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Symposium against indifference comes to AU

ALAYNA ROSS
Reporter

The “10th Biennial College of Arts & Sciences Symposium Against Indifference” will focus on the theme of “Liberty and Responsibility” with its series of events beginning on Sept. 18.

The College of Arts and Sciences at Ashland University presented the first Symposium Against Indifference in 2001. This event is a biennial series of lectures, discussion panel and more that seek to promote knowledge and conversation regarding various human concerns.

The theme for this year’s event, Liberty and Responsibility, was motivated by the one-hundredth anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, and the appeal and ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment that had once banned liquor in the United States.

The first event in the multifaceted series, titled “Demon Rum: A Spirited Discussion of Alcohol” is presented by Dr. John Moser, professor of history, and Dr. Louis Mancha, associate professor of philosophy.

This lecture addresses the social change that came with the prohibition of the manufacture, sale or transport of all intoxicating liquors under the Eighteenth Amendment.

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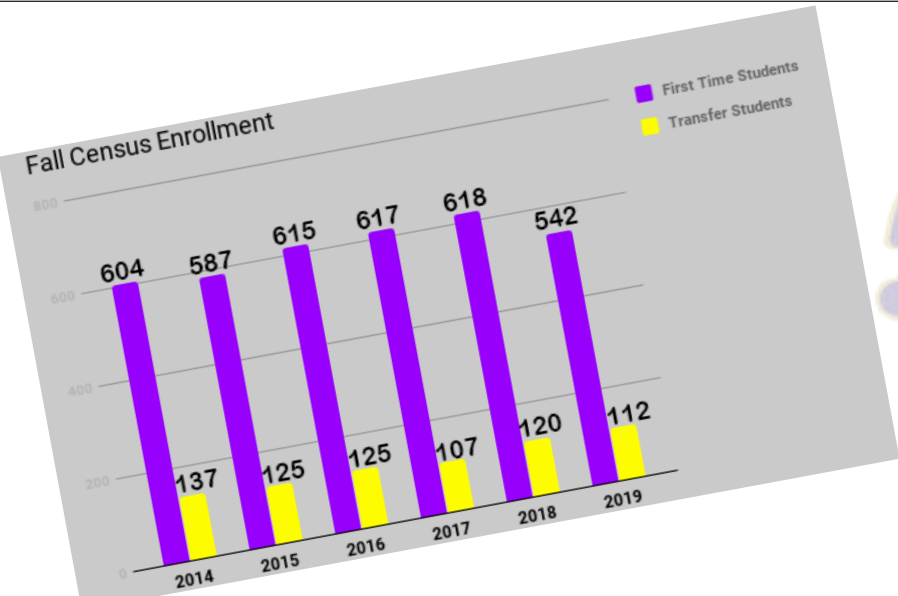


Table 2. U.S. News College Rankings for Ohio Universities in the National Universities Category (2018)

	AU	BGSU ¹	CWRU ²	CSU ³	KSU ⁴	MU ⁵	OSU ⁶	OU ⁷	UA ⁸	UC ⁹	UD ¹⁰	UT ¹¹	WSU ¹²
Overall Rank	223	201	37	266	175	78	54	151	245	133	124	245	288
Peer Assessment Rank	286	187	40	236	171	80	36	105	236	132	171	223	223
High School Counselor Rank	228	177	39	261	177	75	49	128	261	209	156	248	261
Graduation & Retention Rank	186	212	60	279	192	73	49	146	264	138	83	256	282
Faculty Resources Rank	206	215	55	235	178	128	166	251	194	184	159	229	300
Selectivity Rank	221	199	29	236	210	71	52	165	236	124	172	204	230
Financial Resources Rank	261	264	41	250	264	226	76	190	229	136	121	179	217
Alumni Giving Rank	214	173	41	242	227	38	63	198	102	86	67	214	227

The top graph shows a decrease in freshman enrollment from 2014 to 2019. Bottom graph compares AU to the other 12 Ohio institutions in the 2018 Best Colleges report.

AVAERIE FITZGERALD & CHRISTINE JENKINSON
AU-Live Managing Editor & News Editor

A shift in this year’s enrollment is one of the factors to be blamed for departmental budget cuts throughout AU. Although there was growth in contributions from alumni as well as donations from community members, it was stated at the All Institutional meeting that there were not enough funds to cover expenses and prolong the budgets of various departments on campus.

Departments and programs that are known to have budgets lowered are athletics, correctional education, online studies and the Master of Business Administration.

According to information shared earlier in the semester at the All-Institutional meeting, the number of incoming freshmen is 542 and there are 112 transfer students.

The current budget is 100 to 110 million dollars for the school year. 22 million more is expected to come from the Campaign for Every Individual within the next three to five years.

