



Ferris celebrates Founder's Day

Honoring our founders

Davaria Pharr
News Reporter

Ferris State University marked Founders' Day on Aug. 28 with reflection and celebration, honoring those who built the institution while looking toward its future.

Founders' Day is an annual event held at the beginning of the school year to update students on the university's plans and goals.

In his speech, President Bill Pink emphasized the university's commitment to improving student life. He highlighted plans for new dorms and better living spaces, emphasizing that priority is to be placed on current students rather than focusing only on those yet to arrive.

Pink stated that campus life is central to student success and that updating living conditions remains a key step in supporting retention and creating a sense of belonging.

Pink further acknowledged that some facilities are outdated and explained that investing in residential spaces would also be an investment in Ferris' future.

"Our students deserve to feel at home here," Pink said. "It's not just about attracting the next class and about taking care of the students who are already working hard every single day at Ferris."

The president also praised professors and staff for their role in shaping student achievement.

Pink expressed gratitude for the dedication of the professors and emphasized that the work happening in classrooms has lasting effects on both students and the communities they serve after graduation.

"None of this is possible without the people who teach, mentor and support our students," Pink said. "If you have ideas about how we can do better, I want to hear them."

The afternoon celebration was located on the campus

quad, where tents, food stands and activity stations created a festival-like atmosphere.

Ice cream was provided to students, in addition to carnival games to compete in and a mechanical bull to ride.

The ice cream social gave students an opportunity to learn about things to do around campus through information tents, which students could visit to talk to members of RSOs and pick up free merch.

Vice President of Communications David Murray explained that founders' Day celebrates the Ferris mission and brings students together.

"Founders' Day is a wonderful opportunity to commemorate the mission set in place by Woodbridge and Helen Ferris as well as celebrate all the fantastic things happening on our campus today," Murray said. "It was so special to see students and employees coming together for events on the quad."

For many, the event was about more than just fun, it was a reminder of Ferris' traditions and a chance to build new connections.

Psychology junior Jordyn Watkins expressed doubt regarding the new building plans.

"I think that it's a good idea," Watkins said. "But Dr. Pink needs to focus on remodeling the old buildings instead of building new ones."

Event organizers said the ice cream social is one of the most popular traditions of the year, with hundreds of students attending.

They further emphasized casual environment makes it easy for students to meet new people, learn about registered student organizations (RSOs) and unwind early in the semester.

Nearby, lines for carnival games stretched across the quad as students tested their luck at ring toss, bean bag challenges and inflatable obstacle courses.

Accounting sophomore



Photo by: Shaunti'ara Reynolds | Photographer

Ferris Students checking out a vendor at Founders Day.

Almonique Strong emphasized the importance of comfortable living spaces for students.

"I think prioritizing stu-

dent living spaces is crucial," Strong said. "It affects how they learn. Students are a product of their environment."

Students also had the opportunity to talk to professor and other staff volunteering at the event.

The event wrapped up

with the kickoff of the home opening football game, which students were encouraged to attend and participate in the game's theme.

News

With prices increasing, questions are rising about how students will afford college. With the loan changes from the 'Big Beautiful Bill' set to go into effect in a year. **PG. 2**

Culture

It's officially tailgating season, and nobody is more enthusiastic than Bulldog students. In fact, one graduate has been continuing the tradition for over 50 years! **PG. 5**

Opinions

It seems like finding a job is getting harder and harder, but what are the consequences of generative AI on creative fields? **PG. 9**

Sports

A 5 time champion during his career, and a jack of all trades, learn about the career of Bulldogs slot receiver Brady Rose. **PG. 10**



News

Emma Walters | News Editor | walters8@ferris.edu

Michigan

Emma Walters
News Editor

A man was rescued after falling from a cliff on Mackinaw Island around 2:00 p.m. on Aug. 31. Rescue crews were sent to the scene following a dispatch call that stated the man fell from the cliff and broke his arm, stating that he was close to slipping further off the edge. The ladder crew was able to reach the man and escort him down safely. He was turned over to EMS and reported to be in stable condition.

National

Emma Walters
News Editor

Trump revoked Vice President Kamala Harris' secret service protection on Aug. 29. Vice presidents typically retain their secret service protection for six months after they leave office. In July, Harris received an extension, which was cancelled in a memorandum on Thursday, issued to start on Monday, Sept. 1. The cancellation comes just before Harris begins her nationwide tour for her newly published novel.

Global

Emma Walters
News Editor

More than 800 people died on the evening of Aug. 29 in Afghanistan following a 6.0 magnitude earthquake. The epicenter of the quake was in a mountainous region, making search and rescue efforts difficult. Currently, the extent of damage is unknown, but according to officials in the Kunar province, entire villages may have been destroyed. The Taliban government launched an appeal for aid following the earthquake.

'Big Beautiful Bill' uncertainty

Uncertainty in university loan changes



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Donald Trump signing the Big Beautiful Bill.

Emma Walters
News Editor

Earlier this year, the Trump Administration passed a new higher education budget as a part of the 'One Big Beautiful Bill'. Now, the future of student loans and finances at Ferris is uncertain. Signed into law in July 2025, several extended provisions are expected to take effect over the next year. Focused on the extension of personal tax rates that Trump previously signed into law in 2017, the bill also contributed to significant cuts in Medicaid and expanded qualification requirements for SNAP benefits. Among the provisions included were extensive changes to student loans. Included in these changes are new caps for loan borrowing, now set to \$20,500 a year and \$100,000 per lifetime for graduate students. Under the Act, loans for professional degrees, such as medical and law school, have also been given a new cap of \$50,000 per year and \$200,00 per lifetime. PLUS graduate loans have been eliminated under the Act.

Income-based repayment plans have been restructured under the Act as well, undoing the Biden Administration's SAVE program. Despite the changes stated in the Act, the timelines for the implementation of changes remain unclear. Ferris Vice President of Governmental Affairs Dan Eichinger explained that the process of determining exactly how students will be affected by these changes has not begun. "One of the big challenges we're going to have is that the detail of how programs are getting implemented is done through the federal rule-making process, and that hasn't started yet," Eichinger said. "The U.S. Department of Education has no clue how they're going to do that, and Congress has no idea how to direct the department to administer that program either." Eichinger also explained that employees who have been laid off at the Department of Education would have been assigned to much of the heavy lifting with these decisions, but those individuals are no longer there to facilitate that process.

