

features

Carafano speaks on Cyber Warfare

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Leading expert in national security and foreign policy, Dr. James Carafano, visited Ashland on Jan. 25 to speak at a colloquium hosted by the Alexander Hamilton Society and the Ashbrook Center.

Carafano is the vice president of the Heritage Foundation's Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy. He spoke on "Defense and Technology: What the Future of Cyber Warfare Holds for Us", which shared an inside look at technology that exists and how it is affecting the American democracy.

His responsibilities at the Heritage Foundation include directing a team of experts in the field of foreign and defense policy in the front lines of international affairs.

The colloquium brought together most members of Ashbrook as well as interested community members. Joining the scholars and professors at the event was the new Executive Director of the Ashbrook Program, Dr. Chris Flannery. He spoke a few introductory remarks, introducing himself to the crowd around him, many seeing him for the first time.

Many members of Ashland's Greek Life attend the events as well (since they hold a large portion of scholars), including Juliet Touma who is a member of Delta Zeta.

"I thought he was a very interesting and lively speaker. He was truly passionate about cyber warfare and security, and it really showed throughout his speech. He popped in jokes whenever he could and knows how to read a room. His sense of humor was appreciated by all, and his knowledge has inspired me greatly," Touma said.

Colloquiums hold a higher purpose than just gathering people together; the events teach students and faculty alike about topics that few people specialize in. Past events have taught attendees about Ernest Hemingway, capitalism, the judicial branch and watchdog responsibilities.

Megan Dorsett, an Ashbrook Scholar and sophomore, commented on how her previous conceptions of cyber warfare were incorrect.

"I really enjoyed the Ashbrook event on Cyber Warfare. It is a topic I did not know much about. The speaker did a great job of explaining how most of our preconceptions of cyber warfare are actually wrong," Dorsett said.

But, what exactly is cyber warfare? What is there to fear from it? Carafano focused on the different countries racing to get to the greatest technological advancements, and in the process, the effects that has on their government, economy and military.

Carafano spent a significant amount of time in the army. He is a 25-year veteran who eventually claimed the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was head speechwriter for the Army Chief of Staff, which is the service's highest-ranking officer.

Carafano is also the president of Esprit de Corps, a nonprofit that focuses on informing citizens of veteran affairs.

In his speech, Carafano spoke about the public and private sector and how, from early on, it has been a bigger private sector and smaller public sector. Then it began to change during the industrial revolution because the government was expanding.

"As states became more powerful, as the modern economy grew, as technology expanded and the wealth and resources of society grew, and as states had an increase in capacity to harness that for the instruments of war, the balance shifted. We went from big private [sector], little public [sector] to big private, much smaller public."

In the expansion of government, the main focus has been on military forces. Cyber security and military defenses go hand-in-hand; one cannot properly protect and defend without the other.

"The number one thing the government capacity expanded to control was the military. The num-

ber one element of sovereignty was the ability to protect and defend the state being controlled," Carafano said.

In an otherwise foreign concept to most scholars, Carafano added plenty of comic relief, making the topic more understandable and relatable. With his many jokes about Star Trek and Justin Bieber's wedding, he gained a lot of appreciation from the students in the crowd.

Carafano mentioned how it is growing increasingly difficult to remain neutral in a biased world. Companies that try to share their ideas with other countries complicate the intentions for their product- the need to be claimed as an American company is necessary to remain in their stability.

"The notion that companies can have cutting-edge technology and be completely neutral in their political affiliations is an increasingly unsustainable fantasy. We're going to get to a time here where companies have to make a decision on whether they're an American company or not," Carafano said.

According to Carafano, American companies have the upperhand on technology and innovations. He placed the U.S. next to other countries in comparison of the cutting edge products used in military, space and in households.

"It's never more of an exciting time to make public policy because

I think this is more of an opportunity and not an obstacle. We still have some of the most cutting-edge innovation and technology in the world, and I think American technology and innovation can outpace anyone in the universe," he said.

He compared weather to a nonlinear system because weather patterns can be predicted, but the estimations will not be 100 percent accurate.

