of the work by giving me the ball in places to succeed and I am just there to finish it," Idoni said.

Her favorite moment of the entire season was the regional championship win against Grand Valley State, as it "was so cool to see our hard work pay off and make history with my best friends."

Idoni is a two-time All-GLIAC first-team player, a 2024 D2CCA All-Region player, GLIAC all-defensive teamer and has tallied 1,640 points in her four playing years. Despite offers at the next level for Idoni, she's ready to hang it up.

"I do have opportunities to play after college but I am very fulfilled and proud of how my basketball career has been," Idoni said. "I am at peace and ready to move on with my life."

Four outta six ain't bad

Ferris picks up four wins against Wayne State, Davenport and Grand Valley

Nolan Matthews
Freelance Reporter

Bulldog softball claimed victory in four of their six games against the Wayne State Warriors on Tuesday, April 9, the Davenport Panthers on Saturday, April 13 and the Grand Valley State Lakers on Sunday, April 14.

Ferris (21-20, 9-7 in GLIAC) swept the Warriors (14-23, 6-10 in GLIAC) with scores of 7-5 and 10-2 before splitting with the Panthers with a 7-0 win and a 4-1 loss at home. The Bulldogs finished their third doubleheader of the week with a split, which included a 2-1 loss and 1-0 win, against the Lakers in Allendale.

In game one of the doubleheader, the Bulldogs bested the Warriors.

The Bulldogs got to the Warriors early in the bottom of the first with no outs, where sophomore catcher Emily Killion slapped a two-RBI single and junior outfielder Maddie Gkekas scored freshman infielder Alexis Kozlowski on a sacrifice fly to left field.

In the bottom of the second, Ferris kept the runs coming thanks to Kozlowski, who punched a two-RBI single to right field, scoring sophomore outfielder Jady Joseph and sophomore designated player Abby Meyer.

Freshman starting pitcher Ashley Webb pitched 3.2 innings, allowing six hits, three earned runs, walking one and striking out three.

Webb was relieved in the top of the fourth by freshman Rylie Haist, who allowed one earned run and struck one out. Haist was replaced by sophomore Izabella Regner, who picked up her third season save to close the contest.

In the second outing, the Bulldogs completed the sweep with a five-inning mercy rule win.

Senior pitcher Aryn Gallacher got the start, pitched five innings and allowed seven hits while striking out four in a complete game.

Gallacher recounted her approach when working out of tough spots in the game. "When you get in those moments it's important to control the controllable and focus on one pitch at a time," Gallacher said. "I just take a deep breath each time, calmed my mind, and worked on what I knew how to do, trusting my defense has my back."

Kozlowski started scoring for the Bulldogs when she hit a two-RBI double, followed up by another two-RBI double, this time by outfielder Maddie Gkekas. In the bottom of the second, Kozlowski came up big again, hitting an RBI triple which scored Joseph. Designated player Emily Killion stole second, which Kozlowski took advantage of and scored from third on the steal. Junior infielder Brooklyn Verbeek kept the offense rolling with an RBI single, which scored Killion.

The Bulldogs kept piling on the runs in the bottom of the fourth, as freshman Keelin Wheaton hit a pinch-hit 2-RBI triple. To follow it up, Joseph scorched an RBI single to right field to put the game on ice for the Bulldogs. Coach Jake Schumann spoke about the outlook for the season after the game. "We are two games out of first place halfway through

the conference schedule, so that's a pretty good spot to be in, but our conversation with our team is we just got to take care of business every day."

In their second doubleheader of the week, the Bulldogs collected a third-straight victory with a win against the Panthers (13-19 overall, 5-5 in GLIAC).

Freshman infielder Emma Gillard roped a two-RBI single up the middle, scoring Joseph and freshman Ella McDonald in the first. The Bulldogs kept the runs coming in the first inning, with Gkekas hitting an RBI single to score Gillard, followed by another RBI single, but this time coming from junior infielder Brooklyn Verbeek. In the bottom of the second, Kozlowski roped an RBI dou-

