

# The Ferris State Torch

93 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

Summer Edition: May 10, 2024

www.fsutorch.com

## Bulldogs in Bloom



Photo Credit: Sam Mulder



Photo courtesy of Ferris Admissions



Photo Credit: Torch Archives





# News

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

## Summer life at Ferris

### Campus life after spring



Photo courtesy of Ferris Admissions

**Da'Shanya Williams working as an orientation leader during the summer of 2023.**

**Kate Babel**  
Freelance Reporter

After spring seniors graduate and most students leave for home, other students stay

behind to soak up the warm weather as they continue working on their degrees.

As the coolness of spring is slowly receding, summer students get a chance to shake

off the cold and embrace the heat. Staying during the summer brings an opportunity for students to speed up their degrees by offering summer classes as well as on-campus

jobs. However, there is a difference in the atmosphere. Students take a step outside the campus buildings and take in the beauty of the campus greenery.

Digital animation and game design junior Da'Shanya Williams felt campus life in summer has more to offer outside.

"The summer and the fall are kind of the same as during both of those times the campus is lively," Williams said. "Everyone is outside more engaging in activities such as events by or near the school, walking, using hammocks, and more."

Williams also felt that with the rising heat, events tend to have more attendance.

"The campus is beautiful as the flowers and trees have bloomed," Williams said. "There are also some events, such as a carnival that was a good way away from the campus. There were prizes, fun, and food, with so many more. I chose to stay on campus as I am working over the summer as an orientation leader. Also, I thought it would be another opportunity to make

more friends,"

The summer part of the summer semester may give the campus more laid-back vibes, but the semester is relatively short, and classes receive large amounts of work to do. The semester lasts from May 14 to August 7, meaning students have 12 and a half weeks to complete their courses.

General chemistry professor Dr. Mark Thompson stays on campus during the summer.

"I tell my students it is like drinking water from a fire hydrant," Thompson said. "Things fly by at an incredible pace. We do, in a five-credit class in six weeks, what would normally be done in 15 weeks. That means three weeks of difficult material every week. Campus never really seems busy in the summer. Even less so now with the aftermath of COVID-19."

In a short time, four or five-credit courses cover their topics faster than the fall semester, which gives students a high workload. However, the professors do have more one-on-one time with their stu-

dents. Students can develop better relationships with their professors and get the help they need to succeed.

Thompson also explained how most classes offered in the summer are not offered again until the following spring.

"It gives students the chance to catch up," Thompson said. "Without this class during the summer, they would have to wait until the following spring to take it. It is a pre-requisite for everything else, which means that without this class, their degree would take an extra year to complete. Most days, I spend four to five hours in class daily with my students, two hours of lecture and three hours of lab. We get to know each other very well."

While summer may not be everyone's choice of attending classes, they can still count on it as an option for a more peaceful yet fast-paced campus that allows them to further their degree, and maybe get a tan.

## Buying secondhand

### The best thrift stores in Big Rapids

**Kourtney Fairchild**  
News Reporter

In a world where fast fashion and disposable goods are the norm, thrift and resale stores provide a refreshing alternative. These shops offer consumers a unique selection of goods at lower prices while keeping them out of landfills. Whether you're shopping for a new summer wardrobe or furnishing your new apartment, thrift shops are the way to go. Luckily, Big Rapids has a good selection of thrift stores to fit all your needs.

#### The Salvation Army Family Store

Located downtown at 218 N. Michigan Ave, the Salvation Army has the largest selection of clothing of any of the stores in town, including a large plus-size section. They also have one of the largest book selections, with the cheapest prices at only 25 cents per book. They host weekly tag sales, where tags

of a certain color are 50% - 75% off, and offer student, military and senior discounts for 15% off your entire purchase with ID.

#### Habitat for Humanity Re-Store

The Habitat for Humanity, located at 18387 Northland Drive, offers an extensive selection of furniture, appliances, building materials and decorations. The store almost seems never-ending, with every nook and cranny filled with goods. They have the largest furniture and home goods selection, with everything you need from couches to cabinets. Every purchase at this store helps support Habitat for Humanity's mission to build affordable housing.

#### Twice is Nice

Located at 14261 Northland Drive, Twice is Nice is a treasure trove of unique finds. The store is a bit unorganized at first glance, but this adds to the thrill of

the hunt. This store has the largest selection of children's clothing and toys. They also have one of the largest media sections, with a large collection of movies, CDs, books and LIFE magazines.

#### Goodwill

The most well-known thrift store in Big Rapids is Goodwill, located at 1254 Perry Ave. This store has a large selection of clothing and kitchenware. If you're looking for new and used kitchen appliances and dishes, this is one of the best options in Big Rapids. The store no longer offers plastic bags and instead gives you the option to purchase a reusable bag, so bring your reusable bag or add a new one to your collection!

#### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Located at 102 Williams St., this store has one of the largest clothing selections with the cheapest prices. All



Photo credit: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

**Well-priced second hand clothes are available in abundance at the Salvation Army Store.**

men's and women's t-shirts were only \$1, and all other clothing was \$5 or less. The store is well-organized, mak-

ing it easy to navigate through its many racks of pre-loved clothing. They also have the largest shoe selection, in-

cluding larger sizes. This thrift shop only takes cash, so be sure to prepare accordingly!



# Big Rapids eateries

Places to dine at this summer

**Isabelle Marks**  
News Reporter

When dining out in Big Rapids during the summer, there's no shortage of options beyond the usual campus eateries.

## Breakfast/Brunch:

**Three Girls Deli and Bakery:** Situated in downtown Big Rapids, Three Girls Deli and Bakery offers an assortment of pastries, sandwiches and fresh coffee. They are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (\$10-\$20 per person)

**Bernie's Place:** Also located downtown, Bernie's Place offers breakfast foods, including smoothies, coffee, and pastries. They are open Monday through Friday from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. (\$1-\$10 per person)

## Lunch/Dinner:

**Gypsy Nickel:** Nestled near the river, Gypsy Nickel serves a menu featuring burgers, gyros and more. Operating hours are Sunday through Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. and Friday and Saturday from

11 a.m. to 2 a.m. (\$10-\$20 per person)

**Cranker's:** With its bar setting and a menu focused on burgers and classic American cuisine, Crankers provides a casual dining experience. They are open Sunday through Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (\$10-\$20 per person)

**El Burrito Loco:** Located just past Walmart, El Burrito Loco offers a selection of Mexican dishes. Operating hours are Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. (\$10-\$20 per person)

