Pottery, paint, and more: the Tin Can Chandelier

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To create an artistic atmosphere in the Ashland Community, Keely Wurster, an Ashland University graduate, opened an art studio called The Tin Can Chandelier early last year with the help of her creative director, Mary Cooper.

The Tin Can studio is devoted to sharing the ability to create art with artists and art lovers all across the city of Ashland.

People of all ages are welcome to enjoy the events and activities that the Tin Can has to offer.

From classes on sculpting to pottery and painting there is something to enjoy for all art types. The building is located on 1258 Franklin Ave. in Ashland.

The building can also be rented for any private event for 125 dollars an hour, if the customer does not wish to use any art materials. Customers can also rent out the space to hold a birthday party or event if they want to make art.

The name of the art studio came terpiece, alongside the theme of the building which is built to look like a wooden barn. On the inside it is open and welcoming.

"There are so many people hiding in their garages and barns that have awesome talent, so it was like giving a place to come and share for those that want to teach and share what they're passionate about. We are that house for them to come do that," owner of the studio, Keely Wurster said,

Other classes that the Tin Can offers are fundamental skills of stained glass, brusho watercolor crystals workshop, dried spring wreath workshop, ceramic porg workshop, hand-lettering and crochet.

All of these classes are beginning to take off for the studio, and many of their ceramics classes are filling up each class session.
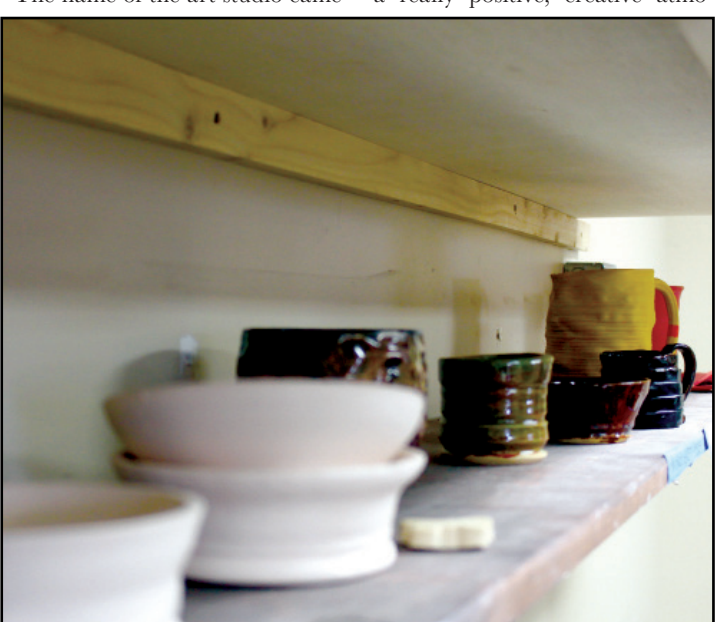
Lexi Swainhart, a student at Ashland University, made a clay piece there "and it was a great experience."

"The Tin Can Chandelier has a really positive, creative atmo-

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The unique chandelier in the art studio creates a warm and friendly atmosphere for artists and community members.

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Tin Can Chandelier offers painting and pottery classes, painting and pottery appointments and walk in hours.

from Wurster's love of repurposing things. Upon entering the studio, customers are greeted with an actual chandelier made from tins and scrap metal. It has become a cen-

sphere, and the staff will assist you in making whatever you want to make. It is a really relaxed and artistic environment," she said.

This location in Ashland pro-

vides a local outlet for enthusiasts that previously had to drive long distances to take classes.

At the Tin Can, customers that want to do pottery buy a package of clay and can mold anything that they want, then come back whenever they want to glaze it and put it in the kiln.

The customers that purchased a package of clay can continue doing this until the package of clay that they bought runs out.

If someone wanted to paint but didn't make an appointment or come during a class time, they could come during walk-in hours and create a canvas or paint a piece of pottery.

"'If you build it they will come' was our business plan to just start with, which was exciting and fun, but everything is going well," Wurster said. Tin Can opened last February, and is a little over a year

old, but is already so successful.

"My original thought was to take down an old barn and pop up a barn, but it turns out that's not as easy as it sounds. So again, with that Tin Can Chandelier and that refurbished look, that was kind of the thought process between me and my husband and our friend. We definitely all had a little say in it," she said.

The Tin Can is hoping to have an outdoor clay studio by October so that they can hold classes outside.

Another addition to the Tin Can that may be starting sometime in the future would be music. They are looking for musicians to sing during summer days and summer nights. This would add an even more relaxed, and artistic feeling to the building.

"People say thank you to me weekly, which is so cool. A mom

and a daughter came in today and they picked up their mugs and they were so excited to do this together and now they're going to buy a package," Wurster said.

The three-fold of the studio is a paint your own pottery studio, where customers can come and go as they wish.

The Tin Can values community and the people within that community, the studio has even created team-building events like field trips where they can take the art and materials out of the studio.

This year the art studio gave two-hundred dollars to a youth that was heavily involved in the making of art at the Tin Can.

The end result of the Tin Can is to set up scholarships and give back to the people who need it.

More information about the classes and the studio can be found at tincanartstudio.com.