Another provision of the One Big Beautiful bill was the addition of accountability earnings tests, which connect a school's access to federal student loans based on how much money their graduates are earning post-education. Eichinger expressed frustration over the lack of clarification within the reconciliation process. "The accountability provisions are a really good example of why the reconciliation process is a terrible way to do budgeting at the federal level," Eichinger said. "It makes a lot of assumptions about why people go to school in the first place. We don't know if there is going to be any shades of gray to allow people to find a different career path." The official process of how these tests will be handled remains undefined, with questions surrounding who will be responsible for conducting the tests, how the data will be handled and what would truly happen if a school were to fail the test. The student loan changes are stated to take effect in the summer of 2026, but the changing rules of policy implementation at the federal

level make it difficult to anticipate when final details will be communicated. Business Administration junior Natalie Langkam stated that for many students, loans are what allow them to earn an education. "I think it's important, so that school is more accessible for students," Langkam said. "I hope that Ferris would be able to help, if something happened, because students need them." The future of graduate students attending Ferris programs such as pharmacy or optometry would also be susceptible to changes under the bill. Manufacturing sophomore Wyatt Boersen explained that if graduate loans are not made available for students to use, they may have to look into different programs. "Things are changing in general, it kind of scares them away," Boersen said. "If I'm looking at a program, but I don't know if I'm going to be able to afford it, it's going to make me hesitant." The university will need to wait for decisions to be made on details of the new rules prior to figuring out how to package financial aid and assist students.

New clery officer assigned to DPS

Robert Glentz brings 25 years of law enforcement experience



Photo by: Blase Gapinski | Editor in Chief

DPS office is located on west campus.

Davaria Pharr
News Reporter

Robert Glentz has been named Ferris State University's new Clery Officer, stepping into a role that is central to keeping the campus informed, connected and safe. As Clery Officer, Glentz is responsible for ensuring the university complies with the federal Clery Act, a law that requires colleges and universities to report campus crime data, support prevention efforts and keep students, staff and visitors informed about safety issues. Duties include collecting and reporting crime statistics, training campus security authorities and issuing timely warnings or emergency notifications when situations arise that could pose a threat to the community. Glentz spent 25 years as a Michigan state police trooper with a focus on investigations, public safety and com-

munity policing. Glentz stated that his experience as a state trooper prepared him well for this new chapter at Ferris. "Being in law enforcement for so long gives you a perspective on how important community partnerships are," Glentz said. "Policing isn't just about responding to emergencies, it's about prevention, education and building trust. That's what I want to bring to Ferris." Glentz further emphasized that educating and empowering students is the main goal of his job. His position involves working directly with students, faculty and staff to promote campus safety, providing training on how to identify concerns and report incidents quickly. These efforts include training student leaders such as resident assistants and hall directors, sharing safety advisories and collaborating on

prevention programs. Glentz also partners closely with offices like Student Conduct, Title IX, Housing and Athletics to ensure students receive consistent support and messaging when it comes to safety issues. "We want students to look out for one another," Glentz said. "If someone notices something that doesn't feel right, we want them to know how to act, who to call, and what resources are available. That's how we keep our campus strong." Another key responsibility Glentz oversees is the Clery Daily Crime Log, a public record that tracks incidents reported to the Ferris Department of Public Safety (DPS). The log lists the nature of each crime, the date, time, location and case status. It is updated every two business days and made available both online at the campus safety website and in person at DPS. Glentz explained that the goal of the log is transparency. "The Daily Crime Log is there for everyone—students, staff, parents, or community members," Glentz said. "It gives people the ability to see what's happening on campus in real time and better understand trends. It's about giving people the tools to make informed decisions." For the upcoming year, Glentz has set clear goals focused on improving communication and awareness across the university. He plans to make timely warnings and safety adviso-

ries more student-friendly by including practical safety tips and easy-to-read information. He also aims to expand training for Campus Security Authorities and deepen partnerships with campus offices and student organizations. "Our goal is to be proactive, not just compliant with the law, but intentional about creating a culture where safety is part of everyday campus life," Glentz said. The hope is that strengthened relationships between DPS, students and faculty with more approachable communication will emphasize campus safety as not just another set of rules, but as a shared responsibility. Moreover, Glentz stated that safety for the community is not just something that police officers are involved in, but the entire community as well. "Safety isn't just my job, it's something we all contribute to," Glentz said. "When students feel empowered to report, to support one another, and to use the resources we have in place, everyone benefits." The Department of Public Safety is located at 1319 Cramer Circle. Students can anonymously report crimes or submit tips to bulldogstextip@ferris.edu.

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Student Government Plans

SGA outlines changes and plans for the 25-26 school year



Photo from Torch archives

Jake McGaha looking to make changes as the new president of the student government.

Emma Walters
News Editor

The Student Government Association is gearing up for another year of serving Ferris State University.

In previous years, the fall semester has served as a planning period for SGA, with events and volunteer opportunities sponsored by the organization making an appearance in the spring semester.

This year, SGA had the opportunity to plan over the summer, starting the fall semester with big organization changes.

President of SGA Jake McGaha stated that the organization has big marketing plans for the 25-26 school year.

“While SGA does have a

lot to offer, we need to focus on pushing out what we have to students,” McGaha said. “We’re finding all the social media to get more connected with the Big Rapids population as well, because we need to get our outreach.”

Formerly the Director of Operations and Vice President for the organization, McGaha was elected as president last spring.

In addition to advanced marketing, there are additional plans in place to promote organization of the association as a whole, with the intention to host a greater number of events that way.

Another big change for SGA this year is the implementation of the organization into larger discussions surrounding Ferris.

“In other universities, student government is so pivotal that when they’re sitting down to make a decision, if the student government president is not present during that meeting, they cannot make a vote,” McGaha said. “We are looking to try to integrate us more into the system and focus on that student perspective.”