**Paz Pub and Grill:** Located across the Maple Bridge, Paz Pub and Grill serves Filipino-Latin cuisine and American food in a bar setting. They are open Thursday through Saturday from 12 p.m. to 2 a.m. (\$10-\$20 per person)

## Drinks:

**Toppings/The Backroom:** Located a short distance past downtown, Toppings/The Backrooms offers a va-

riety of coffees and teas. Operating hours are Tuesday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (\$5-\$15 per person)

**Biggby Coffee:** Situated across from the Starr Building, Biggby is a convenient spot for coffee and tea. They are open Monday to Saturday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (\$1-\$10 per person)

**Tropical Smoothie:** Also located across from the Starr Building, Tropical Smoothie offers smoothie options. Operating hours are Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (\$1-\$10 per person)

## Special Occasions:

**The Blue Cow:** Located downtown, The Blue Cow offers a more upscale dining experience, they serve a variety of cuisine. Operating hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (\$20-\$50 per person)



Photos from Torch Archives

The Sawmill Saloon, located across the river on Maple Street and the Milkshake Spot, found by A&W on North State Street, are additional dining options during the summer.

## Editor's statement

**Ember St. Amour**  
News Editor

The news section is your source for the latest on campus and Big Rapids news related to campus.

Going into my second year as news editor, I plan to continue to do more news coverage and expand into covering more Big Rapids news.

Aside from adding more coverage relating to Big Rapids, I also hope to have more variety of news in my section so that everyone is up-to-date on stories throughout campus.

I plan to keep the Michigan and Global News sections, as well as on the record in the news section.

If you have any campus news that you feel is important for the Torch to cover, feel free to reach out, as we are always looking for the latest news to keep everyone on campus and the community up to date on what's happening at Ferris.



Rising senior Ember St. Amour is going into her second year as news editor at the Torch.

Photo courtesy of Ember St. Amour | News Editor

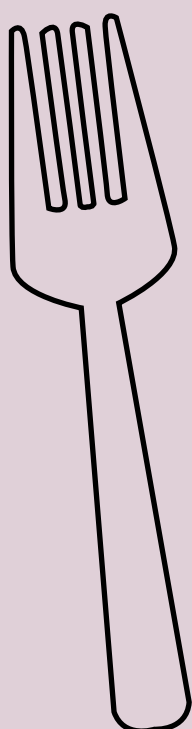


# Big Rapids favorites



Favorite ice cream spot: Toppings

Favorite bar: Tie between Shooters and Toppings



Favorite local restaurant: Gypsy Nickel

Favorite grocery store: ALDI



# Culture

Blase Gapinski | Culture Editor | gapinsb@ferris.edu

## Editor's statement

**Blase Gapinski**  
Culture Editor

After medically withdrawing from the fall semester, my biggest concerns were returning in the spring and missing out on working for the Torch. I was nervous about re-admitting and returning to my job as a reporter. With perseverance and guidance from my amazing successor, Giuliana Denicolo, I made a return and finished the semester strong.

My name is Blase Gapinski, and I am the new editor for the culture section. One thing I want to do is establish what our school's culture is. I hope to welcome everyone to this section with open arms, as this is a place where registered student organizations, students and administrators should be able to share their voices.

Everyone's background is different, and embracing that brings us together. Everyone should be able to share their voice and feel comfortable doing so. I plan to continue showcasing distinct events, perspectives

and beliefs, all in the name of furthering our campus community. This section is supposed to be interesting, creative and display all the fun events our campus offers.

Some things I would like to focus on this year are community events in Big Rapids, new RSOs, diversity and one of my favorite topics, music and the role it plays in our culture alongside the influence it has on people. I also want to continue establishing relationships with RSOs and groups on campus. I want them to be able to come to the Torch and help portray their messages and give them exposure. In doing so, this will showcase the unique backgrounds our students come from.

What I want though, is to hear more from our readers. Please reach out to me or the Torch with ideas or suggestions that you may have for this section. If I haven't already made it clear, my goal is to include everyone and make this section a community melting pot.



Photo courtesy of Blase Gapinski | Culture Editor

Having been a freelance reporter for the last two years, Blase Gapinski is now the culture editor at the Torch.

## Bringing back Geocaching

An adventure is right outside your door



Photo courtesy of Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Harmony Goodman and her brother, Shawn Baker pictured on the left next to a family friend they met geocaching

**Harmony Goodman**  
Production Manager

Exams are finally over, and the dorm halls have fallen silent. The only other thing I need to see is the sun to prove it's finally summer. With a peak of light through my window, I know it is finally time for the summer fun to begin.

If you're like me and want to spend more time with your family and friends this summer, I have the perfect activity for you. We could all use a little more outdoor time, and what better way to get outdoors than an adventure?

The perfect opportunity has been around for years, it's called Geocaching. Geocaching is an activity around the globe where you can seek out a hidden container with clues and locations. Once you find one, you can add your name to a list containing other names and the date found. Some even have a "take something, leave something" function. It's a great way to get out and have fun while exploring more of your hometown and even the Big Rapids area.

When I was little, I used to go on geocaching hunts

with my family all over my hometown. Even though my hometown is fairly small, I always found something new to enjoy while my family and I were out. Geocaching wasn't just a thing to do with my family and friends. Back when it first gained popularity, my family and I met so many new people out hunting as well, and it was a great way to get to know the members of my community better.

The fun doesn't stop with just your hometown either. If you're planning on going on vacation, this is a great activity to do as well. Wherever you plan on traveling, you're likely to find a geocache if you pull out the app. I have even managed to find some without even trying, which is always exciting.

No matter where you are or who you're with, if you're looking for a way to get involved with your community, geocaching might be on your summer bucket list. It's scavenger-hunting fun that gets you outdoors and offers free entertainment. If you find yourself a part of the geocaching community, let me know if you find my name on one.



# Torch tunes

## Summer throwback playlist

**LISTEN NOW!**

**SPOTIFY**

**APPLE MUSIC**

Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Ni’Jah Rankin  
Culture Reporter

**“Party” - Beyoncé ft. J. Cole**

This song by Beyoncé was published in 2011 and was part of her classic album, “4.” I chose this song

because it brings feel-good sunny day vibes. It is perfect for a day on the beach, a barbecue or a fun road trip with friends. I love playing it at family reunions or when grilling with my siblings.