Ashland University network security: Behind the scenes

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The Identity Theft Resources Center recorded 1,293 U.S. data breaches in 2017.

The breaches exposed more than 174 million confidential records, 21 percent higher than 2016. 8.8 percent of those records were from the educational sector.

Ashland University was one of the cyberattack victims.

Spear Phishing

On February 9, 2017, all Ashland University students and employees received an email from Stephen Storck, Ashland University Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, stating that an unauthorized third party unlawfully obtained an electronic file containing certain employee personal information.

"We found out about the breach within a couple of days of it actually happening" Scott Stoops, Ashland University IT Security lead said.

The files involved included names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and information about wages for 2016.

The fraud that was used to steal the data is called phishing.

Phishing is the fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from reputable companies or a dignitary in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information.

A week before the announcement of the leak, IT received an email asking for permission to access the information. The email seemed legitimate and from the general look of the email it did not raise suspicions.

It was not until few days later an

IT employee became suspicious of the request and reported it to the management of the IT department, but mistakes were made.

"What followed from that is we determined we needed to get a good baseline of where our folks are actually at," Stoops said. "We started evaluating, what happened here? And what can we do about it? Because it was not a compromise of a system, but a compromise of a data."

In results of the data breach, the IT department wanted to run a mock phishing test to see how many people would click on the link.

On March 29, a phishing email was sent out to around 13 thousand people including faculty, staff and students.

"We wanted to know how many people will click the link and how many people will enter their user credentials," Stoops said.

The Office of the President announced the aftermath of the phishing email. Five people replied to the email, 50 people called AU technical support center and changed their passwords, and 1,361 people out of 13,000 entered their user credentials; their password and username.

Security

Seperate from individuals' mistakes, the university is intensifying its data protection by creating prevention at multiple levels.

"We take a multi-layer approach to network security, so there is not one particular thing that is securing the network," Stoops Said. "We have a firewall that protects the network from external traffic sources. Basically, you do not get in unless you are allowed to. We have

a perimeter firewall, and it is not only protecting the main campus here in Ashland but the College of Nursing and Columbus and other locations too."

The problem is that the perfect system does not exist. Bugs and vulnerabilities are a permanent problem and what is appropriate today may not be in a short time, discovered by weaknesses and flaws.

"The best way to test the network security is to attack the network," Stoops said.

AU recently hired a third party to do a Penetration Testing. They were paid to attempt to exploit the vulnerabilities of the system to determine whether unauthorized access or other malicious activity is possible, and then report those vulnerabilities to enable the IT department to enhance security as needed.

"Do we have enough resources to secure the network?" Stoops said. "We've got enough resources for that right now."

Despite all the preparations, IT stills face challenges.

"The challenge that we have is the fact that the hacker is always one step ahead and that is true no matter where you at, it is not only the university," Stoops said. "So we are always in the position of defending, so we have to make sure that we are not attempting to address the needs that we have right now, but looking down the road."

AshlandUniversity vs. AUSecure

AU campus has two Wi-Fi networks open for all students and employees, AshlandUniversity and AUSecure.

One of the clear differences between the two networks is that AshlandUniversity requires username and password every time students ask to access it, while AUSecure network asks once and installs a proxy profile on the device used.

However, the difference between the two networks is much deeper.

"AshlandUniversity is essentially an unsecured network. In this regard it is like the Wi-Fi access offered in most public places," Stoops said. "AUSecure authenticates users with their AU credentials and provides a high degree of encryption of the traffic that is going over the wireless connection."

In a poll conducted recently on 62 students, 63.3 percent of them rated AU network reliability as less than 6 out of 10. 83.9 percent of the students who took the survey said they usually use the AUSecure network. 79 percent of students think the network is safe.

"When networks are put in place, especially wireless ones, there is an assessment that is done that tries to project needs," Stoops said in response to those numbers. "Ideally, a solution is put in place that will meet current and projected needs for both bandwidth and coverage for two to three years or so."

Often, actual network usage goes beyond projections because more devices are put on the network and more content is being streamed at a higher quality.

A network is often seen as a single entity but it is actually many devices working together. When all of the devices are working well then the perceived performance is high, but when one starts to degrade or fail then perceived performance goes down, Stoops said.

"It is also important to remember that most of the devices that connect us to the websites and services we consume are actually outside of our control."

Responsibility

In an attempt to inform all students and employees of the university internet, IT sends an employee to the AU radio station 88.9 WRDL every month to talk about cybersecurity.

Also, they collaborate with students taking marketing classes to design marketing campaigns to get the information into the hands of students.

While IT bears a great responsibility for security, the reality is that they are only one of the parties responsible for it.

"It is easy to look at IT and say IT is the security people, we are not. We are only part of it. Students are part of the security. Faculty and staff are part of the security," Stoops said.

Results of a recent poll showed that 22.6 percent of respondents shared their AU login with others. Also, the survey found that 35.4 percent of students are either not sure or do not know what phishing is.

That number is high, considering the letter from the president sent out explaining it and the efforts of the IT department to spread awareness about phishing and other cyber attacks.

To assure the security of the network and the devices students use, IT recommends installing antivirus applications; free for all students, faculty and staff through Ashland.onthehub.com

No one thinks it will be them until it is.