McGaha also stated that SGA has created a feedback forum for students to use as an outlet to voice their opinions about things happening around campus.

The goal of the forum is to open the opportunity for more students to be heard and allow SGA to further their student representation efforts.

SGA holds several events

throughout the year, most notably the Big Event.

Typically held in the spring, the Big Event returned last year after a hiatus the year before.

Planning with SGA has historically been on and off, with events popping up last minute and lacking in engagement from students.

The new plans the association is implementing this semester are intended to reverse this trend, allowing for greater engagement among the Ferris State community.

Television and Media Production freshman Annah Ford expressed appreciation for the representation that SGA provides to students on campus.

“I think that it is very important that everybody can

feel heard,” Ford said. “It is important to feel like there are other students that are also working hard to change things and see the change that they want as well.”

Ford added that representation from her high school student government was lacking and expressed hope that the student government body at Ferris would do a better job of making her feel represented.

The Big Event has big changes planned as well, including changes to the sign-up process and changes to clientele eligibility.

Students will now be required to sign up individually rather than as whole groups to prevent groups from not participating as intended.

Clients will also be more

carefully sorted to ensure that students are assisting those in the community that are truly in need.

Construction Management freshman Missy Knopf explained that student government is essential for voicing the needs of students.

“It’s important to have a body of students putting their voice out there for those who don’t have the confidence to use their voice,” Knopf said. “They are more likely to relate to you, since they’d probably be around the same age and have been in your shoes before.”

The Student Government Association meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Founder’s Room, located in the David L. Eisler Center.

Tailgate at Top Taggart

More than just a party



Photo by: Abe Kraus | Multimedia Editor

Tailgaters enjoying a compitive game of cornhole.

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

College football home openers typically call for a big tailgate, which brings a crowd on campus filled with more than just students, and at Ferris, this idea is no exception.

From an outside perspective, tailgates may seem like just an excuse for people to come together, sharing a love of food, alcohol and sports. While this may set the scene for a perfect tailgate, the roots go beyond that.

The home opening tailgate at Top Taggart Field has become a symbol of tradition and community pride that surely sets the tone of the season.

Students show up hours before the game begins, some even missing class to secure a spot.

Professional golf manage-

ment senior Ethan Lemke and his group of friends were already enjoying themselves at the tailgate three hours before kickoff.

"It's always been a good time in my experience," Lemke said. "It's always fun to kind of get with your buddies and not only that, but kind of mingle in with people you don't know. You get to know a lot of people on campus that way, and it's awesome."

While Lemke didn't miss class himself, he had friends in his group who were missing the first day of classes in order to attend. Instead, they were busy playing cornhole and tossing the football around in the name of tailgating season.

Being a senior, Lemke knows these are the days that they will look back on after graduating, so he makes the most of every moment.

"It's always welcoming,"

Lemke said. "You never really feel like you are too out of place. It's really scary at first jumping into it, but once you get here, it really feels like one big family."

This opening mark of the season also acts as a reunion for alumni, and it offers friends a way to reunite after the summer.

Ferris alumni and Big Rapids resident Bill Scheible has been tailgating at Ferris football games for 51 years, and students can always expect to see his tent set up.

As a former player, this is the time for him to get together with old friends and meet new people as well.

"I get the tent set up for all the former players and my friends," Scheible said. "We travel for the away games and we always have a great time."

Traveling to every game shows Scheible's commit-

ment to bulldog pride. Since he played football for Ferris in the early '70s, he knows how important the fans are when it comes to taking home a win.

"It gives everybody the chance to get fired up. It shows what we're all about," Scheible said. "We got a great team, and a great program, but we need you back here next week."

For several students, this gathering becomes a tradition of their own.

Forensic biology senior Leah Levandowski has been attending tailgates at Top Taggart since her freshman year, and as a seasoned tailgate veteran, she knows what makes this gathering special.

"I always expect lots of cornhole, pong and especially drinking," Levandowski said. "We go out to show our support, eat great food and

meet lots of great people."

Levandowski has watched the tailgating culture evolve at Ferris since her first year. One of the more notable changes since first attending is an increase in the number of people who show up early to the tailgate.

"It's pretty much the unofficial kickoff," Levandowski said. "It's a great time and a

good way to spend time with your friends, even if it's before or after class, and support the bulldogs."

Tailgate season at Ferris may seem as plain as any other college gameday tradition, but it's more than that. It has become rooted in the ways of life of many students and will surely fuel their bulldog pride for years to come.



