



presents the

# DIGITAL DOWNLOAD

50th Anniversary Edition





# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

2

Welcome to the 50th anniversary edition of the Digital Download, which is full of callback images from over the years! As I write this greeting, we are eagerly anticipating the celebration of this milestone that is being held on Saturday, April 12th.

We will have guest speakers, including several alumni: Angela Mensah, Dominic Pipia, and Brandon Danowski. Fred Wyman will also speak, and Clayton Rye, Connie Morcom, and Pat Tobin will be in attendance, along with current faculty and staff.

We will also feature a sneak peek at the TDMP 50th Documentary that current students are working on. It will be a great night of good food, friendship, and memories! You can tour facilities beginning at 3:00pm, including the new CVL building, the television studio, and the current iteration of the remote production trailer. The cocktail hour starts at 5:30pm, followed by dinner and the program. It will be a great night!

“ Keeping with the tradition of the TDMP program, faculty take feedback from interns and internship sites to inform the curriculum and adjust to ensure that graduates are well positioned for where the industry is going. • ”

  
GLEN OKONOSKI

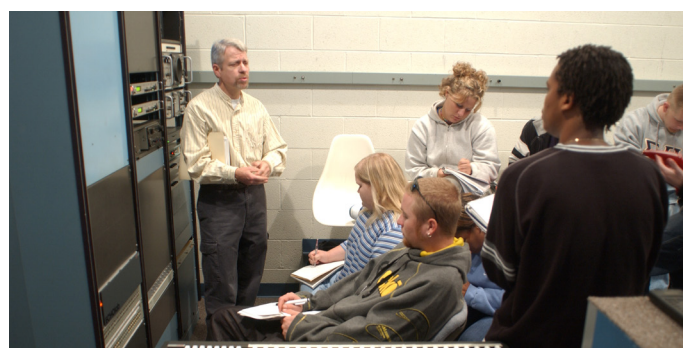
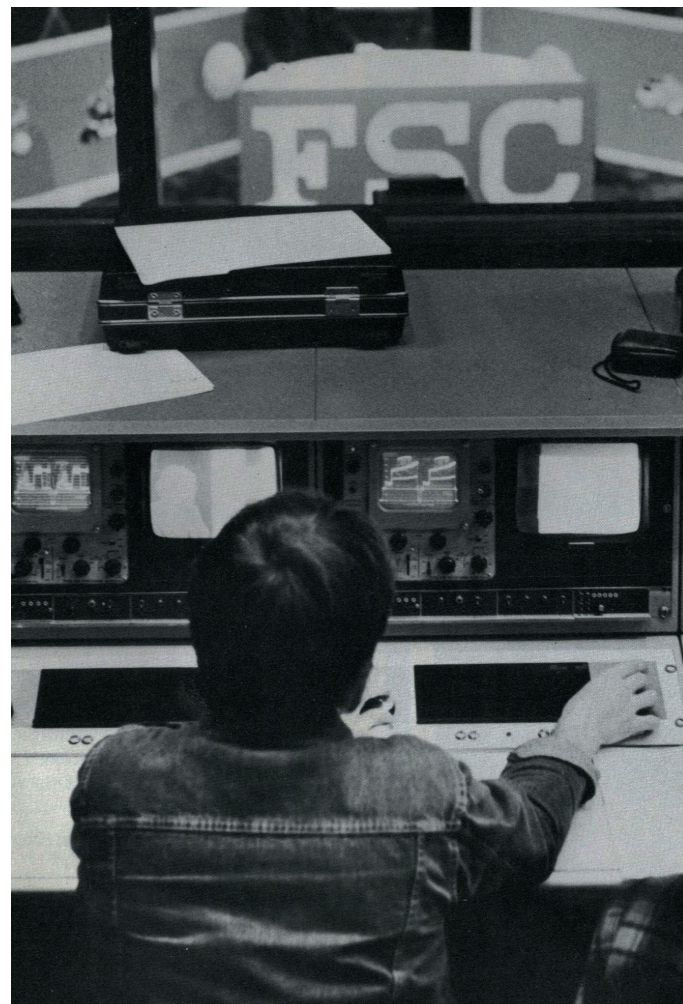


**PROFESSOR GLEN OKONOSKI**  
School of Digital Media Chair

The program today maintains the foundation it was built on 50 years ago. We provide students hand-on, applied learning experiences to practice their craft as storytellers. We do this with industry standard tools, and in purpose-built facilities (now better than ever) that remain accessible to students 24 / 7! Our faculty bring professional experience to the classroom, in small class sizes, and the student experience continues to culminate with an immersive internship experience. We are proud of our tradition and our graduates, and we work hard towards the continued success of the program.

