

An expansion of faith: FCA

SAM DIDION
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A set of white lights gleams on the ground to illuminate a cross on the pathway to the large, glossy wooden double-doors of the Jack and Deb Miller Chapel.

Above the double doors is a massive stain glass window, with alluring and eye catching colors that dance in the sunlight.

Around the corner of the brick building is the newly established prayer garden with graceful flowerers, shrubs and trees placed delicately around the small winding walkway and wooden bench.

Events for people to show and expand their faith are held at the Chapel daily with majority of them being opened to everyone.

These religious landmarks are only the beginning of the Christian community at AU.

According to the Ashland Uni-

versity's Office of Christian Ministry, AU offers five organizations that revolve around the idea of providing an abundance of opportunities for students to grow their faith while connecting with others in worship, reflection on Scripture, prayer and service/mission experiences.

"Jesus Christ is what our campus, community and world needs. His presence, power, love and truth can fulfill the desires of every heart," Glenn Black, executive director of Christian Ministry, said. "We exist to encourage and equip individuals to follow Him by creating spaces and places to worship, pray, connect, serve, grow and study the scriptures. We are made up of people from a variety of backgrounds, traditions, denominations and experiences unified by our faith in Christ."

Freshman cross country runner

Cody Tripp pushes past the entrance way and immediately heads downstairs to the lobby and blindingly white sanctuary of the Chapel where he is greeted by the other athletes gathering for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

"FCA is a place where I can go to be refreshed in my faith and re-energized for the rest of the week," Tripp said.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes "desire to advance the Gospel of Jesus and His kingdom on the Ashland University campus and into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost" Joe Maggelet, athletic's chaplain, said.

Through FCA, each sport has a designated Bible study leader who holds separate meetings once a week with smaller groups to gain a more personal discussion on the group's faith.

Senior Andrew Martin is the point of contact for Bible study leaders to gain knowledge in order to format the meetings to reach a greater extent.

Martin recommends meetings start off with a five to ten minute devotion before the group recites the competitors creed together.

"The competitors creed is something that we try to live by as Christian Athletes," Tripp said.

The competitors creed can be found at FCA.org and ends with "Let the competition begin. Let the glory be God's."

A small group of band students volunteers to play roughly two to three songs at the meeting before Joe Maggelet rises to give a short sermon.

"When you walk in you can feel the love and excitement radiating from everyone. People seem truly excited to fellowship and worship

the Lord," Tripp said.

FCA meets every Tuesday night at 9 p.m. in Lower Chapel.

It is open to everyone although it is focused towards student athletes.

According to the office of Christian Ministry website, there is something available to meet the needs of every student who seeks a closer walk with Jesus Christ and an avenue for spiritual growth both individually and collectively. That includes worship with the Well, mission trips through Isaiah Project, ministry to and for athletes through FCA, sacrament and service through Catholic Campus Ministry.

The Office of Christian Ministry section of the student affairs tab on the Ashland University website provides various links on this website to see how students can be involved with their faith and their peers.

Behind the scenes at the Madrigal Feaste

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Right before the holiday season, Ashland University's Redwood Hall is preparing to change its apparel and go back in time to the 16th century.

Five days of the royal flags of purple and gold will hang from the vaulted redwood ceiling from Nov. 29 - Dec. 3.

Chamber singers and other performers will wear authentic baggy costumes of the period.

For the last 41 years, the Ashland University Department of Music has produced the annual Madrigal Feaste. The two and a half hour, theater-style feast is gluttoned with singing and theatrical entertainment.

"I have been there roughly eight times and let me tell you, I love classical music," Naomi Saslaw, professor of English, said. "I can listen to the same piece 100 times and I'll want to hear it 1,000 more times. It doesn't get old."

Chamber singers perform Christmas carols, ceremonial music like the Wassail drinking song, and Elizabethan love madrigals that deal with themes such as unrequited love, found love and pining.

Dr. Rowland Blackley, director of choral activities, has directed the event for the last 21 years.

