



PGM celebrates 50th anniversary

The program was the first of its kind in the country



Photo by: Clark Vance | Photographer

PGM student putts the ball towards the cup.

Marc Stoufer III
Freelance Reporter

The Ferris State University PGA Golf Management program celebrated its 50th anniversary this year with a weekend-long celebration that included alumni, golf professionals and Ferris State faculty.

The program's history dates back to 1975.

Then-Ferris State president Robert L. Ewigleben played golf in college at Michigan State University with Don Perné, who had since begun working in several prestigious golf clubs, according to PGA Golf Player Development Director Mark Wilson.

They'd kept in touch since then, and Ewigleben eventu-

ally suggested that it might be "appropriate for the educational mission of Ferris State" to create a program around the sport. Teaming up with Dr. Gary Wiren, an educator with the PGA, the three men created the first golf management program in the United States, a feat that Wilson chalks up to their unique dynamic.

That "fascinating coincidence of individuals" was how Wilson explained why the very first PGA golf management program in the country ended up in the middle of central Michigan, as opposed to Florida or California.

Joe Hatch, who has served as Ferris's PGA Golf Management Director since joining the school in 2022, believes

that being the first program in the United States is part of the reason it has continued to thrive for 50 years.

"We had a 10-year head start before there was another PGA golf management program that was introduced," Hatch said.

Adding that Ferris was "the only opportunity on the block" for students interested in joining the golf industry through a bachelor's degree program, a path that still isn't the only option.

"A lot of people don't really understand it," said Ferris' PGM Student Association president Ethan Lemke, explaining that many people join the field by starting in golf houses and working their way up. "To this day, when

you tell someone that you go to school for golf, a lot of people say, 'Well, what's that?'"

To Hatch, getting a degree in the profession "gives [students] a really good safety net and gives them a lot of options," Hatch said. "So that if they choose to do something different in life, they're not a one-trick pony."

Beyond the head start, though, Wilson thinks the program's biggest strength is its support from alumni.

"[The program] has a great network now of graduates... Over the years, about 3,700 students have started the program, about 2,100 have graduated from it and about 1,100 are still active as PGA professionals in the golf business," Wilson said.

To celebrate the 50th year of the program, Ferris held a weekend-long anniversary event featuring faculty members and over 100 former students, the largest number of alumni ever on campus at the same time, according to Hatch. Students were involved in all of the events, since "it's likely that this may be the only opportunity for a student to be part of an anniversary," Lemke said.

Lemke said the experience was a great chance to build a network of contacts.

"Being able to connect with people that are in your industry and people you can tap on the shoulder someday and say, 'I need some help.' It was such a fun, fun, exciting time," Lemke said.

To Wilson, the reception event reminded him of the power the program can have.

"Alumni told some interesting stories about their time at Ferris. There are just so many alumni at Ferris who really have a great affinity for the program," Wilson said. "They feel it helped them start their career."

As a result, the program has an excellent reputation in the industry, across the country and even around the world.

"If you go to any golf club or course in the country, one of my opening lines is always to ask, 'Hey, is anyone in the golf shop from Ferris?'" Wilson said. Often, he finds that someone is.

Despite this large-scale success, Lemke's favorite part of the program is the community it creates.

"This is more than just a college program. We're a family, we do everything together," Lemke said. "This program is something that I took a chance on, and it ended up being the best decision of my life... I don't think there's any other program like it in the whole world."

Hatch, as an alumnus himself, understands the feeling. He described the experience of being on the other side of

the desk as "Deja vu, in a weird way. This is kind of a dream job for me."

After 50 years, the passion behind the Golf Management program is only growing.

"I think that we're going to continue to try to uphold the mission, essentially, of the program in terms of creating great golf professionals," Wilson said. "[to] continue to build the program and make it even stronger."

Hatch feels the same way.

"I try to tell our students this... I hope this is the worst semester you have in our program," Hatch said, "because I hope to make it better next semester."

Lemke hopes the program continues to get new students involved.

"We love golf, whether we're playing, whether we're talking, whether we're watching..." Lemke said. "My advice to someone that feels the same way [is to] take a chance, because you never know if you don't try."

Lemke described the creation of the program as a "leap of faith," though one that seems to have paid off.

"Doing anything for 50 years, in my opinion, is quite challenging, and doing it as an industry leader, particularly when other programs... are trying to catch you, it's hard to continue being the best," Hatch said. "I think it's more of a testament to the legacy and the excellence Ferris has had."

But, for those in the program, that excellence is more tangible than just a legacy.

"[Being in this program has] been nothing short of fantastic... it has taught me a lot, it's given me a lot of great opportunities that otherwise I might not have had," Lemke said. "This program means a lot to me... It's a life-changing program, if you go through it correctly."

Students interested in learning more about Ferris' Golf Management program can visit their website.

News

Barstool Sports has urged the university to create an endowed scholarship in honor of the late alum, Cody "Beef" Franke. **PG. 3**

Culture

Learn more about the Equestrian Club and discover the opportunities to become a part of a group that competes in horseback riding competitions! **PG. 6**

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The male loneliness epidemic has been a heated topic of discussion in recent months, but the focus needs to shift. **PG. 9**

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Bulldogs football moves onto the second round of the playoffs, read about how they matchup against their former GLIAC foe in the Ashland Eagles. **PG. 12**



News

Emma Walters | News Editor | waltere8@ferris.edu

Michigan

Emma Walters
News Editor

Holly, MI – Senator Elissa Slotkin’s home was targeted with a bomb threat on Nov. 21.

The senator was not home when the threat was revealed, and Michigan State Police searched the residence.

The bomb threat came right after President Donald Trump made a statement referring to Democratic lawmakers as “traitors” for asking military personnel to refuse illegal orders made by the administration.

Additional information on the incident has not been released by MSP.

National

Emma Walters
News Editor

North Texas, U.S.A. - Two men from North Texas have been charged with planning a violent takeover of the Haitian island of Gonave, according to the Justice Department.