While we look back across the years, we also look ahead! Keeping with the tradition of the TDMP program, faculty take feedback from interns and internship sites to inform the curriculum and adjust to ensure that graduates are well positioned for where the industry is going. For but one example of this, read on about the work professor Kuiper is doing to expand virtual production.

As a reader of this newsletter, you are part of our story! We thank you for your continued interest and engagement and, as always, we ask you to share the unique and valuable opportunity of the TDMP program where you can. We are here for your updates, success stories, input, and questions, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our 50th celebration! Here is a link to register: [www.TDMP50.com](http://www.TDMP50.com)



## TVP/TDMP EMERITI SCHOLARSHIP

Thanks to your generous donations, we have been able to award the TVP/TDMP Emeriti Scholarship for the first time.

TDMP Junior Ciara Brooks was the first recipient of the scholarship. Ciara initially came to Ferris for the Dental Hygiene program, but found a passion for video production after some encouragement from her mom. When she isn't in classes, she's still putting her skills to work with the Great Lakes Loons baseball team in Midland.



If you would like to support students like Ciara, you can still donate to the scholarship anytime. Just head over to [tdmpscholarship.com](https://tdmpscholarship.com) or follow the QR code.



**“ It is even more comforting knowing the number of alumni that support future bulldogs... and I look forward to the time I can give back and help future bulldogs also.”**

## ONE DAY FOR DAWGS

One Day for Dawgs is almost here. This day-long event is Ferris's major gift giving push during the year and we are raising funds to purchase a set of DZO Vespide Prime lenses which will be used in all of our visual storytelling classes.

**SAVE THE DATE  
APRIL 9**

These lenses will give our students opportunities to push their creative vision in a new direction, using lenses geared toward a more cinematic look.

If you would like to donate, visit [this link](#) on April 9.





## VIRTUAL PRODUCTION

Thanks to Professional Development, Innovation, and Ferris Foundation Grants, TDMP is giving students hands-on experience with in-camera visual effects (ICVFX) also known as virtual production.

4

The grants (totaling more than \$14,000) funded the purchase of tracking hardware (the VIVE Mars Camtrack system) and a live-compositing software called Aximmetry Virtual Production Platform DE.

Over the last academic year, Professor Nick Kuiper and TDMP students Jadelin Hinkel and Tee-ghan Rosas have worked together to learn the software and apply it to the creation of fully virtual, live-composited 3D sets/broadcasts.



TDMP students test out the virtual production Esports environment in an Aximmetry software demo showcase the capabilities of the software.

By collaborating with Digital Animation and Game Design (DAGD) and Professional Esports Production students and faculty, TDMP students will create fully-virtual worlds and sets that can be used in a host of media applications.

While there are still many “kinks” to work out, students and faculty are also excited to use this software during the live broadcast of Ferris Esports games and experiment with a broader application in 3D set extensions for digital film and other media within Unreal Engine.

“These tools will allow TDMP students to get hands-on experience with skills that are increasingly in demand throughout our region. Experience using ICVFX in the classroom will make our students more employable and adaptable in a field that is relying heavily on virtual production techniques.”

– Professor Nick Kuiper



## AWARD-WINNING WORK



The excellent Fall 2024 TDMP 499 single-camera production “[Bulldog Story: Tia Brandel-Wilhelm](#)” by Jaris Aaron and Lawrence Carter won 1st Place in the Sports Feature category at the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Student Broadcast Awards. Natalie Morrow’s studio production “[Expect Diversity: Election Preview](#)” also won a 1st Place recognition at the MAB awards, this time in the Talk Show/Scripted Show category, while Jaylah Lewis and Robert Yaxley’s studio production of “[Ferris Sports Update](#)” won 2nd Place in the same MAB award category.

Jaris and Jaylah’s “[Program Spotlight: Medical Laboratory Science](#)” also won an Award of Excellence in the Instructional/Educational category of the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) Festival of Media Arts. It’s a great piece that showcases an important part of the medical field that often hides behind the scenes!

TDMP Films was awarded a Broadcast Excellence Award from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters for “[Ferris State University: Legacy of Opportunity](#).” Chad Andres, Nolan Harris, Kelsey Meyers, Alex Valentini worked on the film alongside Professor Nick Kuiper. Students also received an Award of Excellence for the film from the BEA.

