



presents the

DIGITAL DOWNLOAD

Celebrating 50 years of excellence in preparing students as visual storytellers



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



It would be true to say that not every aspect of the transition into the new Center for Virtual Learning building was smooth. There were technology challenges along the way, a few delays in implementing some of the software and hardware, and not all the furniture was ready on day one. However, those small challenges were all worth it (and somewhat expected) when compared to the otherwise complete success of the new teaching and learning space for the School of Digital Media!

The new labs, new computers, shared server space, and informal gathering and learning areas have all been embraced with great appreciation by students, faculty, and staff alike! Students are enjoying (and heavily using) their card-key access to the building and labs, and there

is a greater sense of community now, with faculty offices again located close to learning spaces. The school has hosted events, and the Media Communication Association student organization hosts regular meetings and movie nights in the new lecture / screening room. Faculty and staff have also hosted more tours than we can count! So, don't hesitate to reach out if you would like your very own guided tour! We love connecting with TVP and TDMP alum!

Speaking of which, TDMP engineer, Bill Jung, and I had a great visit in December with Shawn DeWeerd, Julie Way, and Kyle Way – all three TDMP graduates who now work



PROFESSOR GLEN OKONOSKI
TDMP Chair & Coordinator for
the School of Digital Media

for the University of Notre Dame (Shawn and Julie with Notre Dame Studios, and Kyle in IT for their College of Business). It was extremely kind of them to spend a good portion of their day showing us around their tremendous facilities, and describing their operations, which are impressive! As if that wasn't enough, we also left with a few goodies (jib arm and video switcher) that we will use to support the program and instruction of future classes!

We are pleased to report that we will soon be awarding this year's TVP / TDMP Emeriti Scholarship. Thanks to your contributions, the endowment has increased to over \$40,000, meaning that we can award monies annually to

“ There is a greater sense of community now with faculty offices again located close to learning spaces.”



SIZEABLE DONATIONS
TDMP Grad Shawn DeWeerd and Engineer Bill Jung load up some much-welcomed equipment for the program

a deserving student! This initiative is so important for our students. From my work with the Foundation Board for the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, I know that there are opportunities for the TDMP program to create an endowed scholarship through MAB as well. If this is an opportunity that you'd like to discuss further, please let me know!

Finally, TDMP faculty have travelled quite a bit in the last year, hosting information sessions about the TDMP program and the opportunities we have for students. The program also serves non-majors through a variety of courses. These efforts have served to bolster enrollment. As always, we value your support and recommendations about the program. There is nothing as valuable as your testimonies!

You can reach Glen directly here: GlenOkonoski@Ferris.edu.


GLEN OKONOSKI

A LOOK INSIDE THE CENTER FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING



GREEN SCREEN ROOM



SENIOR EDITING BAYS



LECTURE/SCREENING ROOM



EDITING LAB

TVP/TDMP EMERITI SCHOLARSHIP

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported TDMP (formerly TVP) over the years. Through your help, students are applying now for scholarship funds raised within our endowment, and we are excited to be able to award this scholarship for the first time. We hope to provide more information about how this scholarship will help TDMP students in the near future including providing an interview with the recipient once one is selected. There is still opportunity to donate to the scholarship which will allow us to award more money to our students. Just head over to tdmpscharship.com or follow the QR code below.

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ONE DAY FOR DAWGS

Another opportunity to help the TDMP program is during One Day for Dawgs. This day-long event is Ferris's major gift giving push during the year and we are raising funds to purchase a Mavic 3 Pro Drone that would be used in our experimental Drone Preparation course.

The course will provide students will an understanding of the required rules of flying a drone for commercial production and prepare students to take the FAA Part 107 test.

SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 10



THE JOURNEY TOWARD VIRTUAL PRODUCTION

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At the end of 2023, Ferris Professor Nick Kuiper was awarded a \$7,000 (plus) Professional Development Grant to research technology for virtual camera tracking. The grant funded the purchase of a MARS Vive CamTrack system that would allow the School of Digital Media to track a live camera into Unreal Engine. While research into this technology will continue throughout the next year, TDMP 355 - Advanced Compositing students have begun work on pilot testing the CamTrack to create scenes that will be used as a proof of concept of how we can use the technology at Ferris.

To help inspire students and give them hands-on experience with virtual production, Golden Hour in Grand Rapids hosted School of Digital Media students during a day-long production demo. The trip was funded through a Ferris Innovation Accelerator Program Grant and provided students with an opportunity to work alongside industry professionals. Students helped age clothing, they dressed the set and learned about safety procedures during production. Students on the camera crew swapped lenses, got their hands on the Arri Alexa MiniLE, they lit scenes both practically and in Unreal Engine, and much more. This opportunity took the typical field trip and flipped it on its head, giving a students a glimpse into how this technology can be used on a small and large scale.