"Cyber is a nonlinear problem, meaning you can put in inputs of a problem, but you cannot predict outputs," Carafano said.

As long as the government sticks to Carafano's saying, "never impose a non-linear solution on a linear problem," there will be no issues in the way the system works.

In his closing remarks, he stated that by maintaining the public and private sectors, and taking advantage of the constant technological advancements, America will be able to outcompete any other country.

"I still think that democracy and good governance are the most effective instruments to limit bad things and enable freedom and liberty and allow innovation to preferate, so if we take these two systems and figure out how to keep them together without losing the genius of either of them, we can outcompete anyone in the universe," Carafano said.



Carafano speaks with a community member after the colloquium is over.

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Ashland University's Correctional Education Program Changes Lives

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Ashland University's mission statement says that their education "provides a transformative learning experience, shaping graduates who work, serve and lead with integrity in their local, national, and global communities."

This statement is especially true of AU's correctional education program which has been changing the lives of offenders since 1964.

Ashland University has the largest and longest running postsecondary correctional education program in the United States according to Ashland University's Interim Provost, Todd Marshall.

The program started at the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield. Funding from Pell Grants helped to supplement the program. However, even after Pell funding was taken away from correctional education programs in the 1980s, Ashland University was one of the few universities that kept their program going, according to Marshall.

When Pell Funding once again supported correctional education, Ashland University was able to expand their program even further.

Now Ashland University serves over 1,000 incarcerated students every year. The programs are offered to students both male and female adult offenders in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction as well as juvenile offenders in the Ohio Department of Youth services.

According to Marshall, Ashland University's program is offered in Ohio, West Virginia, Louisiana, Georgia, Missouri and Washington D.C.

AU is a leader in bringing in technology to their correctional education programs. Ashland University provides each student enrolled in the correctional education program with a 7" tablet with a heavy duty clear case and a clear keyboard.

"It's clear so that they can't hide any contraband," Marshall said.

Marshall said that the equipment is built to last and approved by prison security. "If you took this

[the tablet] to the top of Founders and threw it off and it landed on the cement it would be fine."

Denise Justice is the Executive Director of Correctional Education Operations at Ashland University. She worked in corrections for 38 years after serving as a Superintendent of the Ohio Central School System which is the Department of Rehab and Correction in Ohio. Justice said that Ashland University is a trusted provider of correctional education programming.

"Since I first came to work in corrections, I've been involved with Ashland University in one way, shape or form as one of Ohio DRC's post secondary providers," Justice said. "So I've had a long and close relationship with this correctional education program."

Post secondary education helps to change the culture in the jails and prisons. Marshall said that giving offenders productive projects to work on helps to change their mindset and keep them focused on improving their lives.

"The wardens will tell me that the

culture changed because offenders had nothing to do," Marshall said, "All of a sudden they're talking about history and philosophy."

Justice said that even if an offender does not finish a degree during their sentence, having any education, post secondary in particular, "it really cuts down their participation in violence on the inside and some of that comes from the fact that it is keeping them positively engaged."

The main goal of the program is to help offenders to use their time in jail or prison to change their lives and their outlook. Marshall said that education helps to change the mindset of these prisoners into that of a productive citizen.

"So kind of our ideal situation is a student inside can earn a degree then when they get out they're equipped for life," Marshall said. "They can get a job, they can start a business, they can do what they want."

Education also means that offenders are less likely to go back to prison once they are released.

"That person is much less likely

to go back to prison and it also means that person is going to become a tax payer," Marshall said. "They're less likely to be a burden on society, and they're breaking that chain of recidivism."

Ashland University also offers a re enrollment program that helps to get recently released offenders to finish their degree on the outside.

"Being involved in college begins to improve sense of worth and sense of self.

"You will watch them and they will start carrying themselves better. They will start looking you in the eye. They will start being able to string words together to articulate their thoughts. They will solve problems with thoughts and discussions rather than violence," Justice said.

The program aims to give students tangible job skills. However, Justice said that having an education gives students more than just a set of job skills. It teaches them how to productively function in society.

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