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VOLUME 99, ISSUE 9

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY
WWW.AU-LIVE.COM

FEBRUARY 7, 2020

Mamma Mia! makes its way onto the AU stage

BELLA PACINELLI
Features Editor

The musical that brings ABBA to life is coming to Ashland University. *Mamma Mia!* opens Valentine's Day at 7:30 p.m. with other showings on Feb. 15, 21, 22 and a matinee performance at 2 p.m. on Feb. 16 in the Hugo Young Theatre.

With 45 AU students as part of the cast, crew and band, this play is expected to bring in large crowds, associate professor of theatre and director of *Mamma Mia!*, Dr. Teresa Durbin-Ames, said.

"When you have a big cast you have friends and family coming to see it," she said. "It would be an awesome thing to have a full audience to perform for each night."

Auditions for the play were held at the end of October and rehearsals began shortly after.

"We got everyone together to read through the script and do some music rehearsals just so everyone knew what parts they would be singing," Durbin-Ames said.

In an effort to make up for lost time during winter break, the cast arrived on campus a week before classes for two-a-day rehearsals.

"In those five days we basically got two weeks of rehearsals in," she said. "We did music in the afternoon and choreography in the evening."

Mamma Mia! was chosen in part to bring life to AU during the February season.

"We are going to light up that stage, we are in Greece, just imagine the sunshine and the beautiful blue water and white sand, this is just the world we want to create," she said.

Durbin-Ames also admires the positive energy and powerful female characters that are present in this musical.

"Sophie wants to find her dad and takes action to do that but then you've got her mom Donna who back in the 70s with her Dynamos, they were these independent women and Donna's maintained that independence," she said. "You've got great roles for women in that way."

Junior musical theatre major and Sophie Sheridan in *Mamma Mia!*, Macy Campbell, has been preparing to play this role since she was a child.

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Students participate in the March for Life

GRACIE WILSON
Assistant Editor

Students involved in the Ashland University Catholic Campus Ministry recently made the trip to Washington D.C. to participate in the March for Life on Jan. 24.

Elizabeth Paydo, Frances Boggs and Mekenna Balasko are just three of the students who took the trip to the nation's capital for the 47th year of March for Life.

"March for life is always in January and has to do with the case of Roe v Wade," Boggs, a senior history major said. "We march around the same time the decision was and try to make a physical statement in marching against the idea that the Supreme Court was

allowed to make a decision in that abortions or the ending of any infant life is permissible."

These three students, and others from AU, took the trip in order to make their point of view known on this issue and took part in the annual march through the city.

"It is very much a peaceful protest," Paydo, a senior triple major in business management, entrepreneurship and supply chain management said. "There was a rally right before the march... and right after that the actual march began. We start at the Washington Monument and walk all the way down to the Supreme Court building."

Students from AU took the opportunity to go, but they were not the only representation from Ohio

colleges as they went with other universities in the surrounding area.

"[We went] with Catholic Campus Ministry," Balasko, a senior fashion merchandising major said. "They organized a group for us to go down and we actually went with a group from Wooster and Cleveland State."

The March for Life saw representation from various age groups, but the students from AU noticed a high number of youth and young adult participants alongside them.

"It is pretty cool when the youth cares about an issue," Paydo said. "At the march there were people from all age ranges, but there were a lot of high school and college students... it is really special that so

many students care."

The students that participated showed their care for the issue by tying their involvement to their own religious values.

"We started our day at the Basilica in D.C. where we celebrated mass with a large number of other March for Life participants," Boggs said. "Starting the day off in prayer and offering up our march for those who can't march was a very centering way for us to go into the experience."

Boggs was also able to tie experiences from the march back to what she has been studying as a history major during her time at Ashland.

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Coronavirus scare around the world

GRACE SCARBERRY
Reporter

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus first (2019-nCoV) identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

China's Health Commission reported on Feb. 5 that there were 892 recoveries and 491 deaths nationwide.

