

news

AU G.I.V.S program takes a new approach

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Ashland University’s volunteer organization Ashland University Get Involved with Volunteer Service (AU G.I.V.S) is changing the way their organization works.

The organization has been re-structured to serve the community better and adequately communicate “Calls for Action” to students that have a passion for different areas of service, senior Jessica Dutko, AU G.I.V.S. intern said.

“The old system we did not have the teams, and that is what we have been having just years prior. The issue that we ran into with that, there were a couple, and that the students were signing up and they did not have the heart, they did not want to volunteer,” Dutko said.

“They were volunteering because they had to as part of being in some organizations on campus,”

The new structure gives students six teams to choose from, and they can join one or all six of them. The first team is the Unity team, which helps serve non-profits in the Ashland area and the second is the Senior Citizens team which helps to brighten the day of the residents at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home.

The P.A.W. team will take care of local animals in the Ashland County Dog Shelter and the he fourth team, the U.S. Service Members team, will help support troops, veterans and local heroes through various activities.

Finally, the Hunger Relief and Homelessness team will both help spread awareness and diminish the problem of hunger and poverty in Ashland County. The last team to join is the the Youth team, which allows students to be mentors and role models to youth in the city through various fun opportunities.

Over 100 students on campus are currently involved with AU G.I.V.S.Commitment as an active general member of AU G.I.V.S. requires eight hours of community service through AU G.I.V.S. sponsored events each semester.

Students who are now in trouble and have to do community service cannot do it through the program Dutko siad. They will have to go through a different department, where they are given work that is a bit harder.

“The university used to implement community service, and we did not like that because it really gives a negative commendation to community service. It should be something from the heart,” Dutko said. “A consequence for getting in trouble here on campus should not be playing with dogs. That is not what it is about.”

The organization’s mission is to provide meaningful service opportunities locally, nationally and even globally in an effort to encourage social responsibility, community involvement, and thoughtful action.

Dutko encourages students to join AU G.I.V.S. and mentioned that to join them, visit: www.ashland.edu/student-affairs/getting-involved/community-service# then click on “Join an AU G.I.V.S. Service Team” to pick the teams you want to join and get involved.

Student health center offers free flu shots

JUSTIN DAVIS
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The Ashland University Student Health Center is offering free influenza vaccines to full-time employees and students during office hours while supplies last.

There is no sign up, no reservation and no appointment required for students and faculty, and the shots will be given on a first come, first serve basis.

The Student Health Center office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 11:30 am and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm, however, flu shots will not be available on Wednesday afternoons.

Due to the procedure being done during regular office hours there may be a wait for those seeking the shot, but Student Health Center Nurse Patty Owens said the process should take less than five minutes depending on the wait time.

Owens said the supply of influenza vaccines will most likely last just shy of a month and she urges that there are ‘wonderful benefits’ of getting flu vaccinations, but misinformation has questioned their safety.

“A lot of people are misinformed that they will get sick from it,” Owens said, “but in all actuality all the flu that we inject is all dead virus so you cannot get sick from it.”

Each 0.5 mL dosage of the vaccination contains two 15 mcg strains of Type A and Type B, the most common flu types recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

A student or faculty member is not guaranteed to be exempt from catching the virus after the shot because there are several strains of the flu, but it does rid them of catching the most prominent types.

Owens credits the numerous flu strains to the prevalence of antibiotics to treat similar illnesses.

“When I was growing up every time you went to the doctor you got an antibiotic, that’s why there are some many viruses hanging around,” Owens said, “because your body doesn’t learn to fight it off.”

Owens said Ashland University nursing students are required to get flu vaccinations so that could have a significant effect on how long the shots will be available.

For students on the fence, she does not want a fear of needles getting in the way.

“I think they all know it’s better than getting the flu,” Owens said.

For more information on the vaccines, the different strains of the flu or to make an appointment call 419-289-5200.

The student health center is closed Saturday’s and Sunday’s.



SUBMITTED BY: JUSTIN DAVIS
Ashland University Student Health Center Nurse Patty Owens gives a flu shot to a student.

“Building societies of peace”

Guest speaker Manolis Ntamparakis discusses the refugee crisis in Dauch Hall on Sept. 27

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Manolis Ntamparakis held a lecture on Sept. 27 in Dauch’s Rid-enour Room discussing the refugee crisis in Greece and what the organization he works for does to help them. This event was just one part of the “Who is My Neighbor?” series that AU has been holding in partnership with the Center for Nonviolence.