“It’s really not cuts, per say,” Marc Pasteris, vice president and chief financial officer, said. “What I call it is we’re recalibrating and adjusting to the environment that is taking place.”

He said that this is a living, breathing and very healthy process.

The news of this cut was nothing new to Director of Athletics

Al King, as it has happened in the past while he was working for AU.

“I’ve been at Ashland before when it’s taken place,” King said. “We haven’t had it [a budget cut] in the last couple years, but this isn’t a typical year. A lot of times when you’re in a private school, you look at what your finances are every year. If there’s a fluctuation in enrollment or something like that— that [cut] is going to happen.”

“Anytime money is tight, people become panic-stricken, I understand that, but I’ve lived through this before and we’re going to get through it. We’ll be okay and we’ll be smart with it,” he said.

While news of the cuts have been spreading throughout campus, none of them have affected any in-

dividual specifically.

AU President Carlos Campo said, “we didn’t lay anybody off, nobody lost their position over these kinds of adjustments. It’s not an extraordinary amount, just slight adjustments that we generally make in higher education as we adjust to program changes.”

The adjustments made for this school year have not been released, and remain the topic of conversation for faculty and staff as the year progresses with no news.

The 2020 budget was accepted by the Board of Trustees in January of 2019 and had over 100 people involved. The Board of Trustees and the president are always kept informed of the budget, but ultimately, it is the president’s budget.

Read the rest on A3

Emergency locks in Schar

CHANTE RUTHERFORD
Reporter

Small red blocks are screwed into the bottom corners of the classroom doors in Schar. Along with them are locks to bolt the door shut with directions that guide those who use them properly. If there is a lockdown drill, this device can be used to keep those inside safe.

These lockdown devices are specifically in Schar. In the time where mass shootings are a growing threat to the United States, many schools and places dedicated to learning have taken precautions to keep schools safe.

Simple measures such as going straight to the office and having to sign in, have grown into larger precautions like schools using bulletproof glass and having students carry see-through backpacks around school.

In 2019 alone, there have been 22 school shootings, but 2018 had the most school shootings in U.S. history with Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School being the most severe.

As education students take their steps to go into the classroom with field experience and student teaching, the dynamics of the new and

upcoming teaching generation has to adapt to the new times of protecting their students from a possibly dangerous person.

Dr. Amy Crawford, professor of education, has been an educator for 15 years.

“When I first started in education, it was not something that we regularly thought about,” Crawford said.

When she began teaching 15 years ago, only three school mass shootings happened that year. Now



Mechanism to emergency lock the classroom doors in Schar.

the country has a school shooting about every 12 days.

Schools are taking the initiative to look out for students by watching for warning signs, having officers at school each day and increasing the number of lockdown drills for intruders, these locks may be a new way to avoid more lives being taken.

“Not only here at Ashland, but when they get into the field, they will do various trainings preparing them and their students for the possibility of an active shooter which to think about that in today’s society is kind of depressing,” Crawford said.

Education majors are required to take psychology classes to become certified in areas such as childhood development and psychology of adolescence listed in the Ashland University Academic Catalog. These courses, along with the classroom experience when student teaching, builds up the passion inside that student even more.

“The gratification of being an educator outweighs the fear of an active shooter, the impact you will have on the students and that they will have on you trumps the fear,” Crawford said.

Dr. Sue Dickson’s unforgettable Kenyon Experience

LEAH BURTSCHER
AU-Live Assistant Editor

This past summer Dr. Sue Dickson, associate professor of religion, made a trip to Kenya. Dickson traveled for the first graduation ceremony of Ezra Christian College. Dickson played a major role in the founding of the seminary and was invited to be the guest speaker at the graduation in addition to teaching a two-week intensive course on the book of Revelation.

Dickson’s journey in East Africa started four years ago when she met with 50 pastors from the area who traveled to gather in a bucolic church setting to discuss a common passion and participate in a seminar she taught on the New Testament. According to Dickson, hardly any of the students had an education past the eighth grade, but that did not stop their yearn to learn more of providence.

“They loved the Lord. They were called to preach. But, they needed—they desperately wanted—training,” Dickson said in an AU press release.

The students were so excited to learn and keep learning that they came up after the seminar and asked Dickson, “How can we keep going? How can we keep studying?” To which she responded with “You just do it.”

Within four years the group of rural pastors organized and became the driving force of the school. They found teachers that would volunteer, a space in a local high school, as well as a board for the institution which mainly consisted of the original rural pastors. This rag tag group went from passionate pastors who most of which didn’t have a high school diploma, to eager founders of a Kenyon government recognized institution.

The college was founded in 2015 during Dickson’s senior study leave. There are now campuses in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Sudan.

“This college is a dream come true,” Dickson said.

Dickson says the most surreal moment for her was the ceremony.

Read the rest on AU-Live.com

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