

# opinion

## What is the staff thankful for?

**STEVE SHRENKEL**  
AU-Live Editor

I am thankful for many things in my life. First and foremost I am thankful for my wonderful friends and family. They've always been there for me and have always helped me try to pursue my goals and dreams no matter what. They continually push me to try to be my best self and go after goals that I wouldn't have even thought possible. They're always there for me in the good times and especially in the bad

as well. They have helped me with so much throughout my lifetime that I couldn't imagine life without them and wouldn't want to imagine such a scenario. Secondly, I am thankful for my good health. Without it, I wouldn't be able to do all the things that I do and get to chase my crazy dreams one day at a time. My health has allowed me to pursue my many interests and hobbies as well as just enjoy life with my friends and family. Third, I am thankful for my pup-

py, Zeus. He came into my life a few months after my family and I were going through a pretty tough time after having to make the extremely difficult decision to put down my first ever dog Piper, a puggle, who was 15 at the time. I am extremely thankful and grateful for Piper and still miss her like hell. Zeus is also a puggle and a little bundle of energy that brings joy to my life every single day. I'll never forget the day I first held him in the pet store, and knew right away that he was the one and for that I am thankful.

Finally, I am thankful for AU and the JDM program. I don't know where I'd be without it. The program has taught me so many invaluable and practical things that I feel like I am well prepared to go into whatever journalism career I may pursue. The program helped to put me on the right track after changing my major and transferring colleges and just being generally lost in what I wanted to do with my life. I don't know where I'd be or what I'd be doing if I hadn't had found Ashland when looking for colleges to transfer to.

I am also very thankful for all of my peers and friends that I've met in the JDM program. They welcomed me with open arms and I have always felt at home here.

*To submit your own opinion article or letter to the editor, email [bgannon@ashland.edu](mailto:bgannon@ashland.edu)*

**ZACH READ**  
Collegian Editor

As a junior, I have spent a lot of time here at Ashland University already, and I have immersed myself in so many different activities and organizations. This Thanksgiving, I am extremely thankful for AU and all of the different opportunities that it has given me within the university and even outside in the real world. Each and every day I am learning skills that will benefit me greatly in my future and I am also

making the connections necessary to be successful. I am thankful for the family that I have at home who always support me and keep me going strong. They support me in all of my endeavors and I am also thankful for my little brother who is living out his dream as a student at Northwestern University and is a member in their marching band. I am also especially thankful for our armed forces and first responders who risk their lives everyday to protect the freedom of this country. Without them

and without those people from the past this country would not be what it is today.

Finally, I am also thankful for my many families here at AU: my Journalism and Digital Media department peeps, my men's basketball family and my Fellowship of Christian Athletes family.

**SAMANTHA DIDION**  
AU-Live Editor

With such a big and spread out family, this time of year is extra special to me. Cousins, aunts, and uncles come all the way from Texas, California, and North Carolina to celebrate Thanksgiving together in little old Sandusky, Ohio.

signature dish. My family is always assigned the dessert, which brings me to my favorite tradition; Baking the thanksgiving day pies.

prayer book. Whoever sets the table will hide the book on a chair and the person to sit in that chair gets to read the prayer.

My grandma's four-bedroom house turns into a circus with all of the guests. Typically most arrive a day or two before Thanksgiving, bringing their own

My family is known for our peanut butter pie but with such a big family, one pie is never enough. We typically make about six pies so that we have leftovers for after our post dinner naps! I am also thankful for them buying 2-ply toilet paper.

This year will be an exciting one because my grandma just turned 91 years old and we have a few new family members that were born this year that will be joining us

Typically most arrive a day or two before Thanksgiving, bringing their own own mental health a lot recently and my friends and family have been nothing but supportive. Having a support system that is always there to pick you up when you are down is encouraging. I have been part of a support system for my friends and now I have my own. Taking care of yourself when you are stressed, sad or anxious is hard but your mental health is important. I am thankful that there are resources to also help when things seem dark.

When sitting down to eat we also have a tradition of reading the Thanksgiving Day prayer from my grandma's

For me, Thanksgiving means being grateful for all of the wonderful people in my life that I am so blessed to call my family!

**BREE GANNON**  
Collegian Editor

This time of year brings so many things to be thankful for but it also brings along a feeling of being overwhelmed with either preparing for the holidays, school life or personal reasons. Every year I am thankful for the same things: health, family, friends and opportunities. This year is different. I am still thankful for my family and friends but I'm also thankful for mental health. I've been struggling with my

own mental health a lot recently and my friends and family have been nothing but supportive.

pininess that you have because when it comes, it is uplifting.

