

features



Life and legacy in wake of loss

Elizabeth Pastor Rememberance Ceremony, February 3

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She was passionate, she was free spirited, she was an inspiration. She was Elizabeth Pastor.

Elizabeth Pastor was a former music department chair and piano teacher at Ashland University who recently passed away, and her life and legacy is being remembered by Ashland community members as well as university alumni, faculty and students.

“There’s no one like her,” Tricia Applegate, coordinator of performing arts publicity and events said. “Her passion for the arts was contagious.”

Pastor’s obituary in the Times Gazette states that she passed away in her home on November 3, 2018 at the age of 92.

The university is hosting a memorial service for Pastor being held on February 3 beginning with a reception in the Center for the Arts Gallery, followed by the sharing of memories in the Elizabeth Pastor Recital Hall.

“It’s about remembering her life and what she achieved,” Thomas Reed, Professor of Music and Chair of the Departments of Music and Theatre, said. “The goal is to allow people who know her to come together and share fond memories of her.”

Deb Logan, a former student and colleague of Pastor, said this closure is in a place Pastor loved. “She was always so good at helping you connect life and music without realizing it,” Logan said.

The memories shared will be from family members, community

members and former students of Pastor, as well as those from other lives she touched.

“She was real passionate as a teacher,” Reed said. “She was demanding and a little unpredictable, but she always pushed the students to play music beautifully rather than play it perfectly.”

Pastor was an artist and a musician who drew a number of students to the program at Ashland University.

A lot of students came here because they met her, or because her personality attracted them to come here, Reed said. Elizabeth Pastor was one of those people who “passed on a lot of the joy of living to her students.”

Not only did Pastor encourage and teach students, but also her colleagues of the Music Depart-

ment.

“[She was] a wonderful mentor and a supporter of everything I did,” Applegate said. “At one point I was going through a situation in my personal life and she dropped off a note she had written and a card at my house and I still have it to this day...to have someone like that believing in you just means so much.”

Pastor was seen by her colleagues as a unique member of the department who had a free spirit and was one of a kind.

“She was an amazing person, very passionate, a fantastic musician, very irreverent, didn’t believe in doing what everyone thought you should do. She did what she believed was the right thing. She was great fun to hang out with... a very brilliant person and a re-

markable person,” Reed said.

Elizabeth Pastor – a musician, an artist, a mentor and a friend – holds a special place in the hearts of those on and off the Ashland University campus. Her legacy and lifestyle was a reflection of her passion for the arts.

“Her enthusiasm for music and her quirky artistic personality added to the fun of it,” said Logan. “She loved life and she loved to laugh, she was lovingly outspoken and completely unforgettable.”

The upcoming memorial aims to allow others to share about the life of a woman who was passionate, iconic and inspiring, Applegate said.

“You just knew... that she was an artist.”

French Club fundraiser for Haiti

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Having a passion for French has made changes in the lives of Dr. Richard Gray, director of French, and the students of the French Club here at Ashland University. What started in East Tennessee has traveled north and created a new found goal: sending help to Haiti.

Led by Dr. Gray and French Club President Bri Sargent, the mission to send school supplies to a parish to the poorest countries is the western world is happening once again.

Dr. Gray, who has been working with Saint Balnet Parish in Haiti, has done this for over 12 years.

“We originally wanted to go to a French restaurant. The rough estimate would be \$60.00 per person,” he said.

Bri Sargent, president of the French club, then came and asked him if he was working on anything the club could help with or can get involved in.

“What I have been involved in for the past 12 years... I have been working with correspondents from this parish priest who is soliciting funds. We collect funds and send them down to the parish to help rebuild the school,” Sargent said.

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Due to the constant natural disasters that tear through the small country, the process of rebuilding anything there is nearly impossible.

“As they rebuild, they are hit by a hurricane. And as they rebuild from that, they are hit by another hurricane,” Gray said.

From hurricanes Ivan and Jeanne in 2004 to the country’s deadliest earthquake in 2010, the French-speaking country has been forced to completely start over. The constant destruction was making it impossible for Haitians to lead their lives.

Gray pointed to his desk, specifically to the pens and pencils on it.

“Even the needs for pens and pencils are necessary. We take that for granted sometimes,” he said.

The club began fundraising with the crepe sale and the French film festival that was held last fall.

“We just passed around a box and collected change,” Sargent said.

Gray even donated royalties from his own works that he used to help the cause.

The amount that they hope to raise is this semester is near \$1,000. This will allow those who live in Haiti to not worry about spending money on supplies for their kids. The yearly income for a Haitian

family is \$350.

“Imagine having to survive on \$350.00 a year alone,” Gray mentioned.

To have this fundraiser is a great thing but sending it there is not so easy.

“It takes roughly six months for the items to be shipped there. It’s not like Amazon,” Gray informs.

To get all of what they raised to Haiti, it has to go through Tennessee, Miami, and then those working at the parish in Haiti must pick it up at a different location.

Gray and the French club did not do this alone. He garnered help all the way in Pennsylvania.

“I have a colleague out in Pennsylvania and her and her student sold t-shirts,” he said.

Bri Sargent spoke on the fundraiser and how it changed the club as a whole.

“We wanted to revive the French Club and we wanted to do more than French. We played French games, watched French movies but we wanted to do more,” she said.

Dr. Gray mentioned the Saint Baintet parish in Haiti.

“This would be a worthy cause for the French club to work towards. All of us are hanging out together but we are doing it for a great cause. It bonded us together by helping others and loving


French,” Sargent said.

Both Dr. Gray and the member of French club want everyone to help out. On January 22, the French club has partnered with Chipotle to help with this cause. Come into the Chipotle at 1988 East Main


(US-250) in Ashland between 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

“There will be positive benefits in the long run. The seeds that you are sewing are creating a better life for those who need it,” Gray said.

CAUSE AN EFFECT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Ashland University French Club. Come in to the Chipotle at 1988 East Main (US-250) in Ashland on Tuesday, January 22nd between 4:00pm and 8:00pm. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 33% of the proceeds will be donated to Ashland University French Club.



CHIPOTLE
MEXICAN GRILL

Online orders will not be included in the fundraiser total. To ensure your purchase is counted in the fundraiser, be sure to order and pay in-restaurant. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.