**“Sunflower” - Post Malone ft. Swae Lee**

This song was made in 2018 for the movie, “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse.” When listening to this song, it may not seem that long ago, but it’s been six years since it was first released. It is a timeless, laid-back and relaxing song with

a catchy melody. This song is great for a long road trip, a night by the campfire or even just basking in the sun.

**“Smile” - Lil Duval ft. Snoop Dogg, Ball Greezy & Midnight Star**

“Smile” is a song perfect for the summer, in my opin-

ion. When played, it’s like this song was made, while Lil Duval was having fun in the booth. It perfectly brings out a fun and carefree vibe while listening to it. This song highlights not letting anyone ruin your mood and having fun despite any struggles. This message perfectly relates to college students, especially if the school year is rough.

**“California Gurls” - Katy Perry ft. Snoop Dogg**

When the song first came out, it made me feel like Katy Perry was in her peak era with many popular radio hits. I loved all her music at the time because of the bubbly, fun and unbothered energy each song gave off. The association with California is something that I also think brings a fun summer feeling, and many students choose to visit there during the break. “California Gurls” is perfect when you want to dance and sing along when cleaning your room or while lying by the pool.

**“Party in the U.S.A.” - Miley Cyrus**

This song was chosen because of the nostalgia related to it. It’s a classic song that anyone can sing along to. I and many other students were pretty young when this came out, and it

brings back memories of a carefree and fun childhood. The song came out in 2009 while “Hannah Montana” was still airing on TV, and I remember it playing in between shows. The song is timeless because it’s for people of all ages to enjoy. This song is great to play when you’re hanging out with friends who can sing along with you.

**“Work” - Rihanna ft. Drake**

This is a good summer tune to let loose to and a track for a late-night adventure, party or drive. The late-night vibes give a warm feeling and make it the perfect summer classic. Rihanna’s music is great for the summer and singing along too. “Work” is a perfect summer dance song to enjoy with an ice-cold drink.

**“Passionfruit” - Drake**

I chose this song because it’s great to listen to while walking and enjoying a sunny day. The lyrics are memorable, and the beat gives it perfect summer energy. This song was released with his album “More Life,” and represents my favorite Drake era.

# Summer word search

- Summer
- Swimming
- Volleyball
- Suntan
- Sunburn
- Sand
- Ocean
- Swimsuit
- Beach
- Sunny

Can you find the two bonus hidden words?

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

Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

# Summer of streaming

Binge-worthy shows to keep on your watchlist this summer



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

**Blase Gapinski**  
Culture Editor

The end of the semester means it's time to pick up where you left off on your favorite shows. Here are some recommendations to help kick off your summer of streaming with these binge-worthy shows.

#### **Young Sheldon - Paramount+ and Netflix**

"Young Sheldon" is a sitcom created by Chuck Lorre and Steven Molaro, and it is a spin-off prequel to the classic show "The Big Bang Theory." It follows Jim Parsons' iconic character, Sheldon Cooper, and focuses on

his upbringing in East Texas. Sheldon is a child prodigy who starts high school at age nine, and we see the adversities he faces throughout his life while trying to fit in. We see insight into his family dynamic, school relationships and the many gifts he developed as a child. "Young Sheldon" appeals to a vast audience because of its humor and character development, and it is understandable without having to have seen "The Big Bang Theory." With loveable characters, it is a wholesome show that offers comedic relief everyone can enjoy. With the seventh season finale releasing May 16,

now is the perfect time to get caught up.

#### **Invincible - Prime Video**

"Invincible" is an animated series that was initially released in 2021 by Robert Kirkman, inspired by his comic series. With the second half of season two just wrapping up, it should be on your list, as it is a must-watch. It is an amazing superhero series that uses many different elements to tell a unique story. It is very graphic and uses shock to keep viewers on the edge of their seats. Season two focuses on Mark Grayson, also known as Invincible, dealing with the absence of his father. He

feels morally obligated to take his father's place as a member of the Guardians of the Globe, which is similar to DC's Justice League. At the same time, Mark wants to live a normal life and attend college but feels he can't because of his powers. We see how constantly trying to save as many people as he can affects his relationships with the ones he loves most. The action in this series picks up immediately and continues to ramp up with every episode. It is a great series with so much depth to it and is one of the best shows Amazon Prime Video has to offer.

#### **Jujutsu Kaisen - Crunchy-**

**roll**

If you are looking to get introduced to the world of Japanese animation, look no further than "Jujutsu Kaisen." This manga and anime series created by Gege Akutami follows high school student Yuji Itadori, who finds out the world is full of curses, which are a race of spiritual beings that are invisible to humans. After an incident at his school, Yuji finds out he is special and can see these curses throughout the land. In an attempt to save his friends, he swallows a powerful object that contains the spirit of a powerful curse named Sakuna. Yuji can retain control of his body, making him the vessel for the curse. Yuji is relocated to a new school where he is monitored to ensure Sakuna isn't able to take control and so he can train to become a jujutsu sorcerer to fight against curses that pose a threat to humanity. This is a great anime to start with if you aren't familiar with the genre because of the constant action and character development that is happening throughout the first season. The story is great as well, as it constantly progresses with each episode. Season one and two are available on Crunchyroll now and offer an action-packed story that is sure to get you hooked. In my opinion, it is best to watch this series in Japanese with English subtitles. It is the traditional anime viewing experience, and I couldn't tolerate the English voice actors.

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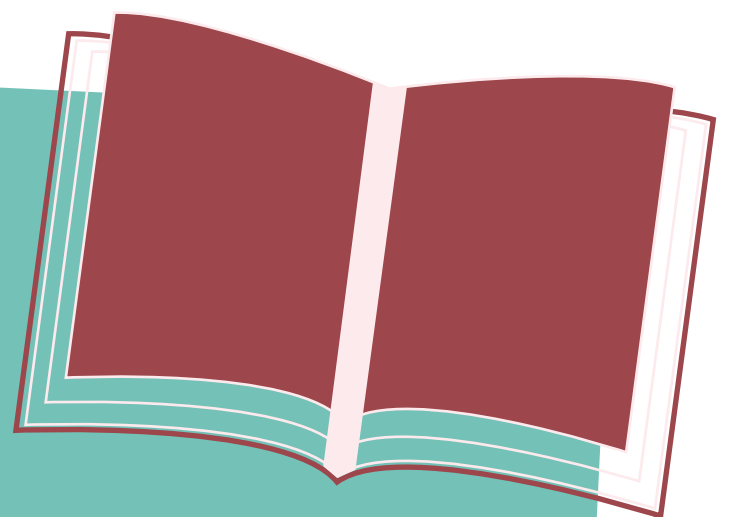
#### **Blue Mountain State - Netflix**

"Blue Mountain State" is a throwback television series that originally aired on Spike TV from 2010 to 2011 with only 39 episodes spanning three seasons. I recently revisited this series after it was re-added to the Netflix catalog. This show follows the fictional Blue Mountain State University football team and the outrageous situations they find themselves in. It takes the stereotypes associated with college jocks to the next level as it depicts the raunchy antics that happen on and off the field. The main characters are the laid-back second-string quarterback Alex Moran, who is more concerned about the next party rather than the next game, and his childhood best friend Sammy Cacciatore, who is the school's mascot. Seeing this unlikely duo together is hilarious and accurately represents college kids coming together to try and navigate their way through their new lives. It is very comical and crazy, and the story is compelling to college students. It is the perfect show to binge-watch this summer while it is available because Netflix is notorious for removing content that people enjoy watching.