Special thanks to the crew at Golden Hour and the actors during our shoot:

Andrew Smith, Mike Vella, Mike Colby, Michael Elzinga, Ben Wilke, Colton Phiscator, Jarod Jordan, Marion Jamet, Miranda Gartland, Josh Ralya, Jess Hill, Evan Koons, and Will Oltman.



A NEWLY REMODELED FERRISSTATE.TV

TDMP proudly unveils its updated and revamped version of FerrisState.TV. Now built on WordPress and updated by the program's students, FSTV offers a captivating showcase of original programs, insightful blog posts, equipment resources from Media Supply, and now, an exciting addition: podcasts.

Maintained by the students in TDMP 328 - Online Media Management, FerrisState.TV represents a collaboration of creativity and hands-on learning. Through regular blog posts published twice a week, FerrisState.TV continues to shine a spotlight on the program's flagship productions,

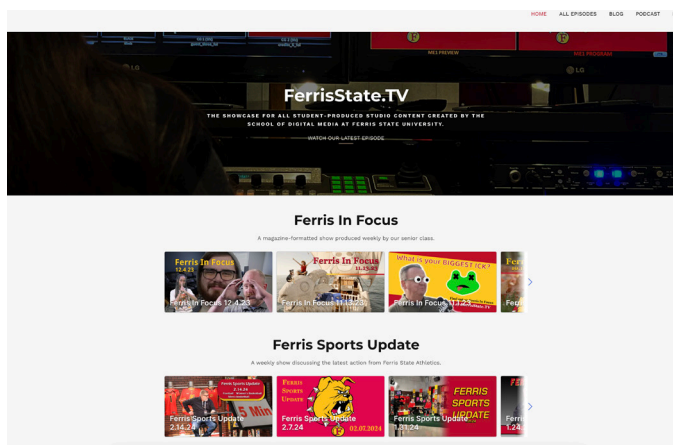
including the popular Ferris Sports Update and other studio programs, produced by TDMP 385 - Television Studio Production.

Podcasting has emerged as a powerful medium for storytelling, education, and entertainment, and FerrisState.TV is proud to embrace this trend by incorporating podcast versions of our studio programs. Visit now to listen on Spotify or Apple Podcasts.

A standout feature of FerrisState.TV is its dedicated page for Media Supply, the program's own "equipment rental house." Here, students can access information about the checkout process and view a complete list of equipment available for checkout.

Moreover, FerrisState.TV integrates a subsection dedicated to the Media Communications Association (MCA) at FerrisMCA.com. This subsection, provides a deeper understanding of the organization's mission, activities, and opportunities for student involvement.

Visit FerrisState.TV today and experience the creativity, passion, and ingenuity that define Ferris State University's Television and Digital Media Production program, where the future of digital media begins!



DOCUMENTING 140 YEARS

After winning numerous awards for their work on Mystic Michigan (available on [Amazon Prime Video](#)), students in TDMP 466 Instructional Design embarked on an even larger challenge: documenting the last 140 years of Ferris State University history.

Over the entire fall semester, Chad Andres, Nolan Harris, Kelsey Meyers, and Alex Valentini collaborated with TDMP Professor Nick Kuiper to tell the story of Helen and Woodbridge Ferris and their legacy of providing education for all.

The process began in August of 2023, when students were given the option to decide what they wanted to work on.

Unanimously, students decided this project would give them the



PRESIDENT BILL PINK
TDMP Instructional Design Seniors interview the Ferris President for the documentary tentatively titled "Ferris State University: A Legacy of Opportunity."

experience and challenges they were looking for.

The documentary, tentatively titled "Ferris State University: Legacy of Opportunity," focuses on the hopes and dreams of Helen and Woodbridge Ferris. The university faced many setbacks in honoring that legacy including campus nearly burning down and racial tensions increasing during the Civil Rights movement, but 140 years later their purpose endures.

The film features interviews with dozens

of Ferris stakeholders from President Bill Pink to Ferris football player Olalere Olidipo; Jim Crow Museum founder David Pilgrim to Ferris basketball player Chloe Idoni; Ferris Board of Trustee Member Ron Snead to Ferris Archivist Melinda Isler.

The film will premiere online in late August.



CHLOE IDONI
A screenshot from the Ferris 140th Anniversary Documentary. A segment of the film focuses on the challenges and successes of student athletes.

AWARD-WINNING WORK



The very impressive Spring 2023 TDMP 464 – Instructional Design production of "Mystic Michigan: Light Within The Darkness" has been nominated in the Documentary category at the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Student Broadcast Awards. Chad Andres and Kelsey Meyers production of "[Ferris Sports Update](#)" has also been nominated in the Talk Show/Scripted Show category of the MAB awards.

Chad and Kelsey's "[Program Spotlight: Television and Digital Media Production](#)" also won an Award of Excellence in the Promotional category of the Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts. It's a great piece that showcases our new Center for Virtual Learning building and features contributions from all four full-time TDMP faculty!

See all our award-winning Student Work [Here](#)



youtube.com/ferrisstatetdmp

LIGHT WITHIN THE DARKNESS

Instructional Design students have been nominated for Best Documentary in the MAB Student Broadcast Awards

THRIVING INTERNSHIPS

The six-month TDMP Internship has been the capstone experience of our program for more than four decades.

