



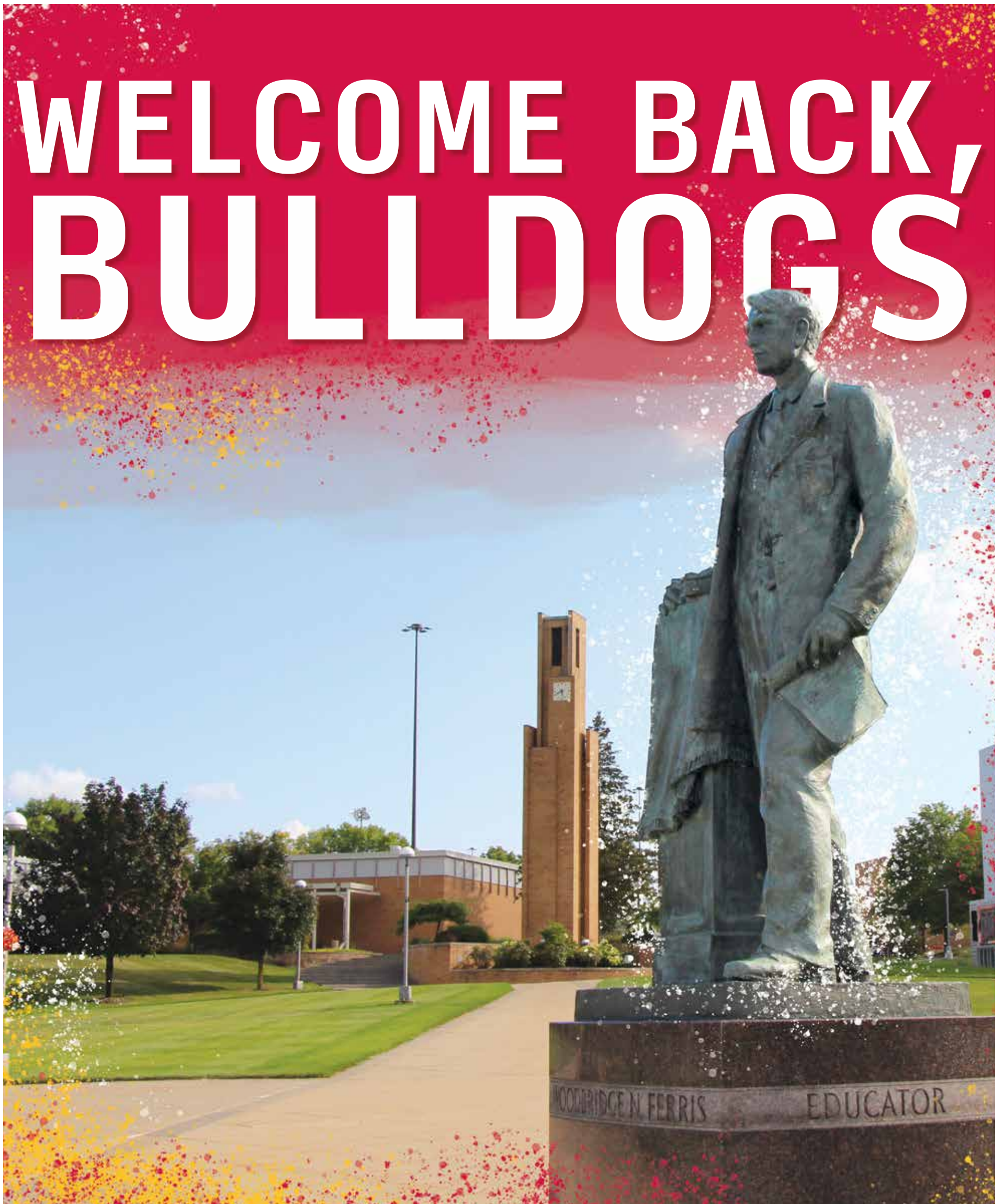
The Ferris State Torch

95 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of August 27 - Sept. 3, 2025

www.fsutorch.com



Photographic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

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News

Emma Walters | News Editor | waltere8@ferris.edu

Michigan

Emma Walters
News Editor

Detroit police are currently investigating a fatal shooting that killed a 16-year-old boy on Aug. 23, around 8:15 p.m. The individual was found unresponsive near the Adams Butzel Complex. The boy was taken to a local hospital, where he passed away from his injuries.

The Detroit Police Department's homicide division is investigating the incident. Currently, no suspects are in custody.

National

Emma Walters
News Editor

Millions of people on the west side of the country are facing extreme heat conditions projected over the next week. According to the National Weather Service, temperatures are expected to reach over 100 °F in parts of California, Oregon and Washington.

The heat wave comes in addition to dry conditions, elevating fire risk and flammable conditions. Wildfires have already begun in parts of Oregon and California, with the Pickett Fire already scorching over 6,800 acres of Napa County.

The Flat Fire taking place in central Oregon has burned more than 21,000 acres as of Aug. 24. Weather conditions are projected to make containing the fires increasingly difficult, raising potential for further environmental damage.