Ntamparakis is the director of Social Action for NAOMI Ecumenical Workshop for Refugees in Thessaloniki, Greece.

He holds a Master of Divinity in Theology and Pastoral Studies from Trinity Theological Seminary in Amsterdam, and a Master of Theology in Bible Translation and Eastern Orthodox Theology from the University of Amsterdam.

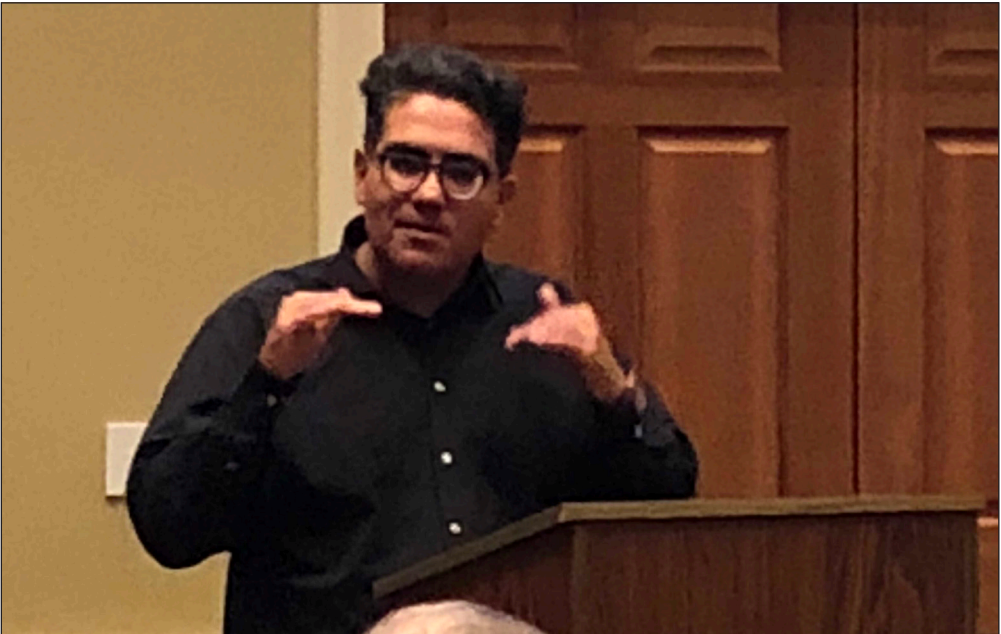
NAOMI is an organization that welcomes refugees, mainly women and children, into Greece with open arms and helps them build skills that will hopefully benefit them in the future.

During the presentation, he presented various statistics about just how many refugees have been making their way to Greece in the past couple of years.

According to Ntamparakis, almost 900,000 refugees arrived in Greece in 2015. On top of that, Greece was already in a major financial crisis.

Ntamparakis also said that in 2018, Greece has the highest unemployment rate in the EU at 20%.

“The sheer amount of refugees relocating is immense,” Ntamparakis said. “But the numbers aren’t telling the whole truth. The truth is on



the faces of the real people.”

According to Ntamparakis, refugee camps are being overloaded, forcing many refugees to find shelter elsewhere.

This is where organizations like NAOMI step in. They offer language classes, have textile workshops, and emergency aid for the refugees to participate in in hopes of them building a skill set to utilize as they are taking refuge in Greece, he said.

Sue Dickson, Associate Professor of Religion at AU and organizer of this event, hopes that the students in attendance of the lecture “will be inspired to pray, donate, volunteer, and engage in practices that advocate for, reach out to, and help immigrants, refugees, and migrants in the U.S. and worldwide.”

She also hopes that hearing from a Greek Pastor about his work with refugees will raise awareness, ex-



SUBMITTED BY: SUE DICKSON
Director of Social Action for NAOMI workshop, Manolis Ntamparakis, discusses refugee crisis.

pand peoples cultural horizons and inspire them to get involved, she said.

Ntamparakis said one of the main goals of the organization is to do what they can to make life better for the refugees and hopes things progress in a positive way.

For more information about NAOMI and how to get involved, please visit <https://naomi-thessaloniki.net/>.

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