



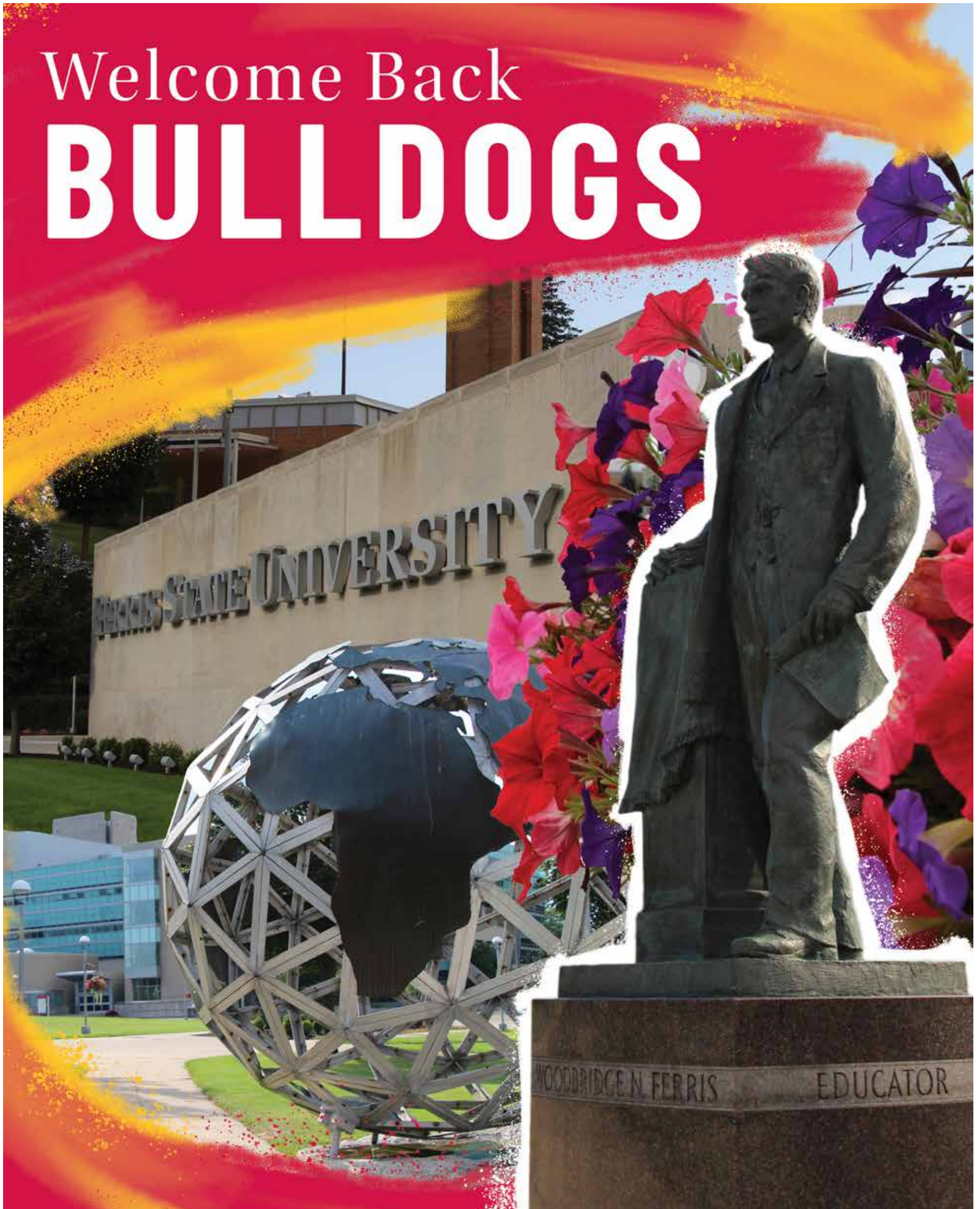
The Ferris State Torch

94 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

August 23, 2024


www.fsutorch.com





Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

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News

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

Food pantry updates:

- ▶ The food pantry has moved to room 115 in the David L. Eisler Center
- ▶ Available to all students, regardless of financial need
- ▶ Grand opening will be August 28 at 3 p.m.
- ▶ Open Sunday-Thursday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. with varying holiday hours
- ▶ Pantry includes food and hygiene items
- ▶ Students can donate non-perishable food items to the pantry
- ▶ Students can volunteer at the food pantry, including helping unload items

Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager



Photos by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor
Nicholas Campau (front) and Lisa Ortiz were among many volunteers working to stock the Bulldog Pantry.

New green space

Updated plans for Bishop Hall site

Kourtney Fairchild
News Reporter

The space that housed Bishop Hall is being converted into a green space for students to enjoy.

The Bishop Hall demolition started in late May after a condition assessment determined that it would cost more to repair the building than to demolish it. Demolition activities wrapped up on August 21.

According to Facilities Management Associate Vice President Joe Haupt, site restoration is the next and final step of the project. This process includes: filling holes with sand, putting down dirt and hydroseeding.

"At this point there's no intention for a new facility to go back in that space or to convert it to parking," Haupt said. "Right now the plan is just to turn it into a green space that can be utilized by students, faculty, and staff."

The hall was no longer in use but previously housed the Early Learning Center and some professors' offices. The ELC moved to a new

facility next door and the offices were moved to other buildings on campus.

Digital animation and game design junior Morgan Keller was thankful for the change and excited to see the space once it's finished.