Global

Emma Walters
News Editor

20 people have been killed in an Israeli strike on the Nasser hospital in the southern Gaza strip, according to the territory's health ministry. Five of the people killed were journalists working for the international media.

These latest deaths bring the number of journalists killed in Gaza since Oct. 2024 to nearly 200. According to the Committee to Project Journalists, the war in Gaza has become the deadliest conflict for journalists ever documented.

This attack has come two weeks after six journalists were killed in a targeted attack near al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

Marching band prepares for debut

Marching band gets ready to return to Ferris after nearly three decades



Photo by: Daniel Atwood

Ferris State's Marching band gets ready for their comeback season.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

Nothing is more American than a football game on a cool fall day, to the soundtrack of various brass, percussion and woodwind instruments of the marching band. For the first time since the 1990s, that sound is set to return to Bulldog football games.

The marching band had been a staple for Ferris since it was started in 1955, performing for a wide variety of campus events. Their biggest event was performing at President Richard Nixon's second inauguration in 1973 in Washington, D.C. In the mid-1990s, the band dissolved for various reasons, such as a waning student interest and a downsizing of university programs and activities.

The director of the marching band, Dr. Daniel Atwood, had set a goal of 55 members, but ultimately exceeded his expectations, recruiting 77 members in total.

Biology Education junior

Josh Smith, who plays baritone saxophone in the band, believes the marching band will not only benefit the university but also the Big Rapids community.

"I think a marching band will bring joy, excitement and hype to college gameday," Smith said. "It will bring an already excellent atmosphere to a national championship-winning team, but we also will be bringing that excitement to the community and beyond."

The band will be at every home game for hockey, basketball and volleyball, but they will be playing as a pep band. During every football game the band will suit up as the marching band, performing for a pregame show as well as a halftime show.

Not only will they be playing for Ferris, they will also be playing at the season closing game for the West Michigan Whitecaps at LMCU Ballpark, while playing an exhibition performance for a regional high school marching band competition.

The band has been hard at work every day preparing for the upcoming school year, and assistant director Micah Laird knows his band members will be ready for the school year.

"Our members have been hard at work for the last two weeks rehearsing 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday learning and memorizing music," Laird said. "Everyone has been learning our style of movement and marching, as we are trying to create as unified of a look as possible in addition to learning our drill or movement on the field for pregame and halftime."

The band will also be reaching out to help the community of Big Rapids.

Dr. Atwood has plans for the band to be involved in several community service events, from performing at civic functions and parades to providing music and drumming workshops for elementary students in the area.

Dr. Atwood believes the marching band can help grow the university.

"The marching band will benefit the university in so many ways," Atwood said. "First I think of the recruitment and retention aspects of the marching band. The band will not only attract students to Ferris, but also help retain students who now have an organization whose members they think of as family. It gives all of our students a sense of belonging. Second, the marching band will serve as a form of publicity for the university. We will not only be performing on campus at athletic events, but we will be performing in the community and promoting our university. Third, the band will bring the pageantry of the college gameday experience to a whole new level."

The band will return to the Ferris campus on Thursday, Aug. 28, for the first game and home opener of the football season for the Bulldogs against the Pittsburg State Gorillas.

Dean of Admissions Q&A

Jeremy Lane shares plans for his new position

Emma Walters
News Editor

Jeremy Lane began his tenure at Ferris earlier this summer as the new Dean of Admissions.

Q.) What is your background, and how did you end up at Ferris?

A.) “I grew up in Flint, and as a part of the King-Chavez-Parks programs, my trip to Ferris at 13 years old was the first campus that made college really feel attainable. They didn’t show us massive lecture halls where you felt like you’re a number. It was these classroom sizes that were quite comparable to what I had in my high school. And college felt attainable after that. Fast forward, when I went to college, I became a super active student where I had the opportunity to be student body president and I also had a chance to be a trustee at my undergrad institution. That really showed higher ed to me as a career path. It all became about outreach and engaging with students and really seeing myself as someone who can relate to the first-gen kid. I saw the opportunity to come to Ferris, learn about the actual Ferris story and what students here were experiencing and it really felt like it was an opportunity that I couldn’t pass up.”

Q.) What are your goals for the admissions process?

A.) “My objective is to expand our efficiency, making sure that we’re communicating information in a timely fashion. We know that college is a big decision to make for a lot of families and a lot of our students are first-gen, or the finances matter, the program choice matters. We are making sure that we give our students information on the front end, in addition to collaboration. What do we need to do to expand our communication? What do we need to do to expand those conversations and things like that? With students, we encourage them to come, but to take a step further to see how we can improve on and be able to articulate the campus community. For example, if you are traveling, wear a Ferris shirt. Little things like that to express the how and the why.”

Q.) What role do you play in the promotion of Ferris?

A.) “We do high school visits all over the state. We do all the college fairs. We conduct classroom presentations, application seminars and similar events. We have recruiters who, if they are not placed somewhere, travel all around. We now have two out-of-state recruiters who are dedicated

to working outside the state of Michigan. With the unification of KCAD, we have been given access to some of the things and fairs that they’ve always done. Now we can not only go for a KCAD presentation, but we also have a Ferris State person there as an opportunity as well.”