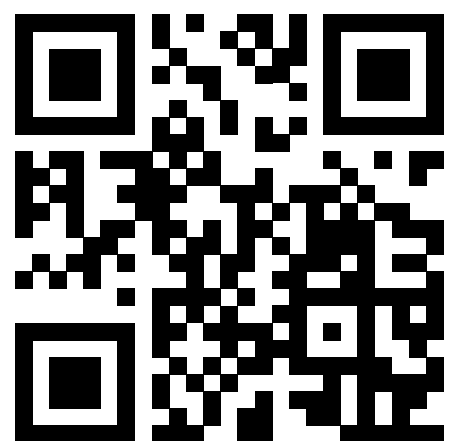
## Summer scrapbook!

**A scrapbook is a great way to look back on the summer adventures yet to come. Heres how to get started:**

- Buy a blank sketchbook or an empty scrapbook
- Print off some of your favorite photo collections
- Grab some pens, crayons and or markers
- Find your favorite washi-tape.
- Get some stamps and stickers.
- Gather some fun paper
- Start scrapbooking



Scan to view ideas



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager



# Opinions

Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor | [mogliaj@ferris.edu](mailto:mogliaj@ferris.edu)

The Ferris State Torch is published on 27 Wednesdays throughout the academic year. This student-run newspaper is printed by The Pioneer Group.

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The Ferris State Torch welcomes comments on topics of interest to the general readership. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and The Torch reserves the right to edit for length. Letters will not be edited for grammar, punctuation or spelling. The Torch will not print letters deemed to be libelous or obscene. All letters must be signed by their authors and include his or her phone number.

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## Torch Staff

<b>Editor in Chief</b> Dylan Rider <a href="mailto:riderd1@ferris.edu">riderd1@ferris.edu</a>	<b>Managing Copy Editor</b> Anthony Malinowski
<b>Production Manager</b> Harmony Goodman	<b>Copy Editors</b> Connor Fuller Ryleigh Sullivan
<b>Production Assistant</b> Hailey Nye	<b>Reporters</b> Kourtney Fairchild Isabelle Marks Caden Hofmann Ni'Jah Rankin Nolan Matthews Kate Babel
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<b>Multimedia Editor</b> Jordan Wilson	
<b>Web Editor</b> Jasmine Baar	

**Advisor**  
Garrett Stack  
[GarrettStack@ferris.edu](mailto:GarrettStack@ferris.edu)

## EDITOR'S COLUMN: Renewed importance



Photo credit: Dylan Rider | Editor-in-Chief

Dylan Rider is currently going into his final year at Ferris State University. Serving as the sports editor during the previous school year, he is now stepping into the role of Editor in Chief at the Torch, following the footsteps of previous Editor in Chief's Jessica Oakes and Noah Kolenda.

### Dylan Rider Editor in Chief

Since being named Editor-in-Chief in March, I've asked myself what student journalism meant to me.

As this question bounced around my head these past few months, a stronger and more ardent answer formed. Most recently, our country has its eyes on college campuses involved in student protests at multiple universities. Columbia, the University of North Carolina and Arizona State are just some institutions that have made national headlines.

The Columbia Spectator, UNC's Daily Tarheel and ASU's State Press have been covering the protests, arrests

and other details regarding the situations at hand. I'd argue that the various outlets outweigh any large-scale news media source in importance in covering the events, as they offer much more intimate coverage.

Even outside of protests, student journalism holds a shadow for something I believe to have such a larger figure. Just weeks ago, the staff of the Indiana Daily Student held a one-day walkout, believing that their university "won't support student media."

"Our goal is to provide the community and the university a glimpse of a possible future without the IDS as it exists today — a future we are fighting to avoid," Nic Napier and Sa-

lome Cloteaux wrote.

That quote went into the galvanization of my answer to "What does student journalism mean to me?" Simply put, student journalism means everything to me. I started at the Torch in October 2021 and have worn many hats while working here. As I embark on my fourth and final year at the newspaper and Ferris, I feel a heightened sense of urgency to uphold our small slice of independent student journalism.

Not only do I have a duty to our readership to present quality stories and columns through our four sections, but there are 93, going on 94, years of journalistic history to honor. I'm a firm believer that

without student journalism, the country and the universities across it are worse off. This includes Ferris.

These past months and weeks have reaffirmed my love for student-run newspapers and student journalism as a whole. My biased take is that the world needs student journalism. I'm more than privileged to be able to help tell and then publish the stories of our campus.

For all Ferris students, faculty, alum or community members, this paper is here for you. If you believe you have a story to tell, no matter how tough the subject matter, we're here to listen and tell the story.

Before we start our journey into the 2024-25 school year,

I'd be remiss to not express my gratitude to the following folks.

To our readership, thank you for supporting student journalism. We wouldn't be around if it weren't for you. To my former EICs Brendan, Noah and Jess, I wouldn't be here without your trust and confidence. I can't thank you enough. To our advisor, Dr. Stack, thanks for pushing me to write for the newspaper. To my staff, I'm excited to see what we can do. Let's give our campus something to read about.



# The case for bathroom doors

Jackie Moglia  
Opinions Editor

At the beginning of my time at Ferris, my biggest concern was finding my classes. Now, it's finding a working bathroom stall.

As a psychology major, most of my classes are in Starr, meaning I spend most of my time on campus there. I have a major problem with it.

Now that summer is approaching, it is the perfect time to say this: the women's bathroom stall doors on the second floor at Starr do not work. I mean, sometimes they do. And sometimes you end up stuck in the bathroom stall and awkwardly have to hit the door to get it to open.