21-year-old Gavin Weisenberg and 20-year-old Tanner Thomas, accompanied by co-conspirators, planned to kill all the men on the Haitian island before taking it over and enslaving the women and children.

According to the indictment filed in the U.S. District Court, the conspirators conducted research, recruiting and planning to execute their idea.

Both men have been charged with conspiracy to kill or kidnap foreign persons and one count of producing child pornography. They could face life in prison.

Global

Emma Walters
News Editor

Geneva, Switzerland - The U.S. and Ukraine have indicated that an updated peace plan is coming together, with the discussions noted as “highly productive”.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that there is still work to be done before the agreement may be presented to Russia, with the original draft of the plan cautiously welcomed by Russia when initially presented.

It was further noted by Senator Rubio that the goal of the talks was to narrow down the original 28-point plan, while allowing both parties to substantially achieve what they wanted.

European leaders in the talks noted that while progress is good, further work needs to be done.

Playing it forward

Marching band raises funds for program through concert performance



Photo courtesy of Daniel Atwood

Money raised from the band’s recent fundraiser will go toward expanding it’s presence next season.

Emma Walters
News Editor

The Ferris State Marching Bands have been the news of the semester, with their return at the beginning of Football season marking a progression in FSU spirit.

The band has followed the football team throughout their highlighted season, marching on the field during halftime and playing in the stands during the games.

It was announced last spring that the band would make its return and the band began practices in August, playing at several events alongside their station at the Ferris football games.

Now, as the band marches along with the football team into the playoffs, it is time for the program to look toward next year.

On Nov. 16, the band held a “band in review” concert, which allowed the public to see the work the band has done outside of the field.

The concert also allowed the band to hold its recognition ceremony, in which the senior drum major passed the torch to the junior drum major.

A new junior drum major was also selected during this ceremony.

On Nov. 23, the program held a “vintage vibes” con-

cert in which faculty performed music from the 60s, 70s and 80s.

Included in the performance were Professor Matt Moresi, Max Griffith, Zach Potter, Bob Craig and band director Dr. Daniel Atwood.

The concert was intended to fundraise money for the marching band, with just under \$1,000 brought in as a result.

According to Dr. Daniel Atwood, the money will be utilized as needed.

“Sometimes we do have to buy new equipment for the band, since it is an all-silver ensemble, most of our brass or saxophone lines need instruments provided for them,” Atwood said. “Other expenses such as travel for things like playoff games or off-campus events, stuff for students, it is going to go wherever we need.”

Atwood further noted that the funds will assist with improvements for next year, allowing the band to focus on the musicality and marching technique, rather than costs.

Ferris has grown its spirit element at football games significantly, with the return of the marching band and the new STUNT team making appearances at halftime to rile up the crowds.

Atwood emphasized the importance of community

connection and expressed appreciation for the support that the band has received.

“It has been incredible, honestly. I can’t go anywhere without someone stopping to talk to me about the marching band,” Atwood said. “We have people walk by the bleachers during the game and give a thumbs up and I think that is really important for the students, to have that boost of motivation and see how excited people are about the band returning.”

Biotechnology and forensic biology senior Leah Levandowski expressed appreciation for the marching band and emphasized the importance of the university assisting with funding for arts programs.

“I think that having the marching band brings a lot more spirit into the games, especially with the parades,” Levandowski said. “So much culture that comes with the marching band and things that can be added onto the band. I think that it’s really unfair that arts are not funded like sports are. I think it’s really discouraging, because there is so much that can come from art. There’s a lot that can come from sports, but I feel like you don’t get that same passion that you get sure from the arts. I think there’s a lot of opportunities

to expand there.”

Levandowski also noted that if Ferris were to market the arts programs and groups available on the Big Rapids campus, fewer prospective students would miss that these programs are available.

Criminal justice sophomore Lily Morse echoed Levandowski’s statement, explaining that the athletics programs could leave more room for the arts.

“I think the marching band is really helpful. I think it’s awesome to see the school offering more things, varsity and scholarship-wise, that aren’t just for athletes. We love them, but I think it’s really cool to see other students get that chance too,” Morse said. “They definitely are not equally supported, we have a tiny music building and a huge weight room for athletes. I think it would be cool to see us get deep into arts and music in our school, because that can attract a lot of people, and you can open up every gateway for people coming to college. You don’t have to be athletes to come to college.”

Students interested in participating in the marching band next year can reach out to Daniel Atwood at danielatwood@ferris.edu.

Golf Alumni scholarship tribute

University urged to create endowed scholarship in honor of Cody “Beef” Franke



Photo courtesy of PGA of America

Cody “Beef” Franke, the Ferris State alum whose legacy inspired a new endowed scholarship in the PGA Golf Management program.

Bella Brazeau
Freelance Reporter

Ferris State University has partnered with Barstool Sports to create an endowed scholarship in honor of late alum Cody “Beef” Franke. Franke unexpectedly passed away last month, leaving behind his family and his passion for golf. Franke graduated from Ferris State with a bachelor’s in PGA Golf Management in Dec. 2017. After he obtained his bachelor’s, he received a PGA certification, which he utilized to join the professional golf world and teach lessons in Wisconsin and California. The proposed scholarship will be offered to students in the PGA Golf Management program. PGA Golf Management Director Joe Hatch reflected on the life of Cody Franke. “I know Cody. I came so I’m an alumnus of the program myself. So, the way I know Cody is, I came back during his time here as a student and I did two seminars I believe that he attended, so I got to know him a little bit.” Hatch said. Cody was remembered

for his class and adherence to unwritten etiquette, such as standing when a woman enters a room and removing his hat when shaking hands. Hatch further noted the impact that a scholarship established in Cody’s name would have on the PGM program and honor his legacy while providing financial support for prospective students at Ferris. “It has a tremendous impact. For one, it honors the legacy for Cody and his family. In perpetuity, this scholarship is now endowed and will be around forever at Ferris,” Hatch said. “So it’ll impact all future students at Ferris and I think it not only helps them with some of the financial burden that they might have as a student attending Ferris State University, but also, could impact in being a North Star for students to look at Cody and his legacy and how they should conduct themselves or treat people. A lot of the things that aren’t a part of our program, but that students learn through the program.” Students will have the opportunity to apply to the new scholarship on ScholarshipUniverse.