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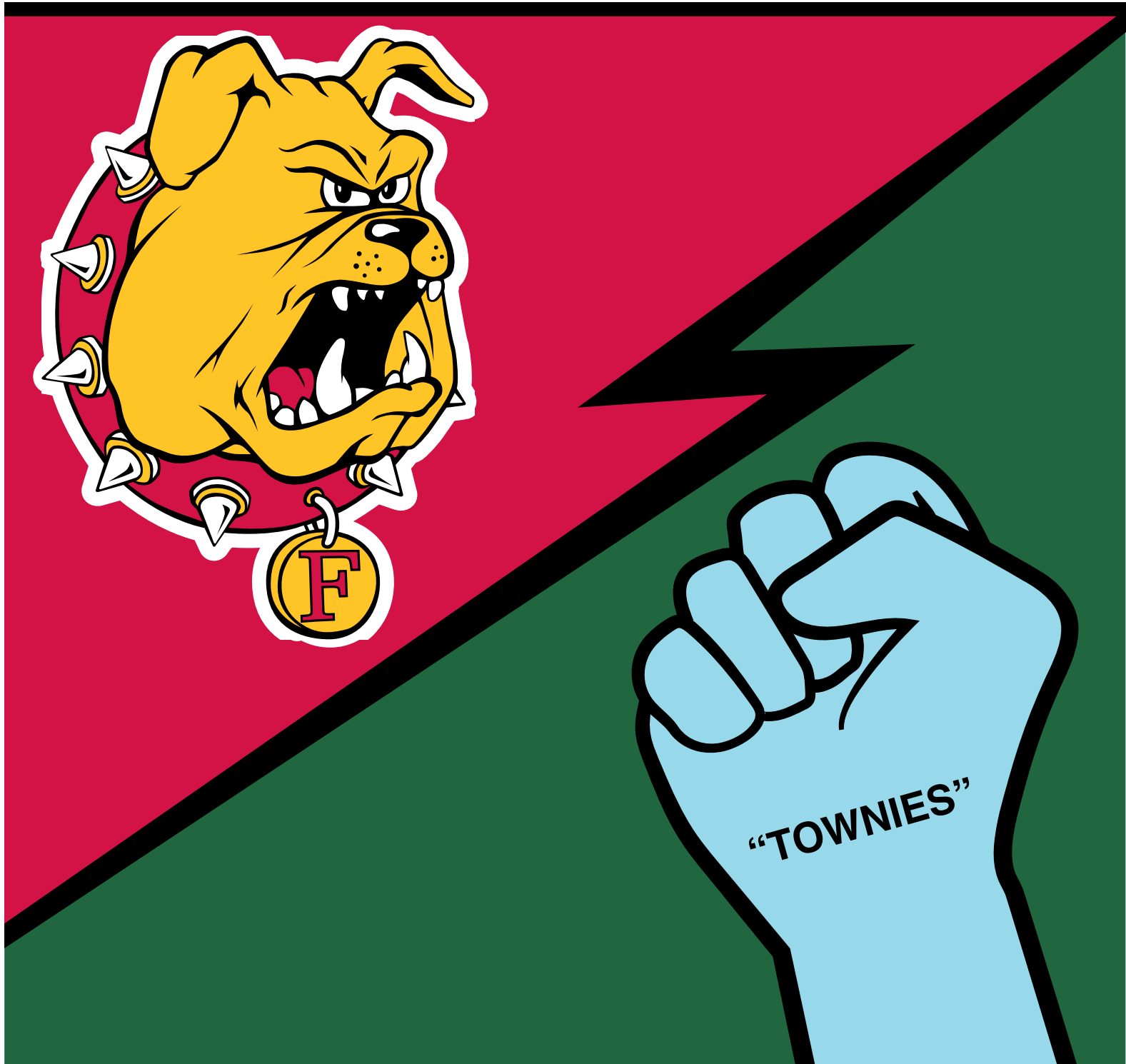
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Common ground

The co existing of Big Rapids locals and students



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Grace Heethuis
Culture Editor

For years, the return of college students to the Big Rapids community has attracted some grievances from many Big Rapids natives.

Each semester, there is no shortage of people who take some issue alongside the return of Ferris students.

The Ask Big Rapids Facebook page is one of many

places where complaints toward students are displayed. Of course, not all Big Rapids natives lament. Many even defend Ferris students when they encounter such attitudes year after year.

Common complaints include how busy the town is, how heavy traffic is and how horrible the students are at driving. Despite the number of complaints about students, many community

members report that they enjoy it when the students return.

Big Rapids community member Lisa Cox spoke about her experience with more negative community members.

“Townies talk crap because that’s human instinct sometimes,” Cox said. “They like to complain. I have been here since 1985, and it’s always been that way. Social

media just gives them a bigger audience.”

Cox also expressed how she believes the community should treat college students.

“We are a great community and can influence youth in a positive way so they can carry that positivity wherever they go,” Cox said. “Loving on them will produce more life by far.”

Ferris students have responded positively on social

media for community members who are welcoming as they return to Ferris, while the town’s natives have expressed their concern with the noise and commotion.

Biology junior, Alexis DeNio, explains why she believes the return of students is often complained about.

“I think they might complain just because it gets a lot busier here, and maybe they’re used to it being

peaceful,” DeNio said. “A lot of the time, students here do speed, and there’s a lot more commotion with traffic and noise.”

With thousands more people in Big Rapids, noise and traffic are common issues that arise and frustrate locals.

DeNio also expressed her desire for locals to be understanding when it comes to the challenges that they face.

Keep in mind that we’re all trying to live our college experience and have a good time and make memories,” DeNio said. “While it may be very annoying to them, we’re just trying to enjoy ourselves and our early 20s.”

College is a time when many students are seeking out experiences, which includes a lot of noise and sometimes students act irresponsibly.

Computer information technology senior, Riley DeLoach, expressed what he wishes he could tell Big Rapids residents about the students at Ferris.

“They don’t try to be annoying or anything,” DeLoach said. “It’s just that there are so many of them. I think that’s why they think it’s annoying.”

Big Rapids has been facing a housing shortage for quite some time, making it difficult to house all of the students and locals in town, especially when it comes time for students to return each fall.

Over the past couple of years, the student population has been growing after a period of decline in enrollment. Locals may not be used to the growing number of students that the town is forced to try to accommodate.

It is clear that returning students unintentionally and often unknowingly upset some members of the Big Rapids community.

On the other hand, many residents also enjoy the time of year when students return, citing the benefits to local businesses as well as the opportunity to welcome in new young people.

Heard on
Campus

Hear something funny on campus? DM us on Instagram @fsutorch for your submission to be possibly featured

“I almost called you to meet my mom last night.”

The art of drag

Ferris and it's connection with the drag community



Photo by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Drag performer Coca Cola takes the stage for her first performance of the night.

Harmony Goodman
Production Manager

Kicking off the first day of the fall semester, the LGBTQ+ resource center hosted its annual Drag Bingo event.

Drag Bingo takes place at the start of the fall semester and is one of the resource center's biggest and most attended event, thanks to the cultural significance behind drag that makes it the art form it is renowned for.

Although the resource center is no longer working directly with Beauty Beyond Drag, their new outsourcing contracts are bringing back performers such as Drag Bingo host, Bittersweet.

Marketing senior Becca Higgins is one of many who attended their first drag event.

"I went because of the

community. You're more likely to find people who are like you or others who won't judge you," Higgins said. "Sometimes it's not safe to say, hey, I'm a part of this community, you could end up [outing] yourself to your class or you could end up in a dangerous situation."

This is why events like Drag bingo are so important. It establishes a comfortable and safe environment even before the event takes place, making everyone feel welcome.

"People feel connected to them, especially because [drag performers] are unapologetically themselves," Higgins said. "It attracts all different kinds of people who see themselves in performances."