"I'm so glad they brought the professors housed in Bishop to central campus," Keller said. "It makes it easier for students and professors to meet each other outside of class hours."

Haupt said they've received positive feedback from patrons and workers of the ELC for finishing the space in time for the ELC to reopen when promised. They've stayed on schedule and met all their deadlines so Haupt is hopeful the project will be finished as soon as possible.

"We're excited that the project has gone as well as it has and for the site to be cleaned up so students can utilize the space," Haupt said.

The current goal is for the space to be finished by mid-September for student use.



Photos by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor
The demolition of Bishop hall began in early June, with site clean-up set to be complete before students return this semester.

Effects of new freshman program

Freshman supported to help start off their first semester

Ember St. Ember
News Editor

Some of the incoming freshmen from Michigan were given an opportunity to help start off their year with the Determined Dawg Scholar Academy.

The program began earlier this summer. Incoming freshmen were sent an invitation to participate. The program allowed the participants to become more familiar with life on campus and learn a routine for what college life looks like as they begin.

Professional golf management freshman Christian Duhrkoff was one of the freshmen who was given an invite. Duhrkoff's experience with the program gave him an extra boost.

"I think, even if you know you don't have to do it, I think it's really nice to, like I said, get to experience that can't envision kind of like the college experience before," Duhrkoff said. "You know, everyone gets there in the fall, and feel like, you know, with our university class, I'm pretty sure all freshmen have to take one of those, like seminar classes, so we are kind of ahead of the game."

In addition to the seminar class students were also able to learn study skills, took a math course, reding course

and were able to take field trips to have more hands-on experiences.

Incoming freshman weren't the only students who were able to participate in the program. The program also had pack leaders, who were students in charge of the groups and helped lead them throughout the day. Nursing junior Tyrese Beedle was a pack leader who got hired while at another job.

"I also worked the overnight shift at McDonald's, and normally the guy at the first window is, like, kind of rude, and I was put there for like a minute, and our boss, Manny, would have was a regular at like, 12:30, 1:00," Beedle said. "And one night he had stopped me, and he was like, 'hey man like, I just gotta say great customer service. And he was like, do you go to Ferris?', and we just got to talk in. And he was like, I'm actually starting with this program. Like, would you be interested?"

Beedle found the experience to be helpful in his development of leadership skills, as he was able to lead the incoming freshmen through different activities as well as help them with their classes when needed.

Program leader Emmanuel Ogua started his role with the program after a grant



Photo Courtesy of Emmanuel Ogua

Incoming freshmen were able to gain the bulldog experience while living and dining on campus over the summer.

was given to help the incoming freshman who needed the extra support. Ogua went through the application process and helped work on the schedule."

"So, after the application period, I actually reached out and called all of the participants myself, and did a phone interview with them and basically asked them

if they were ready to commit, four weeks out of their summer to get this amazing opportunity for themselves," Ogua said. "You get nine credits that you get to basically take in four weeks to catch up, to get you where you need to be. But we also did Saturday excursions in which we went to, Grand Rapids for white caps, game

Mount Pleasant for Native American pow wow. We also did some local stuff, like the Mecosta County Fair. So we were basically doing something every single day with also a mandatory, mandatory study hall that they had to do every night from seven to 9pm in order to get ready for the next day."

Ogua hopes that as the

year progresses, the freshman who took the course will have a better understanding of the college experience. Ogua also hopes that as the year progresses and they begin to look for more incoming freshmen to be part of the program for next year, that they will be able to have more participants.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Wayne County- A waste plant in Wayne County will be taking in waste from the Manhattan Project in New York.

The Manhattan Project was in charge of developing the atomic bomb during World War Two.

The plant is expecting to get 6,000 cubic yards of soil and concrete, as well as 4,000 gallons of groundwater according to The Detroit FreePress.

It is expected that the plant will receive 25 semi-trucks of the waste a week until January 2025. The waste will be transported on public roads and highways to get to the plants location, just off of I-94.

Deputy chief of public affairs for the Army Corps' Buffalo District Avery Schneider, explained that all local, state, and federal guidelines will need to be followed.

"The first thing we look at in all of these projects is how we can do it safely — from the employees on-site who are

working around the material, excavating it and preparing it for removal, to the communities around the site, to the folks who are going to transport it out to Belleville, Michigan, to where it can be safely stored," Schneider said.

This is not the first time that the waste plant will be receiving waste from other states. Last year the plant also received waste from Ohio after a train derailment, however locals were not informed of the process happening, so they were advised to stop the transportation.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

United Kingdom- Monday evening a rocket exploded after a 30 second test run.

The test run was to monitor results of what could happen when a rocket is in downward thrust to get to space by the company Rocket Factory Augsburg, which is based in Germany, according to BBC News.

The rocket was tested on Unst, a small island that is remote, and several different companies have tested their rockets there.

The test run for the rocket was to see if all nine engines would be able to be fired simultaneously. According to Malcom Macdonald, there are lots of challenges that come with this.

"They're all vibrating," Macdonald said. "So, getting them all to behave correctly and to perform optimally is a real challenge because of the interference of one rocket engine to the next."

When the test started, flames

began to shoot out of the side of the rocket, rather than the bottom. These flames were accompanied by loud bangs, smoke, and sparks as the launch tower caught on fire.

The team will begin reviewing the footage from their cameras that were on the site to see what exactly caused the explosion.



Campus navigation

A guide to the buildings on campus and the services they offer

Kourtney Fairchild
News Reporter

Ferris has many different buildings on campus that house a variety of services for students.