The intention of the scholarship is not only to honor Franke’s image and career in the golf profession, but also to assist future PGM students with their studies. Hatch explained that Franke’s success may motivate students in the program or bring new ones to Ferris. “It helps our golf program in a number of ways. I think the first aspect in which it helps is some of the financial burden. The second way that it helps is it gives them another alumni or another story to try to aspire to or to try to be like. The last way that it helps our students is, Cody found himself in a unique position in the golf industry, where he was working for Barstool Sports and a lot of that came from having his own social media following that he gathered. From my understanding that was noticed by Barstool that started the conversation, but it effectively is going to potentially open up another career path for our students.” Hatch said. Ferris’ PGM program is part of the College of Business at the university, was the first of its kind to be sanctioned and is just one of 18 offered across the country.

Marketing sophomore Logan Locatis explained that the scholarship will assist students with fees that come with university studies. “I think a lot of students that go through the PGM program get tacked with a lot of fees through it and it’s expensive for students that don’t have financial help. So, I think this could truly help students get through the program a lot easier with less debt, ultimately helping them become a better PGA professional, which is what lives up to what the scholarship is for.” Locatis said. PGM students are required to take five semesters of internships to complete the degree program. PGM senior Ethan Lemke

echoed Locatis’ statement, noting that scholarships ease the financial burden on students and allow them to focus more on their studies. “I think whenever students in the PGM get any sort of financial help, it’s much appreciated. Any sort of financial help takes us a very long way on an internship or school or whatever it is and it makes life a lot less stressful. The program itself is already stressful enough and financial support definitely takes that weight off your shoulders. I think any student is very appreciative whenever we get that,” Lemke said. “It’ll make an impact by making it a lot more feasible for students to think that their dreams are possible. I think

it’ll make it a lot more reasonable in their brain to say, hey, this is doable. I can travel the world if I get this, or I can complete this program if I get this. Or I could really take my dreams and my aspirations to the next step.” Lemke further stated that the scholarship will bring excitement to the program and provide students with another goal to reach. At the time this article was written, the Torch was unable to contact Franke’s family. The Torch will continue to follow Franke’s story and update this article with a family statement if made available. Donations can be made to the scholarship fund online.

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Dr. David Pilgrim receives Rhae-Ann Booker Award

What the award means to him and the Ferris community



Photo courtesy of David Pilgrim

Dr. David Pilgrim was recently selected as the award recipient due to his contributions in DEI.

Davaria Pharr
News Reporter

On Nov. 11, Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Strategic Initiatives, Dr. David Pilgrim, received the Rhae-Ann Booker Award for Inclusive Excellence. The presentation of the award was hosted at the JW Marriott in Grand Rapids, presented by the Grand Rapids Chamber, during an event highlighting leadership within the field of diversity and inclusion. Pilgrim is the vice presi-

dent of Diversity, Inclusion and Strategic Initiatives at Ferris State University. He is best known as the founder of the Jim Crow museum and his published works on social justice. He briefly mentioned why he thinks his work was specifically selected for this award. It was presented because of the work establishing the Jim Crow museum and his role as Ferris State's vice president for Diversity, Inclusion and Strategic Initiatives. Pilgrim expressed his excitement to be a part of

Ferris State's journey. When asked about his work at Ferris State, he reflected on what the founders of the university initially started. "We didn't build this university - we inherited it," Pilgrim said. "I just happen to be a part of that story." Pilgrim further explained that our founder set out to create a place that welcomed people from many backgrounds, and we are simply carrying that work forward. Pilgrim receiving this award continues the shaping of a university where belonging

isn't just something that is talked about but something that shows up in our decisions, policies and how we treat each other every day. Pilgrim elaborated on what the award means to him personally and professionally. "It inspires me to advance equity, speak up even when it's hard, and help build spaces where everyone is heard and valued," Pilgrim said. Pilgrim expressed that being connected to Dr. Booker's legacy is an honor and a responsibility he carries with pride and purpose.

He explained what the award specifically celebrates to him personally. He also recognized that the recognition he receives reflects the commitment and dedication of many others involved at the university. "This award to me celebrates the important diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging work that so many people at Ferris are involved in," Pilgrim said. "I was honored, in large part, because that award is named after Dr. Rhae Ann Booker, whose life exemplified courage, integrity

and a steadfast commitment to justice. In a world that is not always kind, she led with genuine warmth and compassion." When talking about his plans for continued work in diversity, equity and inclusion, he remained adamant about the future. "We are committed to keeping our DEI and belonging work moving forward at Ferris State," Pilgrim said. Pilgrim also mentioned that by strengthening our culture of belonging, we are creating more opportunities for learning and dialogue and making sure our policies and practices reflect the inclusive community Ferris was built to be. He expanded on what the award means for the rest of the community and what he thinks it will bring. "What I hope to gain from this award is simply the opportunity to bring more visibility to the DEI and belonging work we're doing at Ferris," Pilgrim said. The message Pilgrim hopes students and the Ferris community take from him receiving this award is to support DEI. He also hopes that people keep creating a safe and welcoming environment for all. "In recent years, it didn't take much courage to say you supported diversity, equity, inclusion and civil rights," Pilgrim said. "Now, we are called to support not to convenience, but to conviction." He expressed how all of us need to work together to create spaces where every member of the Ferris community is welcomed. Pilgrim is excited to continue his work at the university, upholding the core values of DEI.

Bulldog safety

Emma Walters
News Editor

Drive safely

Driving with an expired license or possessing marijuana underage can lead to citations and court appearances. Think ahead and keep yourself and others safe.

Always report concerning incidents

If something concerning happens—even weeks apart, like incidents in September and October—letting DPS know early helps prevent situations from escalating and keeps the campus community safe. DPS is available 24/7.

