

entertainment

Business spotlight:



BREE GANNON & ZACH READ
@AUCollegian

For our first business spotlight, we chose to go to Masterminds. Masterminds is located at 33 W Main Street, about a 10-12 minute walk from campus. Masterminds’ has two escape rooms and a game library with over 300 board and card games. We both have never been and decided it was time to check out what they have to offer! We took along with us Elizabeth Grim and Lewis Markham and got their opinion on their experience at Masterminds.

First Impression:
Bree: It was not what I was expecting at all. I’m not sure what I was expecting but the room was huge and had a vibrant orange color that was sprinkled through the room. The game wall was off to the left hand side of the room and almost lined the entire wall. I definitely said, “wow this is amazing” when I first walked in.

Zach: As I walked through the door, it was a small but big enough chill space with a good number of tables and chairs. I could not help but notice the wall off to the right with 300+ different games and I was extremely impressed.

Atmosphere:
Bree: The atmosphere had a really chill and inviting vibe to it. It is a unique place and the atmosphere it gives fits the uniqueness of the place.

Zach: Masterminds has a really unique feel to it and you can tell that the owner, Benjamin Garrett worked hard at creating the best atmosphere possible. Do not know where to begin? The friendly staff is there to walk you through any game and can make it feel like you

are right at home playing games with your family at the kitchen table.

Employee Interactions:
Bree: The employees were really nice and asked us if it was our first time there or not. Since it was, they explained how everything works and the different types of games that they have. The owner, Ben, was extremely helpful in helping us pick out a game and teaching us how to play it. He helped us set it up and answered any questions we had while playing as well.

Zach: When you enter a game room, the expectation is to grab a game off of the wall and start playing it. Each employee is knowledgeable about a wide range of games and can explain the instructions for each game specifically. How are they so knowledgeable? During their downtime, the employees will play the games themselves, especially the new additions so that they become experts at them after a while. I was extremely impressed with this.

Activities:
Bree: The game library itself is so extensive that you could be there for hours playing different games. A majority of their collection, I have never even heard of so you could definitely spend all night playing new games. We didn’t get to do an escape room but we got to tour one and that is something I would love to do in the near future. But the range of activities they have will keep you busy for hours on end, and for only \$5 the games are a great way to go!

Zach: If you went to Masterminds, you can spend hours there because of the endless number of games in which 75 percent of you have probably never heard of before.

This allows you the opportunity to expand your horizon to try new things and learn and play unique games.

Food:
Bree: The snack bar was just recently added and has a lot more options than I thought they would have. Zach ordered the pretzels and they were the perfect salty snack to have while playing our board game “Fireball Island.”
Zach: Board games are not as exciting if food is not involved. With the chill atmosphere and board games fun for the family, the food options include snacks that you would find at home as well as regular meals and concession stand type food. Masterminds does not serve alcohol which really makes it an atmosphere that is fun for the whole family.

Overall Experience:
Bree: 10/10 would go back again! It fits every college student’s budget and lets you experience something new every time. I would recommend this to every person that is looking for something fun and casual to do. A lot of people say that there isn’t much

to do in Ashland but don’t say that until you have experienced Masterminds. I can’t wait to go back and try all the activities that are offered.

Zach: I would definitely go back to Masterminds. It is a place that any type of person can enjoy where maximum fun is guaranteed. If you are looking to fill up a Saturday afternoon, visit Masterminds and spend some time in an escape room where you will be challenged but will also have a blast. For college students, college night at Masterminds is every third Tuesday of the month with escape rooms only being \$15!

Elizabeth: My experience at Masterminds was phenomenal! To start off, the customer service was amazing! The owner helped us pick out a game and sat beside us to explain a very complex set of rules to get us started. He was also very willing to answer any questions that came up while we played the game. The game was really unique and unlike anything I’ve played. It’s a fun place to test out games that you might never buy for yourself. There were over 100

games with a majority that I had never seen before. The next time I go, I’d be interested in trying out new games and testing out an Escape Room. I would highly recommend going to Masterminds!

Lewis: Masterminds is a unique place that includes a large variety of board games and two escape rooms. In addition, they have food and drink items at a relatively low cost. The customer service was wonderful as the head manager helped my friends and I learn an interesting board game that we have never played. The atmosphere was welcoming and was a great way to spend a few hours of the day. I would love to go back and try out the escape rooms in the near future. Overall this was a great experience and I would definitely do it again.

Overall consensus, go to Masterminds and check them out! They are open Thursdays 6 p.m. - 10 p.m., Fridays 6 p.m.- midnight and Saturdays noon - 10 p.m.



From left to right: Lewis Markham, Zach Read and Elizabeth Grim playing “Fireball Island” at Masterminds.

Department chair spotlight:

Dr. Tom Reed



CHRISTINE JENKINSON
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Longtime faculty member Dr. Tom Reed, Professor of Music and Chair of the Department of Music and Theatre, started listening to music at an early age. Reed’s parents, who are both Ph.D. Chemists, are also amateur musicians and loved listening to classical music. It wasn’t until fifth grade band when he picked up a saxophone that he was hooked on music. The saxophone was the first step in his success as a musician. In 1984, Reed was finishing his master’s degree at the University of Akron when Liz Pastor, the then head of the music department at AU, contacted him for an interview to teach saxophone and flute lessons. After becoming full time faculty in 1986, Reed was the chair on and off for 21 years. “I stayed at AU because I like Ashland, I like the work I do here,” Reed said. “It’s a good place to

raise our family and I’ve been able to stay active in the music scene in Cleveland and Akron. I get to play a lot, so that’s important to me.” According to the Ashland University website, Reed is a member of the Akron Symphony (bass clarinet) and Ashland Symphony (principal clarinet), was a long-time member of the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra (saxophone), and has performed on clarinet or saxophone with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Blossom Festival Orchestra, Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra, Dayton Philharmonic, Youngstown Symphony, Blossom Festival Band and the Jazz Unit. His Clarinet CD “Mutually Inclusive” was released in 2008 on Capstone Records and he is a founding member of Iron Toys, a woodwind quartet that performs original repertoire for saxophones, clarinets and flutes. Iron Toys released their CD in 2015. Music and other arts are ways people can relax, share their feel-

ings and learn about culture. “As humans, we need emotional outlets in our life and I think music and all the arts can provide that. Emotional fulfillment, intellectual engagement, music and all the arts are important culturally,” Reed said. “It’s important to have some special things that stimulate our minds and our emotions and our souls. Whether as a participant or an observer. Listening to music is wonderful. I feel privileged to be able to perform great music, not just listen to it, but to get into what Mozart was doing and study his music and perform it.” Reed’s enthusiasm and passion for music has further helped the department. “Being involved in music is a life-long passion for me and it’s really a joy to continue working on music and sharing with listeners and sharing it with students,” Reed said.