"There is something for everybody," Blackley said. "If you like good music, acapella singing, if you like Christmas carols, if you like humorous plays, if you like good food, if you like to have a player to come to you at dinner and start a conversation with you or do a card trick, do magic tricks, sometimes make fun of you... If you like any of those things there is all of that in there for you."

Junior theatre major, Drew Berlin, is participating in the feast for the second time and is playing one of the members of the royal court. He is a costume designer this year.

"It's a fun night, you can hear different singing styles and different languages. We sing in German, English, French, Latin, Italian," Berlin said. "It's always funny because the skit is hilarious."

Anna Rivero, senior in vocal music with a minor in theatre, is another member of the royal court, performing her first Madrigal Feaste.

"A few things need to be memorized, like the prayer before dinner. We all have to close our eyes, look down and hold hands, so we have to have those memorized," Rivero said. "There is a lot of training, not only in rehearsal, but on your own time."

Blackley said the music department has been continuing the



KAITLYN MOORE

The royal court stands to address their guests at last year's Madrigal Feaste.

feaste for all these years because people continue to show vested interest in it.

"The show continues to sell out year after year," Blackley said "Even though much of it the same from year to year."

He also thinks it is a good tradition for the university to show off a lot of different aspects of what the university can do - singing, theatrical entertainment, and the feaste also spotlights the university's ca-

tering service which provides the meals.

The performance is student-driven, Blackley said. Students do all the work: serving, entertainment, music, singing and theatrics.

"Some people have been to 5, 10, 15, there is actually a couple who has been to all 42 Madrigal Feasts," Blackley said.

The Madrigal Feaste is a unique opportunity for students and the Ashland community to experience

classical music, humor and quality food.

"If people are not sure about classical music, go, the music is so beautiful, it will take the top of your head off. I mean It's incredibly beautiful," Saslaw said. "If you haven't been to something like that, go and try it, because we are enriched by trying different experiences and in most cases if you go once you'll be back. It is contagious."

What happened to the eagle?

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When students returned to campus this fall, it was nearly impossible to miss the sidewalk construction project that changed the look of the intersection at Claremont Ave., King Road and College Ave.

By the time of its completion, one of the most obvious changes from the renovation was the disappear-

ance of the large eagle statue that had overlooked the intersection.

Where there once was an eagle with bronze wings stretched broadly in flight, construction has made way for a bigger pedestrian landing zone.

Vice President of Facilities Management and Planning, Rick Ewing, said the statue is currently in storage while the Facilities Plan-

ning Committee comes to a consensus on where and when to place it. Now the area has another eagle in its place—one of the small, purple and white statues. The added seal in the backdrop is also a piece of university history. According to Ewing, it was once embedded in the pavement in front of the Rec Center before being unearthed and placed in storage after a number of students had slipped on it.

While the bronze eagle statue may have been a staple of the area to recent students, it has only been added within the last 10 years.

"It hadn't been there for a long time, so it wasn't this traditional piece that had been on campus for decades," said Ewing.

He said President Finks, the 28th president of AU who retired in May 2015, found the eagle while he was traveling out West and purchased it as a piece for the university. Ewing said that while the statue appears unique, it is not one of a kind.

"He saw it in a gallery or store and loved the presentation. It was an eagle in flight and he thought that we could find a good place for it on campus," said Ewing. "He brought it back and we talked

about various places to put it. At the time, we didn't have anything planned for the front intersection over here, and that seemed to be a good spot for it."

When the eagle was placed, Ewing said he felt cautious that the placement would encourage vandalism. During its reign, it did fall victim to being defaced once, but had otherwise remained untouched.

Ewing said he is not aware how much the eagle cost the university when it was initially purchased, but he did not want to see it sit around in storage.

Since the construction, the committee has been in talks about where to place the statue. They do not vote on the placement, but rather come to an agreement through conversation.

"We want people to see it. It's a nice piece. It should be some place where it's not stuck," said Ewing.

He said the contenders include the rose garden between the library and Patterson, and any of the other entrance points to the university.

