

# Tau Kappa Epsilon officially closed on AU campus

**EVAN LAUX**  
News Editor

On Jan. 21, a solemn letter was sent to all Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) members at Ashland University detailing the official closure of the Pi Alpha chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) on campus. Tau Kappa Epsilon was chartered at AU in 1978, the last of the four fraternities to be added to campus. The decision to close the fraternity was made due to declining membership over the past decade. Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Dustin Hargis, cites a few reasons for the trend. “It’s a tough thing to pinpoint directly, but you kind of have to look internally and try to see what may have been going on with the membership,” he said. “The alumni support that the chapter may be getting is a factor, the support they’re getting from their international headquarters is a factor, and what we noticed was that there was a complacency in recruitment

setup sometimes.” This fall, the fraternity boasted five total members. Now, there are only two TKE members on Ashland’s campus. The students, although not involved with TKE on campus, are granted alumni status to the fraternity and are still recognized nationally. Except for this fall due to the Coronavirus, Hargis said, the other fraternities on campus (Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Delta Theta and Kappa Sigma) have maintained numbers and slowly grown over the past four years. “It’s really sad that they’re leaving but there is a new opportunity for growth now,” Hargis said. The former TKE house is currently being used for COVID-19 isolation housing, but in the future, the Interfraternity Council will likely call together an expansion committee to weigh different options for growth and development. After the pandemic ends, Hargis said, the current plan is for the TKE house to be used by veteran



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The TKE fraternity house is currently being used for students that need isolation housing.

services for veteran students. The Committee, composed of Hargis, the Interfraternity President Kavasea Garrett, representatives from each Fraternity chapter, and a representative from the student senate, would send letters to international fraternity offices offering up AU’s campus as a pos-

sibility for expansion. The committee would review materials and pitches sent by the offices and decide on a few possible fraternities that would be able to send a representative to AU for a formal presentation. Then the committee would decide on which options would be best for the campus.

“For more than 40 years, this chapter has contributed significantly to the personal and professional development of Ashland University students,” Hargis said in his letter to the FSL community. “The Pi Alpha chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon will be greatly missed.”



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The Dwight Schar College of Nursing is located in Mansfield, Ohio.

## Schar College of Nursing ranked top 100 in Nursing Schools Almanac

**WESLEY SEYFANG**  
Reporter

The Ashland University Schar College of Nursing and Health Sciences was recently ranked 93 overall in the top 100 private nursing schools in the nation by the Nursing Schools Almanac. The almanac also gave AU a rank in the Great Lakes Region and Ohio, in which it placed 33 and fifth respectively. Carrie Keib, Dean of the college, was quoted in an AU press release saying that the award “reaffirms our commitment to educational excellence from our outstanding faculty as well as the opportunities and experiences we offer all of our students.” “The experience is really what sets us apart from other programs,” third-year nursing student Isabella Myers said. “They put you in an environment to succeed because they have you go hands on from the start and teach you from the bottom up. The students in the program have always been very kind and helpful and we all seem to get along pretty well. The instructors push us to be better and it’s a great setting to be a nursing student.” Myers has begun her second semester of clinical rotations through the program. “Clinicals are hard but they teach you how to succeed because it is the real deal. You are in the-

hospital with real doctors, nurses and patients,” she said. “There’s not much room for error so you have to rely on what you have learned to help you through it all.” Nursing student Elizabeth Weimer, also in her third year of the nursing program, was not shocked upon learning about the ranking of the program. “I always knew the program here was really good,” she said. “When you tell someone you’re thinking about going to Ashland for school they normally mention the nursing program because it is such a big deal here.” Weimer aspires to be a head floor nurse in her future career in nursing. “It is a very long day, waking up early, going to class and taking your notes, going to clinicals, then coming home and doing your homework... normally going to bed late,” Weimer said. “It’s very rewarding because you have to have that drive to want to be great, or fall off in the competition and the stress of keeping up. You really have to expect the best of yourself because it is expected of you. This profession is great and that’s what this program has done is emphasize that for me.” Ashland joins the top 6% of 3,000 schools that were ranked upon their academic prestige, depth and student success in the programs. All of the programs are offered online and in-person.

## Theatre department to virtually stream upcoming performance

**GRACE SCARBERRY**  
Assistant Editor

The Ashland University Theatre department will be performing “The Theory of Relativity,” directed by Dr. Teresa Durbin-Ames, in early March. Due to Coronavirus restrictions, the performance will be streamed virtually for students and the public to view, with the purchase of a ticket. Currently, the department is working to establish a streaming date. For now, with the help of the Journalism and Digital Media department, as well as the Music department, Durbin-Ames and the cast are spending their time rehearsing for the recording. Although 2020 brought upon many difficulties, Durbin-Ames said their biggest success is being able to continue performances. “The fact that we’ve had two live productions is an incredible success,” she said. “I can remember last spring going ‘how are we going to do this next year,’ but it was the resilience of our students.” Last fall, the department was able to have two live performances with 100 people in the audience inside the Hugo Young Theatre, which typically holds up to 700 audience members. Senior musical theatre major, Macy Campbell, has accepted these changes with a positive attitude. “These changes have taught me

that sometimes there might end up being circumstances where you can’t do theatre in the conventional way, however, the show must always go on,” she said. The show will go on. “The Theory of Relativity,” is what’s known as a song cycle. This differs from the more common musical forms because there are no scenes. Rather, it is a collection of songs all related in some way. Although there are some monologues, viewers can expect to see solos and duets that tell their own stories, rather than one big one. However, they all have the same theme. Togetherness. “Every musical and play brings an important message to all audiences,” Campbell said. “This one in particular brings the message of togetherness and how important everyone in our lives are to us. Every person we come across alters our lives in some way, shape or form.” Hence the name, “The Theory of Relativity” is loosely based on science, specifically a mixture of Einstein’s famous theories. Durbin-Ames compared it to word problems from a science class. “It’s like those big word problems we remember from school,” she said. “With person A and Person B, if one’s going one speed and another’s going another speed, when will they meet and how will they affect one another?”

Each song is meant to explain a transitional point in a young adult’s life. For example, one song talks about a boy meeting with the father of the girl he wants to propose marriage to. Another is about best friends in high school who drift apart once they get to college. “There’s all kinds of great songs, but at the end of the day, they are all saying ‘I am nothing without you,’ Durbin-Ames said. “We need one another.” This idea of needing one another greatly impacts the Theatre department. Being able to do these shows gives the students an outlet to have a face to face connection. “It is so wonderful to just get to hear these voices and just to be able to create live music and theatre again,” Durbin-Ames said. Tickets can be purchased from the AU Bookstore either in person or by calling 419-289-5336. Ticket prices are \$2 for AU students and \$5 for everyone else. Be sure to check the AU Theatre Facebook page and be on the lookout for flyers with more information regarding the official date of the show. “This musical is really amazing at showing these different character’s stories from their perspective and how everyone may lead different lives but we are all affected by the people around us,” Campbell said. “It is a wonderful musical and I hope everyone gets a chance to experience it.”