

news

AU professor gains recognition for mammoth tooth found in Holmes

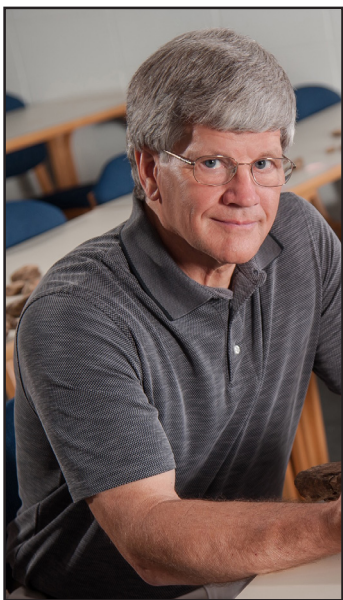
CHANTE RUTHERFORD
Reporter

With the constant rains that took over Ohio this summer, this was the perfect time for archeologists to discover many fossils and artifacts that may surface. This was true for Ashland University professor, Dr. Nigel Brush.

Brush, professor of geology, traveled to the Inn Honey Run located in Holmes County to observe the streambed there. After a 12-year-old boy discovered a mammoth tooth on the stream bed at the hotel, Brush and his colleague Jeff Dilyard examined the area to find more.

Brush has been at AU since 1999 but has been conducting excavations as an archeologist for the past 38 years.

“After completing my course work for a Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of California in Los Angeles, I returned to Ohio to conduct my dissertation research,” Brush said. During his dissertation, Brush surveyed over 200-square-miles of land and located 300 shelters used by Native Americans over a 13,000 year period.



EAGLE EYE PHOTOGRAPHY
Dr. Nigel Brush

He has worked with many students from not only AU but also the College of Wooster, Kent State University, University of Akron, Wayne College and The Ohio State University. Brush has also done work outside of North America by studying in England for a year and receiving his master’s degree in Archaeological Method

and Theory from the University of Southampton.

“While at Southampton, I had the opportunity to work on a rescue excavation at Stonehenge,” Brush said.

With the recent recognition of the finding of the mammoth tooth, this brought back memories from another discovery Brush made.

Brush said that their most interesting discovery was a fire hearth beneath a rock shelter near the village of Layland in Coshocton County. A fire hearth is a stone-lined fireplace in which the first known settlers of North America, named Paleoindians, used as a source of heat.

The notoriety that came with the tooth was quite a shock to Brush.

“I was surprised that the story received so much local, national and international press coverage since I only spent about 15 seconds identifying the tooth as being from a mammoth,” Brush said.

He expresses this similar feeling when he and a group of archeologists discovered the Martin’s Creek Mammoth in 1993. “We spent many weeks working at this site before getting our 15 minutes of fame,” Brush said.

While Brush is the director of the Ashland/Wooster/Columbus Archaeological and Geologic Consortium, he has several recent projects completed. He and the Consortium donated 140 boxes full of artifacts, photos and records from the Killbuck Valley Rock Shelter Project. They are now located at Ohio History Connect Museum down in Columbus. With the research in Killbuck Valley, Brush is currently completing a book based around the project called “Rock Shelters of the Killbuck Valley: A 13,000-Year Record of Human Utilization.”

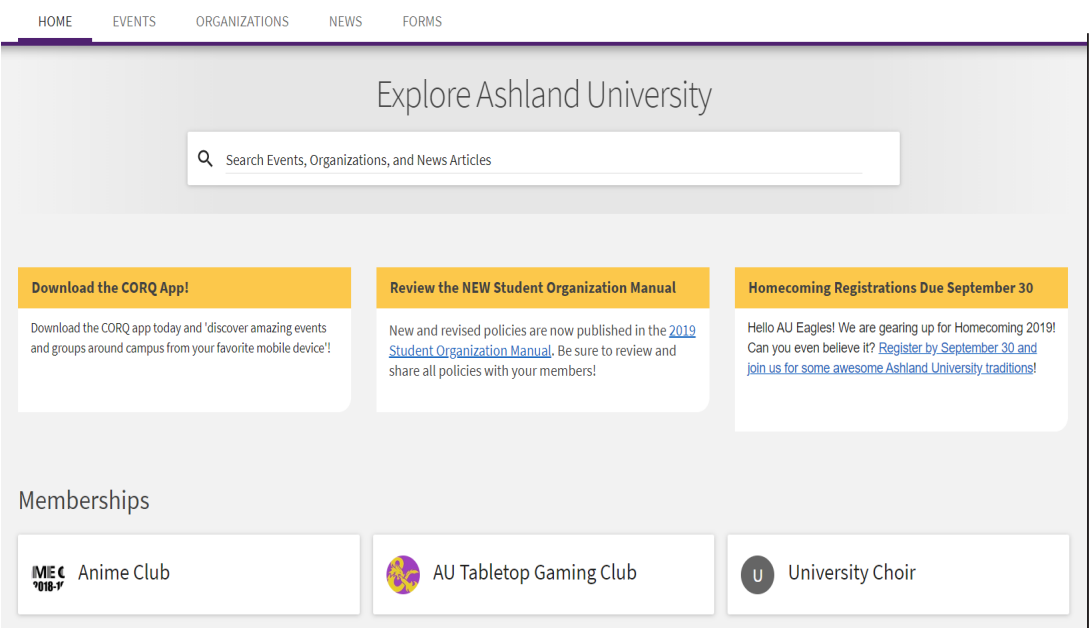
His passion for this field of science has garnered him recognition in state as well. The Ashland/Wooster/Columbus Archaeological and Geologic Consortium was awarded The Public Awareness award in 2016 for a 26 year-long project called the Wallowing Valley Late Prehistoric Sites Project.

