The College of Arts and Sciences at Ashland University inaugurated the Symposium Against Indifference in 2001 as a biennial series of events and lectures dedicated to overcoming apathy in the face of human concerns by raising awareness and promoting compassionate engagement. The Symposium seeks to challenge the University community as well as the wider Ashland community toward a deeper understanding of difficult affairs and toward creative personal and corporate responses. Symposium themes from previous years include:

- The Holocaust
- Human nature
- Terrorism
- The promises and perils of technology
- Inquiry into what makes a hero
- Against global indifference
- Engaging in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Environmental sustainability
- Building bridges through dialogue

Inspired by the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing and protecting women’s right to vote, along with the ratification and appeal of the 18th Amendment prohibiting liquor – the 2019-2020 theme of “Liberty & Responsibility” seeks to understand and find productive responses to the constant and unavoidable tension between liberty and responsibility.
DEMONT RUM
A Spirited Discussion of Alcohol
Presenters: John Moser and Louis Mancha
Wed., Sept. 18 at 7 p.m.
Mocktails at 6 p.m.
Alumni Room, Myers Convocation Center

In 1920 the United States launched the boldest act of social engineering in the nation's history — the prohibition of the manufacture, sale, or transport of all “intoxicating liquors.” For the next thirteen years the country was officially “dry.” Why did the country embrace Prohibition? What were its effects, and why was it ultimately repealed? What lessons does this episode hold for us today? How is alcohol treated on campus? How does it affect the local economy? Drs. Moser and Mancha address these questions in a spirited discussion followed by a response from the AU students.

STUDENT RESPONSE
Fraternities & Sororities, College Republicans, Young Americans for Liberty and Young Democrats will offer a response to Drs. Moser and Mancha immediately following their presentations.

MOCKTAIL MIX-OFF
Prior to the “Spirited Debate,” selected student organizations will compete to create healthy, fun, non-alcoholic drink alternatives. Winners will be announced following the presentation.

Partnered with Student Life and Fraternity & Sorority Life

SANGRE MIA/BLOOD OF MINE
Presenters: Juan Armando Rojas Joo and Jennifer Rathbun
Mon., Oct. 21 at 7 p.m.
Hawkins-Conard Student Ctr Auditorium

The title of the anthology Sangre mia / Blood of Mine Poetry of Border Violence. Gender and Identity in Ciudad Juarez pays homage to writer, social activist and media blogger, Susana Chavéz, who was best known for coining the phrase “Ni una muerta más” used in the social campaigns against femicide in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.
In January 2011 Susana fell victim to the very violence she denounced when she was brutally murdered. Her mother laid Susana to rest with a copy of “Blood of mine”, the only poem Susana published while alive, whose title she later changed to “Blood of ours”. The editors of the anthology Sangre mia / Blood of Mine, Rojas Joo and Rathbun, will share Susana’s message of peace in their presentation and reading from this bilingual collection of fifty three poets whose verses denounce violence committed against women along the U.S. Mexico border region of Ciudad Juárez El Paso, TX.

Co-Sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages

DAWNLAND
A Film Screening & Discussion
Wed., Nov. 6 at 7 p.m.
Hawkins-Conard Student Ctr Auditorium

For most of the 20th century, government agents systematically forced Native children from their homes and placed them with white families. Many children suffered devastating emotional harm by adults who shamed and demeaned them, and tried to erase their culture. In Maine the fallout was unbearable. “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: For over two years, Native and non Native commissioners traveled across Maine to hear testimony and bear witness to the dramatic impact of the state’s child welfare practices on Wabanaki families. “Dawnland” takes viewers to Wabanaki communities and inside the truth commission as it grapples with the meaning of truth, reconciliation, racial healing, tribal autonomy, and child welfare system reform. A panel discussion will follow.

Co-Sponsored by the Ashland Center for Nonviolence

INAEquality and Quality of Life: A Global View
Presenter: Randolph Roth
Wed., Oct. 16 at 7 p.m.
Trustees Rm, Myers Convocation Center

As the author of American Homicide and Child Murder in America, Roth will present his findings on the causes and consequences of inequality, globally and within societies, with special attention to the question of why inequality had risen so rapidly since 1980 in the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Australia, but not in the rest of the affluent world. The answer bears heavily on the question of liberty versus responsibility.

Co-Sponsored by the Ashland Center for Nonviolence

AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE
By Arthur Miller
Adapted from Henrik Ibsen’s play
Directed by Teresa Durbin Ames
Oct. 11, 12, 18, 19 at 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 13 at 2 p.m. | Hugo Young Theatre
Tickets: 419.289.5125 | Ashland.edu/Tickets

A small Norwegian town has just begun to win fame and wealth through its medicinal spring waters. Dr. Stockmann discovers the waters are poisoned and tries to warn his town. The press won’t report his findings; and the city officials refuse to give him a hearing. In his efforts to bring the truth to light, he is branded “an enemy of the people,” and his family’s safety is put in danger.

A PANEL DISCUSSION
with Margaret Cogar, John Moser, Rebecca Schmeller, Jeremy Weidenhamer
Mon., Oct. 14 at 7 p.m.
Hugo Young Theatre

What responsibility do you have to tell the truth? What if the truth has ramifications for your community? Can an employer limit your freedom of speech? These questions are faced every day in any career. AU faculty representing the disciplines of journalism, history, business and chemistry discuss these questions relative to the play An Enemy of the People, as well as recent headlines and world events.

Co-Sponsored by Ashland University Theatre

DAWNLAND
A Film Screening & Discussion
Tue., Oct. 1 at 7 p.m.
Hawkins-Conard Student Ctr Auditorium

Set against the national debate over the United States’ energy future — and the explosive decision to exit the Paris Climate Agreement — ‘Paris to Pittsburgh’ captures what’s at stake for communities around the country and the inspiring ways Americans are responding. A panel discussion will follow.

Co-Sponsored by the Ashland Center for Nonviolence

PARIS TO PITTSBURGH
A Film Screening & Discussion
Tue., Oct. 1 at 7 p.m.
Hawkins-Conard Student Ctr Auditorium

As the author of American Homicide and Child Murder in America , Roth will present his findings on the causes and consequences of inequality, globally and within societies, with special attention to the question of why inequality had risen so rapidly since 1980 in the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Australia, but not in the rest of the affluent world. The answer bears heavily on the question of liberty versus responsibility.

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