I remember for about a week of this semester, there were only two "working" doors in the second-floor bathroom. Or so we thought. Nobody could open the door until a faculty member told us we just "needed to kick it in." That doesn't instill confidence in the quality of our doors, but at least the door was opening, and there were three usable stalls again.

According to the U.S. Access Board's "Guide to the ADA Accessibility Standards," the ADA requires that door latches or other hardware "must... be usable with one hand and not require tight grasping, pinching, twisting of the wrist, or more than five pounds of force." I do not think our bathrooms fit that standard anymore.

We do not have a handicapped-accessible stall.

The sliding locks on the doors in Starr bathrooms close sometimes. In certain stalls, it requires significant effort to ensure the lock is closed and even more effort to open it back up.

Sometimes, you have to lift the door a bit to get the lock to slide into place, which is honestly too much work to get a bathroom door to close.

I know some people just put their backpacks in the stall with them to block the door because it is so difficult to lock the door and hope that people pay attention to the feet under the stalls before they try to open a door.

It is extremely uncomfortable to go to the bathroom in a stall that someone might open because the lock does not work. It is uncomfortable to be seemingly stuck in the stall and have to force the door back open, and it is uncomfortable to feel unsafe.

Obviously, as someone who uses the women's bathrooms, I am unable to speak on the status of the men's bathroom stalls at Starr. I have not heard great things about the doors in those bathrooms either, but I lack the personal experience.

The entire point of a door is that it opens and closes, and when our bathroom stall doors here can barely do either one of those, it is likely time for change.

The last thing I need on a bad day is to get stuck in a bathroom stall.

As someone with a connective tissue disorder,

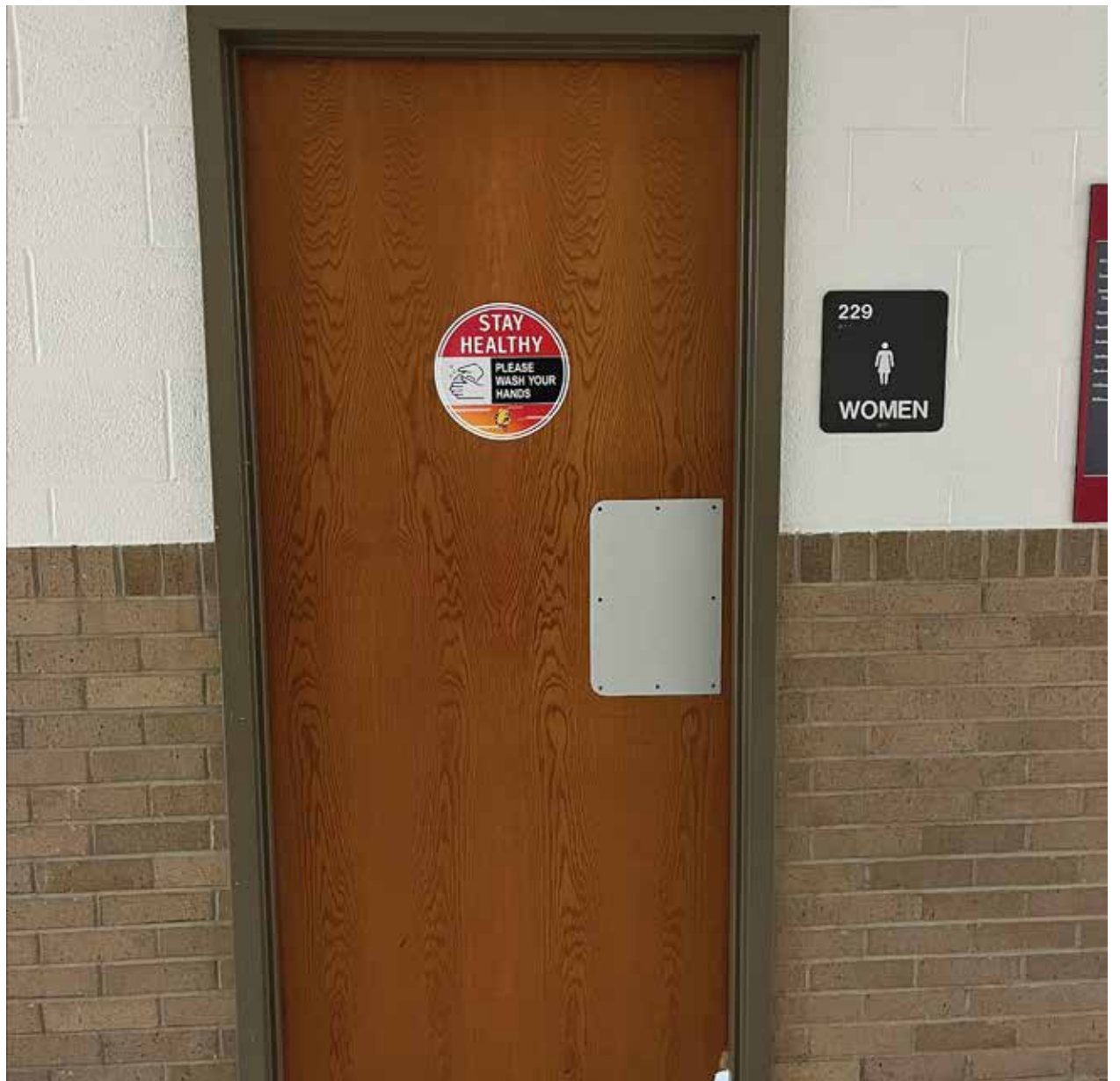


Photo by: Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor

The entry door to the women's bathroom located on the second floor of the Starr building reflects the necessary condition of the facilities inside.

der, it's incredibly frustrating to subluxate, or occasionally fully dislocate, my shoulders

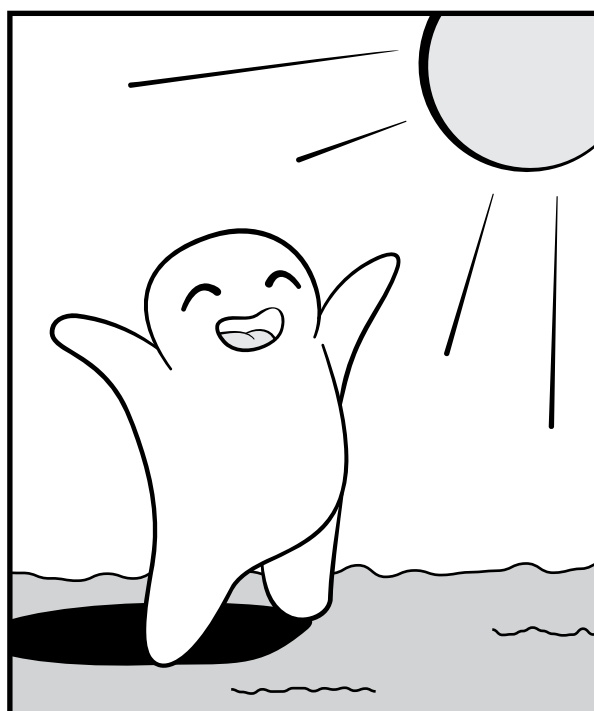
trying to open a bathroom door. It's mildly painful and entirely unnecessary and

avoidable.