Q.) What are your plans going forward with Ferris admissions?

A.) “We’re looking at hosting more workshops and application sessions in some of our more rural and our more urban counties, because in some of those situations, notoriety and knowing may be a challenge, but secondary access may also be a challenge. There are some places across the state that I intend for us to take a little snippet of Ferris to. You’re going to have some admissions folks, you’re going to have some financial aid folks, you may have some folks from student life come over and talk about the Ferris story. As always, the story is better told with current students. We do have tour guides, orientation leaders and things of that nature. We’re hoping that we can take advantage of those things and let them tell the student story.”

Q.) How do you plan to promote a diverse admissions pool?

A.) There is a lot of effort being put in place to make sure there is a right fit for students—our programs that are workforce ready, our scholarships that are really strong scholarships. There are a lot of state funds available to support students as well, which can change the life of a student. That is a very useful tool when you start talking about first-gen populations, urban learning centers, rural settings and things of that nature. The objective is to really find the right students to showcase that Ferris is the right fit for them and that’s really how we work to diversify our campus.”

Q.) Is there anything you would like students to know about the services that the admissions office offers?

A.) “Check their university wide messaging, check their navigate with everything that we send out. Check out Scholarship Universe and read what is there. Apply for scholarships. Sometimes, we have scholarships that we need to award to students, but we haven’t been able to award because either someone didn’t apply or they didn’t read the fine print, like completing the FAFSA. And, if you have a relative or a friend or anyone that you think may be interested in Ferris, bring them to a Dawg



Photo by: Blase Gapinski | Editor in Chief

The Timme Center for Student Services is home to many essential student services in one location.

Day. Bring them to a campus tour, let them see what the campus community has to offer. There are a lot of narratives about what higher education means and about what it means to be a traditional four year institution. I can only tell the story so well, but they want to hear from a student, because they have done things here and have a competitive advantage that I simply don’t have.”

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WHERE CAN STUDENTS FIND JOBS?

Students can find jobs posted on Ferris360 or on the Ferris State University Career Website.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO WORK ON CAMPUS?

Students must typically be enrolled at least half time to be eligible to work on campus. Half time for undergraduate students is six credits, while half time for graduate students is five credits.

HOW MANY HOURS CAN YOU WORK?

Students are allowed to work up to 24 hours per week during the academic year (fall/spring semesters).

WHAT KIND OF JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are a variety of jobs available on campus, including in-dining facilities, residence halls, UREC, academic offices, grounds crew and several other departments across campus.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A WORK STUDY?

Some campus jobs require that you have a work study to apply for them. This is a financial aid program that is awarded to eligible students based on their financial aid application. Work study jobs are funded by the federal government, and the student wages do not come out of the departmental budget. Because the student salary is paid by these funds, some departments only hire students with work study funding. This is typically listed in the description of the job.

Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

ON THE
RECORD

Emma Walters
News Editor

Not drunk, just high

Aug. 24, 12:59 a.m. - Ferris State University police stopped a vehicle after failure to stop at a sign located on Ives Avenue in Big Rapids. The driver showed signs of impairment and refused a breathalyzer test. Officers found evidence of drug use in the vehicle and the driver was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated/Operating with the Presence of Drugs. The individual was housed at the Mecosta County Jail and blood analysis is pending.

No license, big problem

Aug. 24, 1:19 a.m. - Officers stopped a vehicle on South State Street for failure to signal and other driving concerns. The driver did not possess a valid license, did not provide proof of insurance and was unable to get a licensed driver to the scene. The individual was issued an appearance ticket, and the vehicle was towed and impounded.

Down the drain

Aug. 22, 7:00 p.m. - An RA conducting rounds in a campus resident hall discovered alcohol and a drinking game in a student's room. The resident was under the legal drinking age and voluntarily disposed of the alcohol with the RA present. The incident was documented, and no further alcohol was found in the room.

Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Beyond the degree

Pursuing the college dream



Photo by: Grace Heethuis | Culture Editor
Quinn Dinda (left) and Charlie Arellano (right) taking first day photos for Ferris’ social media while handing out popsicles and bottles of water.

Tate Zellman
Freelance Reporter

Going to college is about getting a degree, but it’s also about pursuing dreams and passions, and the start of students making their mark on the world.

Every student wants to earn a certain degree or receive an education, but they all have their different reasons and stories for attending college. These can include pursuing their passions and dreams as well as attending Ferris to ensure that they’re ready for the next steps after college.

Not only that, but students come from a variety of backgrounds, childhoods and past life experiences that influenced their passions that they’re pursuing today.

Computer networking junior Jonathan Sawyer orig-

inally pursued interests in coding; however, over time, he found something else he wanted to pursue, even though his mother had a similar job.

“I chose college and Ferris specifically because the job I want to go into is easier if you have a college degree,” Sawyer said. “And Ferris has one of the best programs to make me a better candidate. My mom does a similar job to my degree, but she had no effect on my decision. I originally started going into college wanting to be a coder, but I had taught myself how to code already so the classes bored me. I then took a class in computer networking, and I found it so fascinating and interesting to work with.”