Higgins is hoping to return in the spring for the resource

center's Drag Trivia event.

LGBTQ+ Resource Center director, Becca Osborne, also shared her excitement and stressed the importance of the event.

Osborne believes that Drag is about supporting the LGBTQ+ community, especially since throughout history drag performers have supported us.

"Drag has a long and storied history within the LGBTQ+ community. Many early activists in the fight for civil rights were also drag performers," Osborne said. "It's a great way to celebrate community and inclusion, getting people involved and entertained, which is important in a place like Ferris, since Big Rapids is a very rural, very conservative and traditional area."

It's important to recognize

how some students have never been exposed to certain things, such as drag, because it's so often tied back into politics. For some, attending university is one of the best chances for students to expose themselves to other cultures, according to Western Michigan University's article "Why all college students should take a crash course in culture".

When it comes to event attendance, the large turnout rate is almost to be expected because the event has always done so well in the past.

"[Drag] events are our most attended events by far. We do Drag Bingo in the fall and Drag Trivia in the spring," Osborne said. "Bingo has a higher attendance rate because it's the first week of class, and nobody is bogged down by class assignments

yet."

Social justice senior Savannah Jones decided to return after attending her first drag show at Ferris last year.

"Drag is good if you're looking for a community," Jones said. "It brings people together."

After attending the previous year's fall drag bingo event, Jones was exposed to an environment that she felt comfortable in.

Jones also mentioned that helpful events with good communities backing them are a great place for transfer students and freshmen to meet others on campus whom they feel comfortable around.

"Someone may not know a lot of people, but they might go to Drag Bingo and find a table to sit with," Jones said. "Since the atmosphere is so uplifting and positive, every-

one is just happy."

With Drag bingo being the LGBTQ+ resource centers' most attended events of the year, Osborne decided to put the event at the beginning of the fall semester, allowing themselves an opportunity to reach out to Ferris students and let them know what the resource center can do for them. The resource center even decided this year to display a QR code on screen during the drag bingo event for attendees to fill out and give feedback.

The purpose of cultural events is to learn and bond with others around us. With the amount of attention the drag events have continued to draw throughout the years, it's clear that Drag does have a place at Ferris.

Opinions

Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor | mogliaj@ferris.edu

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Torch Staff

Editor in Chief Blase Gapinski gapinsb@ferris.edu	Copy Editors Carly Judge
Production Manager Harmony Goodman	Podcast Manager Liz Brown
Production Assistant Hailey Nye	Videographer -
News Editor Emma Walters	Cartoonist Blake Flanery
Culture Editor Grace Heethuis	News Reporters Davaria Pharr
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Advisor
Scott Kowalewski
ScottKowalewski@ferris.edu

EDITOR'S COLUMN: Counting on others

Building my emotional support system



Photo from Torch archives

Blase Gapinski seen with some of the 2024-25 Torch staff.

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

As a college student, the pressure to succeed can cause overwhelming feelings, leading to burnout, anxiety or even loneliness. Students are often caught in a juggling act that they cannot control: dealing with school or being away from family. There have been times I experienced these feelings as well. When trying to balance work, school and a social life, it doesn't always work out the way you want it to. I have often felt like we are supposed to figure things out on our own when, in reality, that couldn't be further from the truth, because no one truly succeeds on their own. More and more, I have come to terms with the idea that I do not know everything despite wanting to think that I do. There have been so many times these last few weeks that I have reached

out to family or close friends to talk to, even if they may not be one hundred percent sure how to help. The point is, even if they can't fix whatever issues have arisen, they are still there for me, offering whatever support or guidance they can. Constantly trying to manage plans and assignments when it just won't work with your schedule takes such a huge toll on your mental clarity. I know I am not alone as well, especially when many students are leaving home for the first time. So many people are also off to a fresh start, having to make all new friends. It is like the perfect breeding ground for anxiety and feeling overwhelmed. Without a reliable support system, these feelings can be intensified. Having loved ones, friends or even professors and other mentors to lean on can help you cope with various setbacks. Talking with someone

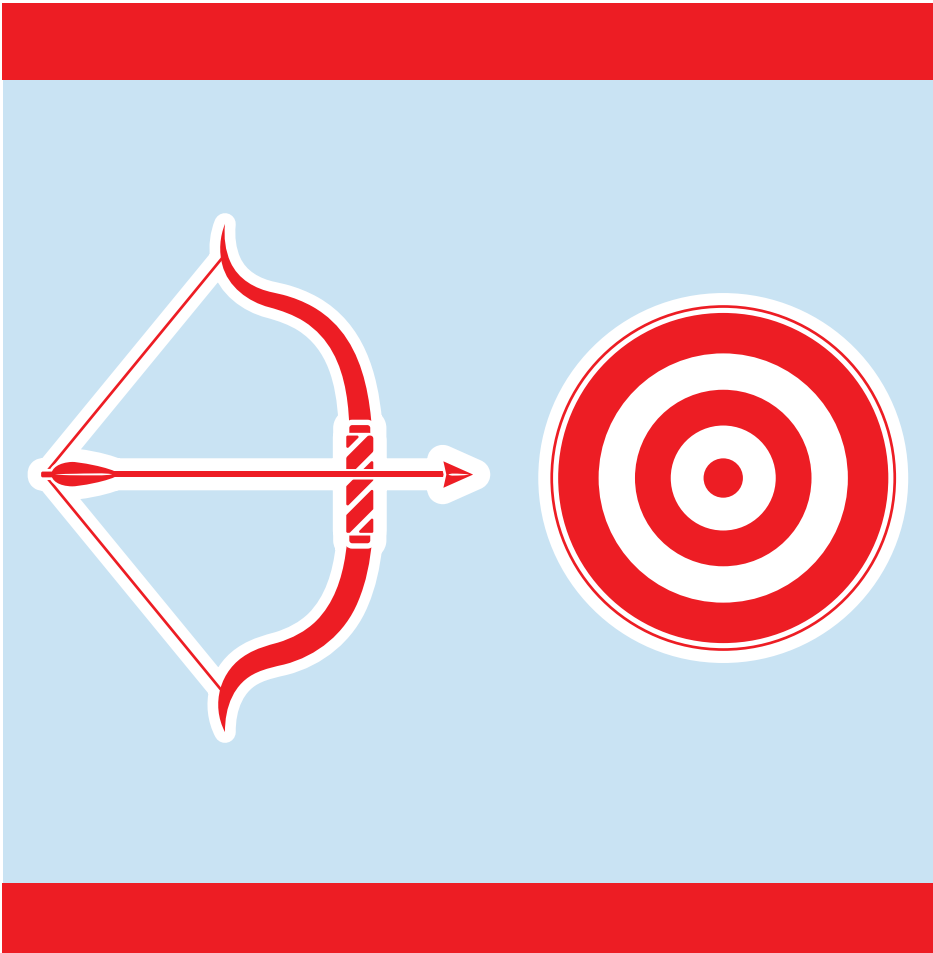
with an outsider perspective about these issues can often help shed light on the situation. Feeling overwhelmed can negatively affect how we approach certain problems, making minor issues seem large. With a reliable support system, we are receiving fresh perspectives from a viewpoint that isn't our own. Not only can a good support system help regulate your emotional well-being, but it can also help set you up for academic success. Surrounding yourself with like-minded people who share similar goals can definitely boost your motivation. Discussing challenges with people who are in the same field, or going into the same field, makes it so much easier to deal with academic stress. It gives me peace of mind when I can ask a question and, rather than be ridiculed for not knowing, be given respect for at least trying. A recent study by Australia-