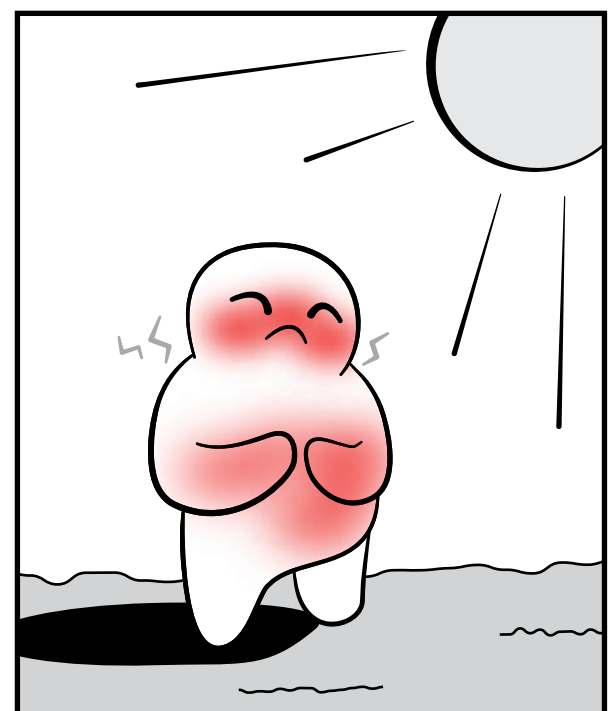
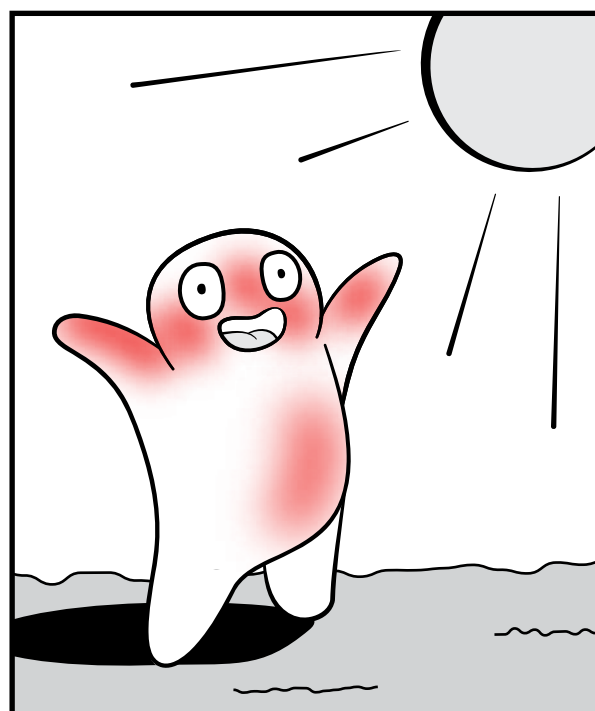
Our campus isn't always the most accessible, to

begin with, and the bathrooms shouldn't be another barrier.

## Sunburn Season



"Yay Summer is finally here!"



"... and so are sunburns."



# Sports

Connor Grypma | Sports Editor | grypmac@ferris.edu

## Editor's statement

**Connor Grypma**  
Sports Editor

After the promotion of my superior, Dylan Rider, I am excited to take on the role of sports editor for the upcoming school year.

My name is Connor Grypma. After reporting for the Torch's sports section last semester, I'm fortunate enough to be in charge. I will be a senior next semester, and I am majoring in journalism and technical communications.

The world of sports at Ferris, and nationwide, is constantly changing. We have the opportunity to spread the word to all of our readers every week. Here are a few changes I'd like to implement within the sports section for next year.

Same-day reporting can elevate the sports section into an even more newsworthy and reliable source. Being

able to put out information as soon as possible for our readers will continue to raise awareness and the importance of our stories.

Introducing more variety into the section has been a long-term goal for sports, and I believe it's in our best interest. Producing different forms of stories outside of the game recaps will make the section feel fresh every single week and provide a different view of our Bulldog athletes that you won't see from the surface level. While game recaps are still important to the section and convey useful information, we cannot be bogged down by them every weekly edition.

I'm excited about the product we, as a team, will put out this upcoming year. Bringing you the best in Ferris sports is my top priority, and we will stop at nothing less to do so.



Photo credit: Connor Grypma | Sports Editor

**Rising senior, Connor Grypma, is the newest editor to head the sports section at the Torch.**

## Top athletes of the 2023-24 season

**Nolan Matthews**  
Sports Reporter

### Men's teams

#### Football: Shon Stephens

Stephens was an outstanding senior on a Bulldogs team that placed second in the GLIAC this past season. Stephens transferred to Ferris from West Liberty in 2023 and immediately became an impact player, becoming a First Team All-GLIAC and a finalist for the Cliff Harris award, awarded to the nation's top DII player. Stephens was a ball hawk for the Bulldogs, snagging eight interceptions and returning one for a touchdown. Stephens was invited to the Philadelphia Eagles rookie camp after going undrafted in the 2024 NFL Draft.

#### Basketball: Ethan Erickson

Erickson led the Bulldogs team that was ranked third in the nation and went to the Elite Eight in the playoffs. The six-foot junior brought the Bulldogs to their third NCAA Elite Eight appearance, Ferris' first since capturing the

2018 national championship. Erickson averaged 14.9 points per game, which was 11th in the GLIAC. He also led the GLIAC in three-point field goals and was sixth in three-point shooting percentage.

#### Hockey: Antonio Venuto

Venuto was the offensive standout for a Bulldogs team that struggled this past season. The senior, from Whitmore Lake, Mich. led the Bulldogs in scoring, having 12 goals, 14 assists and 26 total points. Venuto was also a standout in the CCHA, where he ranked 13th in goals and 14th in points.