College is a time when students decide what they want to do with their futures,

regardless of what kind of background they come from. Sometimes that means pursuing their dreams after they’ve graduated.

First-year PharmD graduate student Meri Cox is continuing to follow her dreams by attending Ferris. Furthermore, Ferris is one of the few options that Cox could choose for her specific program.

“There are only three schools in Michigan with PharmD programs, the others being in Detroit and Ann Arbor,” Cox said. “So, Ferris was the perfect fit for me because of its small-town feel. Ferris is allowing me to fulfill my dreams of being a pharmacist so I can help others feel better, and Ferris is known as the best pharmacy school in Michigan, and maybe one of the best in the country. I want to get the

best education I can so that I can have the greatest head start I can when becoming a pharmacist.”

For some, graduation is not the end of the college experience. Depending on the degree, additional schooling is required, but that is just another step of the journey for students striving to accomplish their goals and dreams.

Business administration freshman Cole Slagle finds that attending Ferris is more important than just receiving a business degree.

“It is important for me to be at Ferris for my future profession because I want to have experience and real-world knowledge that internships and future business-oriented classes will provide for me,” Slagle said.

Slagle also stated his past experiences in business

have all been very beneficial towards his future.

“My past experiences working with businesses have been very positive,” Slagle said. “Learning about all the different parts of a business made me appreciate the skills it takes to manage the people, the money and the different roles. And that

skill is one that I would love to learn through my times at Ferris.”

Every student has their own journey while in college. What matters is that all students enjoy their unique journey, despite the trials, and do whatever it takes to make sure that they pursue what they love.



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MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
				AUGUST	27	28		29	
				Adopt-A-Plant 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at DEC Center for Student Involvement Office of Multicultural Student Services Open House 4–5 p.m. at FLITE Room 159 Magician & Mentalist Matt the Knife 7–8:30 p.m. at DEC Ballrooms B and C		Drop/Add Classes closes at 5 p.m. Class drop for non-payment Founders' Day Presidential Address 11 a.m.–12 p.m. in DEC Ballroom C Founders' Day Ice Cream Social 2:30–5:30 p.m. at Robinson Quad		Make Your Own License Plate/Street Sign 1–3 p.m. at DEC Center for Student Involvement	
SEPTEMBER	1	2		3		4		5	
Labor Day (no classes)		Study Abroad 101 Workshop 11 a.m.–12 p.m. at IRC Room 137 Grocery Bingo 6–7 p.m. at DEC Rankin Lounge Fireplace Stage		Michigan Secretary of State Mobile Office Campus Tour 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at DEC Room 116 Team Trivia 6:30–7:45 p.m. at The Quad Cafe		LGBTQ+ Rock Painting and Craft Day 12–1 p.m. at the Robinson Quad Plan Your Planner 12–4 p.m. at DEC Room 116 Office of Multicultural Student Services - Get Acquainted Day 4–6 p.m. at Robinson Quad		Custom Hat Bar: Design Your Own Cap 1–3 p.m. at DEC Center for Student Involvement	
8		9		10		11		12	
LGBTQ+ Monday Morning Momentum: Coffee on the Quad 9–11 a.m. at Robinson Quad Don't Skip Consent 11 a.m.–1 p.m. at DEC 1st floor, Table 3		The Career and Professional Success Grand Showcase 1–4 p.m. at DEC Room 120		Bulldog Bonanza 4–7 p.m. at Robinson Quad				2025 Celebration of Student Research & Creative Activities Symposium 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at DEC Ballrooms A and B	
15		16		<div>SCAN THE QR CODES FOR MORE EVENTS AND INFORMATION.</div> <div></div> <div>ACADEMIC CALENDAR</div> <div></div> <div>ferris.edu/academics/calendars</div> <div>EVENTS CALENDAR</div> <div></div> <div>ferris.edu/calendar</div>					
Student Life and Career Professional Success Volunteer Event 11 a.m.–3 p.m. at DEC Room 203		What's Your Learning Style Workshop 5–6 p.m. at FLITE Room 120							

Freshmen perspectives

New bulldogs anticipate the semester’s activities



Photo by: Abe Kraus | Multimedia Editor

Ferris students at the quad enjoying the silent disco.

Grace Heethius
Culture Editor

With a new semester comes a calendar filled with events and activities, ranging from comedians to club sports. Campus is bubbling with life and excitement for the new semester, but what do the bulldogs think about these events?

Ferris has a wide range of events, activities and registered student organizations in hopes of drawing students out to connect and see what college life is all about. Among the students looking forward to the new semester are many freshmen looking to make connections and memories.

It is especially important for the university to consider incoming freshmen when choosing events for the se-

mester, as they are trying to figure out where they belong in a new space.

Freshman social work major Taryah Johnson shared what she is looking forward to starting out her freshman year.

“[I’m looking forward to] drag bingo and checking out Greek Life,” Johnson said.

However, she also emphasized the importance of spreading the word on campus about upcoming events, so that more people have the opportunity to attend.

“I think events should be broadcast a little more because for us freshmen, it’s hard to find them, especially not knowing where everything is,” Johnson said.

