

# features

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Being an education major, she was also able to observe several elementary classes to find different strategies of teaching Spanish.

“The most important thing I took away from the trip was to have confidence in my Spanish,” Grim said. “All of the teachers are very accepting and truly want to see you improve your knowledge of the language.”

Sophomore Alena Gemelas also spent part of her summer in Costa Rica. The learning she encountered in developing her spanish skills was part of her experience but her favorite part was the excursions she went on.

Her favorite excursion was paddling boarding with light up paddle boards at night because she got to see the wildlife. She explained it as a once in a lifetime experience.

Mollie Walters also said her favorite part of her study abroad experience was exploring the islands of Taiwan. Walters completed the COBE in Taiwan trip and spent her time learning the culture and exploring the natural beauty of the island around her.

The biggest lesson she took from her trip was to step out of her comfort zone and explore the world beyond Ashland.

“The biggest lesson I learned was that I never should have been afraid to leave the comfort of familiarity,” Walters said. “Before this trip I had never been outside of the United States, or even much further west than Illinois but now I am ready to see and learn as much as I can.”

To start the process of a study abroad journey, students can visit the website and look at an interac-

tive map of the pre-approved and AU study abroad programs. Students are also encouraged to make an appointment with Parillo or the Study Abroad Coordinator Jake Moss.

“If anyone gets the chance to study abroad, do it,” Cudworth said. “It was the best experience of my life and I really really want to do it again.”

In order to be eligible for study abroad, students must have a GPA of at least 2.5, be 18 years or older by the date of the trip and be in good judicial and financial standing with the university.

If interested in studying abroad, visit the Study Abroad Office in 211 Bixler or visit the website at <https://ashland.abroadoffice.net/index.html>.



SUBMITTED BY BRIANNA SARGENT

Students pose for a selfie with Dr. Richard Gray during AU in France: a six week study program in Annecy, France.



CHRISTINE JENKINSON

Drill Week is in full swing as the marching band prepares for another great season.

# There is plenty to do at AU

CHRISTINE JENKINSON  
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You are about to start a new year on a possibly new campus. While homework, studying and Convo will take up the majority of the time, what will you do for fun?

Freshman year is arguably one of the hardest transitional years. For some, this is their first time leaving home.

“Involvement is such a great way just to get some kind of connection to the university. Involvement is a great way to fill that time [outside of the classroom], but also to develop some other skills that you’re not able to develop in the classroom,” Dustin Hargis, Assistant Director of Student Life, said. “In the classroom you get information and knowledge, but you’re able to develop some skills such as communication skills when you get involved.”

Hargis is a huge advocate of getting involved, no matter how much time people have.

“It looks different for everyone,” Hargis said. “Some people might be balancing work and that takes up a lot of your time, but if you can only commit to something maybe once a month, find those opportunities. Even if you want to get involved with AU G.I.V.S and you want to get out and volunteer a little bit. I just can’t stress enough to get involved in something. It’s going to benefit you so much during your time here.”

So how can freshmen get involved on the AU campus? Greek life, now

known as Fraternity and Sorority Life, has many different opportunities to get to know each chapter before pledging.

Men’s recruitment is Sept. 4-15 and women’s recruitment is Sept. 13-16. There will also be a game night the Saturday of orientation, - along with Escape Rooms at Masterminds, get to know the chapters a little more. There will be plenty of opportunities to meet the chapters in the first week of classes.

For the freshmen who do not feel that Fraternity and Sorority Life is for them, check out the Involvement Fair on Aug. 26. At least 50 organizations will be there, from academic and philanthropy to sports and hobbies.

“Get involved with one organization that’s close to your major to help continue to grow in that area, and get involved with an organization that is something you like to do for fun,” Hargis said.

What about majors in the arts? Not a problem. Ashland University offers band, orchestra, choir and theatre.

Dr. Ron Blackley is a Professor of Music and the Director of Choral Activities. He is also involved with a number of groups and organizations in the music department, where students can continue using their natural abilities and years of musical training to “make music at a very high level.”

Ensembles are made of a group of people where students can immediately find a lot in common with each other, no matter the student’s age.

“Band and choir are fun. Music making is a lifelong activity. All our ensemble grant academic credit toward the aesthetics portion of every student’s degree program. The directors are awesome! And I say this with all humility,” Blackley said.

Freshmen interested in joining choirs should contact Dr. Blackley, Mr. Joseph Lewis for marching and concert band, Ms. Julie Strebler for women’s chorus and Dr. Scott Garlock for jazz combos.

Depending on the group, auditions are usually in the office or studio of the director. Auditions for jazz orchestra will take place the first couple weeks of the semester and the Ashland Area Chorus meets Monday nights. Students do not have to major or minor in music to be a part of these ensembles.

Blackley encourages students to join, even if they are in doubt.

“If you don’t join a musical group your freshman year, the odds are very much against you ever doing it.”

Dr. Teresa Durbin-Ames, Associate Professor & Artistic Director of Theatre, is very encouraging of students who are thinking of joining theatre.

“It is a great way to meet new people and get involved in creating thought-provoking and entertaining art for the campus and greater Ashland community,” Durbin-Ames said. “Last year’s production of the musical Seussical performed a school matinee for 700 elementary, middle and high school students. It can be pretty special to

see a child’s face light up or hear them gasp in awe as the curtain opens - to introduce young people to the magic of theatre.”

For athletes who incorporate worship into their lives, Fellowship of Christian Athletes focuses on athletes, but wants to reach the whole campus.

Reverend Joe Maggelet is the Chaplain of Athletics at Ashland University. He works with the campus community to spread their mission.

“We wrote out a mission statement about 20 years ago and it’s really never changed: We reach, disciple and equip college athletes at Ashland University, to know Christ and make Him known in successive generations in all the nations.”

FCA meets Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m. All athletes need to do is go to a bible study or go on Tuesday night.

“We have a band and then students go up and lead, give testimonies or talk about mission trips,” Maggelet said. Last year, 35 students went on a week-long mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

Leadership is important in FCA because each leader brings something back to their team.

“There’s a lot of emphasis on building leadership qualities, training and finding leaders on each of the teams,” Maggelet said. “We talk about playing for God’s glory a lot. We want them to learn how we become successful people. Anywhere you go in life, hard work, learning to work hard and work ethic is a valuable thing. You

can’t do that without a vision.”

Maggelet teaches of helping people, in life and in sports and he believes in the four E’s: Evangelism, Establishing, Equipping and Enabling.

“The first E is Evangelism, promoting the faith,” Maggelet said. “When they do become Christians, we establish them in their faith. Kind of like training: how to pray, how to worship, how to read the Bible, how to study the Bible, how to memorize scripture. And then we equip them. Now that I’ve learned the Bible, how can I pass it onto someone else? How can I help them grow? Enable is the fourth E. It’s to actually get them to do it. And that’s a big step. It’s not just learning it, but applying it.”

Looking for a leadership position outside of FCA? Leadership Development is launching a new series called The Ascend Student Leadership Series.

Leadership Development is sponsoring a free escape room at Mastermind the first Wednesday of classes. Students must bring their ID for entry. Speaker James Robilotta is coming Oct. 2 at 8:00 p.m. in Upper convo to talk about being comfortable in leadership roles.

If all else fails, check out the mass of posters around campus for CAB’s events and movie showings, group meetings, philanthropy events and more. There really is something for everyone here at AU.