#### Tennis: Benjamin Lortie

Lortie was the leading man on the Bulldogs team that went undefeated in the GLIAC and won the GLIAC tournament championship. Lortie won over 25 matches for the Bulldogs this past season while making First Team All-GLIAC in both doubles and singles play.

#### Golf: Caleb Bond

Bond was a key piece to a Bulldogs team that captured its 22nd GLIAC Champion-

ship and went to the NCAA Tourney for the 19th in the past 21 years. Bond helped lead the team to these accomplishments with six top 10 tournament finishes while bringing in GLIAC Player of the Week on the week of April 1, during the "Flindianapolis" Intercollegiate event.

#### Track and Field: Chase Carter

Carter had an excellent 2023-24 season that helped bring the Bulldogs track and field team to the GLIAC Championship. The freshman, from Orlando, Fla., ran three different events and posted team highs in the 100 and 200-meter dash while having five first-place event finishes throughout the season.

#### Cross Country: Cooper Sorsen

Sorsen was arguably the top runner for the Bulldogs cross-country team this past season. The sophomore placed 38th in the GLIAC Championship race while also running a PR of 25:16 8K at the Lewis Invitational.

### Women's teams

#### Basketball: Chloe Idoni

Chloe Idoni was the centerpiece of a Bulldogs team that was ranked third in the nation and brought the Bulldogs to its first NCAA Division II national semifinal appearance in school history. The senior averaged 16.7 points per game, which was good for second in the GLIAC, and shot 51.7%, the third highest in the GLIAC while dropping multiple 30-point games this season. Idoni was chosen as the recipient of the GLIAC Commissioner's Award for excellence and brought in an Academic All-America Honoree.

#### Volleyball: Olivia Henneman-Dallape

Henneman-Dallape had an impressive 2023 season for the Bulldogs, leading the team in kills with 486 and kills per set at 3.83. She also brought in All-Midwest Regional Honors. The junior helped lead the Bulldogs to the NCAA DII Regional Championship, where they fell 3-1 to Missouri-St. Louis.

#### Softball: Alexis Kozlowski

The freshman first baseman from Gaylord, Michigan had an impressive offensive season for the Bulldogs. Kozlowski ended up being top 10 in every stat in the GLIAC with a .377 batting average and a .686 slugging percentage while hitting six home runs, 19 doubles and six triples. Kozlowski was voted GLIAC's first team All-Conference and the 2024 GLIAC Freshman of the Year.

#### Soccer: Payton Price

Price was the key scorer for the Bulldogs this year that went to the GLIAC tournament semifinals. The senior had seven goals, three assists, 17 points, 48 shots and 21 shots on goal while leading the Bulldogs in all statistics except goals.

#### Tennis: Morgan Waller

Waller continued to improve her game from 2023 while helping the Bulldogs make the GLIAC Semifinals. She excelled in singles play, as she was First Team All-GLIAC for singles, and throughout the year, the senior won 22 matches in total.

#### Golf: Kamryn Shannon

For the third year in a row, the Bulldogs women's golf team made the NCAA Tourney and the GLIAC semifinals, and Shannon was a primary reason for it. Shannon placed top-10 in five different tournament finishes and brought in back-to-back GLIAC Golfer of the Week awards.

#### Track and Field: Claudia Wilkinson

Wilkinson was one of the top high jumpers for the Bulldogs team that is participating in the GLIAC Championships on the weekend of May 3. Wilkinson led the high jump event with a PR of 1.65 meters while placing top five in all 10 meets this past season.

#### Cross Country: Hanna Brock

Brock continued her excellence in cross-country after earning a spot on this list last year, coming off making the All-GLIAC second-team honors last season. Brock finished 41st in the GLIAC Championship race and had a PR of 19:22 in the 6k time at the Louisville invite.



# Raising the banners

## A look into Ferris' athletics year of triumph

Caden Hofmann  
Sports Reporter

The 2023-24 Ferris State athletic year was filled with broken records, championships and dominance from the programs at Ferris.

Let's take a look back at every championship won by all of the teams.

**Women's basketball reaches new heights.**

Ferris State women's basketball team reached the NCAA DII Final Four for the first time in program history. Although they came up short of a national championship, the season was nothing short of success. The Bulldogs finished the season 26-6. Twenty-six wins was a program record high in a season for the team.

**Men's basketball wins the regional championship and conference tournament championship.**

The Bulldogs finished with a record of 28-8. Ferris defeated Lake Superior State to claim its third regional championship in program history and advance to the NCAA DII Elite Eight. The Bulldogs also won the GLIAC conference tournament championship, which solidified their seeding in the National Tournament.

**Volleyball goes back-to-back in the GLIAC.**

Ferris State Volleyball team took their third consecutive GLIAC tournament championship, defeating Grand Valley in four sets. The Bulldogs would make it to the Sweet Sixteen of the regional tournament, where they would fall in the regional championship.

**Men's tennis dominates the GLIAC**

Ferris Men's Tennis team not only picked up the regular season conference championship but also secured the conference tournament championship. This is the second time the men's team has won both the regular season and tournament championship since 2020. They finished with a 17-4 overall record, going undefeated in conference play.

**Men's Golf advances to the NCAA tournament**

Ferris men's golf team advanced to their 19th NCAA tournament appearance in the last 21 years with a GLIAC tournament win. The team earned the third seed going into the conference tournament and would knock off one seed, Grand Valley, to secure their spot in the national tournament.

## Road to the NFL

### Two Ferris football players enter NFL minicamps following the draft



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

**Standout All-American Defensive back, Shon Stephens.**



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

**Wide receiver Xavier Wade Jr. avoids a GVSU defensive back during last years annual Anchor-Bone Classic.**

Connor Grypma  
Sports Editor

After the 2024 NFL Draft concluded in Detroit on Saturday, April 28, two Ferris athletes were invited to NFL minicamps.

Defensive back Shon Stephens received an invite from the Pittsburgh Steelers and Philadelphia Eagles. Stephens has since signed

with the Eagles. Wide receiver Xavier Wade Jr. will attend with the Steelers.

Stephens was named the GLIAC Defensive Back of the Year in his first and only season for the Bulldogs in 2023. He was also a part of the All-GLIAC First Team and a finalist for the Cliff Harris Award.