In the heart of campus is the David L. Eisler Center, where students can hang out, study, have meetings, shop and get food. The building also has many different student resources including the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, the Veteran Resource Center and the Career and Professional Success Office. There are various spaces for students to get together with friends and do homework, with study spaces located on every level.

The David L. Eisler Center is home to the Quad Café for sit-down meals, the Grill Pit for to-go meals and Starbucks for coffee. Ferris Outfitters is located on the main and lower levels and allows students to buy Ferris merchandise and pre-packaged food.

There are other dining options on campus which include the Rock Café, The Market and Erbert's and Gerbert's. The Rock Café is one of the main dining halls on campus and is attached to The Market, a small grocery market, where students can use meal swipes for pre-packaged food, a taco bar and pizza. Erbert's and Gerbert's is a sandwich shop located on the first floor of the Interdisciplinary Resource Center.

The Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education offers a variety of books and resources for students to use and check out. FLITE houses the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia on the lower level and the Office of Multicultural Student Services on the deck. The main level is home to the Writing Center, where students can get one-on-one help with their work.

The Student Recreation Center has a pool, climbing wall, fitness center and

weight room that students can access with their Ferris ID. Students can find information about and join intramural and club sports or rent out different equipment such as tents, hammocks and skis for a small fee and deposit.

Located next to the Student Recreation Center is the Birkam Health Center. The center offers various medical services and has an allergy clinic, immunization clinic, women's health clinic and laboratory. These services may be billed to the student's insurance or have out-of-pocket costs. Birkam is also home to the Personal Counseling Center, where students can talk to licensed counselors free of charge. Walk-in appointments may be available, but it's recommended to make an appointment ahead of time through the Healthy Dog Portal.



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

New way-finding signs have been installed across campus, as with updates to old signage.



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Culture

Blase Gapinski | Culture Editor | gapinsb@ferris.edu

Author sparking positive life changes

Joshua Berry speaks looks to inspire people to make better life choices



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Tate Zellman
Freelance Reporter

Author Joshua Berry talked about his book, “Dare to Be Naive,” and life lessons with students to spark opportunities to consider making positive life changes.

Berry is a public speaker, entrepreneur and co-founder and CEO of Eonic, which is an innovation, transformation and strategy consulting group. Berry was the speaker for the online event: “Find Your True Self in a Noisy World,” which was organized by the Ferris State Alumni

Association taking place on Wednesday, August 14.

The presentation involved live polls that allowed participation from the audience, visuals that demonstrated real-life situations, as well as questions and prompts that encouraged the audience to think about those scenarios. Berry also shared stories from his background, including his upbringing, how he was able to write his book and additional ways he expresses himself.

There were bolded words used throughout the webinar to express the importance

and they were curiosity, trust, authenticity, optimism and naive. According to Berry, those words can be important for people to think about, especially for freshmen and new students because of how frightening life as a college student may seem.

CONT. ON PG. 7

Torch Tunes

A welcome back mix to get you prepared for the fall semester

Blase Gapinski
Culture Editor

The beginning of the semester means the transition from summer to fall is upon us, which calls for a welcome-back playlist of tracks to get your mind ready for school.

Vienna - Billy Joel

What better way to start this playlist than with the Piano Man himself? “Vienna” is one of those songs that gets better as time goes on. I am not surprised this song has risen to the second most streamed song of Joel’s career, as the message is something everyone can relate to. Vienna is a metaphor for growing older and finding fulfillment in life. It may seem like other people are living an adventure, but your life is one too. It is ok to slow down in a world that is going so fast. It may be easy to envy another person’s life or situation, but everyone will find their path. It may take time, but Vienna waits for everyone. This shares the theme of being welcomed back and is accompanied by warm fall feelings.

Good Riddance (Time of Your Life) - Green Day

This is a song I have always associated with fall and back-to-school feelings. It reminds me of the summer fun and excitement, coming to an end and being met by reality, going back to school.

Billie Armstrong wrote this song after a breakup and was his way of putting on a brave face when, in reality, he was hurting. Instead of naming the song “Time of Your Life,” which he thought seemed too level-headed of him, he went with “Good Riddance.” It fits this playlist so well as those feelings of sadness from Armstrong can be felt across the record, which makes it the perfect track to say goodbye to summer break.

we fell in love in october - girl in red

From the track cover to the title, this song has fall vibes written all over it. Girl in red is an alternative pop/indie artist from Norway. She writes, sings and produces all her music, which isn’t something all artists can say. This is an older one from her discography, and it continues to be a standout record as the feelings it gives off are hard to replicate. It is a fun record that sounds even better during cold fall days.

Small Worlds - Mac Miller

With John Mayer on guitar and Miller’s calm vocals, this track is the perfect addition to this playlist. The autumn feelings are radiant throughout this track due to the guitar and piano chords transitioning together so well, which feels like going from summer to fall. One thing I love about Miller’s songs is the ability to have an overar-

ching theme the listener can pick up on while still having amazing productions behind it. I always think about this song at the beginning of the semester or during stressful times as the message of this track is no matter what you’re struggling with or hoping for, keep holding on and try to find joy no matter the situation.

November - Tyler, the Creator

The production behind “November” perfectly replicates the feelings of autumn and is intentional. As the title may suggest, Tyler loves the month of November and the associated feelings that come with it. Throughout this song, Tyler uses November as a metaphor for nostalgia and remembering the best times throughout his life. The track features a segment of friends answering the question; what is your “November?” Not many hip-hop artists can express as much emotion or feeling throughout their records as Tyler, and for that reason, he deserves a spot on this heartfelt playlist.

