



presents the

# DIGITAL DOWNLOAD

Celebrating nearly 50 years of excellence in preparing students as visual storytellers

P3. Discover how you can help students with a new scholarship

P4. Learn about the Center for Virtual Learning

P4. Hear about our recent grant funding

P5. Meet our new tenure-track faculty member


P5. Find out about award-winning student work

P6. Check out our internship opportunities

...and much more.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE



This is an exciting time for the Television and Digital Media Production program at Ferris! The next academic year (2022-2023) will mark the 50th year since students first enrolled in the Audiovisual Technology A.S. program. This grew into the creation of the Television Production (TVP) B.S. degree, which was renamed Television and Digital Media Production (TDMP) to reflect curriculum changes that occurred in the early 2000s. It is incredible to think of all the graduates over that time-period, and all the successful media professionals who can boast of Ferris as their alma mater!

We are also very excited to have Andrew Tingley (TDMP Alumnus) coming on board as the newest faculty member in the program. You will hear from him, and about all that he brings to the classroom, on page five. The TDMP program has a rich history of long-serving faculty over the years, who have supported and nurtured students in their learning, and Andrew will no doubt add to this legacy.

Please note the information here around creating an endowed scholarship program, that will support students financially, while honoring faculty from over the years.

The TDMP program has successfully received grant funding approaching a total of \$200,000 in the last four years, which has gone a long way towards updating computers and equipment used by students. The Remote Production trailer underwent

changes this summer, as almost \$70,000 of upgrades were made as part of Ferris State's return to the CCHA. Then there is also a brand-new building! The Center for Virtual Learning will open in fall of 2023 and will house all School of Digital Media programs. (Again, you can read more about that on the coming pages.)

With all this great news, there has never been a better time for TDMP students to learn, grow, and become prepared to succeed in the industry! However, this is a challenging time for higher education in many respects. Consider a shrinking student population, increased competition, and more questions than ever about the costs associated with college degrees. We see the scholarship opportunity as a way we can address, if even in a small way, the expense challenge.

On the competition front, we believe we offer students a tremendous experience, that prepares them very well for their career – and our belief continues to be reinforced by our internship partners. Still, we find that the program remains a (too) well-kept secret! In this regard, I'd like to ask for your help. Please always promote the program to aspiring content creators, and their parents! :- Feel free to direct them to [www.Ferris.edu/TDMP](http://www.Ferris.edu/TDMP), or to contact me directly: [GlenOkonoski@Ferris.edu](mailto:GlenOkonoski@Ferris.edu). It's a tall task, but I am looking forward to the start of the next 50 years, building on the first!

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

**“ With all this great news, there has never been a better time for TDMP students to learn, grow, and be prepared to succeed in the industry! ”**

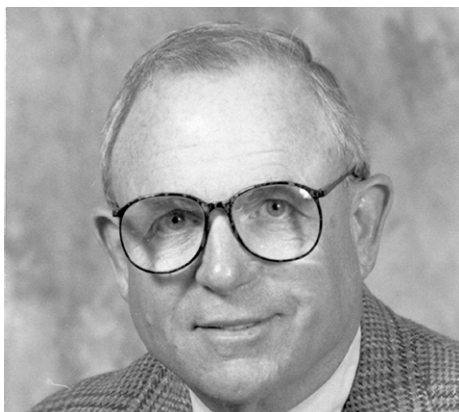


**GLEN OKONOSKI**

# REMEMBERING JIM BREAUT

Before James Breault (1974-1994) came to Ferris and, along with the Dean of the College of Education Tom Cook, created the TV Production program, he spent more than 15 years in TV news. As an award-winning television producer, he covered parades, Lions games, and the Detroit riots for WDIV-TV.

He started in live production, moved to film, and eventually videotape as he created scheduled programs and documentaries both in the studio and on location.



**JIM BREAUT (1935-2021)**  
Founder of Television Production at Ferris State

In 1974, Jim started at Ferris and became the first TVP faculty member and internship coordinator. He was instrumental in forming the program into what it is today, including its focus on internships. During his time teaching in TVP, enrollment exploded to 143 students. In 1988, TVP was changed from a junior-senior level program to the four year program it is today.