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It is hard to be thankful despite the challenges but it will bring positive emotions. So, when you are sitting at the dinner table with your family and everyone is going around saying what they are thankful for, be sure to give thanks to not only your mental health but others as well.

Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful because I get to be surrounded by people who love me. I get to enjoy a home cooked meal with an abundance of food and choices and it's a blessing

Taking care of yourself when you are stressed, sad or anxious is hard but your mental health is important. I am thankful that there are resources to also help when things seem dark.

I am thankful for my friends, family, my mental health, my education, opportunities, sunsets and my dog. Just overall, be thankful for your life and the good that comes out of everyday.

**CHRISTINE JENKINSON**  
Collegian Editor

During this time of year, people start thinking about what they are thankful for, things that are taken for granted every other day of the year. I feel so grateful that I have so many things to give thanks for.

women who serve our country. The military put their lives on the line for us every single day even though they do not know us individually.

Of course, I am thankful for my family. My sister is one of my best friends and without her, I'd go crazy. My parents, grandparents and even my dogs are so supportive, even when they do not fully know or understand what I am talking about most of the time.

Police, EMT's (Emergency Medical Technician) and the fire department keep our city safe and run into buildings when everyone else is running out. First responders do not receive all of the recognition they deserve.

Friends, friends, friends. New and old, they play the biggest role in my life. Knowing that there will always be someone to turn to, help or even watch Netflix with is huge. My friends are my support system.

These heroes are the reason we wake up safe and go to bed safe. We take them for granted every single day and some do not even get to go home to their families. I am thankful for every single man and women in the military, police, EMT and fire department.

I am also very thankful for the opportunity to go to college. We live in a country where we have the choice, and some are encouraged, to go to college. I am thankful for everyone here at Ashland University.

To me, being thankful does not just mean talking about why you are thankful (or in this case writing why I am thankful). It means letting loved ones know that they are appreciated. To me, it means saluting the flag and praying for our troops overseas.

I am forever thankful for the men and

**RACHEL RAMSEY**  
Collegian Editor

With Thanksgiving coming up, I realized that I am thankful for being a cheerleader. Not a lot of people can say they have cheered at the collegiate level and I am lucky enough to say that I have.

the sport for the longest time and have wanted to cheer as long as I could.

I have loved the sport since I was six years old and have always grown up influenced by those who have cheered in high school. Watching football and basketball games when I was younger made me dream about cheering when I got older. With this being my tenth year cheering, I can say that cheer has made me into a better person.

Without the cheer program here at Ashland University and Coshocton High School, I would not be the same person I am today.

I have learned to be leader and a role model to others and helping them improve as well. I also have had a love for

I am also thankful for all the cheer and dance coaches I have had through the years. They have taught me so much about cheer, dance and life and prepared me for the college cheer experience. I would not be where I am today without the coaches and mentors I have had since I started cheerleading. I have grown so much due to the sport and it has influenced me to inspire others who love cheer just as much as I do. For that, I am thankful for cheerleading and the coaches that have helped me get to this point in my life.

**JUSTIN DAVIS**  
AU-Live Editor

Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful because I get to be surrounded by people who love me. I get to enjoy a home cooked meal with an abundance of food and choices and it's a blessing

to sit down and reflect on a year of being satisfied, with your family. Even though it's colder than I would like, I have nothing to complain about and I get to sit and watch football before falling asleep in a food coma.



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Many people associate the cornucopia with Thanksgiving.

### the Collegian

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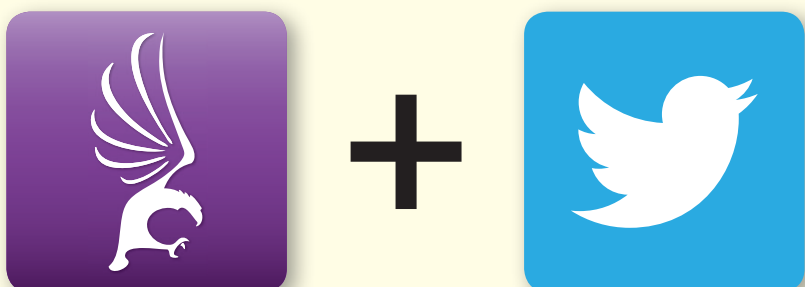
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