A Cold Sunday - Lil Yachty

“A Cold Sunday” is the perfect addition to this playlist as the jazz-inspired production behind this song gives off the cozy and calm vibes of a cold Sunday. It offers smooth, cozy vibes accompanied by Yachty’s vocals. This is one of the many

solo tracks that Yachty has released since his alternative/indie album “Let’s Start Here,” and his momentum of great tracks being released doesn’t seem to be slowing down. This is the perfect song to listen to on a cold morning or while walking to class.

For the First Time - Mac DeMarco

This song is for those leaving behind friends, family or even significant others to head back to school. “For the First Time” is about the hardships of being away from those you love even if the pain is only temporary. This is something all of us can relate to in one way or another as heading to college often takes away from the relationships we have. The pain may be temporary, but this track is sure to help get you through it.

mirrorball - Taylor Swift

“Mirrorball” is one of those songs that has the embodiment of autumn throughout the whole track. This is from Taylor’s album “folklore,” which is full of alternative pop and indie folk music which fits the fall season the best. I enjoyed “Lover” and “folklore” more than her other albums due to the calm and smooth vibes they give off. The calm energy from these tracks makes them perfect to listen to at any time no matter how you may be feeling.

Scan the QR codes below to listen



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

New coffee shop in town

Young owner caters to Ferris students with a welcoming atmosphere



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Belle's Coffeehouse, owned by Reed City native Belle Whipple, welcomes patrons in with a modern rustic design.

Ni'Jah Rankin
Culture Reporter

Make way for Belle's Coffeehouse that opened over the summer in downtown Big Rapids, by a young 21-year-old woman.

Belle's Coffeehouse opened its doors on June 12 and is owned and operated by Reed City native, Belle Whipple. The shop is located at 116 N. Michigan Ave., formally Fru Apperal in 2023. Whipple believed that Big Rapids was the ideal place to start her coffee shop, and after months of renovations, her dreams became a reality.

"Big Rapids has life," Whipple said. "It has students my age, people that are wanting to go farther and go somewhere else in their life."

After graduating from high school, Whipple frequently switched jobs and started working at another coffee shop, which was one of her favorite job experiences. She initially thought about changing the scenery at her previous coffee shop but then thought of starting her own.

"I just really loved my experience being a barista," Whipple said. "I wanted to elevate the place into some-

thing geared more towards people my age."

Whipple found that having a quality drink helps customers to feel welcome, and a friendly and professional relationship with employees is an important aspect that separates her shop from mainstream coffee chains.

"I wanted that kind of look that would feel inclusive to everybody, feel cozy and welcoming," Whipple said.

Along with making sure the shop provides quality drinks, Whipple's goal is to create and provide a safe space for students at Ferris to relax and express themselves. She has been brainstorming many ideas for students to get involved with activities and events at the shop. Some ideas that came to her were hosting game nights and even the possibility of hosting live music.

Since Belle's Coffeehouse opened before the fall semester, there would only be two or three Ferris students coming in. Whipple is excited for Ferris students to return to campus and hopes to bring more students downtown. They would even like to try to extend hours for students.

Whipple will be at Bulldog

Bonanza to let students know that the coffee shop is open and ready for business. Even though she does not have the fine details yet, she plans to be there and connect with students.

Belle's Coffeehouse has already brought in a junior digital art and design student from KCAD, Abbie Strasser. She has been coming to Belle's since it first opened and enjoys the atmosphere of the coffeehouse.

"It's my favorite cafe to come to," Strasser said. "It's very warm and inviting, I can find anywhere to sit, and the baristas are super nice"

Belle made sure that one of her goals when becoming a business owner was to not only ensure that the customers had a good experience coming to the shop but also that her employees have a good work environment. She does this successfully by making sure that she treats her employees how she wants to be treated.

She believed that if the employees enjoyed coming to the shop, that would enhance the experience for customers too.

"I had the belief in myself that I could treat people the

way I wish I could have been treated when I was in the workforce," Whipple said. "So, we all have that comradery, and it makes everybody feel proud of what they're doing."

Kate Strasser is a high school, Ferris State dual enrollment student and an

employee at Belle's Coffeehouse. She enjoys working for Belle's and is glad she found it on Belle's Coffeehouse Instagram.

"It's a good environment, I love my coworkers," Strasser said. "Everybody's really forgiving and kind."

Belle's Coffeehouse is

bringing a new experience to Big Rapids and hopes to connect with many Ferris students at Bulldog Bonanza and during events they will be hosting. People can follow their Instagram account, @BellesCoffeehouse, to stay connected.



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

With plenty of seating and electrical outlets, Belle's is a comfortable option for students.

Media Minute

“Vultures 2” is not worth your time



Album cover credited to “Yzy” label 2024

Blase Gapinski
Culture Editor

Kanye West and Ty Dolla \$ign’s long-awaited sequel project “Vultures 2” was released earlier this month, and it was not worth the wait.

This album, like the first “Vultures” project, was all over the place. There was little to no production across records, vocal deliveries were offbeat and raspy, and overall, many songs were incomplete. Long-time fans know

this is a staple of Ye as he started doing this after the release of his album “The Life of Pablo,” where he released the project unfinished and continued to update it as he mastered the album in real-time.

This was something cool to witness, and fans know the current version of that album is a lot better than what was originally released.