Internship Coordinator Joshua Pardon takes great care in connecting our Seniors with internships that match well with their interests and abilities. The following students are currently placed, and the list is growing!

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Kelsey Meyers and Chad Andres – [BeAlive](#), Midland MI
Nolan Harris – [Yellow Dog Creative](#), Marquette MI
Alex Valentini – [NewsNet](#), Cadillac MI

Most internships are paid, and many TDMP interns choose internships in locations where they can live with family to save on housing and transportation expenses.



KELSEY MEYERS
currently interning at Be Alive in Midland, MI gets footage for a competition



...also at Be Alive, **CHAD ANDRES**
monitors audio during a podcast recording

If you are a TDMP Alumni and would like to provide an internship opportunity to a TDMP student, please reach out:
pardonj@ferris.edu.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW (Alumni News)

BRIDGETTE PACHOLKA
(2005)

Director of Storytelling and Content at E.W. Scripps Company

DEAN BRENNAN (2007)

Chief Executive Officer at Heart & Soil

SHANNON MELLINGER
(2014)

Marketing Graphic Designer at TruStage

JESSE WOODWORTH (2016)

Video Editor at Golden Hippo

CHRISTIAN JACKSON
(2020)

Audio Video Manager at Mills James

RILEY FOX (2019)

Manager of Creative Content and Marketing at Missoula Paddleheads

MARIAH VONGPHACHANH
(2023)

Video Editor at Ideology

SAWYER THIEBAUT-NEAR
(2023)

Assistant Video Editor at Bass Pro Shops

DAVID RAGATZ (2019)

Senior Project Manager at Doner

JERMAINE ROEMER (2022)

Editor/Cam Op at Black Pine Films

NICK KARLIK (2021)

National News Desk Producer at Spectrum Bay News 9

NATE MARQUARDT
(2024)

Freelancer at Mills James

EVAN SIMON
(2013)

Broadcast Producer/Editor at the University of Alabama

JULIE WAY
(2009)

Video Production Professional at University of Notre Dame

MARY FIRESTONE
(2022)

Video Editor at 24G

MICHAEL JULIEN
(2022)

Engineer at Wood TV 8

DANIEL ALLEN
(2018)

Photojournalist at FOX 17

JESSIE FIDLER
(2019)

Producer at Detroit Public Television

MICHAEL KING
(2014)

Videographer/Editor for Ingalls Pictures

To be featured in our next newsletter, send a short description of your position, significant works, or awards to sdm@ferris.edu.



The Media Communications Association (MCA) continues to meet bi-weekly with an average attendance of 20+ students per meeting.

Last semester, MCA hosted several events, including a 24-hour film competition. Teams had from Saturday 3pm to Sunday 3pm to write, shoot and edit a short film. There were 4 teams total, comprised of around 5 people

each, including 1 team of 1. TDMP and DAGD students made up these groups (and others). Four faculty participated, including Nick Kuiper and Andrew Tingley as producers, Vaarun Singireddy as an actor and Joshua Pardon as a competition judge. To read about the requirements and watch the short films visit: <https://www.ferrisstate.tv/24hrfc>



FERRIS MEDIA FESTIVAL

As April draws near, anticipation rises for MCA's flagship event—the yearly Ferris Media festival, scheduled for April 12th, starting at 9 am. This year promises to be nothing short of spectacular, with a lineup boasting five captivating presenters and an engaging panel discussion.

MCA leadership is finalizing the schedule, but so far these speakers have committed to speak:

Video Production - [Bridgette Pacholka](#)

Game Design - [Joshua Morgan](#)

Video Production - [Scott West](#)

Esports - [James Villar](#)

The festival serves not only as a plat-

**Join us
April 12 at 9am
in the David
Eisler Center**

form for networking and learning but also as a testament to the collaborative spirit of MCA. The festival is open to all, so mark your calendars. Admission is free, and to satiate your hunger for both knowledge and sustenance, lunch will be provided.

Whether you're a seasoned veteran or a newcomer eager to explore, join us on April 12th as we embark on a journey through the ever changing landscape of digital media. Let's not just witness the future; let's shape it together.

To stay up to date, bookmark ferrismca.com



With the digital version of this newsletter, all the links below are active



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY



SCHOOL OF DIGITAL MEDIA

Television and Digital Media Production at Ferris State University provides opportunities for student learning in both the creative and technical communication skills necessary to develop successful careers. Students learn the art and craft of visual storytelling through applied, hands-on learning, in small class-sizes, from faculty with industry experience, through client-oriented coursework and an intensive internship experience.

Ferris State University is an equal opportunity institution. For information on the University's Policy on Non-Discrimination, visit ferris.edu/non-discrimination.

OFFICE: Television and Digital Media Production, 1009 S. State Street, CVL 314, Big Rapids, Michigan, USA 49307