The rose garden is an ideal placement because the large spruce tree

that sits there often takes too much sunlight away from the plants. The only hesitation with that placement would be the close proximity to the statue in front of the library.

Another placement the committee is considering is at the King Road and Samaritain Ave. intersection. Ewing said that they were more hesitant about this placement because Facilities intends to do more development there in the future of their master plan.

As a result of that, the rose garden is the current frontrunner for the placement of the eagle.

If the committee is able to agree on placing the statue there, the biggest decision that remains is whether the installation should be attempted before winter or to wait until spring comes.

Ewing emphasised that once the project is started, he wants to be able to finish it.

"As we get into this kind of weather, it's harder to make things look nice," he said. "And I don't want it to just be there without being able to do the whole project, so at this point, my guess is that it probably won't be until the spring semester that we get it out."



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The eagle that used to be at the corner of College Ave. and Claremont has replaced the bronze statue that once stood at the three-way intersection.



news

AU to host poetry workshop

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Ashland University is set to host a poetry workshop on Nov. 18 in the Schar Education building.

The workshop starts at 9 a.m. with check-ins and refreshments and it will end at 5 p.m. with an open-mic event in the Ronk Lecture Hall.

The workshop will feature author and poet, Charlene Fix and Ashland Poetry Press director and editor, Deborah Fleming.

Charlene Fix is a professor at the Columbus College of Art and Design and is also a poet and author of various poetries including “Frankensteins Flowers” and “Flowering Bruno: a Dography.”

Senior Kylie Brzycki talks about why she is excited to attend the workshop.

“I’m really excited to go to the workshop,” Brzycki said. “I want to broaden my knowledge of the different types of poetry and see what it has to offer for students.”

Along with the activities, Fix and Fleming will have a question and answer session with students and faculty about poetry, and will give feedback to people who are involved in the workshop.

Administrative director to Ashland University’s Master of Fine Arts in the creative writing program, Cassandra Brown, discusses what the day is about for those interested and what it can bring to those who have the same aspirations as Fix and Flemming.



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The poetry workshop will take place in the Ronk Lecture Hall in the Dwight Schar College of Education.

“The main goal and purpose of the workshop is just to gather poets together to talk craft,” Brown said. “Basically it’s a public outreach effort.”

Brown also says there is another workshop that’ll happen later in the spring which will feature poet, Daneen Wardrop.

“We’re planning a larger work-

shop in the spring which will feature one of our recent Ashland Poetry Press poets, Daneen Wardrop,” Brown said. “Her book ‘Life As It’ won our annual Snyder Prize contest and went on to win a major indie press award, the gold Independent Publisher Book Award in poetry.”

Students and faculty will social-

ize with Fix, Flemming and others along with participating in the featured open-mic workshop which is hosted by Fix and Flemming.

Registration is \$25 and is due on Nov. 13, as space for the event is limited.

The workshop is an all-day event and is open to any poets in the Ashland area who want to connect

with others with the same interests in poetry.

Anyone who is interested in attending or wants more information about the event or the featured poets can visit www.ashlandpoetrypress.com.

You can also contact Cassandra Brown at 419-289-5098 or email her at cbrown44@ashland.edu.

Chris May debuts lecture series

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Ashland University’s Environmental Lecture Series is inviting all individuals to engage in a discussion of Lake Erie’s wetland restoration this November.

The lecture series, which focuses on exploring the issues of the environment, has been in existence for 26 years. The theme for this year is Ohio’s North Coast.

To showcase the first lecture of the year, speaker Chris May, who is the director of restoration for the Nature Conservancy in Michigan, will be joining the AU community

to talk about restoring the coastal wetlands for animals such as migratory birds and waterfowl, as well as plants and other wildlife.

Founded in 1951, The Nature Conservancy is an organization that aims to find ways to protect the environment by utilizing knowledgeable scientists and valuable resources across the country, to create a cleaner, safer, and more welcoming atmosphere for the wildlife.