The issue is that “Vultures 1” has barely been updated since its release in February

of 2024 with a few Ty Dolla \$ign vocals being re-mixed and production changes. The sequel project was released, regardless of “Vultures 1” being unfinished.

“Vultures 2” doesn’t contain a single song that seems like it was created by the master of ceremonies who was once the great Kanye West. Two of the tracks from this album, “Field Trip” and “Sky City,” actually use an AI Kanye filter to perform his verses on those tracks. Songs like “530” and “Forever Rolling” sound almost AI-generated. Many of the tracks throughout this record contain samples of songs that were not cleared by the original creators as well which is something Ye is continuing to do regardless of consequences. Ye is, oftentimes, off-key in this album and constantly sounds muffled. I was hoping the features on this album would give it a little bit of mercy, but I was wrong. The features are unfortunately underwhelming even though there are larger names featured on this album like Lil Wayne, Future and Kodak Black. The mixing is so bad that you can’t even understand what certain people are saying. I can’t believe they decided to be featured on this project, and I wouldn’t be surprised if some of them asked Ye to keep them off the project but kept them on anyway. There is not a single track on this album I enjoyed listening to because of how bad the productions are.

sage that fits his vision of how the music is supposed to be interpreted. There is no substance to the lyrics, and it feels like there is no meaning to anything being said. It seems Ye does not have the creative ability and focus he once did to produce good lyrics and music that resonate with people.

It is sad to see such a great producer and writer become so lazy and uninterested in their craft. It is clear that Ye doesn’t care about the presentation and the quality of his music anymore and it also seems he doesn’t care about the remaining fans that have stuck with him through controversy after controversy. As a fan of Ye myself, I think the direction he is going in is awful, and if he continues to do so, it will start to affect how fans view his past works that deserve merit. Unfortunately, it doesn’t seem like this pretending to finish the album in real-time is going away anytime soon. There are already leaks from “Vultures 3” surfacing, which I find insane as little to no changes have been made to “Vultures 2” after almost a month of streaming. I am hoping Ye is just saving his creative energy for his projects, but I doubt this is the case. If you have yet to listen to this album, do yourself a favor and listen to any other Ye album released before 2021.

2/10

Another issue with this project is the lack of vision. All of Ye’s albums have an overarching theme or mes-

SPARKING POSITIVE LIFE CHANGES CONT.

“Those first days on campus, especially for first-year students, they can show up thinking they already know, everything closed and defensive, and it’s all about proving yourself to others,” Berry said. “And that’s a natural stance that your ego wants to do right, to be able to protect yourself, and to fit in. Understanding those words, new students could almost be taken back to a similar idea of a beginner’s mindset.”

In the example of students coming to campus for the first time, Berry said that curious is the word that best represents incoming students and freshmen because entering a new circumstance like college ultimately ends up establishing a new chapter of their life, leading to curiosity.

Ben Withey, the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations,

saw that Berry broke the word down into multiple layers to prove his points.

“Berry leans a little more into the definition that reads, ‘natural and unaffected; innocent,’ Withey said. “The most important lesson Ferris State students can learn from the presentation and Joshua Berry’s work is that we all sometimes make limiting assumptions based on our previous experiences. What we gain from ‘Dare to Be Naive’ is a reminder that not every encounter will be the same, and sometimes we have to question our own beliefs.”

During the webinar, Berry used prompts within the slides to further explain his points to bring more of a visual appeal to the audience. One of the visuals showcased was the action/belief cycle. The cycle shown on the webinar demonstrated that one person’s beliefs can impact their actions and that the beliefs of others impact their actions. Berry described the cycle

as either being virtuous or vicious, meaning that it can show high moral standards or a situation or a condition that endlessly repeats itself.

Frederick Coleman, one of the organizers of the event, found the slides about the belief cycle to stand out to him the most because of how important the cycle is for freshmen and new students to take into consideration.

“One of the important pieces Joshua brought up was the action/belief cycle,” Coleman said. “Our actions influence others’ beliefs which influence their actions which influence our beliefs. That can be a positive and negative thing in so many ways, which makes it important to think about our own actions and beliefs, as well as consequences that may surround them.”

The webinar can be viewed on YouTube, while the Alumni Association will continue its series of webinars throughout the year.



Opinions

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

End of beginning

Tackling the impending doom of senior year



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Dylan Rider
Editor in Chief

As I enter my final year of college, I can't help but feel bits of dread with my next step into the future on the doorstep.

From our earliest beginnings, we've all been asked about the future and how we plan on fitting into it. The questions, which always have the same meaning, come in various forms. "What do you wanna do with your life?" comes while you're a child, but not taken too seriously. When you're in your junior and senior year of high school, you start getting asked if you've given any thought to going to college. Then, when you're staring college graduation in the face, it's "What's next?"

For some on the brink of graduation, they know what's next. Some will pursue their master's degree or may already have a job lined up. However, I feel the most

common responses to the variety of questions are either "I don't know" or a very hopeful and tentative plan. I am of the latter option.

It's no secret why American graduates may feel fearful of the next step, outside of the fear of the unknown. The "real world," as it's been called, is brutal and unforgiving. A 2024 report from Strada Education Foundation and Burning Glass Institute found that 52% of graduates end up underemployed a year after graduation. Alongside this, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York graph shows that as of June 2024, 4.5% of recent college graduates are unemployed.

For those not continuing their academic career, this is it. This is the long-awaited end to school. That idea is great until you think about the uncertainty of "what's next?"

