

features

Eagles for Pride has banner issues on AU Day of Giving



SUBMITTED BY EAGLES FOR PRIDE

Eagles for Pride gathers on Mondays for their meetings.

ADIE GOODYEAR
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Ashland University held its annual Day of Giving on March 21, 2019. The Day of Giving is a 24 hour call to action, where students and the public have the opportunity to donate money to a group, organization, department or college. On the main page of the website, there was a drop down menu that listed the different colleges people could easily donate to; including the College of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business and Economics, and the College of Nursing. Eagles for Pride, an LGBTQ

group on campus, somehow ended up on the drop down menu. When they were removed later that day, things started to spiral out of control.

Julia Swanson Hines, President of Eagles for Pride, talks about how the day went and why they were removed in the first place.

“Somebody from a higher position asked for us to be removed from the drop down menu. That meant that nobody could visually donate to Eagles for Pride, but they could still donate to us by clicking the ‘other’ option and typing in Eagles for Pride,” Hines said.

Eagles for Pride received all the money that was donated to them,

and it is being held safely in an school account, Hines said. She expresses how “absolutely amazing” and “unbelievable” their donations were.

“We still ended up receiving an amazing amount of donations. I think as of today it is over \$5,000, which is absolutely incredible. I was almost crying the entire day,” Hines said.

The school received backlash on social media for the removal of the Eagles for Pride group from community members and fellow Ashland University students. People claimed it was due to negative feelings towards the group and what they stood for.

Hines said it is because they are a “proficiently chartered group” that they got taken off the drop down menu.

“What we have been told, it is because we are a proficiently chartered group, and that they do not allow organizations to have their own drop down option. We have heard a lot of different things, and it depends on who you talk to,” Hines said.

She said that even though “the day was hectic” they are still grateful for all of the support.

Priscilla Nordman, Secretary for Eagles for Pride, said they are thankful for the community support.

“We’re just very grateful for what we got donated to us. We didn’t expect anything at all. Me and Julia were talking, and we were like if someone just donated \$50 to us we would be ecstatic,” Nordman said.

“We weren’t expecting to be able to receive money at all, but a lot of the students, faculty, and alumni shared our story. They saw it and latched on to it and were like, yeah lets make this a thing,” Nordman said.

The AU Day of Giving was a success over all with over 727 individuals donating \$53, 236 to multiple organizations according to the Ashland University website.

Students present research and projects in 10th annual URCA symposium

MADISON GRAVER
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Podiums were set, posters were hung, and chairs were lined in perfect symmetry as the stage was finally set for Ashland University’s annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Symposium (URCA) on April 9.

After weeks of preparation and anticipation, 66 students from 14 different areas of the College of Arts and Sciences took their moment in the spotlight to present their work they had prepared for the symposium.

Year after year, students, faculty, parents, and members of the community flock to URCA to see just a taste of what the AU student body has to offer in research and creative activity. Whether it be examining the media’s influence on Islamophobia or a looking at the design and construction of an e-cigarette inhalation chamber, the diversity in subject matter is part of what makes this event worth attending.

While some of the student presenters were URCA veterans, some of them were participating for the very first time. Junior Mallorie Harding, who presented in the poster session with her project titled ‘Determining the Relationship between Happiness and Mental Toughness,’ is one who has always wanted to participate in the symposium.

“I’ve always wanted to present at URCA,” Harding said. “I came to it last year to look at all the posters and presentations and one of my professors reached out to me and asked if I was interested in research and was automatically like ‘yes, definitely.’”

Hardings topic of choice focused on a relationship between happiness and mental toughness and how they correlate. While she enjoyed the research aspect, the act

of presenting the findings to attendees was something that she had been looking forward to.

“I just wanted to get the experience to get to present in front of people and a poster is a great way to do that cause you get so many people who come up and ask you questions,” Harding said.

Another first time presenter, Sophomore Shelby Aulger, ran into some difficulties before the big day.

“I actually revised it and had it ready, but on Saturday night my computer wiped some things off and I lost all of my revisions on the presentation,” Aulger said.

Luckily she was able to find an old copy of the presentation and re-do the revisions to get her slideshow back where it needed to be.

Aulger participated in one of the oral presentation sessions to share her project titled ‘Defining What is Natural: Gender Issues of Dominance and Control Within Zora Neale Hurston’s “Their Eyes Were Watching God”.’

“I was doing it for extra credit hour work for a literature and gender course so I was looking for a novel that could fit with that and I read this book in high school,” Aulger said. “I just adored this novel, and all of Zora Neale Hurston’s work really. So it kinda seemed like the choice to make at the time and I got to pick that book and I’m glad that I did. Her work just has so much packed into it.”

While many AU students were found lingering around the presentation rooms, there were also a multitude of College of Arts and Sciences professors in attendance to support the student presenters.

Dr. Gwen Hullman, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, came with the intent of both support and curiosity, as it was her first year attending.

“I mainly wanted to see the diversity of research that’s happening on the Ashland campus and it’s my first year here so I wanted to support the students in their research endeavors because I think it’s an important part of the learning process,” Hullman said.

Many people attending URCA for the first time often don’t realize how much work and time each student puts into their projects. Both Harding and senior Cait Davis said they spent the majority of the semester on their respective

projects.

“I think it helps them understand the gravity of how they’ve spent their time and all the efforts they’ve put into their projects,” Hullman said. “It allows us as fac-

ulty and even other students to support them and encourage them to continue answering these important questions.”

Davis, who’s project was called “Bee’s Teas”, was a part of the group of graphic design students who presented their brand identity and product packaging design during the poster and exhibition session.

“It took us all semester. We started at the beginning of the semester and we worked up until basically yesterday,” Davis said.

projects into URCA as well.

As another year of URCA comes to a close, it is with both a sigh of relief and a solemn farewell to projects some students spent months creating.

Presenters walk away knowing they created something that they were proud of and attendees walk away with newfound knowledge that might not have crossed their mind just one day ago.

“My biggest takeaway from participating in URCA is that I get to see everybody else’s work that



SUBMITTED BY CAIT DAVIS

Graphic design students presented their brand identities and product packaging design during the poster and exhibition session. Cait Davis presented her brand Bee’s Teas.

Davis said the reasoning behind registering for URCA stems from the fact that all of the graphic design majors have to create a piece for their senior show. So they all decided to enter their senior show

they’ve been doing and how much work they put into it,” Davis said. “It’s just really cool to see everybody’s different things that they’ve been doing.”

Till next year, URCA.