Protect your online information

Change passwords regularly, use two-factor authentication and avoid sharing devices or login info.

Christmas is coming

Students thoughts on early decorating



Photo by: Blase Gapinski | Editor in Chief

Is it too much too soon? Students voice their opinions on when it is appropriate to start decorating the house for the holiday season.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

As soon as the calendar hits November, the lights go up, decorations come out and the sounds of the Yuletide can be heard through the speakers at almost every store in America.

Many people start bringing out the lights and decorations at various times. Some people might do it right as Halloween ends, some people might wait until after Thanksgiving and some even wait until December hits.

But why do people decorate early? Many people are ready to decorate for Christmas as soon as the pumpkins are put away, and it turns out, this might make you happier if you surround yourself with Christmas spirit.

Big Rapids resident Tyler Koehn has had his decorations up for two weeks al-

ready and loves to decorate early.

"I love Christmas," Koehn said. "My fiancé and I love to collect the little Christmas village buildings, but other than those, we have a lot of decorations that we try to start putting out a week after Halloween. I just love to get in the spirit and be ready for the holidays."

Many people have fond memories of Christmas time, often stemming from their childhood. Whether you remember waking up early on Christmas morning and seeing the Christmas tree surrounded by presents from Santa. Or you remember going to meet Santa in the local mall, childhood memories are often a cherished part of the holiday season.

People believe that the nostalgic feeling of Christmas may have benefits for their own mental health. That nostalgia may come

from going through old decorations and finding a childhood ornament you always put on the tree or listening to Christmas music you remember listening to as a kid with your parents, while looking at people's homes decorated in Christmas lights.

Even here in Big Rapids, the annual Festival of the Lights parade is often the weekend before Thanksgiving. The parade is to usher in the holiday season, with many parade floats covered in lights, as well as the lighting of the tree in front of Horizon Bank.

But there are many people who think Christmas should wait until after Thanksgiving, like junior accounting major Ethan Thelen.

"I personally think that people should wait until after Thanksgiving," Thelen said. "It is kind of like people forget there is a whole month between Halloween

and Christmas. You have to give Thanksgiving its day in the sun that it deserves."

Many people believe Thanksgiving should be given its proper praise and representation. Being able to join family for a holiday based around food is usually a great way to begin the holidays. Even lately, Friendsgiving has become very popular for those who might not be close with family.

Junior biology major Josh Smith agrees with this sentiment and believes Thanksgiving should be celebrated just as much as Christmas.

"Personally, I don't decorate much for Christmas in general, but if I do, I wait until after Thanksgiving," Smith said. "For me, Thanksgiving should be celebrated just as much, if not more than Christmas, because it's a time to come together with your family that you may not

have seen in a while."

The holiday season seems to be one of the only times of year when it seems that we, as a collective nation, can all come together in some aspect. People who decorate early just want to put themselves in a festive mood or keep their minds away from the harshness of the real world. So, whether you decorate early or not, have a happy holiday season.



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Community through horseback riding

A look at Ferris' Equestrian Club



Photo courtesy of the Equestrian Club

Ferris riders prepare for another season of shows and bonding through shared passion and teamwork.

Tate Zellman
Culture Editor

The Equestrian Club provides students with opportunities to participate in events involving horseback riding and compete against other teams to gain more exposure and experience.

In addition to competitions, the club also participates in volunteering and team-bonding events. Riders within the club can compete at other schools and earn placings and accumulate points in their evaluated skill-level classes. Plus, the club is open to students, whether they have riding experience or not, and non-competing members can also play a role in benefiting the club.

As of now, the equestrian club has a total of eight members. They're hoping to get more students to join, not just for the club to expand, but also to move from a club sport to a varsity sport.

Criminal justice sophomore Lily Morse, who is the club's president, finds it important for Ferris students to join the club regardless of whether they have riding experience or not because of

the valuable lessons the club can offer.

"It's such a calming sport," Morse said. "It teaches you a lot of things that you never really knew. For people who've never rode horses, it's a good start-up into something new. For people who do ride horses, it can connect them more to college and get them more involved. Equestrian is kind of an expensive sport and we think a lot more people would enjoy it if they were able to do it without the cost effect."

The equestrian club has approximately five competitions per year, not including regionals, which take place at Michigan State University.

Criminal justice freshman Lainey Lafargue had experience riding horses before coming to college. Seeing the opportunities from the equestrian club encouraged her to join.

"Ever since I was younger I've really loved horses," Lafargue said. "It's been something that I've wanted to stick with. I wasn't around them at all during high school. Being able to ride horses that I don't even know has been a really cool experience because I hadn't ridden these

types of horses before. Being able to figure out how random horses work has been really cool."

Lafargue doesn't have a position like president or treasurer because members can be selected for a position after they've completed one full semester with the club.

The horses for the riders are provided by the club and don't have to be retrieved by the riders or members themselves.

Welding engineering sophomore Evelyn Hill, who is the club's treasurer, has won multiple medals and has had high placings during her time as a member of the club. But the success goes beyond individual success.

"Last year I got first in my class and then this year at our last show I got second," Hill said. "But it's not just about me. We've all done really well as a team and to have the recognition back

of what we're doing is good because we have so much fun. When we're doing well in competitions, it expands the fun and it helps the team morale to encourage everyone to keep going and keep getting better."

Due to Hill's success, she has moved up a level. The levels within the club are beginner, rookie A, rookie B, level one and level two.

Heading into the next academic semester, the club

has two more regular-season shows, and then a few girls are qualified for regionals in March. After that, the top two in each division will move on to the semi-finals then will get an opportunity to compete in Nationals, which is in North Carolina.

For more information or inquiries about joining the club, contact the Equestrian Club at ferris.equestrian@gmail.com.



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Media minute

Why “Lost,” is still meaningful today



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Tate Zellman
Culture Editor

After its premiere almost 20 years ago, “Lost” is a show that still holds a lasting impact on television and provides a story that people can come back to.