It was Jim's belief that no matter where they came from or how they were raised, every child deserved a quality education. With nearly 400 TVP graduates during his tenure, Jim Breault clearly left an indelible imprint on the Ferris community.



## TVP/TDMP EMERITI SCHOLARSHIP

As a way to help students and honor faculty who have impacted our graduates, the TDMP program has begun fundraising for the **TVP/TDMP Emeriti Scholarship**.

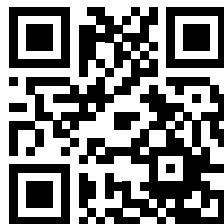
3

This scholarship will honor the memory of Jim Breault, Bob Hunter, and Leigh Caskey as well as show appreciation to recent emeriti Clayton Rye, Fred Wyman, Steve Cox, and Connie Morcom. Read their letter supporting this initiative [here](#) (or scan the QR code below).

The needs-based scholarship will be awarded to deserving students in the TDMP program and can be used for tuition, supplies, or equipment (we don't have to buy tapes anymore, but one can never have too many SD cards and hard drives).

In order to endow this scholarship, we are currently fundraising with hopes to reach our goal of \$12,500 by One Day for Dawgs on April 13.

Current faculty are matching at least the first \$2,000 dollars, and emeriti have committed to chip in as well. Any donation can help us reach our goal. If you, a friend, or any graduate you know might be willing to donate to the scholarship, go to [tdmpscholarship.com](http://tdmpscholarship.com) to access our One Day for Dawgs page, scan the QR code, or click on the Brutus image below.



## THE CENTER FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING

4

The new three-story Center for Virtual Learning building is under construction, and on target for a scheduled opening in fall 2023. Needless to say, we are highly anticipating this move! Seeing the building go up is the culmination of four years of discussion and planning.

The third floor of the new Center for Virtual Learning will offer School of Digital Media students five new labs, five distinct video editing suites, two sound booths, a green screen studio, and two classrooms. These spaces will be purpose-built, rather than retrofitted, and are designed to offer students practical experience that

best mirrors the real-world work environment. The television studio is the only learning space that will remain in the IRC building, as it is equipped and situated better there than it could have been in the new building.

The third floor will add advanced motion capture and virtual reality capabilities and equipment to better attract and retain students, while offering multi-disciplinary learning opportunities across the School. The new space will remain accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week – but with a card-key entry system that will better serve students (vs. checking out keys). After years of being in different

buildings, TDMP faculty offices will once again be in close proximity to learning spaces, which will amplify opportunities for faculty to support students. This is a big highlight of the new space! Fundraising efforts are underway, including naming rights for various learning spaces across the third floor. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please contact [Glen Okonoski](#).

For more information about the building, or to see a live video feed of the building site, visit: [www.ferris.edu/cvl](http://www.ferris.edu/cvl)



## GRANT FUNDING

TDMP has benefitted from several non-traditional funding opportunities and this past December, we were awarded a grant totaling nearly \$114,000.00! As with any funding opportunity, we try to identify our most pressing needs and balance them against items needed to keep our students up to date with the latest gear. The following list is just a sample of some of our new equipment:

- 2 New Miller Combo Pedestals for the TV Studio
- LED lighting for the Studio Grid with DMX controller
- 2 Ronin RS2 DJI gimbals
- 2 Sony 70-200mm f2.8 lenses for sports highlights
- Lillitput 21" color correct producer monitor

- New softboxes for all light kits
- 10 iMac's for IRC156 (photography, Online Media Management & Audio classes)
- NewTek 3Play replay system for the remote production trailer

In addition to this funding opportunity, the Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA) helped us upgrade our remote production equipment. Providing us with new cameras to cover hockey (we now have 11 total cameras covering the game). We also purchased PZM mics, IFBs, a new Broadcast Pix Granite video switcher, a Daktronics AJT graphics computer and much more.

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM

I am excited and honored to be joining the full-time faculty as the new Assistant Professor in the TDMP program! I have enjoyed teaching since Fred Wyman first asked me to teach 3D animation for video in 2007.