Schooling for the past 17-18 years of our lives has offered structure, it allows us to

focus and expect something the next day. Well, we've run out of road. Parents can't force us to get a professional job, nor can we pay to get one. None of us are guaranteed the expected "next step."

For those coming into their final year with the end in sight, how does one cope with the fear and dread that sits at the end? The absolute uncertainty that we face for soon-to-be graduates, who have put considerable amounts of time and money into a degree, could end up underemployed or worse is looming.

As I sit here writing this, I struggle for a definitive answer on how to combat these fears. Writing "have a positive mindset and hope for the best" feels like a total cop-out and a total invalidation of my own and others' feelings of worry. Neither saying it nor writing it feels realistic in any sense because here's what I know:

Millions of Americans have graduated, and I'm sure many are disappointed with how things panned out. Maybe they didn't get the job they wanted. Or, maybe, a million different things curtailed their dreams of being who they wanted to be. That really sucks. But maybe at the end of the day, at the root of this fear that we carry sits disappointment.

There's a natural fear of disappointment in all of us. No parent or child wants to disappoint each other. No one wants to disappoint themselves. It hurts. To spend nearly all of our young lives on education just for it to produce nothing would be soul-crushing. Alas, we must prepare for potential disappointment, and that's where I think the silver lining lies in not succeeding.

You're a student who just spent perhaps thousands of dollars on studying something you're passionate about. You graduate and

can't find somewhere or something that your heart was set on. What do you do? Do you slink away into whatever pays the bills? Or do you keep fighting? Keep pushing on what you felt was the right decision. The silver lining in disappointment is opportunity.

Every day, I wonder if I'll find what I want to do after I get handed a degree in May. It's a foreboding thought inked into my brain. However, there are few guarantees in life, and none deal with automatic success.

There are nine months until that day when we walk across that stage. I suggest to myself and anyone who relates to the feelings I've expressed to keep pushing in the meantime. We'll never know what the future holds until that "what's next?" moment stands before us. The fight might not be done at the end of your current era, but it may just end up being the end to the beginning.

Excited to be back

Entering my third year, I'm very excited to get the semester started

Tate Zellman
Freelance Reporter

Going into my third year at Ferris State, I'm more excited than ever before for the 2024-25 school year to start.

When I was a young kid, I enjoyed school. I always liked seeing my friends and introducing myself to new kids. Many of my teachers were very kind, and they made the classes enjoyable. Like many other children, I loved recess. To this day, I love school for most of the same reasons.

Throughout my first two years on campus, I've enjoyed introducing myself to my classmates, a vast majority of my professors have been amazing, and I've enjoyed most of my college classes. I'm sure many of you aren't looking forward to the school year starting again. Even though summer is my favorite season, I'll explain why I'm excited to get this school year underway.

There are so many opportunities available on campus and many fun things to do when you're not in class. I love recess, but the opportunities college can offer you are way more fun. You could join an intramural sport, attend sporting events year-round and many other events

on campus. These are ways for you to get involved and have fun with friends and make memories that last a lifetime.

The next reason is the people I've met these past two years. I've met some incredible people I know I can be friends with after my college career is finished and I look forward to more fun times down the road. While meeting new people can be intimidating, meeting new people on campus can be the difference between an okay year and a great one.

The vast majority of my professors have been incredible. Shoutouts to Dr. Garrett Stack, Gustavo Rodriguez and Cameron Shoemaker for being amazing, making every class period worth it and setting good examples of how college professors should be.

Another reason why I'm excited for the academic year to start is because this is the first semester where I'm pursuing my new major: English education. I last wrote that I was changing my major since I finally knew what I wanted to pursue. I'm so excited to start my new journey of becoming an English teacher. Many people aren't excited about their classes, but they're amazing opportunities to grow in your

field and figure out what you like. I have my first education class this semester, as well as some other classes that sound cool, like children's literature. I'm so excited to see what these classes are about.

With being on campus for only two full years, I call Ferris my second home. The campus is a place I love to be a part of, whether I'm heading to class, hanging out with friends, going to a sporting event or doing something else that's fun. This university is a place where I feel safe and a place where I'm excited to be for the next couple of years.

When I was younger, I thought that summer went by too fast, I still do to this day. As a kid, I didn't enjoy the adjustment of going back to school on the first day. I enjoyed school more later in the year until the last day because I was well-adjusted. By the time I was wrapping up my senior year of high school, I was ready for a change in scenery. Now, heading into my third year as a college student, I'm very excited to attend classes and see what opportunities lie ahead. And, of course, I'm proud to be a Bulldog and I believe everyone should.



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor
The metal 'Brutus' statue sits atop its hill guarding Top Taggart field.

Big about Biggby

Starbucks is overrated



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor
Cups at Biggby start at an affordable price, while plain designs similar to the ones above cost almost double at Starbucks.

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

As the school year begins, I know that I'll need to go somewhere to get my caffeine, and that place will likely be Biggby Coffee.

During my freshman year, I thought Starbucks was a

great option, especially with it right on campus. Entering my third year at Ferris, I have found Biggby as a better option.

Starbucks is something that most people are super excited to have on campus, and I'm not disagreeing that they are good. I do, however,

feel that Biggby is better.

To start, Biggby isn't far from campus. Starbucks is on campus, but Biggby is a short walk across the street. As someone whose classes are in the Starr building most of the time, the walk there is the same. I might as well walk to the one that I prefer

to go to.