“Lost” is a science fiction adventure drama television series that was created by J. J. Abrams and Damon Lindelof for ABC. The show has 6 seasons with a total of 121 episodes. The pilot episode aired on September 22, 2004, while the series finale aired on May 23, 2010.

The show follows the story of the survivors of Oceanic Flight 815 who crash on a mysterious island. They were 1,000 miles off course, traveling from Sydney, Australia, to Los Angeles, California.

Even though there are over 40 survivors, 14 of them are main characters, and viewers get to experience the show through their perspectives, find out the mysteries behind the main characters and see their lives before crashing onto the island.

One recognizable and positively acclaimed aspect of the show is that the flashbacks play a role in shaping the

story. In the earlier seasons, episodes would bounce from showing the main plot on the island to then showcasing the backstory of one main character. For an entire episode, viewers will discover the backstory of one of the characters while following what happens in the show’s present time.

The main cast and characters include Matthew Fox as Dr. Jack Shepard, Evangeline Lilly as Kate Austen and Josh Holloway as James ‘Sawyer’ Ford.

As of now, Lost is available on Netflix, Hulu and Disney+. Hopefully, it can become available for streaming on other platforms.

Lost is, without a doubt, my favorite TV show of all time. I was introduced to the pilot episode when I was 12 years old, and finishing the show was one heck of an amazing journey. This show has taught me how great stories can be by combining the various genres of mystery, adventure and thriller. Plus, the show consists of some of my favorite television characters of all time.

But why “Lost” is a show that is still worth watching 20 years later is that it has

one of the best pilot episodes of all time. The pilot involves a lot of intense moments, mystery and a cinematic-like atmosphere. It captures the audience’s attention right away with the addition of having a mythical creature move amongst the trees and produce loud noises.

Plus, the show has a good amount of plot twists and cliffhangers that can shock viewers and leave them on the edge of their seats. Those elements play a part in helping the show’s story progress and develop further perceptions of the characters.

The show has received a lot of success after the premiere of the finale. It has won a total of 10 Primetime Emmys and has received over a hundred nominations.

Additionally, the show has had an impact on its audience that an independent documentary film titled “Getting Lost” premiered on September 22, 2024, on the 20th anniversary of the original series’ premiere. It features members of the cast and crew, as well as members of the fan community, talking about the development and cultural impact of “Lost.”

Despite “Lost” being an older show, it is worth watching with family and friends. I hope this review can inspire

people to revisit it or to watch it for the first time. It consists of a lot of mystery, adventure, plot twists and lovable characters.

Alongside all that, it has a finale that brings a lot of emotions from the characters to the audience.



Opinions

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Power over the people

The ongoing cycle of distraction and harm regarding the Epstein files



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

Every time anything about the alleged Epstein files resurfaces, the same cycle begins: a scramble to see which famous names appear, a rush to make political hay out of the details and a collective fixation on the powerful instead of the powerless. President Trump recently signed a bill forcing the Justice Department to release information relating to the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein within 30 days. To some, it may look like a sudden change of heart, especially after he brushed off Republicans and Democrats who wanted to make the issue a priority, even though he quite literally campaigned on the idea.

Yet almost immediately, it feels dragged back into the same cycle that has defined this story for years. Politicians are treating this case, where so many victims were hurt,

as a weapon rather than a window into systemic abuse. And that's exactly the problem with political discourse today. Everything is treated like a contest to expose the other side rather than an opportunity to confront what's actually broken. The Epstein files aren't a political trophy to be hoisted by whichever party thinks it can squeeze the most outrage out of them. They represent one of the most disturbing failures of accountability in modern American history. A failure that allowed more than a thousand women and children to be abused while institutions looked away or actively protected those involved. The national conversation keeps drifting back to which politicians or public figures might appear in the documents, as if the significance of these files is measured by how damaging they are to Democrats or Republicans. That framing reduces a

massive trafficking operation to little more than a partisan spectacle. It lets people forget the scale of the harm and the human beings at the center of it. It's just another example of how politicians often seem more concerned with protecting themselves than serving the public. The same president who campaigned on releasing the Epstein files later told his own allies and supporters that the entire thing was a hoax and that there was nothing worth looking into, just to pivot again and sign the bill forcing their release, framing the narrative that its release would negatively affect the Democrats. This flip-flop highlights how political considerations, rather than accountability or justice for victims, often drive the narrative. The testimonials published by USA Today push the conversation in the right direction because they center the

voices that have been sidelined for years. Instead of treating the Epstein files as political ammunition, these accounts refocus attention on the people who endured the harm and the systems that failed them. Anyone approaching this with basic compassion and empathy would arrive at the same conclusion. When you listen to the survivors themselves, it becomes impossible to justify the political posturing or the distraction over famous names. Yet the public conversation keeps drifting back to who will be punished, as if this were some melodrama or political game rather than a record of real suffering. If anything, the renewed attention on the files should be prompting far more uncomfortable questions. Not just about who might appear in them but about why someone like Epstein was able to operate so freely for so long. It should force a reckon-

ing with the institutions that failed, from law enforcement agencies that downplayed credible reports to networks of wealth and influence that insulated a predator for decades. These aren't problems confined to one party; they're features of a system that consistently privileges the powerful at the expense of the vulnerable. But that deeper examination rarely happens because it requires confronting truths that are inconvenient for everyone. It means acknowledging that "elites" across the political spectrum benefited from a culture of impunity. It means accepting that justice systems can be manipulated by those with status. Until the conversation shifts from political point-scoring to institutional responsibility, the same cycle will repeat.

All the lonely people

If everybody is lonely, why is it that men are getting all the attention?

Carly Judge
Copy Editor

Loneliness doesn't depend on gender. It's a universal experience for everyone. It isn't some single event or epidemic that men are facing alone.

This is not an article meant to downplay or diminish the social and personal issues that men face. There's no arguing the fact that there are major complications surrounding those topics. This article highlights the harmful and exclusive nature of the "male loneliness epidemic" being the center of the loneliness conversation.