lian psychologist Gisela van Kessel and her team looked at data from 26 studies with more than 68,000 students, and found that students who feel like they belong tend to do better in school and have better mental health. In other words, feeling connected makes a real difference, not just in grades but also in overall well-being. Reaching out when in need, or asking for help when unsure, should never be viewed as a weakness and I firmly believe it is still a stigma among students. You don't need to handle everything on your own to seem successful or independent, even if it seems like society says you should be on your own. My words of encouragement would be to break down this barrier. Reach out for help when you need it. No one will judge you for trying. Whether that's testing things out with a counselor, joining a registered student organiza-

tion on campus or confiding in a close friend, it will make things better. Showing vulnerability and building trust within a community will help you create the right connections. These connections are ultimately what can guide us to personal growth and success. Seek these communities that call your name. Be open to making new connections. You will know when you find a group or person that is right for you. It is so important to establish some type of support system early on in your college career. I found early on that it was essential for me to have a system of my own and to this day, I still rely on my people to help me with whatever I am going through. No one succeeds alone and in college, the right support system can make all the difference.

Intentions versus outcomes

Which really matters?



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Grace Heethuis
Culture Editor

What matters more when we look at a person's intentions versus the outcome of their actions?

Some argue that it's purely a person's intentions that we should look at in a given

situation. Others believe that it's more important to pay attention to the consequences of a person's actions.

There are also people somewhere in the middle, as well as those who ask why it matters at all.

I believe that this is an important question to consider.

It is a debate that comes to the forefront with the rise of various issues.

We spend a lot of time dealing with the consequences of actions that we have not taken in both our personal lives and as a society.

Family members take courses of action that hurt

and offend us. People on the internet debate about politics every day. When we take a close look at all these situations, we can't help but consider whether we should focus on the intentions of others or the consequences of their actions.

While I'm not sure that I would say the two are equally important, I can confidently say that they both matter.

When we ignore a person's intentions, I think we choose to ignore humanity. It is a choice to ignore part of what makes us human, which is imperfection.

I think the primary assumption behind those who choose to focus on outcomes is that the person who hurt them did it intentionally, but this is not always the case. Sometimes, well-meaning people ignorantly take the wrong course of action.

Sometimes our friends say something offensive and didn't intend for how it was received. Parents often do what they believe will be best for their kids, but end up hurting them.

Now, let's take a look at the other side of things. A person's ignorance or misjudgment that results in hurting someone does not make the consequences any less real or painful.

Even if a parent doesn't mean to hurt their child, the reality is that the child

still ends up hurt. It does not change the reality of the child's pain simply to consider the intentions of the parent.

Although it is important to consider that people are imperfect, we need to remember that we ultimately still have to live in reality. In reality, people hurt each other often, whether or not they mean to.

It seems wrong to let somebody get away with hurting another person just because they had good intentions. This debate matters in our interpersonal relationships, but also when it comes to politics.

Many people assume that those who disagree with them have bad intentions. It is common to think that those who disagree are out to hurt other people, when that is not necessarily true.

There is no doubt that there are people who want to intentionally hurt others. We see this reflected all the time in the news. With each mass shooting, we see evidence that people sometimes harm each other intentionally.

However, I think the prevalence of intentional harm is grossly overestimated. Not everyone will agree, and maybe I am a bit too optimistic in this belief. I like to believe that the world is still filled with good people, despite the evil we see daily.

I have friends and family, all with different political views, and a lot of times it seems like they all assume the worst of others. Ironically, I've noticed that most of the time, their morals are strikingly similar. They simply disagree on the correct course of action.

If people who seem so different, yet share similar morals, why do they so often demonize each other? Most of the time, it boils down to whether people view intentions or consequences as more important.

Many people have good intentions, and that matters. However, if we don't take any course of action, we are doing our society a great injustice. Intentions cease to matter when no actions are taken at all.

When we carefully examine whether it is a person's intentions or outcomes that matter, I think we will find that it is often both. The most important thing is that we take action with good intentions, rather than no action at all.

In the end, we can apologize for the consequences and devise new plans to help us do better. However, if we take no action at all for fear of choosing the wrong course, far more people suffer in the end.

Creative differences

The battle between human and AI creation



Photo courtesy of Ben Muma

Liz Brown assists in the coverage of football.

Liz Brown
Podcast Manager

I have loved media creation from a very young age. My family still has a thumb drive full of videos my younger sister and I recorded on our mom's webcam.

When I got a little older and discovered YouTube, I developed an even greater passion for creating. Being a child still, I never reached a wide audience, but I remember having so much fun sharing the silly ideas in my brain.

Throughout middle and high school, my interests drifted elsewhere. I did not even start at Ferris with media creation as my goal. It took quite a while and a lot of convincing myself, but I realized I should do something I have always loved.