Another thing I appreciate about Biggby is they let me use their app to get deals. One of the biggest shocks when I came to Ferris was that Starbucks wouldn't let me use my points on the app to redeem my drinks, as their location chose not to honor

the app. However, at Biggby, I can use my rewards and secret menu items to get what I want at their establishment.

I appreciate the variety of drinks that Biggby offers. Starbucks has a good array of drinks, but I can find the Biggby equivalent of almost every Starbucks drink, as well as a variety of others. I love the Caramel Frappuccino from Starbucks. Biggby has the same thing, except it's a frozen Teddy Bear Latte.

Biggby has many more options for people looking for a pick-me-up that is not coffee. While Starbucks has its refreshers, teas and lemonades, Biggby has its Red-bull creme freezes, standard creme freezes, teas, lemonades, multiple flavors of popping boba beverages and magic milk flavors.

Another thing I appreciate about Biggby is the price. They have slightly lower prices, which is already a bonus, but my favorite part of the pricing at Biggby compared to Starbucks is their happy hour. On Tuesdays, I can go to Biggby between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and get whatever

drink I want, for fifty percent off. As somebody who schedules a lot of their classes for Tuesdays and who tends to get tired out around that time, happy hour at Biggby is amazing.

Finally, I love the atmosphere at Biggby. Don't get me wrong, Starbucks doesn't have a bad atmosphere, but it feels too much like the campus. I usually prefer to work on homework and other things without the feeling of campus atmosphere. That's what I love about Biggby. It's not directly on campus, so I feel more relaxed and have a better time getting homework done, as a result.

Biggby's atmosphere has a more welcoming vibe. They have more color in their building than Starbucks, and I appreciate their open concept. I know Starbucks has to work with the space they were given, but it doesn't change the fact that Biggby is more welcoming with its layout.

While I understand Starbucks' reputation as an establishment, Biggby offers more at a better price. If I'm getting coffee this year, it will

Sports

Connor Grypma | Sports Editor | grypmac@ferris.edu



A summer in review

Nolan Matthews
Sports Reporter

While many Ferris students were back home for the summer, the campus was certainly not quiet, as many events happened in the Bulldogs athletic world.

NIL Partnership

Ferris State finalized a partnership with Athlete's Thread, allowing Bulldog student-athletes to create and expand their brand. This helps to financially benefit Ferris State for their name, image and likeness.

Threadly has been in the licensing apparel industry since 2013, and Athlete's Thread was created in 2021, quickly becoming the leading name in NIL merchandise. They work with over 100 universities and provide over 10,000 student-athletes with merchandise and jerseys to

expand their own brand.

Student-athletes earn a 12 percent commission on all of the merchandise sales and the opportunity to earn an additional 10/15% by sharing their own affiliate link. As of the writing of this article, there are 1,379 different Ferris State student-athlete branded merchandise from sports like softball, hockey, football, basketball and soccer.

Skating with Wings

Ferris State hockey's defenseman, Trevor Taulien, was invited to the Detroit Red Wings NHL Development camp this summer.

Taulien played 27 games for the Bulldogs last season in which he contributed nine points, two goals, and seven assists. He earned a free agent invite at the BELFOR Training Center inside Little Caesars Arena.

Taulien was one of 50 invitees and one of 14 defensemen invited to the camp, where he experienced on-ice instruction led by the Red Wings coaches and development staff.

Award Winners

Ferris State's senior tennis player Jan Koupil and senior track and field runner Brandon Wirth earned the GLIAC Commissioner's Award. These awards go to six female and six male student-athletes after each athletic season, but the awards are given out based on the student-athlete's performance both on the field and in the classroom.

Koupil was a contributing factor to helping lead the Bulldogs to a 2024 GLIAC regular season championship, as well as earning All-GLIAC First Team honors. Meanwhile, Wirth earned

the GLIAC Commissioner's Award for the second time in his collegiate career. Wirth ranks among the Bulldog's all-time top 10 leaders in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Ferris State basketball earned the NABC Team Academic Excellence Award having eight honorees, among those being seniors Amari Lee and Ben Davidson, juniors Ethan Erickson, Reece Hazelton and Jimmy Scholler, as well as sophomores Brandon Claerbaut, Nate Claerbaut and Cole Vickers.

This award went to programs that have a collective team grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Over 2,100 players earned NABC Honors Court, and over 360 programs received the NABC Team Academic Excellence awards this past season.

Pin Hunting

Ferris State golf's Mc-

Coy Biagioli won the 113th annual Michigan Amateur Championship on June 21 at the Heather Course at the Highlands in Harbor Springs.

Biagioli had quite the week prior to the championship when he won a 26-hole match in the round of 16 against his own Bulldog teammate, Caleb Bond. McCoy drained an 18-foot putt for the win on hole 18 over St. Joseph's Matt Zerbel in the semifinal round.

Biagioli earned GLIAC Freshman of the Year this past season and made an all-conference selection. Biagioli helped lead the Bulldogs to a GLIAC Championship and an NCAA Division II National Championship this past spring. This Michigan Amateur Championship win is just another testament to his excellent year.

Golf Outings

The Katke Golf Course

held another annual round of golf outings for the multitude of sports programs this summer, including the course's 50th-anniversary outing on August 9.

The outings hosted a number of Bulldog alumni across all programs, including former football head coaches Keith Otterbein and Jeff Pierce, Tampa Bay Lightning video coordinator Brian Garlock, former Bulldog and NHL alumni Zach Redmond, and Bill Simonson of the HUGE Show.