Loneliness is absolutely a problem in society and has been rising among people for decades. Research shows that both men and women widely experience feelings of loneliness at similar levels. So why is it that men are getting all the attention?

There are many societal, personal and environmental factors that affect the lonely feelings of men and women differently. For men, traditional notions of masculinity and social expectations push them toward creating less emotionally connected friendships and relationships. For women, gendered societal expectations and patriarchal standards can lead to

isolation in the lives that they decide to live.

That may seem confusing, but if we look at everyday examples, it can become pretty simple.

Men are taught not to show weakness and vulnerability. It's less normalized for men to reach out for help or seek comfort from others, whether that be friends, family or partners. This guides them towards a life lacking emotional or intimate connection.

Women are often encouraged to live their lives in certain ways. Usually, it's: find a partner, get married and start a family. Those who choose to differ from this expected or "normal" path can face isolation when separating themselves from social standards.

Of course, there are also many other factors affecting both men and women, and their discontent with being alone.

Social media creates such vast areas of disconnect between people, welcoming social comparison to others and online communities that stray from traditional interaction. While scrolling or swiping, we expose ourselves to the illusion of community while also consuming media that influences isolation and inadequacy. It's far from healthy, but it's also far from being

fixed to help us.

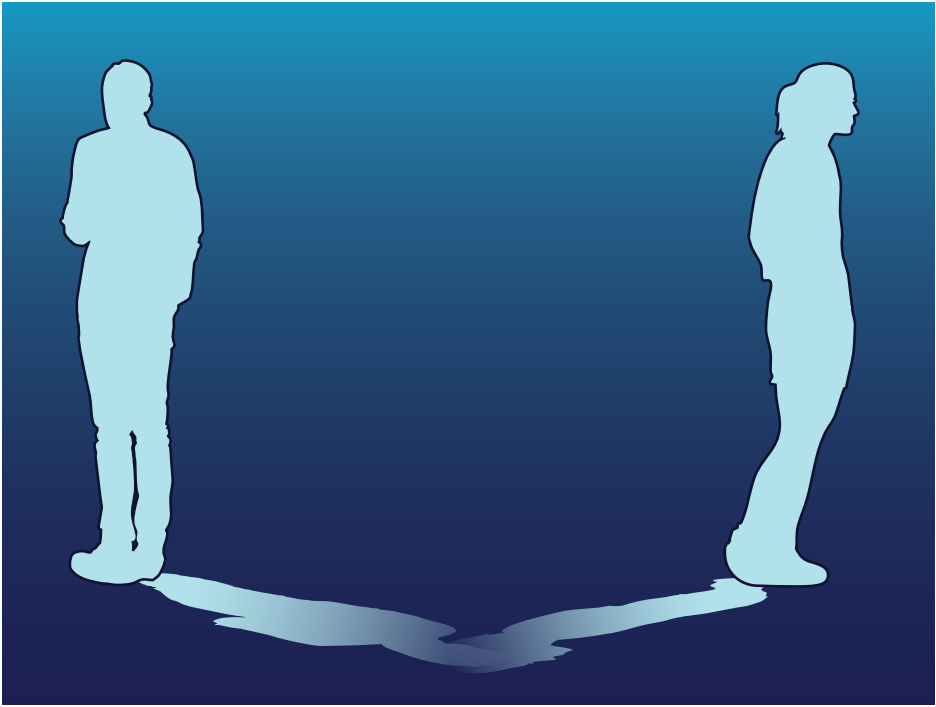
Loneliness is also largely subjective and individual. It's the perceived lack of meaningful connection by a person. It's not a measure of how many friends you have or if you're in a relationship. Being lonely involves feeling a sense of yearning for a more fulfilling social life, which can be interpreted in significantly different ways by every individual person.

Your perception matters when it comes to loneliness. Even if you are in what would normally be a rewarding or fulfilling social interaction, if you don't have the kind of relationship that you specifically want, you can still end up feeling lonely.

Who's to say that it's worse for men? Who's to say that it's worse for women?

Loneliness is a universal issue, not dependent on gender. So branding this issue as an epidemic just affecting men works to further fracture society and do even more harm.

Enter misogyny. Because loneliness is largely perceived as a male-centered issue, social groups have started to develop ideologies intended to give men a clearer purpose and sense of belonging. The "manosphere," or online influences promoting toxic



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

masculinity, misogyny and many more dangerous values, is a result of men feeling isolated and alienated from society.

As many men search for community, some are pulled towards online spaces that promise belonging. People have taken this epidemic and turned it into a concerning opportunity.

Loneliness and mental health are incredibly complex and nuanced. Not everybody is influenced to take

their negative feelings and turn them on others. Not everybody takes their varying states of isolation and considers it loneliness. Not everybody sees loneliness as a social problem at all.

But that's the kicker: it's "everybody" that interacts with the feelings of loneliness. It's not just men.

Things are changing. Whether it's for better or for worse depends on which factors are being considered. Many social expectations

are being challenged, and men's mental health is more commonly addressed. At the same time, social media continues to encourage disconnection and harmful influences are easily spread.

It's hard to say if this universal loneliness will improve as society changes. All that I can argue is that it doesn't belong to just one gender. It affects everyone, and the work to fix it will too.

Playing your cards

Understanding practices seen as demonic

Davaria Pharr
News Reporter

Have you ever had a tarot card reading?

Tarot cards are used for spiritual guidance and self-understanding, each card symbolizing different things to help answer questions or understand situations.

The problem is that tarot cards are largely considered to be demonic, even if you're just pulling cards to understand a situation better. Oftentimes, when tarot receives pushback or is perceived as demonic, people look to their religion for why it is wrong.

I personally had a conversation with my Christian family member where I explained that I had picked up tarot card reading, something that he believed to be witchcraft and demonic. Personally, I don't see any harm in pulling cards and "reading" someone's fortune.

I understand why he is against it; it seems fairly obvious. It goes against his religion, but I encourage you to shift perspectives for a minute. I also believe in

Christianity, though I don't agree with everything that it upholds.