Several freshmen have commented on the need to spread the word about what events are taking place,

specifically during welcome weekend. While Ferris typically puts information about events and activities in the dorms, popular hangout areas across campus are sometimes neglected.

Many welcome events are already underway, and there are more to come. Some of these events were dedicated to welcoming back all students, including a headphone disco, drag bingo, a late-night gathering in the David Eisler Center, speed friending and many more to come throughout the next few weeks.

Freshman general studies major Jayda Jones expressed her desire for Ferris to make information about events more widely available across campus.

“[Ferris should be] posting more announcements around the area, not just in

the dorms but more on campus,” Jones said.

Despite the challenges posed to freshmen when it comes to hearing about events, news of some events has reached them and made them excited for welcome weekend.

“I’m excited for drag bingo and the silent disco,” Jones said. “They all seem pretty fun, and I’ve heard about some different events coming up within these next three weeks.”

Campus is especially lively right now with all of the welcome weekend activities taking place, as well as students moving into their dorms and apartments. Walking through campus, many students can be spotted carrying boxes to their dorms, saying goodbye to their families and exploring what Ferris has to offer.

Events and activities on campus are exciting to many students, particularly freshmen who are just getting acquainted with their new campus and adjusting to college life. They are getting a feel for what the next chapter of their lives hold and exploring all of the places that will soon be so familiar to them.

Freshman radiography major Antonio Williams revealed why he believes that events and activities are so important for college students.

“I feel like it brings a sense of community, and community is important because it makes people feel at home,” Williams said. “It makes people feel more comfortable, and that is something you need to succeed.”

Events are a way for new and returning students to connect with others and build

a sense of community around them. Students have stated why they believe in the importance of such events and activities.

“[It’s important] to know your community and to make friends and be more involved,” Jones said.

Incoming freshmen have continually expressed their desire and belief in getting out of their dorms, making friends and getting involved with activities on campus.

For freshmen as well as many other students, activities and events are not just a bonus of being in college, but a necessity to find their place on campus and build a support system for themselves in order to thrive.

Opinions

Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor | mogliaj@ferris.edu

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Shifting perspectives

Choosing the right path



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Blase Gapinski Editor in Chief

It has taken me a long time and battling alone to realize that college isn't for everyone, and that is okay.

Going into my senior year, I've realized that my thoughts on college have changed every step of the way, which is a normal part of the experience. That being said, I still sometimes question whether this was the right path for me, even with graduation looming.

If you were to ask for my thoughts on college during my freshman year, I would have made it sound like a nightmare.

It was hard to adjust to being away from home for the first time, as many can imagine. Overwhelming feelings ended up taking over, and it stayed that way for quite some time. I just couldn't seem to shake this funk, no matter what I tried.

To be honest, it was my own mindset that led me to feel that way about college. I wasn't taking advantage of this new opportunity of freedom, and found myself complaining about the nature of college life, often stating that

I would much rather be at work.

This mindset started to plague how I viewed the college experience. I was going to classes four days a week with this chip on my shoulder about being there, pushing away friends and loved ones without realizing it and overall kept making decisions that were destroying my own mental health. I could no longer see the value in college, and my academics began to suffer because of it. After spring break, when it was far too late, I realized something needed to shift.

It wasn't an instant switch, but something flipped and I knew the only way things were going to improve was by my choices. I didn't have to love every waking minute of college, but I knew that I needed to find value in it.

I started to enjoy the small things, like planning to do homework with friends and meeting them in study rooms. This was also the time I realized I wanted to switch into the journalism and technical communication program, after thinking about how much I enjoyed my newspaper classes in high school.

The more I thought about

it, the more I realized that 'success' isn't one-size-fits-all. For some, success might mean completing a degree while for others it might mean taking a different route.

The problem comes when society makes us feel like we're failing if we don't follow a specific path. I've found that sometimes it's best to walk away from the traditional route if it doesn't fit.

By my sophomore year, I could really see the shift in my mindset. The decision to switch into the JTC program was a pivotal moment for me. It wasn't just an academic change; it felt like a real momentum shift.

After I got used to my classes, I decided to take up a freelance position with the Ferris State Torch. This is where I found a love for writing again and felt like I had a purpose. I was finally in my element.

But as life often does it threw my family and me a curveball. That summer of 2023 my dad and I were in a severe car accident that changed everything. My dad suffered life-altering injuries, losing his ability to work after spending two months in the hospital. Seeing him in that

amount of pain and not being able to just be our dad really took a toll on me and my family.

I had to deal with smaller injuries of my own, and some were so severe that I had no choice but to medically withdraw from school for the entire fall semester.

It was a dark time for me, not just because of the physical recovery but because I felt like I was losing my connection to school, my peers and The Torch.

But even in that downtime, I didn't give up on my goals. Despite not being on campus, I kept my sights on returning. I knew I was missing out on valuable experiences but I also realized that I needed this time to reflect, reset and come back stronger.

When I returned in the spring of 2024 it was no easy feat but it was surely a comeback. I threw myself back into school and The Torch and gave them everything I had in me. I ended up being offered an editorial position at the end of the semester which was something I had always considered but never believed I had it in me.

