

news

AU working to raise sexual assault awareness

KATIE HARRIGAN
Reporter

As sexual assault continues to be a rising issue on college campuses, Ashland University is working with Safe Haven to educate, raise awareness and help those facing misconduct.

Safe Haven is a rape crisis and domestic violence center that provides support to anyone who has survived a sexual violence or may be currently suffering from it. They provide a range of services including counseling, medical care and housing.

With the help of Safe Haven, AU hopes to assist those who have survived sexual abuse along with informing students of how to recognize sexual assault warning signs in order to prevent it in the future.

Vice president of Student Affairs and Title IX coordinator, Robert Pool, said the university’s partnership with Safe Haven allows anyone to receive private or group counseling with one of their advocates.

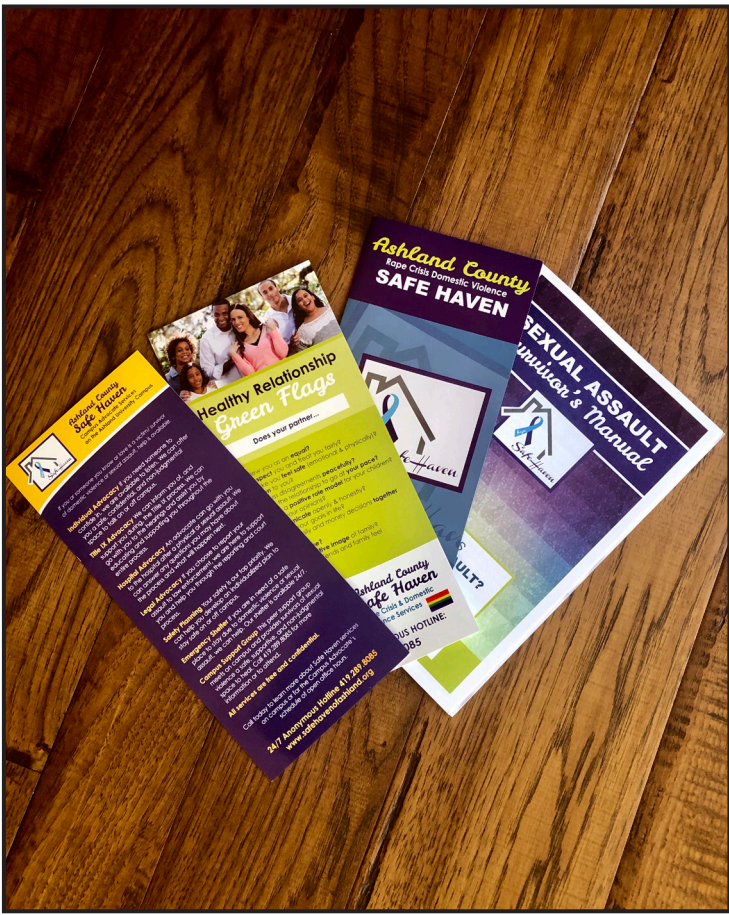
“Often times students experiencing sexual assault or other sexual misconduct want to confidentially talk with a neutral third party for advice and guidance. Safe Haven

is an excellent choice,” Pool said.

Hannah Shaw is a 2015 graduate of AU and the on-campus advocate for Safe Haven. She began her involvement with Safe Haven as a sophomore in college. Shaw eventually became an intern for the organization and has now spent three years working for them.

“It is good to have something like this on a campus community to show students they do have a voice and they can use it,” Shaw said. “They have somebody that will listen, believe and support in any way that they can.”

Shaw said a common fear among survivors is not being believed. AU



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AU supplies information and guidance for those in abusive situations.

provides services without judgement to make the recovery and healing process easier. Everything any student who seeks help, AU strives to prevent sexual assault through warning sign education.

Pool said the main goal in spreading awareness is to end harassment by knowing when to report a situation and urging students to step in if they take notice of suspicious behavior.

When others involve themselves and create a divide, non-consensual activity can be stopped before it happens.

“If a student, friend or simply a witness notices someone being aggressive with another, helping someone walk who is obviously intoxicated or struggling, take the initiative to intervene and help. Ask questions like, ‘are you ok?’ and ‘can I help?’ cause a distraction or simply call the authorities” Pool said. He added that you should not wait to get help or assume someone else will interfere.

In the unfortunate event where sexual assault does happen, you do not have to go through it alone with the help of AU and Safe Haven.

“We will help you get all the support you need. You have options. You are empowered to be in control of how and when AU responds in virtually every sexual assault situation,” Pool said.

To get in contact with Safe Haven, call 419-289-8085 to contact their 24/7 hotline.

BUDGET CUTS CONTINUED FROM A1

Vice presidents, academic deans, academic department chairs and the various service departments (Auxiliary Services, Athletics and Student Affairs) were involved in the decision as well.

“I ask my department heads/directors to look at their budgets and propose adjustments,” Dr. Robert Pool, vice president for Student Affairs, said.

Pool and his department heads meet individually in meetings after looking over their budgets, and then agree where to reduce costs and/or increase revenue.

The budget cuts have been a direct influence of programs not meeting expectations and also the slight change in enrollment, however, there are other factors that go into enrollment and the success of the programs.

On AU’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness website, information regarding previous years’

enrollment are posted annually, and comparably they look similar with only slight fluctuations. The changes may also be brought upon by various other factors like those listed within reports of AU.

According to U.S. News & World Report, “Comparisons with peer institutions place AU near the bottom in regard to academic reputation, selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.”

Information from the U.S. News suggests that AU would have to make changes in those four main

areas in order to move up in the rankings on the assessments.

The expectations for the upcoming years amid this change in budgets is expected to remain the same as previous years, Campo said.