So, I switched majors to television and digital media production. I was unsure exactly what I wanted to do, but I knew I wanted to keep creating things for people. The content I had consumed for

years influenced me to want to do the same for others.

I am very fortunate to have fallen into Ferris' program. I have learned many new skill sets and have been given a lot of hands-on experience. I could take what I have gained here and do almost anything with it.

This is my last semester in this program, and I get the opportunity to create so much content. I love the amount of creative freedom we have as well. I hope that getting to tell stories not only from Ferris but also around the world will be so fulfilling.

I have really found myself drawn toward camera operating and editing. Despite my general lack of interest in sports, I have loved getting to film football, hockey and basketball games.

Creating something that can be enjoyed in the moment has been another newfound love. Live production is a very different process compared to filming and editing videos. The stakes are

higher and feedback is more immediate.

I am very excited to see what work I do this semester and how I perform when applying for internships. However, that brings me to a more worrisome part of this career.

It can be difficult to find work in this industry.

Many people opt for freelance work because it allows the most freedom in who you work with. Others prefer a more steady paying job. The competition in either market is tough.

We are being forced to innovate, as most ideas have been recycled over and over again. Unfortunately, some do not have the patience for human innovation.

Artificial intelligence is being used increasingly in this field of work. So much so that there were months-long strikes from actors and writers back in 2023.

Many AI systems are trained on human work and creativity, often forming strange amalgamations of

our world. It steals our hard work and bastardizes it.

Do not get me wrong, AI can be helpful, but not in the way that is currently trending. Generative AI is what's harming our planet most.

According to MIT News, "The computational power required to train generative AI models that often have billions of parameters, such as OpenAI's GPT-4, can demand a staggering amount of electricity, which leads to increased carbon dioxide emissions and pressures on the electric grid."

In this moment, human touch is the most important aspect in a piece of work to me. I not only worry that AI itself could take a job opportunity from me in the future, but my refusal to embrace it as well.

I love what I get to do on a day-to-day basis, and I would be torn if that was ripped from under me by a system of code.

Sports

Nolan Matthews | Sports Editor | matthen4@ferris.edu

Wild Rose

The story of the Bulldogs slot receiver, Brady Rose



Photo by: Clark Vance | Photographer

Brady Rose fights his way through the Pittsburg Defense.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

Two state championships and three national championships, with five total championships in just eight seasons between the Muskegon Mona Shores Sailors and the Ferris State Bulldogs. That's the accolades of the Bulldogs' slot receiver, senior Brady Rose.

Rose's high school career is nothing short of legendary in Michigan high school football, his legend starting in the 2019 MHSSA Division Two semifinals against Walled Lake Western. Rose was named the starting quarterback after starter Caden Broersma, who had a broken hand, was unable to play again, which necessitated Rose starting two games in the regular season.

Rose took the opportunity and ran with it, literally, running 22 times for 207 yards and five touchdowns, while going four for seven with 105 yards through the air. His fifth and final touchdown came with 17 seconds left in the game to make the score 55-56, before getting the gutsy two-point conversion to give Mona Shores the win. Rose and his team went on to defeat Detroit Martin Luther King in the state championship by a score of 35-26.

Rose spoke about that magical 2019 playoffs run.

"We had a really good all-state quarterback during my sophomore year," Rose said. "So during my sophomore year, I knew he was going to be the starter, so I trained as a slot receiver. He got hurt late in the summer, and so I played the first two games

of the season, then he got healthy and I went back to slot. Then he got hurt again during the semifinals and that's when I took over and helped lead my team to the championship."

The following season, he led his team yet again to another state championship, this time against one of the powerhouse schools in Warren De La Salle, which had won the prior two championships. De La Salle had been a thorn in the side of Mona Shores, defeating them in the 2014 and 2018 state titles. Rose led the Sailors against De La Salle, passing 8-11 for 122 yards and a touchdown while running for 90 yards and three touchdowns en route to a 25-19 victory.

After winning the 2019 championship, most believed

Mona Shores was going to be rebuilding, but Rose knew that was not the case.

"I knew people were saying that we weren't going to be very good and that we're rebuilding," Rose said. "We ended up winning it, I knew we had a really good class of guys, we had been playing football with each other for years."

Being a two-time champion, winning the 2020 MLive Michigan High School Player of the Year, and being a finalist for the 2020 Michigan Mr. Football award. Rose was highly decorated after his high school career ended. Despite all of his successes and accolades, Rose was not highly recruited. Only being rated as a two-star recruit on 24/7 Sports, but Ferris gave him an official offer, and he committed only a month later.

er.

For fellow receiver, senior Jeremiah Lee, Rose is always there to guide and help the younger guys whenever he can.

"Brady is a great teammate," Lee said. "He's one of the hardest workers we've got on the team. He's always willing to help the younger guys whenever and wherever he can. We can always count on him."

In his time with the Bulldogs, Rose has been used all over the field, with his primary position being at slot receiver, where he has 1,013 yards and four touchdowns in the air. While also being seen throwing the ball on trick plays, where he has accumulated 297 yards and three touchdowns, with one of his most important coming in the 2024 nation-

al championship, where he threw a 61-yard touchdown pass.

Redshirt freshman quarterback Wyatt Bower spoke about how important it is to have a player like Rose on the field with him.

"Brady is a great teammate," Bower said. "He has such a tremendous veteran presence on the team, and I feel like they fuel everyone else, but having him on the field gives me confidence in our offense knowing he will make plays and help us succeed."

Rose looks to help his team take another win this coming week against Lake Erie, after putting up 81 all-purpose yards and a touchdown against Pittsburg State.

Bulldogs attempt to weather the storm

Ferris football takes on the Lake Erie Storm



Photo by: Abe Kraus | Mutlimedia Editor

Ahern, Zak celebrating after running it in from 3 yards out.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

After taking down the only team to serve them a loss in the 2024 championship season in the Pittsburg State Gorillas, the Bulldogs travel to Painesville, Ohio, to face off against the Lake Erie Storm. The No. 1-ranked Bulldogs (1-0, 0-0 in GLIAC) take on the Storm (2-9, 1-8 in GMAC in 2024), which will be Lake Erie's first game of the season.

