Friday, August 25, 2017

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volume 98, issue 1 Student written. Student edited

ORIENTATION ISSU



New Year, New Look

New renovations come to campus for fall

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While students have been working and otherwise enjoying their summers, Ashland University has been hard at work making some changes to campus.

The most notable changes for students and community members is the crosswalks at the intersection of King Road, Claremont Avenue, and College Avenue, and the new seating in the dining hall where Fishbowl used to be.

Patrick Ewing, Vice President of Operations and Planning, said the new sidewalk work is in conjunction with a City of Ashland project to replace the traffic lights and pedestrian crosswalks and intersec-

"We wanted to take the opportunity to improve not only the aesthetics and the look and feel of the intersection, but also to improve safety and pedestrian access," Ewing said.

The sidewalks have been pulled off and back from the streets and there is a bigger landing zone for pedestrians and students to stand as they wait to cross. The Ashland University sign at that intersection will also receive backlighting for the letters to improve visibility.

The eagle statue that is there now has simply been relocated from the corner of King and College, due to the work of installing the traffic lights taking the place of where he used to sit.

The Facilities Management and Planning department and Sticks -n- Stones Landscaping of Ashland worked together to facilitate these changes.

Fishbowl was a project that took place early in the summer. Facilities tore down the glass and the walls, and created a new seating arrangement. "We've eliminated that, opened

that whole area up, put in some bar height seating, and charging stations," Ewing said. Other changes include furnishings in the dorms, Amstutz and

Kem in particular. Aging furni-

ture is being replaced in elevator lobbies, as well as new mattresses. There was also work done in some academic buildings.

The Ridenour Room in COBE has a few upgrades (primarily with technology), the main lobby was furnished, and the COBE cafe was renovated.

Ewing said a few more changes took place that are not as notice-

The waterline that ran in front of the Rec Center has been replaced, and Facilities also replaced some air handling units and boilers

around campus. As for in-progress changes, Sticks -n- Stones Landscaping is adding a fire pit to the patio area behind the Eagles Nest, which Ewing hopes "students, faculty and community members will be really excited

The Office of Christian Ministry is in the process of adding a prayer garden beside the Chapel. Mallorie Dladla - prior Assistant Director of Christian Ministry, promoted to University Chaplain on July 1 - said the garden was suggested last year by the trustee's auxiliary board, the spouses of Board of Trustees members, to create a space for prayer and reflection in response to anticipated stresses of student life.

The Office of Christian Ministry and Facilities created a plan to restore the unused space outside of the chapel. The garden was designed by Toby White from Facilities and funded entirely by the auxiliary board, which also contributes funds to helping students who cannot afford textbooks.

"I am very excited," Dladla said. "I love the idea of having many spaces on campus where students feel like they can slow down, take a deep breath, pray if they are praying people. I think it is a great use of previously unused space."

The project is anticipated to be finished this semester, "hopefully by September or October."

Phi Delta Theta fraternity members will notice some changes in their house.

Several alumni, including Cory Akin, 2013, came in and spent the

summer replacing flooring and carpet, fixing and repainting all of the drywall, working on the sidewalk, and installing a large storage closet in the basement for decorations and lawn games.

"It was something that was long overdue and definitely needed done," Akin said. "I lived in the house for four and a half years, it's a place that holds a lot of fond memories for me, so it was nice to help out a little bit and give the actives something a little bit nicer in their house."

The Rec Center has also extend-

ed their hours. They will now be open an hour later Monday through Thursday

from 6:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m., and

Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12:00 p.m.-10:00p.m.

IT also updated all of the lab computers and classroom computers to Windows 10 because it is a more secure operating system than Windows 7.

"I'm an engineer by trade and I like to build things, so I think changes are very positive, "Ewing said. "In most cases it's about improving the campus, sometimes it's about fixing what needs to be fixed, but any time we can make improvements and changes and update campus, it's going to be better for the university and for the students."



Workers continue construction on fire pit outside of The Nest.

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Ashland University is experiencing an increase in new freshmen for the 2017-2018 school year, but a slight decrease in returning students and transfer students.

For incoming undergraduates, enrollment was 589 in 2015, 616 in 2016, and currently 639 for 2017.

"We anticipate about 125, which was last year's number," Dr. Eun-Woo Chang, who oversees enrollment, said. "This year it will be around 120."

The total enrollment for both new freshmen and undergraduate students last year was 740. This year the number of freshmen is currently 759.

Even with the increase of incoming students, the decrease in returning students is raising a few eyebrows.Last year the freshmen to sophomore rate was 79.6 percent. This year, as of right now, it is currently 77.9 percent but is presumed to faintly decrease.

However, the exact numbers on enrollment for 2017-2018 will not be final until at least the third week of the fall semester.

Dr. Chang said the reason for the shortage of returning student is due mostly to more academic dismissals in December and May.

"I actually carefully reviewed every appeal from the students and the decisions made by the committee and I respected in many cases of what the committee actually decided and I accepted it. I declined many of the student appeals," Dr. Chang said. "But in long term, this is the right way to do it."

Despite the decrease, President Campo and Dr. Chang are still looking forward to the school year to begin.

"I very excited in terms of the are missionary trips taking place this year," Dr. Campo said. "We have some educational students that are going to Kenya to help at an orphanage."

With many more new athletes coming to AU, both Dr. Chang and Dr. Campo express their excitement for the upcoming sport seasons as well.

"I really hope more students are going to be at the games," Dr.

Chang said. "The spirit in a full crowd here is really something spe-

to continue the rise of incoming freshmen and work hard to ensure that students are inspired and able



Returning students enjoy the renovated Convo for the first time.

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