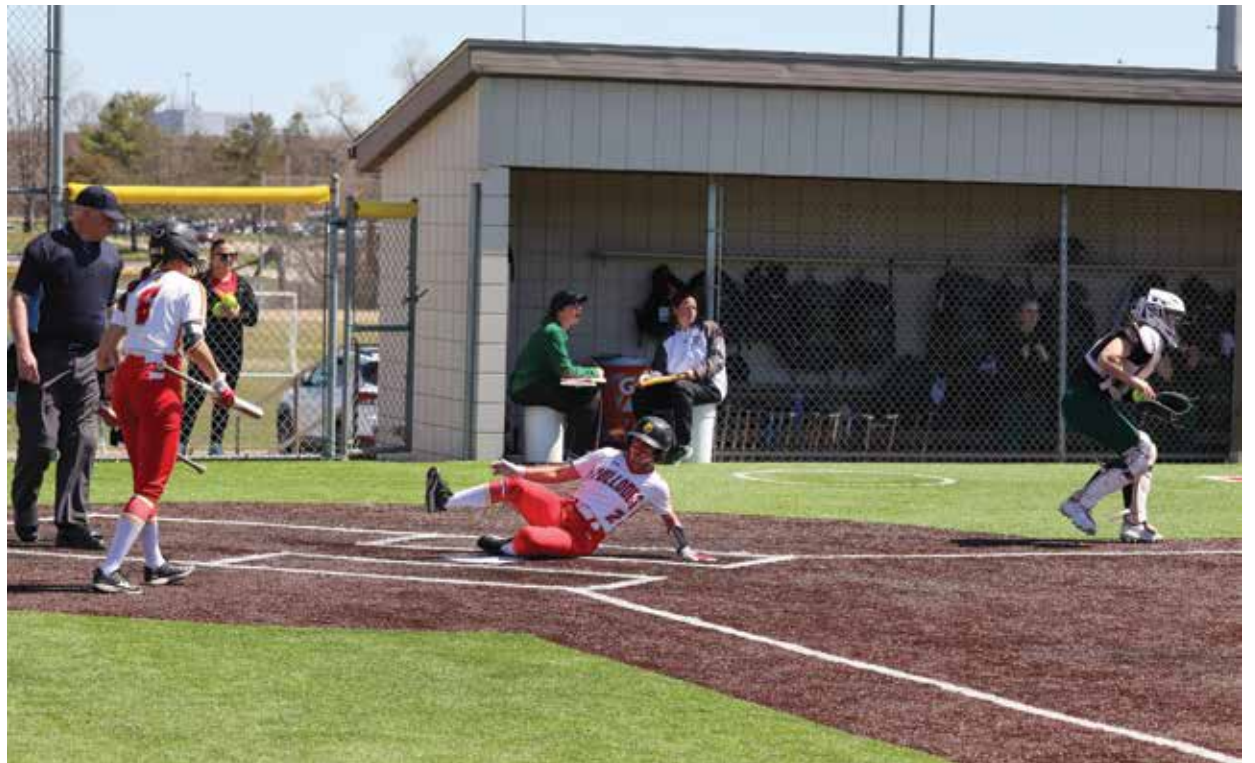


Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Sophomore Jady Joseph slides into home plate during her game against the Wayne State Warriors.

ble into deep left-center field, which scored outfielder Ella McDonald. In the bottom of the fourth, Joseph kept up her impressive day 4-for-4 day at the plate scorching an RBI triple to center field which scored McDonald. This was followed by a sacrifice fly by catcher Killion.

Joseph credited her approach to her great day at the plate. "I have been trying to see the ball down, and not swinging at anything over my head and try to stay ahead in the count," Joseph said.

Gallacher got the start on the day, pitching six innings where she allowed two hits and struck out six before being relieved in the seventh by sophomore Sophie Wisniski, as she collected her second save on the season.

In game two of the doubleheader, the Bulldogs had their win streak snapped. Sophomore pitcher Izabella Regner started on the mound for Ferris, where she struck out one through four innings. Regner was relieved in the fifth inning by Haist, who threw two innings. Haist was pulled for Webb in the seventh, who threw one inning and struck out one.

The Bulldogs' four hits came from Joseph, Gillard, Killion and Gkekas. The lone run also came from Gkekas, who hit an RBI double to left field in the bottom of the fifth inning.

The Bulldogs finished their week with a heated rivalry matchup against the Lakers (23-12, 6-6 in GLIAC).

Gallacher got the start, once again, for the Bulldogs and put together six innings in the outing. Ferris' five hits came from McDonald, Joseph and Verbeek.

In game two of the doubleheader, the Bulldogs served their rivals their own one-run loss.

Webb threw a complete game with nine hits allowed, no runs and one walk. Killion went 2-for-2, while Gillard, Wheaton and Gkekas.

The Bulldogs next face off in a doubleheader against the Northwoods Timberwolves on Wednesday, April 17 in Midland at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., before coming back home for another set of games against the Wisconsin Parkside Rangers on Saturday, April 20 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Gallacher got the start, once again, for the Bulldogs

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