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A campus in mourning

Roger Beckett, executive director of Ashbrook Center, passes away unexpectedly



MAUER PHOTOGRAPHY
Roger Beckett passed away suddenly on Friday after a brief illness.

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Roger Beckett, Executive Director of the Ashbrook Scholar Program, passed away following a brief illness on Sept. 14 at the age of 44. The campus community, including Ashbrook scholars and staff, received a letter from Interim Ex-

ecutive Director, Pat Maloney, informing them of Beckett's passing. Beckett was named the executive director of Ashbrook in 2013, but was involved in the program since he was an undergrad at AU. He was an Ashbrook Scholar during his years as a student and received both the James Madison Award and Mentor Award. Shortly following his graduation in

1996, he pursued a career working in the Ashbrook Center. "Roger was a great friend and mentor to all of us who were lucky enough to work with him," Ben Kunkle, student programs manager for the Ashbrook program, said. "He and I graduated from Ashland the same year and worked together at Ashbrook for the better part of 20 years." Through their years together, Kunkle always admired Beckett's leadership style. "He was exactly what everyone would want in a boss" he said. "He was thoughtful, but decisive. Focused on his goals, but open-minded enough to listen to new ideas. He treated his employees as his equals, never asking any of us to do anything he wasn't willing to do himself. He will be missed by anyone who was fortunate enough to get to know him." After the death of Dr. Peter Schramm, former Ashbrook executive director, Beckett took over as Executive Director of the Ashbrook Program. He worked side by side with Schramm, his mentor, throughout his years in Ashbrook, and helped it grow into the pro-

gram it is now. Beckett helped expand the Ashbrook program from a little over 40 students to the current number of 130 plus students, as well as assisted in creating a Masters program for teachers. His leadership, as well as his friendship, will be deeply missed on the AU campus Dr. Jeffrey Sikkenga, professor of political science and co-director of the Ashbrook Scholar Program, said. "Roger was a great friend to me, both personally and professionally. He cultivated friendship. He had the quality that distinguishes great leaders from good leaders— good leaders know how to get stuff done, but great leaders know what needs to be done," Sikkenga said. "Aristotle called it prudence. Roger had prudence, and that is a rare quality to find in leadership." "Roger embodied the idea that leadership is a quality, not just a skill. When he decided things, you understood why he did them and you respected that decision, he had great judgment. When I think about leaders, I think Roger is one of those rare people that had that quality to distinguish him as a

great leader." Through his years of dedication to the university and the Ashbrook program, his endeavors were faithfully supported by his wife, Danielle, and his daughters, Laura and Sydney. "Roger was entirely dedicated to doing good work for the country and for Ashland University," Dr. Christopher Burkett, co-director of the Ashbrook Program and an associate professor of political science, said. Beckett leaves behind an impact on the Ashbrook Center and the university. Through his years of dedication to the teaching of the Constitution and the importance of self-government, his legacy will live on in all of those who knew him. The Office of Christian Ministry is taking time to meet with any students in mourning. To make an appointment, contact Rev. Mallo- rie Ndlovu Dladla at mndlovu@ashland.edu. A public memorial service will be held to honor the memory of Beck- ett on Sunday, Sept. 23 at 4 p.m. in the AU Chapel.

Ashland celebrates 140 years with homecoming activities



SUBMITTED BY MARIA CIRINCIONE
CAB members Ashley Carter, Sam Kritzline and Emma Wells serving pizza at Pizza, Pizza, Pizza during the 2017 homecoming celebration.

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Homecoming weekend is approaching and the school is getting ready for Saturday by having a full week of festivities. The fun started on Sunday when students from different organizations got creative and painted a window in the student center. A variety of artwork can be seen on the windows from Greek Life and other student activity boards. The Banana Splittin' competition was set for homecoming week but was rescheduled due to the low participation. The competition is now Oct. 10 at the Academic Corridor. This contest allows students to compete against other teams and organizations on campus and gave them the opportunity to have fun and take a break from classes. Students compete in groups and wear costumes to jazz up the tournament. Awards are also given out for the costumes including "best dressed," "fastest eater" and "most creative eating style." Powder Puff football kicked off Sept. 20 and allowed students, faculty and alumni to support the women of Ashland University. Saturday calls for a full day of festivities including the annual 5K run and the crowning of the homecoming king and queen. The 5K run will start Sept. 22 at 8:30 a.m. with runners checking in. The runners will start their marks at 10 a.m. while walkers get

a head start at 9 a.m. Registration is required for the run and the first 100 participants will receive a giveaway. For the entrance fee, people can bring canned goods that will be donated to the Ashland County Food Bank. Also at 10 a.m., the Game Day Send Off will take place as the cheerleaders and band wish the football team the best of luck for the homecoming game. The football team will walk out from the Jack and Deb Miller chapel to the football stadium. As an Ashland tradition, members of the team will carry an original part of the old Founders building during the send off to honor Ashland University, according to student affairs. At 10:30 a.m., you can find president Campo and his wife, Karen, at the Eagles Nest for coffee and breakfast. Campo will discuss updates with the campus and along with the chance to enter in a raffle drawing. Study abroad options will also be open for discussion with faculty for any students interested in the study abroad program. If you love pizza, then you'll definitely be down for the Pizza, Pizza, Pizza Fan Fest. Pizza, Pizza, Pizza will feature a different variety of pies from pizzerias in Ashland. The fest will be held outside of Amstutz hall and is open to the public. Another homecoming tradition is finding out who the Ashland

University homecoming king and queen are. Homecoming king and queen will be crowned during the Ashland University football game against the Northwood Timberwolves. Kick-off starts at 1 p.m. and the crowning ceremony takes place at halftime. In the running for queen is Elizabeth (Liz) Bucci, Sidney Landis, Naomi Sims, Shelby Teets and Aashawnti West. For king, David Grim, Brian Le, Jared Pack, Tyler Sievert and Kyle Wissel. Tickets for the game can be purchased online at goashlandeagles.com or in the business office inside Founders Hall. At 3:30 p.m., the Purple Eagle Silent Auction will begin in the Upper Convocation Center. The auction will provide music, food and other entertainment, along with a photo booth. Two raffle prizes will be available and 250 items will be auctioned off. All proceeds are donated to the Legacy Scholarship Program, the Ashland Fund and the Alumni Association programming. The campus bookstore will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the stadium store will also sell items from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. as well. For more information on all events for the weekend or for overnight accommodations, visit ashland.edu/student-affairs.

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