As many of you before me, I first learned about my passion for film and video in high school. I graduated from TDMP, class of 2004 and my master's degree is in marketing from Southern New Hampshire University.

Since 2006, I've owned two video production businesses and worked with many great companies in the Grand Rapids, MI area.

Moving back to Big Rapids in 2017, I reconnected with Glen and started adjunct teaching again in the fall of 2019.

I am married to my wife, Laura,

### ANDREW TINGLEY New tenure-track TDMP faculty member

of 16 years and we have 4 children. I enjoy creating with all media including wood-working, sewing, cooking, filmmaking, and 3D printing. I appreciate coffee, the outdoors, and camping with my kids in our homemade camper.

My hope is to carry on the rich hands-on tradition that TDMP offers. I love connecting and sharing with students to help them grow into professionals. Specifically, I enjoy

sharing my experiences about business, lighting, marketing and creating for the video production industry. Outside of class, I have connected with the Ferris makerspace, esports, The Torch, RSOs – AMA, MCA, and podcasting - it's great to get involved in all these areas and see how they are all connected. To learn more and view some of my work, visit [awtingley.com](http://awtingley.com).



## AWARD WINNING WORK

Mary Firestone's TDMP 343 - Cinematic Story Production film "[A Farmer's Tragedy](#)" won an Award of Excellence at the Broadcast Education Association's (BEA) Festival of Media Arts in the Micro-Documentary category. The piece was also further refined by Mary using skills developed in the TDMP 365 - Color Grading course.

Lacie Stevens and Vernard Norris won 2nd Place in the Instructional/Educational Category of the Student Film and Video Competition of BEA for their TDMP 499 - Advanced Producing and Directing "[Big Rapids Life: Fire Department](#)" segment. That segment also won a Student Production Award through the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS).

Gabriel Walker and Greg Brelsford also won a Michigan NATAS Student Production Award for their [Big Rapids Mancino's Commercial](#).

James Kilgore and Vernard Norris won 2nd Place in the Talk Show/Scripted Show Category of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Student Broadcast Awards for an episode of "[Ferris Sports Update](#)".

Garret Morgan's (2019) documentary "[Mentality](#)" has garnered critical success on the film festival circuit. The film screened at the Central Michigan International Film Festival where it received the Jury Award for Best Michigan-Made Documentary. "Mentality" also won the Silver Award from the Spotlight Documentary Film Awards, and Winner of the Month from the Direct Monthly Online Film Festival.

Please view all of our award-winning student work at our "[TDMP Award Winners](#)" YouTube channel.



### MARY FIRESTONE

Mary's film "[A Farmer's Tragedy](#)" won a Broadcast Education Association award

# THRIVING INTERNSHIPS

The six-month TDMP 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.

6

Our most recent six-month internship placements are:

- Michael Julien – WOOD TV 8, Grand Rapids MI
- Kevin Jones – Little Red Fern, St. Joseph, MI
- Jacob Jergens – Ahptic Film & Digital, Chicago, IL
- Sadie Stevens – FSU UA&M News Services & Social Media, Big Rapids, MI
- Tevin Clum – FSU UA&M Ferris Foundation, Big Rapids, MI
- Mary Firestone – 24G, Troy, MI

ASSOC. PROFESSOR JOSHUA PARDON  
TDMP Internship Coordinator

**“ I take great care in connecting our Seniors with internships that match well with their interests and abilities.”**

- Ellie Hardy – Michigan Creative, Lansing, MI
- Jacob VanHarmelen – Great Lakes Loons, Midland, 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.