All of this has made me realize that college isn't for

everyone, and that's okay. For some, it's a place where you can test the waters of the real world, build your skills and discover your passions. But for others, college might not be the best fit and that's perfectly valid too.

It's all about knowing what you want from life and not letting society's expectations dictate your path. College should be a place where you can grow but that doesn't mean it's the only place where growth happens.

For anyone reading this, my advice would be to really take the time to know what you want before you go to college. If you're unsure, that's okay and even if you end up regretting some of the choices you make, try to find value in them.

Take it from me. My journey wasn't a straight line and I've definitely faced some tough moments where I question where I am at. But now, looking back, I can say I truly started from the bottom, and now I'm here.

A wake up call

It's not my generations responsibility to fix the declining birth rate



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Harmony Goodman
Production Manager

In a world where news is mostly spread digitally, it's almost impossible not to be on social media and know what's going on in the world. However, every time I open social media, I feel like I am suffocating. There's so much bad in the world that we just choose to ignore it. It's a mentality that if it doesn't hurt me or involve me, why should I care? I hate that I live in a world of bystanders. I promise you, the idea of being a mother has been drilled into me before. I've been told that once I am a mother, I will find my purpose. But why can't my purpose be about me? Is it too selfish to want to accomplish something in my life with or without kids? I understand that life is a beautiful thing and we're all brought into this world, but at the end of the day, people will still have kids, so why does it matter so much if I am a parent or not? Raising kids isn't for everyone, and it most definitely isn't my purpose in life. We've just been poisoned so much

by our society's sexist beliefs that we've forgotten to be human. I've always told myself that I would adopt or foster, once I was in a position to take care of kids. The truth is, I have a lot of stuff to figure out, and I also have a lot of things to heal from. The last thing I would want is to bring a child into a world that's dying. I already have so much anxiety about the future because of the state of the world right now. We've done irreversible things to our planet and its ecosystem. Not to mention, I'm not even sure how I will afford to live on my own, even with a degree. So, how is it going to be for our future generations? To me, adopting seems like the only logical choice. Kids in the adoption and foster system deserve as much of a chance as everyone else. It's true, it's an expensive process, and I want you to know I am not shaming anyone who wants to be a biological mother. I couldn't care less if the child I am raising has my DNA, I'm still going to love and care for them regardless. I am aware that the birth

rate is important; we need enough people to come in and work when our older generations retire in order to keep the economy going. However, we also need to keep in mind that our planet is already overpopulated, and with all the new advances in AI, we've replaced jobs. I don't say this because I don't embrace technology; I think it's useful, but AI isn't. AI is problematic and damaging to our environment. The job market is already bad as it is. If we need more people, and everyone is hiring, how come nobody actually hires? To me, it just doesn't seem like that big of a deal. If anything, a declining birth rate could be more beneficial to our society. The selfish choice isn't not wanting kids, it's only caring about the money our people produce rather than the people behind the money. I don't want to bring life into a world we've failed in; it just doesn't seem fair. If the generations before me really cared so much about kids, they should've listened and taken better care of our planet.

Getting involved

Why students should take opportunities to be a part of campus life

Tate Zellman
Freelance Reporter

For all college students, especially freshmen, it's important for everyone to get involved in campus life sooner, rather than later. College is not just about getting an education. While that is very important, there's more to college than just studying and doing homework. College provides so many opportunities for students to meet others, have fun and do things that make them feel right at home. During my freshman year, I experienced homesickness. Even though I was only about an hour away from home, I struggled at first being away. But I was able to overcome that homesickness because I got myself involved and kept myself active while I was on campus. Doing that has reduced my homesickness, as well as my anxiety, tremendously. Dating back to my freshman year, I have attended various sporting events. I have gone to football games, basketball games and hockey games. Going to those has allowed me to have fun with my friends, classmates and

those in the Ferris community. Cheering on your student athletes and being a part of a fun atmosphere is always a great time. Intramural sports are another way to get involved on campus. I played flag football for only one year, but I enjoyed it. I got to make new friends, play a sport that I love to watch and I actually got to play against other Ferris students. The good thing is that you don't need tons of experience in order to get accepted into an intramural sport. They're open for all students to participate in and have a great time alongside one another. Besides sports, the university has various events that students can attend. These include karaoke nights, bingo nights, movie nights, homecoming, prom and so much more. I've been to a couple karaoke nights and went to the Second Chance Prom last year. Being a part of an atmosphere where students are not afraid to be themselves is truly amazing. Taking friends to these types of events can create memories for all of you that will last a lifetime. In the classroom, I am al-

ways introducing myself to my new professors and I'm saying hi to new and previous classmates. While some may find it easy to sit in the back and be quiet, sometimes that may not be the best thing to do. How will your professors and your classmates get to know you if you don't talk to them? Getting to know your classmates and professors is essential to succeeding in college. Your professors will have a better understanding of who you are if you talk to them. Plus, you never know what similar interests you'll have with your classmates and, which can be the start of multiple friendships. There are also various groups that you can join, such as RSOs, clubs and student-lead organizations. I think it is important for students to become members of one of these because they can help you make new friends, feel more connected to your community and it gives you something more to be a part of. The importance of getting involved with campus life early is that it builds more opportunities for you to enjoy your college experience. The



Photo courtesy of: Tate Zellman | Freelance Reporter

Zellman pictured to the right of Brutus with his friends at a hockey game

sooner you reach out to RSOs and the sooner you attend sporting events and campus events, the better you'll be for the rest of your college career. College is only four or more years. It may seem like a while, but time goes by quickly. I advise every student to get involved as soon as possible and find various ways to stay active with friends as that will ensure for a better college experience.