The Bulldogs served up a 34-17 loss to the Gorillas last week, led by redshirt freshman quarterback Wyatt Bower, who went 11-18 with 112 passing yards and one touchdown, while running 25

times for 99 yards and two touchdowns in the first game of his career. While junior slot receiver Taarik Brett had a day himself, having seven rushes for 44 yards, averaging 6.3 yards per carry, while adding five receptions for 47 yards, catching a 24-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Head coach Tony Annese spoke about what it meant to beat an opponent like Pittsburg State.

"You know they are a proud program and one of the best in the nation," Annese said. "People celebrate these great contests in the first week of the year. It makes it hard, relaxing and knowing the last three weeks

that we've been grinding and getting ready for a great opponent, and I was really proud of the way we played for the most part. Our defense bent but did not break, and you know, besides the 60-yard touchdown before halftime, our coverage was excellent, but they are such a proud program and we're happy with the win."

Ferris took down Lake Erie week 1 of last season, by a score of 56-3, led by quarterback Trinidad Chambliss, who went 16-22 for 246 yards and three touchdowns while adding two rushes for 23 yards and two touchdowns.

In prior matchups against the Storm, the Bulldogs

have never lost; they are 8-0 against Lake Erie, outscoring the Storm 399 points to 184 in those matchups. With the closest game being in 2013 being a 56-49 victory, and the most points scored being in the 2015 season, where the Bulldogs won 70-19.

With an offensive legacy against the Storm, the Bulldogs look to keep their offense firing on all cylinders this coming week. Senior wide receiver Jeremiah Lee believes they can keep the momentum from last week.

"We are going to continue to keep getting better and growing each and every week," Lee said. "That is just who we are as a team, we know what our expectations

are, and we know exactly what it takes to reach them every week."

While the offense showed out for the Bulldogs, the defense is what kept the Gorillas at bay last week; while they may have allowed 361 yards, the defense only allowed 17 points. Additionally, the defense showed out on third down, holding Pittsburg State to 2-14 on third down conversions in the game.

With the Bulldogs having not lost in over a year, the team looks to keep the momentum rolling, and Bowers believes that his team can do that.

"I know we can and will keep this momentum rolling," Bowers said. "The mo-

mentum we have right now will continue next week and keep flowing throughout the rest of this season.

The star on defense was senior defensive back Jalen Jones, who had three total tackles on the game, with two tackles for loss, including a sack, three pass breakups and one interception. Other notable names include senior linebacker Isaiah Byars, who had nine total tackles, and junior linebacker Nolan Ziegler, who had five total tackles, 0.5 tackles for loss and two quarterback hits.

The Bulldogs will take on the Lake Erie Storm in a week one matchup on Saturday, Sept. 6 at 2 p.m.

Volleyball back on the court

Bulldog volleyball looks forward to new season

Devin Wardrop
Sports Reporter

After a historic 34-1 season that ended with a 3-2 loss in the Elite Eight, the Ferris State Bulldog volleyball team looks to continue its powerhouse run from last season.

The Bulldogs begin their season with the Tyler-Texas and Colorado Invitationals as a new team after losing key players like senior outside hitters Claire Nowicki and Chelsie Freeman, as well as starting libero Leah Bylut. The team also lost National Player of the Year, outside hitter Olivia Henneman-Dalape, who is now playing pro-

fessional volleyball in Finland, as well as the all-time Ferris assist-leading setter Kaylee Maat.

The Bulldogs did keep some key returning players like senior outside hitter Logyn Geren, junior setter Corrie Wisser, and sophomore outside hitter Gabby Piazza, who led the returning Bulldogs with 218 kills last season. Sophomore setter Hayley Wegener led the returners with 123 assists last year, which was second on the team behind Maat's 1,162 assists.

One of the returning Bulldogs, senior outside hitter Emma Bleecher, is excited for the new season and believes last year's success will

carry over to this year.

"I think last season was amazing, and it was an absolute blessing to be a part of," Bleecher said. "It proved to us that we can achieve something incredible as a team, and I think that will carry over more than anything else to this year's team. Every year is different, and our vision is huge, so having that memory of getting to Sioux Falls just gives us that foresight for this year and continues to motivate us moving forward."

Bleecher ended the season last year with 54 kills on 27 errors. Bleecher also recorded 12 assists and led the team last season with 47

service aces for a 0.40 aces per set, which was also the highest on the team.

The Bulldogs open the season as second in the GLI-AC preseason poll, right behind rival Grand Valley State and in front of Wayne State, which sits at third. The Lakers received 98 points with eight first-place votes, while the Bulldogs received 92 points with three first-place votes. In the preseason poll for all of Division-II women's volleyball, Ferris State sits fifth in the nation, while Grand Valley State is 14th in the country. Lynn University, located in Boca Raton, Florida, currently sits at the top of the Division-II preseason poll with 45 first-place votes.

The Bulldogs had a strong

freshman class, adding seven new players to their roster this year. One of the new players is defensive specialist, libero Brenna Mossel. In her first collegiate season, Mossel explained what she's most excited for.

"I'm most excited to grow as both an athlete and a student while building new friendships along the way," Mossel said.


For the first two weeks of the season, Ferris State is away at invitationals, first in Texas for the Tyler-Texas Invitational and the second in Colorado for the Colorado Invitational. With this, the Bulldogs won't have their passionate fanbase cheering them on from the stands.





This doesn't faze reigning

National Coach of the Year Tia Brandel-Wilhelm, who believes in her team to get the job done no matter the venue her team plays at.

"We realize that a great volleyball team has to perform well on the road and at home," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "So we work to have a routine that keeps us focused on the game and strategies."

Ferris State's first game of the new season is against the UT Tyler Patriots at the Tyler-Texas Invitational on Thursday, Sept. 4, at 8:30 p.m. The Bulldogs' home opener will be on Friday, Sept. 19, at 5 p.m. against the Michigan Tech Huskies.





Brown's

BARBERSHOP

SINCE 1920

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
Ferris Volleyball plans on building off of success from last season.