

Collegian

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY

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University implements new Eagle Alert emergency contact system

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Ashland University has added an

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upgrade to its Eagle Alert emergency notification system by the way of the new CampusShield smartphone app.

This new system was put into place after the university's contract with e2Campus had ended.

"When our contract had expired with e2Campus, we decided we wanted something a little more robust," Director of Safety Services Dave McLaughlin said. "We wanted more safety for the students and the campus community. The previous vender couldn't provide that. We chose CampusShield as our program because it fit what we

The app will provide many emergency notification alerts.

Some of these alerts include severe weather advisories, campus closings, major event cancellations and other emergencies on or near Ashland University.

"With the old system gone, alerts can now be sent out in just one text by safety services instead of having to use multiple messages since there was a character limit," McLaughlin said.

Students can also use the app to send in anonymous tips, access campus resources, safety resources for emergencies and the campus map to get around the college.

When sending in anonymous tips, students can also take photos

and videos of any suspicious activity on campus while also being able to communicate with a dispatcher from safety services.

"It's so much more robust within the app now," McLaughlin said. "Being able to text with a dispatcher or send in pictures or videos is a big step up from what we were doing before."

Rachel Kleman, a security officer and dispatcher for safety services, agrees with McLaughlin.

"I think this will give a lot more opportunity for students to communicate with us without actually coming to the office or calling us on the phone," Kleman said. "The anonymous tips will really help with any noise complaints or suspicious activity since we'll get a ping where the tip is from."

She also feels that the new alert system will greatly benefit the safety services office as well.

"I feel like it will give us a lot more insight into what's going on because students are going to feel more open to send a tip if their name is not associated with it," she said. "It just gives us a little more openness to help the students."

A FriendWatch timer feature can also be found within the app. Within the timer, a student can put what activity that they are about to do and set a timer between 5 minutes and one hour.

Whoever is in the student's contacts on the app will get a notification about their friends' activity.

If the student's timer expires, their contact will then get an alert on their phone stating the timer has expired.

McLaughlin feels that this feature will be especially useful to those on first dates, he said.

"People can use this if they're uncomfortable on a first date or something like that," McLaughlin said. "We're not involved whatsoever, it's just between the two people."

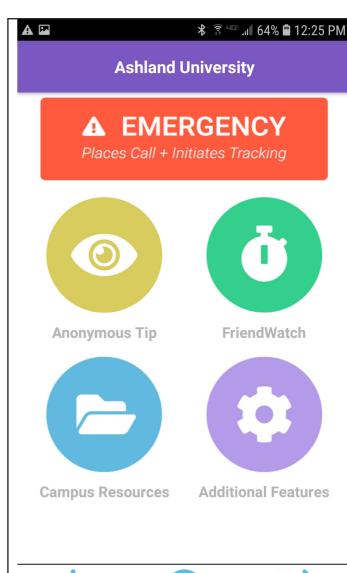
There are two ways that students can join the new emergency notification system. The first is by downloading the CampusShield app that will include all the features listed above. The app can be found on either the Apple or Google Play

When first launching the app, CampusShield will ask for your name and some optional information like what a student looks like.

McLaughlin sees a potential important use for this information but stresses it is not mandatory.

"If you're involved in an emergency, it always helps to have that information," McLaughlin said. "It's totally optional but I would recommend it to people that maybe are prone to seizures or to those who are in a position where they can't communicate."

Students can also register to just receive mass notifications by going to https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/community-alerts/ ashland-university and filling out



the community profile form. This will send any emergency alerts to student's phones and emails, but they will not get the additional perks that come with the new app. McLaughlin believes the new app

will be extremely beneficial. "This is much better than the

All-Institutional Meeting reveals student satisfaction and enrollment data

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The Ashland University faculty and staff had their yearly All-Institutional meeting last Tuesday to get ready for the 2018-2019 academic school year.

This meeting was to recognize new hires as well as those that have been with the university for 25 years, and also inform everyone about where the university stands when it comes to finances, changes and even the satisfaction of the students that attend.

To ensure the well-being of AU and those here, surveys are now being conducted. These surveys include the Noel-Levitz Satisfaction

Inventory, the National survey of student engagement/faculty survey of student engagement and the faculty and staff climate survey.

In the fall 2017 semester, AU conducted the Noel-Levitz Satisfaction survey with the university's undergraduates.

"Majority of the items on that instrument were very positive," Larry Bunce Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness said. "We got a lot of very positive feedback and several instances where our students' mean satisfaction ratings were significantly higher than students at other four-year private institutions."

Bunce explained that out of the 80 different topics that were included in the survey, there were 13 items that were highlighted for needed improvement, including improving the residence halls which the university has already taken initiative on this past summer Bunce said

Each of the surveys will be conducted every three years to keep up to date with the overall satisfaction of the university.

Enrollment and satisfaction at AU correlate directly, which is why Provost Dr. Eun-Woo Chang has to watch the enrollment rates closely he said.

"Traditional freshmen are almost the same numbers from last year. Transfer student numbers are actually up by about 25 or 30," Chang said. "Returning student numbers are actually a little less when compared to last year."

Last year the final number of traditional freshmen was 616 and returning students are said to be about 30 less than last year, according to Chang.

As the semester approaches, the final numbers fluctuate and are not considered final until three or four weeks into the semester. Chang states that AU also typically loses roughly 20 students once classes

"(Three-thousand) is the number of tradition undergraduates I am looking for in 10 years," Chang said. "Currently we have about 2,350. Three-thousand is a good number to have for ungrad tradition to have a lot of stability."

Chang continued on to say that he will be going more in-depth during the Provost Luncheon on Aug. 23

President Carlos Campo ended the meeting by reflecting on pillars of distinction; Academic excellence, unique christian identity, exemplary fiscal stewardship, a healthy, safe and supportive campus environment and enhanced community engagement.

"Can we be nationally recognized? We said we are going to deliver the most personalized comprehensive experience in the nation and that is what we are working towards," Campo said.

Theater department calls for students to audition for upcoming shows

@RachelRamseyMMJ

The AU theater department is holding auditions for three upcoming shows for anyone who is interested in performing in plays filled with comedy, drama and romance.

The department is recreating Little Women, the musical, Three Sisters and Baskerville, a Sherlock Holmes mystery.

Auditions for the first two shows are set for Aug. 28 and several roles will be available.

For Little Women, those auditioning need to know how to sing and to come prepared with 16-32 bars of a song of that style for the auditions.

Callbacks will be held Aug. 29 at 6:30 p.m. and there are six roles available for women and 4 for men.

Auditions and callbacks for Little Women will be held in the Hugo Young Theatre.

The Three Sisters auditions will kick off Aug. 28 at 8 p.m. in the

Studio Theatre and those auditioning must prepare and perform a monologue from a play.

Callbacks for Three Sisters will be held Aug. 30 at 6:30 p.m. and are taking five women and nine men for the play.

Rehearsals for both plays will start in November and auditions for Baskerville will be posted at a

Performances for Little Women are slated for Nov. 2-10 and Three Sisters will be held Feb. 15-23

For any information about auditions, contact Artistic Director, Dr. Theresa Durbin-Ames at 419-289-5821 or email tdurbin@ashland. edu for any details about the audition process.

Tickets will be available for purchase on Sept. 10 at the Ashland University Box Office.

TRICIA APPLEGATE Community member Dr. John Moser participated in Suessical last spring.



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