Sports

Nolan Matthews | Sports Editor | matthen4@ferris.edu

The incredible Gulk returns

Carson Gulker talks return after injury



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Senior, Carson Gulker returns after a devastating leg injury last season.

Devin Wardrop
Sports Reporter

After breaking his tibia and fibula diving in for a touchdown in week one of the 2024 season, junior quarterback Carson Gulker looks to make his triumphant return almost a year later.

In the 2022 season, during which the Bulldogs won the national championship, he threw for 701 yards with four touchdowns to three interceptions while running for 882 yards, averaging 4.7 yards per carry and 31 touchdowns.

In the 2023 season, Gulker threw for 722 yards with 10 touchdowns to zero interceptions, while adding 707

rushing yards, averaging 4.9 yards per carry with 14 touchdowns. His most prolific game came in the 2023 season against the Ashland Eagles, wherein he passed for 121 yards and three touchdowns while rushing 21 times for 138 yards and two touchdowns.

In 2024, he was named the starting quarterback, and in the two games he started, he went a combined 3-4 in passing for 27 yards and one touchdown, as well as rushing the ball 10 times for a combined 98 yards. In those two games, he shared the backfield with quarterback Trinidad Chambliss, who took on a bigger role following Gulker's injury.

Head coach Tony Annese spoke about Gulker's time during preseason camp.

"Yeah he's back to 100% now and has been rolling really well," Annese said. "He's had a good camp, and he's been doing a nice job, and we're very confident in his skill set and ability to run the offense."

Chambliss led the team as the sole quarterback last season. Chambliss, who still had a year of college eligibility, transferred to the University of Mississippi. With that change, Gulker will be the starting quarterback to start the season. During last season Gulker watched from the sidelines as Ferris won game after game and, eventually,

won the National Championship for the third time since 2021. Gulker spoke about his new role with the team now that he wasn't on the field.

"Watching the team's success was really awesome," Gulker said. "Maybe a little bittersweet because I did want to be able to be out there, but I was super proud of how the team played. My role kind of had to change to just being the best teammate I could be. I was just really proud of those guys."

Following his recovery, Gulker was allowed to play football and is currently a full participant in training camp, and he impressed senior wide receiver Cam

Underwood both on and off the field during his recovery.

"The man is a warrior," Underwood said. "The way he's attacked recovery, you'd think he never missed a snap. As a receiver, it fires me up because I know he's going to give everything he's got, and that makes you want to match that intensity. I'm beyond excited to see him bounce back and remind everyone why he's the best."

Gulker suffered the injury in early September, and he was back on his feet running by December, but still with some pain. It wasn't until April that he felt like he was better. Like many athletes who suffer this injury, Gulker wasn't allowed to put any

weight on his leg for almost three months during recovery, which transitioned into physical therapy to regain the strength in the leg.

Gulker is ready to be suited up and back on the field for the first time since last September.

"I am super excited to be healthy again and be able to get back out there and compete again," Gulker said. "I'm a competitor and I'm just so excited to be able to compete again and be back out there with all the guys."

Gulker's first game back since week one of the 2024 season will be on Thursday, Aug. 28, at home vs Pittsburg State at 7 p.m.

Return of the champions

Tony Annese and the Bulldogs high expectations



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Ferris State football plans to hit the ground running.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

After winning their third national championship in four years, only eight months ago, Tony Annese and the Bulldogs are set to return to the field this week. The number one-ranked Ferris returns to Top Taggart Field to face off in a week zero matchup against the team that served them their only loss last season, the Pittsburg State Gorillas. The Bulldogs are no longer the same team they were eight months ago, as they have lost many star players to the transfer portal, including Harlon Hill finalist quarterback Trinidad Chambliss, who transferred to Ole Miss. They also lost running

back Kannon Katzer to West Virginia, left tackle Bryce George to Iowa, right tackle Lawrence Hattar to Michigan, linebacker Sefa Saipaia to Western Michigan and wide receiver Tyrese Hunt Thompson to North Texas. The Bulldogs did retain multiple key players who entered the transfer portal, like offensive linemen seniors Tim and Bob Anderson, defensive back senior Justin Payoute and slot receiver junior Deion Small. For former national champion and current assistant running backs coach Noah Kindle, this team is still hungry for more, and he knows this team can win yet another championship. “We lost some playmakers, but the culture and ex-