The athletics offseason tradition continues to bring past and present Bulldog athletes together and raise money for the Katke Golf Course and Ferris Athletics.

Reaching the standard

Ferris football attempts the climb back to the top

Caden Hofmann
Sports Reporter

Over the last 10 seasons, the Ferris State Bulldogs have cemented themselves as blue blood in the world of DII college football, making the playoffs nine consecutive seasons which is the most of any DII team.

To pair along with the consecutive playoff berths, the Bulldogs have reached the national championship three times and the semi-finals four times.

Ever since winning their first DII national title in 2021,

championships have been the expectation for the Ferris State football team and the players are aware of that.

"The standard here is winning national championships," senior quarterback Trinidad Chambliss said. "We have to take it game by game, we all hate losing way more than we love winning."

In 2022, the Bulldogs lived up to the expectations again claiming back-to-back national titles.

However, Ferris' 2023 season would be cut short in the first round of the playoffs at the hands of rival Grand Val-

ley State University.

Not being able to reach the expectations and the standard of winning at the highest level was something that head coach Tony Annese had to think about going into the offseason.

"Are we growing as a program," Annese said. "Are we too complacent? I was one that really had to do an evaluation on that. We talked a lot about accountability in the offseason."

CONT. ON PG. 11



Photo Credit: Ni'Jah Rankin | Culture Reporter
The Ferris State Bulldogs are the fourth pick nationally in the 2024 preseason rankings, as

REACHING THE STANDARD CONT.

Complacency is a difficult topic to handle when talking about winning back-to-back national championships because there is nowhere else to go. You've reached the pinnacle of the sport and that is every team's desire at the

end of the day.

"I'd say it was a little bit of complacency," Chambliss said. "After the back-to-back championships we were on a pretty big high, we almost got used to winning"

Coming into this year, the Bulldogs hold the same goals but have added more discipline and a chip on their shoulder

"It started with a chip on our shoulder about how the season ended last year," Annese said. "Guys came into winter conditioning and worked hard."

The pressure for the team this year is evident and the players have welcomed that pressure.

"We signed up for this," Chambliss said. "We know

what is at stake for the program and we know we have to do our jobs to be successful, it is kind of stressful but its a long season we can't let that get to us."

Looking ahead to this season, the Bulldogs will be doing everything they can to add another trophy to their collection.

Even with how college foot-

ball is today with so much roster turnover and new faces each year, Ferris is returning a lot of production and has added key pieces through the recruiting trail and the transfer portal.

The players know how important cohesion at this level is.

"Everyone is on the same page, the camaraderie that

we have on this team has really shown up in camp," Chambliss said. "The chemistry we have is special."

Ferris will open up their season on the road on Saturday, August 31, against the nationally ranked No.5 team Pittsburg State.

The bulldog buzz

Four Ferris sports storylines to keep an eye on this year

Connor Grypma
Sports Editor

With brand new seasons on the horizon for Bulldog athletics, there are many storylines to watch over the 2024-2025 period. Here are a few specifically to focus on.

Gridiron revenge tour

With football season rapidly approaching, the Bulldog football team is looking to reinsert themselves as a championship team.

During the one-game suspension of head coach Tony Annese, the Bulldogs lost in the first round of the playoffs to rival Grand Valley State last season. Annese and the staff made their disapproval clear but quickly started working toward next year behind a strong recruiting class including multiple four-star recruits. Among the new Bulldog faces this season is returning linebacker Konnor Near, who rejoins Ferris after playing for the Oklahoma Sooners last season.

Despite the lackluster result of the 2023-2024 campaign, the Bulldogs roll into the 2024-2025 season projected to win the GLIAC conference in the league preseason poll with their eyes set on another national

championship.

Bob Daniels reaching 500 total wins

Bob Daniels has held down the Ferris hockey squad as head coach for over 30 years and now enters the 2024-2025 campaign just three victories away from 500 all-time wins. Sporting a 497-605-114 record, Daniels has become the face of Bulldog hockey and continues to add to his extensive resume as the years pass. Bob ranks 32nd amongst all-time Division I hockey coaches, in terms of total wins. The Bulldog hockey team saw a lot of changes through the transfer portal this offseason, but Daniels remains determined to lead the team to new success.

Basketball teams look to capitalize off historic runs

After thrilling campaigns for both the men's and women's teams last season, both basketball programs are looking to capitalize on their recent success for their upcoming bouts. The men's team finished last season at 28-8. They made their first Elite Eight since 2018, alongside a regional championship. Despite the success, head coach Andy Bronkema and the returning Bulldogs

seek revenge and an NCAA Championship this upcoming season.

Meanwhile, the women's squad reached the Final Four with a school record for most wins in a season with 26. They also captured their first regional championship in school history. Seniors Chloe Idoni, Mallory McCartney and Amaka Unobagha have since graduated, but the team led by head coach Kurt Westendorp is looking to extend their winning ways regardless.

Volleyball hopes to reach new heights

Women's volleyball continued adding to their powerhouse program with a GLIAC championship win and a third straight trip to the regional finals. However, all three of those matches have ended in a loss. Head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm is looking to get the team over the hump, with a large majority of last year's GLIAC championship team returning to the floor this year. Volleyball will kick off their season at the West Texas A&M University Invitational on September 5-7.



Photo Courtesy of Ferris Athletics
Basketball player Deng Reng enters his senior year with over one hundred fifty points earned throughout the twenty-eight games played last season.



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