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



**BEN MUMA**

On internship at the VanAndel Institute in Grand Rapids, filming a centrifuge training video.

The six-month internship has been the capstone experience of our program for more than four decades. As our TDMP Internship Coordinator, I take 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!

Lawrence Carter – Michigan Works! West Central, Big Rapids MI

Tori Bridges – [Grand Rapids Community College](#), Grand Rapids MI

Ben Muma – [Van Andel Institute](#), Grand Rapids MI

Jaylah Lewis – [WKTV](#), Wyoming MI

Jarius Aaron – [WKTV](#), Wyoming MI

Bobby Yaxley – [City of Sterling Heights](#), Sterling Heights MI / [Jordan Mac Dance Studios](#),

Troy MI

Reese Miller – [WOOD-TV8](#), Grand Rapids MI

5

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.

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



The Media Communications Association (MCA) remains as an important registered student organization (RSO) for the students within the School of Digital Media. The goal of the organization is to serve the students of the TDMP, DAGD, and other majors within the School of Digital Media to provide events to grow creative muscles and improve development and production skills.

In order to accomplish this goal, MCA has hosted many events throughout the fall and spring semesters with assistance from Teeghan Rosas, the new Event Planner. Some of the most notable events run by MCA include the 24-hour film festival, where teams have one day to write, shoot, and edit a short film and show it off, and also providing a hosting location for multiple Game Jams, where students form teams and have 48 hours to put together a game and present it. A new event was also introduced by MCA called Movie Prop Demo Night, where students and faculty alike were able to see a variety of props used in professional films and understand how they were used to promote safety in filming. The students were also able to create some props of their own to take home and try breakable props in a safe environment. Check out a highlight video from the event [here](#).



TDMP Professor **NICK KUIPER** breaks a chair over DAGD Associate Professor **VARUUN SINGIREDDY'S** back during MCA's Movie Prop Demo Night.



School of Digital Media students filming during the 24-hour film festival, an event organized by MCA



MCA is also responsible for organizing the most impactful event for students within the School of DigitalMedia: the Ferris Media Festival.

This day-long event features guest speakers from across digital media fields who share their experiences in industry, and tips for success. We would love it if you joined us!



# April 11th

9:00am-5:00pm

**David L. Eisler Center**  
**Rm 202 B,C**



Register For Free!

9:30am



**Christian Jackson**  
Began as an intern at WKTV, contributing to weekly football shows and government meetings. He gained experience with the Detroit Red Wings and Pistons in-house production teams, worked as a A1 for an MMA company during the pandemic, and freelanced with Oncore AV at events like Traverse City Pit Spitters and Whitecaps games.

10:45am



**Dr. Layan Nahlawi**  
Earned a PhD in computer science and biomedical imaging from Queens Unvieristy Data science and machine learning manager at PwC, the global business consulting giant. She leads various AI, machine learning initiatives for clients including various medical technology initiatives.

1:00pm



**Chris Dotson**  
Over 15 years of expertise in digital media, specializing in media creation, strategy, and innovation. 17 years in television and video production-including work for the U.S. President and Congress. Holds two patents in media technology.

2:15pm



**Jessica Plowman**  
Earned a degree in DAGD and CTE Master's at Ferris State University and has taught high school students how to create games and game art since 2005. Currently, She is working as a Technical Writer Manager at Epic Games, and has experience in both Unreal Engine, 3d Studio Max, Adobe Creative Suite and more.

3:30pm

**Panel Discussion**

Anyone with a disability who needs accommodations to attend this event should contact Rolanda Gleason at(231) 591-2712 or [RolandaGleason@ferris.edu](mailto:RolandaGleason@ferris.edu) at least 72 hours in advance. Ferris State University is an equal opportunity institution. For more information on the University's Policy on Non-Discrimination, visit [www.Ferris.edu/non-discrimination](http://www.Ferris.edu/non-discrimination).

This event has been brought to you by



SAF  
Student Activity Fees  
as allocated by the  
Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee

"Anyone with a disability who needs accommodations to attend this event should contact Rolanda Gleason at(231) 591-2712 or [RolandaGleason@ferris.edu](mailto:RolandaGleason@ferris.edu) at least 72 hours in advance. Ferris State University is an equal opportunity institution. For more information on the University's Policy on Non-Discrimination, visit [www.Ferris.edu/non-discrimination](http://www.Ferris.edu/non-discrimination)."

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](http://ferris.edu/non-discrimination).

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