pectations are still the same as last year,” Kindle said. “The energy in the locker room is hungry and competitive; our guys are ready to make their own mark. The standard hasn’t changed for us, and our guys understand that wearing a Ferris State jersey means carrying on that championship mindset each and every day.” The Bulldogs will return to their two-quarterback system, as last year, with the injury of junior Carson Gulker, Chambliss took over the duties of quarterback. With the loss of Chambliss to Ole Miss, it will be Gulker, sophomore Chase Carter and redshirt freshman Wyatt Bower splitting the reps for this season. Head coach Tony Annese

has faith in his quarterback’s abilities and knows they will run the offense well. “We’re going to be using Chase Carter and Wyatt Bauer alongside Carson Gulker,” Annese said. “They’re all very capable of being able to run our offense.” As for the loss of Katzer, his replacement will be junior Zak Ahern, who was the backup running back last year for the Bulldogs, rushing for 195 yards, averaging 5.6 yards per carry, with six touchdowns on the year. With his biggest game of the year being in the second round of the playoffs against Central Oklahoma, where he ran four times for 69 yards and two touchdowns, with 65 of those yards coming on a touchdown run to make the

score 76-16. On the recruiting trail, the Bulldogs secured multiple top recruits in Michigan, receiving commits from three different three-star recruits, such as edge rusher Warren Cain from Davison, wide receiver Calondrey Hardy from Central High School in Detroit and wide receiver Jami Williams from Catholic Central in Grand Rapids. The Bulldogs also received commits from multiple two-star recruits in edge rusher Kade Friesen from Rockford, quarterback Sante Gasperoni from De La Salle in Warren and athlete Marquis Peoples Jr from Belleville. Gulker believes this team is still great and knows the Bulldogs can keep succeeding despite their losses

during the offseason. “The team is feeling great, we wish all of our guys who left the best, and we are rooting for them,” Gulker said. “We are focused on getting better each and every day, but the biggest thing that we need to do is continue to grow each and every day. If we focus on us and nobody else, and just continue to have that growth mindset, I think we will be a great team. The reigning national champion Bulldogs will return to Top Taggart Field for the first game of their season on Thursday, Aug. 28, against the Pittsburg State Gorillas at 7 p.m.

Bulldogs back to the pitch

Women’s soccer looks ahead to upcoming season

Devin Wardrop
Sports Reporter

With the women’s soccer preseason camp underway and the season starting in just a few weeks, the team is looking forward to the upcoming season.

With the 2024 season, the Bulldogs went 8-7-4 (7-6-2 in GLIAC) on their way to a spot in the GLIAC tournament, where they lost in the quarterfinals to the Davenport Panthers 1-0. Ferris State went 3-5-3 at home and 5-2-1 when on the road.

The preseason fall camp is already underway, and head coach Greg Hensen talked a little about the team this

season.

“We are excited for the upcoming season to officially get underway in the next few weeks as we prepare for our season opener on September 4th, followed by our home opener on Sunday, September 7th,” Hensen said. “We have a strong group of returners bolstered by a talented and large group of incoming players, including 11 freshmen and 3 transfers. The team is focused on getting better every day, and with the aim of being ready to play a very tough regional opponent in Cedarville University on the 4th.”

Last season, the Bulldogs were third in the conference

with 28 goals, third in assists with 23, third in shots on goal with 130, second with a 1.47 goals per game average, and recorded 0.89 yellow cards per game and no red cards in the entire season, which was an eight-way tie in the conference.

In the 2024 campaign, junior forward Katherine Welch was the team’s points leader with 16 points. Welch also led the team in assists with six, tied with junior forward Haley Buckman, with five goals on the year, and led the team with 47 shots.

Welch is looking forward to the upcoming season, especially with the team’s current look, and believes they can

grow from last season.

“I am extremely excited to begin this new season with such an amazing team,” Welch said. “We are in the process of learning to be a team that gives 100%, 100% of the time on and off the field. I believe with that mindset, our team will be able to do great things this year, and I can’t wait to continue to grow with everyone this season.”

Freshman Morgan Fillion led the goalies with 54 saves per game for a save percentage of .750, which was eighth in the GLIAC last season. Fillion ended the season with five shutouts, which was sixth in the conference.


Ferris State currently sits at fourth in the GLIAC Pre-season coaches’ poll, behind the Northern Michigan Wildcats, the Grand Valley State Lakers, and the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals, with Northern Michigan winning the GLIAC last season.



Senior defender Bella Vallone is excited for the new girls to join the team and be a part of their special team culture.

“The season is approaching fast, and we’re in our preseason right now, which I believe is going very well,” Vallone said. “In my opinion, it’s been going great. They are picking up very fast and being absorbed quickly into

how we do things. Team culture is huge for our team, so making the 13 new players feel welcomed and supported is our number one goal, especially when we have several incoming players who will have huge impacts this season.”

The Bulldog’s season opener is Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Cedarville University Yellowjackets. The home opener will be Sunday, Sept. 7, at 1 p.m. vs. the University of Indianapolis Greyhounds.





Brown's

BARBERSHOP

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Monday 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM	Tuesday 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM	Wednesday CLOSED	Thursday 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM	Friday 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM	Saturday 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Sunday CLOSED
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Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics
Women's soccer looks forward to a fresh start.