Personally, I believe there is a higher power. This is not the first conversation I have had with people who identify with that religion. There are a few issues wrong here.

What if I told you it wasn't witchcraft and the actual story behind tarot and its purpose for creation? What if I told you it wasn't demonic or that there is another side to the story? Don't take my word for it. Use facts and evidence alongside critical thinking.

There's a lot to unpack here, so let's start with textbook definitions. According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, witchcraft consists of rituals that incorporate belief in magic and sorcery and is associated especially with neo-pagan traditions.

Tarot cards originated in northern Italy as a game for the wealthy around the 15th century. They are a set of cards distinct from regular playing cards and typically hand-painted. Over time, the allegorical imagery led to the development of their use for divination. So where is the

connection to demons?

The short answer is that there really isn't. Some cultures view tarot cards as simply inviting demonic intervention. Performing a tarot card reading and doing witchcraft are two separate things.

Could tarot cards be used for evil intent? Of course. People can use just about anything with bad intentions, even the bible. There is no evidence that the cards themselves are evil.

It all comes back to one thing: critical thinking.

People believe that tarot is an evil practice because of their own religious beliefs or religious texts that prohibit witchcraft, but these people may not have a full understanding of what tarot really is. The problem is the lack of understanding and the lack of willingness to research things before labeling them as demonic.

My opinion is not to believe what something or someone says without viable evidence and logical reasoning.

A lot of Christian African Americans, including myself, are taught not to ask questions about religion from a



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

young age. This encourages backwards thinking and being naive because it allows people to believe whatever is said without proper analysis and critical thinking.

If you can't give a logical reason and explanation for why you believe something, that is a problem. You should reconsider your beliefs.

If you're going to believe something, believe because you want to, not because

someone told you to.

Always consider both sides of a story or narrative and do your research. After reading this, I encourage you all to write down your beliefs and ask yourself why you believe them. Researching your own beliefs helps you better understand them and also fill gaps that you didn't know were empty.

I want to encourage you to be open-minded and think critically about your own be-

liefs. This is not meant to be something offensive or written with malicious intent, but something to spread awareness around what tarot is, and what it isn't.

As we go forward, let's practice critical thinking and not limit ourselves to certain experiences because of a limited or lack of knowledge on a topic.

Always remember, knowledge is power.

Sports

Nolan Matthews | Sports Editor | matthen4@ferris.edu

Women’s basketball to play Hillsdale

Bulldogs’ last game before GLIAC play



Photo by courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Forward Melina Glysch prepares for a California player to inbound the ball.

Devin Wardrop
Sports Reporter

The No.20-ranked Ferris State women’s basketball team will host the Hillsdale Chargers as the last out-of-conference matchup before GLIAC play starts.

The Bulldogs (5-1, 0-0 in GLIAC) are currently on a four-game win streak. In the six games played so far this season, Ferris State is averaging 79.8 points per game, while averaging 67 points a game. The Bulldogs are averaging 18.8 assists per game and 40.8 rebounds per game.

Senior guard Emma Schierbeek believes the hot start to the season is important with how good the conference is.

“Our team definitely had a hot start, and I think we have been playing great basketball,” Schierbeek said. “There are some areas we do need to improve in before we start our conference play, though, because our conference has some tougher competition and different play styles than what we have seen so far. I have all the confidence in the world that our team will continue playing great, though, and fix our mistakes so we can keep winning the tough games. I am excited for GLIAC play to start.”

Ferris State is coming off a 73-64 win at Illinois-Springfield. Illinois-Springfield led during the first quarter before the Bulldogs gained the lead in the second quarter

and never looked back. Schierbeek led the team with 17 points off the bench, as well as three rebounds and two assists, steals and blocks.

Senior guard Kady Blanchard led the starters with 14 points and added seven rebounds, four assists and two steals. Senior forward Mya Hiram ended the game with 12 points, nine rebounds, one assist and two steals. As a team, the Bulldogs shot 48.3% from the field and 31.8% from three-point range.

Hiram also believes in the team ahead of GLIAC play.

“I think we’ve been playing great, and we all feel confident going into GLIAC play,” Hiram said. “I feel like we’ve learned a lot about ourselves, especially with the

different style of play that we’ve been doing. We had a pretty tough non-conference schedule that I think has set us up well to prepare us for conference play. Personally, I think that the GLIAC is the toughest conference in our region to play against so it’s only going to get tougher from here but I have full confidence in our team that we will continue to get the job done and be successful.”

Hillsdale (3-1, 0-0 in GMAC) averages 68 points per game while allowing 62.3 points per game, as well as averaging 39.5 rebounds and 18.3 assists per game. Junior guard Annalise Pietrzyk leads the team with 15.5 points per game, 4.5 assists and 5.8 rebounds. Sophomore center Ellie

Bruce averages 13.8 points and five rebounds a game.

The Chargers will be playing their fourth GLIAC opponent in as many games after beating Purdue Northwest and Lake Superior State and losing to Wayne State. In their 59-50 win against Lake State, Bruce led the team with 16 points and six rebounds. Sophomore guard Sarah Aleknavicius almost had a double-double in this game, scoring 12 points with nine rebounds, five assists and 1 steal. Hillsdale shot 34.8% from the field and 27.8% from three-point range in this game.

Senior guard Ally Schultz believes their resume so far makes a good case for March.

“I think as we finish up our

out-of-conference games, our win streak is making a good case for March when the NCAA is making their tournament selections,” Schultz said. “We know how our games have gone, but we also see the other teams in the GLIAC playing and know our conference is extremely tough to play in. We are eager to start conference play and to continue building our chemistry for the rest of the season.”

The Ferris State Bulldogs will host the Hillsdale Chargers at Wink Arena on Wednesday, Nov. 26, at 1 p.m.

Men's basketball fighting for first win

Winless Bulldogs seek first victory with upcoming homestand



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Guard Bryce Moore goes in for a layup against the Findlay Oilers.