As of Wednesday morning (Feb. 5) there were at least 24,000 confirmed cases in more than two dozen countries, the vast majority of them in China, according to the World Health Organization.

As of Feb. 3, the CDC confirmed

the 2019 coronavirus spreads from person to person due to close sustained contact, bringing the total number of cases in the United States to 11.

There are no confirmed cases in Ohio. However, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Butler County General Health District continue to monitor two possible cases in students at Miami University. Those results are expected soon.

Jill Hartson, public health emergency preparedness coordinator of the Ashland County Health Department, provided some insight on the threat the coronavirus has to U.S. citizens.

"Because the virus is not currently spreading in the community... it has only spread from close, sustained contact. The CDC has said the risk to the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus, is considered low," Hartson said. "Healthcare workers caring for 2019-nCoV patients and other close contacts will have an increased risk of infection."

Hartson says the CDC continues to recommend that Americans use typical infectious disease precautions, just as those used to prevent the cold or flu.

She suggests washing your hands

often with soap and water and avoid touching your mouth, nose, or eyes. She added that if you are ill, stay home and remain home for 24 hours after a fever subsides.

However, if Ohio has an outbreak, the U.S. Public Health response is to contain this outbreak and prevent sustained spread of 2019-nCoV in this country.

"This is done in multiple ways," Hartson said. "To prevent exposure, health care providers and first responders caring for 2019-nCoV patients would wear personal protective equipment (PPEs). Frequently touched surfaces would be cleaned/disinfected to prevent the virus from spreading. Suspected or confirmed 2019-nCoV patients would be isolated."

After patients have been isolated, the health department says they would contact those who were exposed to individuals with a suspected or confirmed case of 2019-nCoV.

These individuals would be asked to self-monitor their symptoms and would be given instructions on what to do if they develop symptoms.

Statistics show there is more of a chance to contract and die from influenza than the coronavirus.

The CDC estimates that influenza has resulted in between 9 mil-

lion - 45 million illnesses, between 140,000 - 810,000 hospitalizations and between 12,000 - 61,000 deaths annually since 2010.

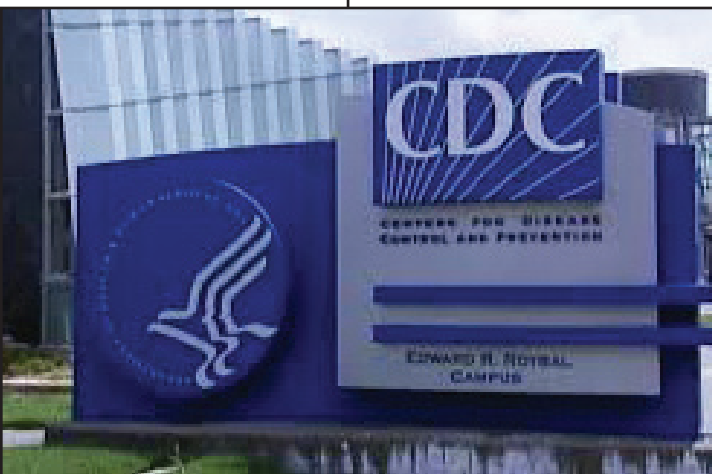
In the 2019-2020 flu season alone, there have been 19,000,000-26,000,000 flu illnesses, 8,600,000-12,000,000 flu medical visits, 180,000-310,000 flu hospitalizations and 10,000-25,000 flu deaths in the United States.

Terence Tche, an Ashland University sophomore from Macau, China offered information on behalf of the Chinese students on campus.

"Everyone thinks that all Chinese have the coronavirus, but it's not genetic. Only a small percentage actually have the virus," he said. "The virus is from Wuhan and not all of China. If you fear the virus, wear a mask, drink water and take vitamin C to strengthen your immune system."

The CDC currently understands for confirmed 2019-nCoV infections, reported illnesses have ranged from people with little to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying. Symptoms can include: fever, cough and shortness of breath.

The CDC believes at this time that symptoms of 2019-nCoV may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure.



CDC

The coronavirus now has over 24,000 cases.

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