“I suggest that our undergraduate, traditional enrollment will pretty much stay flat. There may be some increase, but we’ve always been, say between 550-650, let’s just use that for our freshman number. I don’t see us being out of that range,” he said.

The first meeting for the 2021

budget has already taken place back in April.

“We’re not sacrificing quality of the educational experience for students,” Pasteris said. “We’re doing everything we can to have the best impact in our students as it relates to out of the classroom activities, to move the institution forward and have the best experience our students can have. And that has not changed, and that won’t change.”

SYMPOSIUM CONTINUED FROM A1

Moser believes that this specific presentation is fitting for the theme surrounding the symposium of liberty and responsibility.

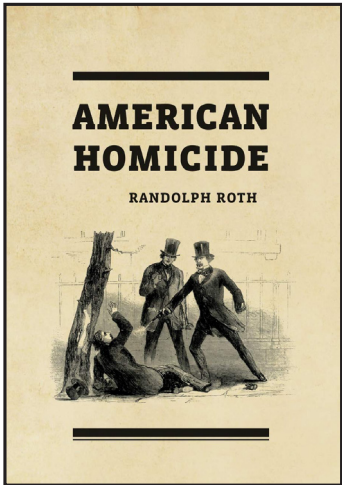
“The assumption, traditionally, had been that we are free to choose what we drink, but we are expected to be responsible for our choices,” Moser said. “To this day, if we choose to drink, we are exercising liberty, but at the same time, we ought to act responsibly.”

The second scheduled event under the Symposium Against Indifference is a film screening of “Paris to Pittsburgh,” followed by a discussion panel. The screening is set to be held on Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. in the Hawkins-Conard Student Center Auditorium.

“Paris to Pittsburgh” is a National Geographic documentary directed by Sidney Beaumont and Michael Bonfiglio. This film brings to light the individuals who are battling the threats of climate change in their own communities in response to the withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement.

The following event will be the production of “An Enemy of the People” by Arthur Miller and adapted from Henrik Ibsen’s play, presented by the Ashland Uni-

versity Theatre Department. The performances will be Oct. 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 13



AMAZON
Randolph Roth, who will speak on Wednesday, Oct. 16, is the author of “American Homicide and Child Murder in America”.

at 2 p.m. in the Hugo Young Theatre.

“An Enemy of the People” is produced in conjunction with The Arthur Miller Society’s Thirteenth Conference, which is to be held at AU on Oct. 18-20.

The Arthur Miller Society is a collection of scholars that aim to advance the study of Arthur Miller, promote the production of his plays and foster a continued inter-

est in Miller’s work.

Dr. Theresa Durbin-Ames, associate professor of theatre and director of “An Enemy of the People,” spent the summer of 2018 reading a myriad of plays written by Arthur Miller before choosing this particular play for the AU Theatre Department and the Arthur Miller Society.

“I landed on ‘An Enemy of the People’ because it was a Miller connection and the idea that the play was originally written by Henrik Ibsen in the 1880s and then Miller revived it and adapted it himself in 1950, but it is the issues of fighting for the truth and being willing to stand for what is right,” Durbin-Ames said. “It struck me for all the relevant issues that our students should think about.”

The play follows the happenings in a small Norwegian town that has just begun to win fame and wealth through its medicinal spring waters. When a doctor discovers the waters are poisoned, he tries to warn his town, but the press won’t report his findings; and the city officials refuse to give him a hearing.

After deciding on “An Enemy of the People,” Durbin-Ames wanted to host a corresponding event.

“I liked the interdisciplinary nature of it and it struck me right away that I wanted to do a panel

that goes with this,” Durbin-Ames said.

On Monday, Oct. 14 “A Panel Discussion” featuring Dr. Margaret Cogar, Dr. John Moser, Dr. Rebecca Schmeller and Dr. Jeffery Weidenhamer will be held at 7 p.m. in the Hugo Young Theatre.

This discussion panel will offer different viewpoints from the disciplines of journalism, history, business and chemistry. The panel will seek to discuss questions relative to “An Enemy of the People,” as well as recent headlines and world events.

Dr. Rebecca Schmeller, an associate professor of business, will speak on liberty and freedom from a business standpoint as it relates to the production.

“Liberty and responsibility is a big part of what we teach in the college of business,” Schmeller said. “With any liberty comes responsibility and that is why the play is such a perfect encapsulation of that conflict.”

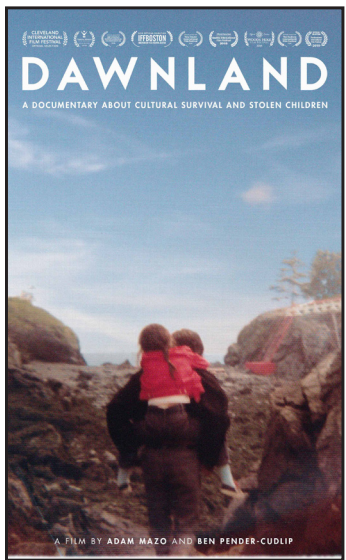
Dr. Jeffery Weidenhamer, a professor of chemistry, will discuss how the pollution depicted in the play relates to current issues in the United States.

“I am an analytical chemist, I teach in the environmental science program, so the play ‘An Enemy of the People’ deals with a problem with environmental pollution and

even though it was written so long ago, there are a lot of current applications of that,” Weidenhamer said.

Next in the series, Randolph Roth will be speaking on the subject of “Inequality and Quality of Life: A Global View” on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Trustees Room within the Myers Convocation Center.

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IMDB
“Dawnland” tells the story of the Maine Wabanaki State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the first in the U.S. to address Native issues.

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