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

The Ferris State men's basketball team is still looking to get their first win in the 2025-26 season and their next stretch of home games provides that opportunity.

With the initial three games of the season not going the way the Bulldogs anticipated, they look to make a comeback with this week's slate of home games against Kuyper College and the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Ferris will take on the Kuyper College Cougars at Jim Wink Arena on Wednesday, Nov. 26, with tip-off set for 3 p.m. The Bulldogs will really need to capitalize on ball movement and rebounding heavily on both sides of the ball.

Defensively, the Bulldogs will need to put an early stop to the Cougars' Sophomore guard Sam Dillard. He currently

leads the team averaging 18.8 points and seven rebounds per game. Kuyper plays a lot of on-ball defense and offensively, they aren't afraid to get the ball moving around.

The Bulldogs' success against Kuyper will hinge on shutting down key players like Dillard, who has proven to be a dynamic scoring threat. Ferris needs to focus on limiting Dillard's opportunities by implementing tight on-ball defense, particularly in transition, where he thrives. The Bulldogs should consider double-teaming Dillard at times to force him into tougher shots or to create turnovers.

Ferris also hasn't been consistent when shooting from the field. After three games, the Bulldogs have a field goal percentage of 41.1%. Improved shot selection will also be key, as forcing contested jumpers

will only play into Kuyper's defensive strengths. If Ferris can focus on getting quality attempts early in the shot clock and convert consistently around the rim, their overall offensive rhythm should improve dramatically.

In addition, they must control the tempo by emphasizing quick ball movement and making Kuyper work defensively. With senior guard Nick Moore leading the Cougars in assists and steals, the Bulldogs need to be careful with passing lanes and avoid unnecessary turnovers. He currently has 39 assists and 12 steals so far in the season.

Offensively, Ferris should look to exploit Kuyper's off-ball defensive style, using screens and cuts to free up shooters. By focusing on executing disciplined offensive sets and dominating the boards, especially on the defensive end, the Bulldogs can neutralize Kuyper's ag-

gressive style and earn their first victory of the season.

Following this matchup, over the weekend, Ferris will be taking on the University of Michigan-Dearborn Wolverines on Nov. 29, with tip-off set for 7 p.m. This will be another matchup where the Bulldogs have the home-field advantage at Jim Wink Arena.

The key to this game will be very similar, as containing the Wolverines' best shooter

will be crucial. Junior guard Jackson Reynolds is currently averaging 26.9 points across eight games this season. The Wolverines' offense leans heavily on fast-paced ball movement, which has created consistent scoring opportunities for their perimeter shooters like Reynolds.

The Wolverines are also currently averaging 22 defensive rebounds per game. Ferris will look to control the tempo and limit turnovers,

which have been a point of emphasis in recent practices.

The Bulldogs look to take home their first win of the season this week during their first two home games of the season. Ferris will take on Kuyper College on Wednesday, Nov. 26, at 3 p.m. and the University of Michigan-Dearborn on Saturday, Nov. 29, at 7 p.m.

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Bulldogs take on the Eagles

Ferris football moves onto the second round of the DII playoffs



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Quarterback Chase Carter celebrates a touchdown against the Northwood Wolves.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

After winning their 26th consecutive game, the Ferris State Bulldogs move on to the second round of the DII playoffs to take on another former GLIAC foe in the Ashland Eagles.

The Bulldogs (12-0, 7-0 in GLIAC) will welcome the Eagles (10-2, 8-1 in G-MAC) to Top Taggart Field for the 27th matchup between the two programs.

Ferris State is coming off a commanding 65-14 victory over the Northwood Wolves in the first round of the playoffs. This game saw soph-

omore quarterback Chase Carter take the start over struggling redshirt freshman quarterback Wyatt Bower. Carter went 11-21 passing with 131 yards, two touchdowns and one interception, while adding 15 rushes for 152 yards and two more touchdowns.

Head coach Tony Annese gave his thoughts on the victory.

"Super excited that we were able to come out and perform today," Annese said. "I don't know what it is about the playoffs, but we definitely seem to be uplifted when the playoffs start. So I am very pleased about that, and

I would be remiss if I didn't say that Northwoods had an unbelievable year."

Ashland is coming off their own dominant victory over Minnesota-Duluth in the first round, beating the Bulldogs 32-7. The Eagles rely heavily on their running game, with their lead running back, freshman Chris Maloney, who has 621 yards and six touchdowns on the season.

The Eagles still have a good passing game, led by their redshirt senior quarterback Cameron Blair. Blair has 1,987 yards and 10 touchdowns through the air, while adding 492 yards and six touchdowns on the

ground.

Ashland does not just have a high-powered offense; they have one of the best defenses in the nation. Allowing 244.8 yards per game, which is second in the nation, while allowing 14.17 points per game, which is good for fourth in the nation.

That defense is led by two of the best edge rushers in the nation, the best of the two being senior Michael Shimek. Shimek has 17.5 sacks, which leads all of DII, three forced fumbles and 55 total tackles. The second of the two is redshirt sophomore Elisha Baldrige, who has 12.5 sacks, two forced

fumbles and 84 total tackles on the season.

One of the leaders on the Bulldogs' defense is senior defensive lineman Kailib Davis, who has a team-leading six sacks, with 26 total tackles, and eight tackles for loss on the season.

Ferris and Ashland have a long history spanning all the way back to their first matchup in 1974, where the Eagles won 28-10, and won the four matchups as well. The Bulldogs do have a losing record against the Eagles, having an all-time record of 12-14 against Ashland, but have won their last five matchups.

Junior H-back Carson

Gulker loves that his team is able to play these playoff games in front of the Bulldogs' faithful community.

"Playing at home is huge for us," Gulker said. "We get to stick to our regular routine and sleep in our own beds and all of that before the game. It's good for us to keep consistency in our schedules, and it's always good to play in front of the Bulldog faithful."

The Ferris State Bulldogs will take on the Ashland Eagles for the second round of the NCAA DII Playoffs on Saturday, Nov. 29, at 1 p.m. at Top Taggart Field.