Stephens had eight interceptions in 11 games for

the Bulldogs along with two touchdowns en route to Ferris' ninth straight Division II playoff berth.

On Monday, May 6, Stephens officially signed a rookie contract with the Eagles. He will begin training camp with the team in late July.

Wade led the team in receptions with 42 last season, piling up 132 catches for

2,746 yards in his Bulldog career. He was an All-GLIAC First Team honoree and led the way to two DII National Championships in 2021 and 2022.

Wade will look to compete for open roster spots at minicamp in hopes of signing an NFL contract for the upcoming 2024-2025 season.



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# Academic Senate salutes athletes

## Students receive recognition in the classroom and on the field



Photo courtesy of Ferris State Soccer

The women's soccer team pose after the recognition of their achievements, both academic and athletic, during the last Academic Senate meeting held this year.

**Tate Zellman**  
Freelance Reporter

The Academic Senate used its final meeting of the 2023-24 academic year to show recognition to student-athletes excelling both

on and off the field.

Recognition was given to the outstanding academic achievements of student-athletes who have earned a GPA of 3.75 or higher. The meeting took place on May 1 in the David L. Eisler Ballrooms,

with about 60 attendees, including the senate, other faculty and staff and student-athletes.

The Chair of the Athletic Advisory Committee and an Associate Professor of Developmental Curriculum Da-

vid McCall took the stage at the meeting's commencement. He shared that over 70 student-athletes have earned a GPA of 3.75 or above. He explained that those individuals have exemplified the essence of

dedication, perseverance and excellence, both on the field and in the classroom, and their commitment to academic excellence, not only reflects their drive and ambition but underscores the value of a well-rounded education.

"First of all, student-athletes are unique students," McCall said. "It's tough enough for students to juggle their schedules and find time to study, prepare and do homework. Student-athletes, on top of all that, have practice schedules, games, travel and other commitments that I don't think most people appreciate."

One of the student-athletes who were recognized, social work grad student Amari Lee, who is a point guard for the Ferris State men's basketball team, shared his perspective of what it meant to be recognized by the Academic Senate.

"It feels good to be recognized for the academic senate," Lee said. "This accomplishment means a lot to me because it shows that I can thrive in this world when the [basket]ball eventually stops bouncing."

From the perspective of both a student and an athlete, Lee additionally stated that it feels good to be recognized for academic senate since student-athletes typically have a lot of responsibilities to manage and to be recognized for their efforts in the classroom while maintaining success in athletics

makes the sacrifices and the hard work more worthwhile.

The Academic Senate President and Associate Professor of Public Health Emmanuel Jadhav gave some insights on the importance of recognizing student-athletes.

"Our students engage in athletic activities, and service activities and have a lot of leadership," Jadhav said. "I think it is so important for the academic senate to recognize the student-athletes. We want to recognize everybody, but we also want to be encouraging those putting in so much time and effort. And I think that is why the academic senate plays such an important role to the students."

The Athletic Department has several plans heading into the summer. They will be hiring a new assistant athletic director of sports medicine, two other athletic trainers and a head strength and condition coach. The department is hosting golf outings over the summer for football, hockey, men's basketball, softball and women's basketball. The men's and women's golf teams will have a joint outing.

There are several summer camps offered for a variety of sports teams. Finally, the volleyball team is going to Spain and Portugal from May 5-16 to play in an international competition. The summer plans for the athletic department were provided by Senior Associate Athletic Director Sara Higley.

# Hockey transfer portal roundup

## Latest updates and roster moves for the Bulldogs

**Connor Grypma**  
Sports Editor

The college hockey transfer portal has taken the Bulldog hockey roster by storm over the start of the off-season.

Since the portal opened on March 31, Ferris has lost six former players and gained four for next year's team.

The Bulldogs posted a 10-24-2 record last season while being eliminated in the first round of the CCHA Playoffs by the Bemidji State Beavers.

**Out:**  
Senior forward Antonio Venuto

Venuto led the Bulldogs in scoring last season with 26 total points and was a Hobey Baker Award finalist. Venuto played four seasons for Ferris and will use his final year of eligibility at Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass.

**Freshman forward Luigi Benincasa**

Benincasa scored 22 points for the Bulldogs in his freshman campaign and was named to the CCHA All-Rookie Team this past season. After appearing in 33 games for Ferris, Benincasa will stay in the CCHA conference, moving to the Minnesota State Mavericks.

**Senior goaltender Logan Stein**  
After appearing in 75 ca-

reer games for the Bulldogs, Stein transferred to the University of Michigan to play his senior season. Stein held a .910 save percentage last season with a career average of .892 in his Ferris tenure.

**Junior goaltender Noah Giesbrecht**

Giesbrecht will take his final two years of eligibility to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. In three seasons for Ferris, Giesbrecht started 50 games and maintained a .898 career save percentage alongside a 3.35 goals-against average.

**Freshman defenseman Jack Mesic**

Mesic appeared in all 36 games during his freshman campaign with the Bulldogs, scoring two goals and ten

total points. Mesic opted to stay in-state and transferred over to Western Michigan University.

**Senior forward Austin McCarthy**

McCarthy tallied six points in his four years of play for Ferris, with five coming in the 2023-2024 campaign. He totaled 37 game appearances. McCarthy will use his final year of eligibility at ACHA DI Adrian College.

Seniors Ben Schultheis and Stepan Pokorny have entered their names into the transfer portal but have yet to announce a commitment for next season. The portal remains open until Tuesday, May 14.

**In:**  
Senior goaltender Noah West (University of Michigan)

West will play his fifth and final year for the Bulldogs after moving from the University of Michigan. In his career for the Wolverines, West recorded over 200 saves in just 13 total games played. West becomes one of two goaltenders on the Ferris roster.

**Sophomore forward Gavin Best (Michigan State)**

In his first two seasons for the Spartans, the Minnesota native appeared in 12 games. Best also achieved Academic All-Big Ten awards and will join the Bulldogs for the 2024-2025 campaign.

**Sophomore forward Cole**

**Burtch (Western Michigan)**

In his tenure for Western, Burtch scored a point in three total games played. He was also named an NCHC Distinguished Scholar Athlete.

**Freshman forward Max Itagaki (Army)**

Itagaki scored 56 points in his two years at Army in 69 total games played. He led the team in assists both years and was named Atlantic Hockey Rookie of the Year in 2022-2023. Itagaki will bring his talents to the Bulldogs for his junior season.

For more Ferris hockey updates, visit <https://fsu-torch.com/category/sports/hockey>.