Involved with the Lake Erie Restoration since 2008, from a young age, May has always had a love for the outdoors, as well as a fascination with wildlife and plants. He

explained why it is crucial to bring awareness to the environment’s issues.

“It is an important topic because the coastal wetlands and that part of Lake Erie have been declining for years,” May said. “It is estimated that only about 11 percent of the wetlands remain. They are really valuable, natural features for wildlife and recreational use, fishing, hunting and bird watching.”

May noted that he is no stranger to presenting, as he has conducted a webinar series on this topic, spoke at professional conferences such as The Society for Ecological Restoration in Washington, D.C.

and The Michigan Wetlands Association in Okemos, Michigan.

“I feel comfortable with the presentation; I’m excited and looking forward to a new audience,” May said.

Patricia Saunders, an associate professor of biology and the director of the environmental science program, has been involved since 2010. She acknowledged that the environmental lecture series is something that everyone can enjoy, regardless if one has a science background or not.

“People are often surprised how connected they are to a science topic; our presenters do the work

that they do because they love the outdoors, a species they are working on or the systems they are involved with,” Saunders said.

Saunders said that students take away something positive from each lecture, and considers it to be “very enriching.”

The lecture is free and will be held on Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Ronk Lecture Hall in the Dwight Schar College of Education. All individuals are welcome to attend. To learn more information about the upcoming lectures, go to <https://www.ashland.edu/cas/environmental-science-program/lecture-series>.

AU partners with correctional program

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Ashland University has officially signed a corporate agreement with the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, which ultimately grants tuition discounts and other various benefits to individuals.

“The Louisiana department, which is headquartered in Baton Rouge, La., has more than 6,000 employees,” according to the Oct. 19 AU press release, “AU Signs Corporate Agreement with Louisiana Department of Corrections and Public Safety.”

Dan Lawson, the associate vice president of corporate relations, has served in this position since July of 2016.

He discussed what benefits individuals receive through the corporate partners program.

“We are able to offer tuition discounts to the employees and the employees’ dependent families; that would include a spouse, or dependent children,” Lawson said. “That tuition discount can go on any degree [that] Ashland University offers- it can be any undergrad degree, it could be in a masters-level class, [or] it could be in the doctoral program.”

In addition to discounts and financial aid, a \$1,000 scholarship is granted to those who qualify, according to the AU press release.

David Webb, the director of correctional programs, has worked at the university for 27 years.

“We started a pilot program in Louisiana, back in spring of 2016, with our online program for incarcerated students,” Webb said. “We have developed that into 10 sites where incarcerated students are taking our classes via an Android tablet and pursuing their associate’s degree. We already had that relationship developed, and this was just the next logical step, in

how we could benefit their staff and employees.”

Specific corporations that have decided to participate in a corporate partner agreement have the opportunity to give the university an endorsement.

From there, they will have their company endorsement hung, complete with a corporate logo and description, on the “wall of fame” in the Dauch College of Business.

To date, there are 20 partners, with the list continuing to grow all the time.

Initially created by Lawson and President Carlos Campo in July 2016, they began setting up all of their corporate partners, which includes companies such as the J.M. Smucker Company and the Westfield Insurance Group, among others.

Webb said the overall reaction from inmates knowing that they have the ability to further their education has been extremely positive.

He said that not only will hitting the books allow them to get a better paying job, but it will also allow

these offenders to lead more productive, healthy lives, and reduce the rates of recidivism as well as incident reports overall.

“Our hope is that we can change their thought process, their decision-making and have them look at the big picture,” Webb said.

With AU offering a wide range of academic courses, specifically, 140 courses and 28 sections between Louisiana, Ohio and West Virginia, plenty of options are available for those interested in furthering their education, including general studies curriculum and religion.

“Ashland University really is looked at as a leader in this field,” Webb said. “Across the country, we are the longest, continuously operating post-secondary program for offenders, which started in 1964. At this point, we are the only online program for incarcerated students in the U.S.”

In total, around 40 individuals involved in this program graduated with their associate’s degree last year, and Webb said they are “looking forward to many, many more.”

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