“Archeology and geology gave me the chance to work outside,” Brush said. This has allowed him to continue to teach and to discover the history that lies beneath the Ohio lands.



Mammoth tooth found at Inn at Honey Run.

SUBMITTED BY: JASON NILES



SEAN CLARK

After logging into Engage Ashland, students will see what members they belong to, a search bar and other announcements.

AU launches new program for clubs

SEAN CLARK
Reporter

Ashland University has launched their new system known as Engage Ashland.

The system is a way for student organizations and clubs to interact with their members as well as inform other students about what their group is about. Students can go to the website, www.ashland.edu/engage, and view club pages and a description of the club as well as events posted by the clubs. The system makes it easier to view different events and keep track of them without needing to go out looking for posters or keeping track of them yourself.

“It is a great way to see all the

events on campus in one location,” AU student Daria Kockis said. “You can find clubs and groups on campus you might be interested in.”

Kockis also said that she plans to use it to keep better track of various events she would like to go to. That way she can make sure she can go to as many as she is able to.

Students can RSVP to events so not only will clubs know how many people will be coming to the event, but it also adds the event to a list of events that students have RSVP’d to

Clubs will also be able to benefit from the system since it allows groups to be able to promote themselves and their events. Engage

also gives a way for club executive members to interact with members.

“I believe it is a good step to help organize and relay messages of groups and clubs on campus,” Cassie Shaffer, a member of the anime club executive board, said. “I plan to use Engage Ashland as a means to communicate with club members.”

The system launched on Sept. 17 and currently has clubs and organizations such as the American Sign Language Club, Alpha Delta Pi, Astronomy Club, Delta Zeta, Eagles for Pride and the Video Game Club.



Student Center hosts Common Ground room

ALAYNA ROSS
Reporter

The Common Ground room, located on the second floor of the Hawkins Conard Student Center, is now open to students and events tailored to address topics regarding diversity.

For years, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion never had a permanent space dedicated to accommodating students and faculty members. Common Ground is the first full-time space to serve this purpose.

Terri Link is the first full-time director of Diversity and Inclusion at Ashland University and pushed hard for a space like Common Ground. Prior to receiving the position here at AU, Link worked for the historically black university, Langston University in Langston, Okla.

Link believes that her years of experience will help her to support all students, but specifically the under-represented and marginalized students here at Ashland University.

One of the key elements to the future of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion was to create a space where students can meet, hang-out and have meaningful conversations.

“Common Ground; the word itself means to meet in the middle and so as we start to navigate a space dealing with ethnicity, diverse students, disabilities, sexual orientations, race, religion and things like that,” Link said. “It is important for us to find common ground to have those difficult conversations that will make us uncomfortable, but will ultimately bridge the gap.”

The space that is now occupied by Common Ground was once shared with another organization on campus. The room has been renovated and is open for students to relax, do homework and watch television. However, Common Ground’s main purpose is to host any type of program made for diversity and inclusion.

Sam Breyley, a freshman at AU, finds Common Ground to be a space in which to meet with friends and foster new relationships with other marginalized students in a positive and welcoming environment.

“Personally, I think that it is a nice feature for students like myself, who identify as a diverse student to meet other diverse students,” Breyley said.

Ariana Graves, a diversity intern and senior at AU, believes that Common Ground will give students a chance to come together and understand each other.

“I hope that this space can bring together a community of people that are interested in diversity and inclusion, making all students welcome here at the university,” Graves said. “I want it to be a space where we can have fun, but we want it to be a space where we can have open discussions about what makes us different, but also what makes us similar to one another.”

All students are welcome and invited to spend time in the space. For more information about Common Ground, contact Terri Link within the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at 419-207-5504 or tlink@ashland.edu.

ALAYNA ROSS

Left, students and faculty meet in Common Ground for its grand opening on Sept. 24.

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