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



**KEVIN JONES**  
On location at his internship at Little Red Fern

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW (Alumni News)

### DAVID ROEHRIG

Vice President of Post Production at Entertainment One

### MICHAEL CLAYTON (1986)

Video Multi-Media Producer at Mayo Clinic

### KRISTOPHER LOVISHKA (1996)

EVS/3-Play operator for NBA TV

### STEPHANIE ADKINS (2002)

Assistant Director of Photojournalism at 9&10 News

### BRIDGETTE PACHOLKA (2005)

Photojournalist at WEWS-TV in Ohio

### MICHEAL DULIN (2005)

VP, Design System Lead for UX Design for J.P. Morgan and Chase

### JEREMY DULAC (2010)

Videographer/Editor at Pratt & Miller Engineering

### LAMARR ENGLISH, JR (2010)

Lead Post Production Editor for ESPN

### MATT REINBOLD (2013)

Senior Motion Designer at the Wall Street Journal

### EVAN SIMON (2013)

Broadcast Producer/Editor for the University of Alabama

### MIKE PENHOLLOW (2013)

Video Production Manager and the Boston Bruins.

### COLBY WITTMAN (2014)

Senior Art Director for Aisle Rocket Studios

### AMY KUSMIERZ (2014)

Videographer and Editor at Retro-Foam

### LAUREN STEFL (2018)

Multimedia Coordinator for the KC Current

### MEGAN SOLLER (2018)

Digital Strategist at the Federalist Society

### GARRET MORGAN (2019)

Cinematographer at Yellow Dog Creative

### SID SABO (2019)

Post Production Specialist at Fission 3

### DAVID RAGATZ (2019)

Production Manager at Doner

### DANIELLE WILL (2019)

Programming Coordinator at Revry

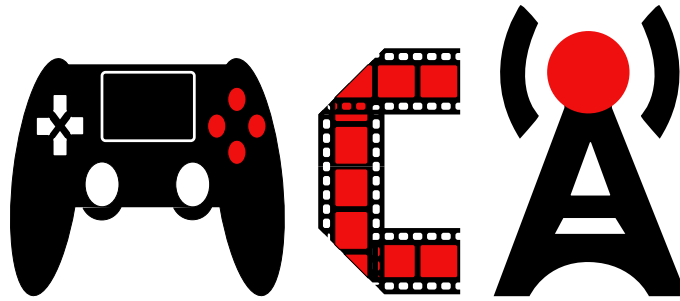
### GABRIEL WALKER (2021)

Assistant Editor/Videographer for Overneath Creative

### KRISTIN KIRSCH (2021)

Government Communications CATV Specialist at ImageStream

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



# Media Communications Association

Media Communications Association (MCA) is the official Registered Student Organization of the School of Digital Media. In MCA, our TDMP students work alongside the Digital Animation and Game Design students to organize social activities such as game and movie nights as well as producing our big annual event...

## FERRIS MEDIA FESTIVAL

The 21st annual Ferris Media Festival takes place on Friday, April 8, 2022. Producing this event requires an entire academic year's worth of organizing and fundraising, and an impressive array of speakers from across the Digital Media industry will present at this year's event:

- Kim Rozner, "Animation – Bringing my Career to Life!"
- Mary Wall & Erik Wojtanik, "Independent Documentary Filmmaking"
- Colby Wittman, "From Grip to the Director's Chair: My Climb Through Advertising"
- Robert Evans, "A Career in Game Design"
- Matt Vaughn, "Being a Better Artist (and Person)"

There will also be a screening of the documentary film "The Fan Connection" at 7pm Thursday, April 7. Immediately following the screening will be a Q&A session with producers Mary Wall & Erik Wojtanik.

**April 8, 2022**  
**9am–3pm**  
**Univercity Center**  
**Ballroom**

Special thanks to the 2021-22 MCA Executive Board for all of their work this year:

- Caroline Jasin (DAGD) – President
- Tyler Brintnell (TDMP) – Vice-President
- Sawyer Thiebaut-Near (TDMP) – Treasurer
- Allen Couturier (DAGD) – Secretary
- Jessica Osmun (DAGD) – Social Media Chair

Find out more about MCA at [www.facebook.com/FerrisMCA](http://www.facebook.com/FerrisMCA)

Find out more about the Ferris Media Festival at [www.facebook.com/ferrismediafestivalfsu](http://www.facebook.com/ferrismediafestivalfsu)



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, 1349 Cramer Circle, Bishop Hall 303, Big Rapids, Michigan, USA 49307