

entertainment

Business spotlight:



BREE GANNON & ZACH READ @AUCollegian

For this business spotlight, we decided to go to The Taproom on Main and appeal to those who are 21 and over. The Taproom is located at 47 E Main Street in downtown Ashland and offers a unique experience that you just have to check out for yourself.

First Impression:
Bree: I first went to the Taproom when it opened over the summer and I loved it! It is such a unique place that offers a scene other bars around the area don't. The room is set up for more of a chill environment and is a great place to just sit with friends and enjoy the beer.
Zach: This was my first time to the Taproom and it is the kind of bar that downtown Ashland needs. It is an extremely clean and nice with a good, clean atmosphere where people can go and have a casual conversation with a beer.
Atmosphere:
Bree: The atmosphere is good

for those who are looking to chill at a bar. It's not like the typical bars you find in Ashland where there is a lot of people and dancing happening. The Taproom is more on the chill side and is perfect to watch games on TV., sit on the couch with friends, listen to live music or hang at the bar and enjoy the food truck selections.
Zach: It has a nice chill atmosphere with a lot of a younger crowd but also the older generation that is having a casual beer over conversations. If you are a person that likes to taste different beers then the TapRoom is the place to go.
Employee Interactions:
Bree: The night we went, we didn't really have much employee interaction except with the bartender who was super attentive and nice. I have gone other times though where I would sit at the bar and talk to the owners and they were amazing. I did have a really good interaction with one of the set of owners, Ron and Toni, before they left the business. Ron and Toni talked with my friend Rachel and I for hours about what we were doing at AU and told us about them and their family. They even remembered us when we went back a few weeks later.
Zach: Like Bree said when we went we did not have much of an employee interaction but they definitely provide to the nice, chill atmosphere.
Activites:
Bree: The Taproom is more of a sit, sip and chill kind of place but they do offer live music on certain days. They also have fun events like trivia nights and also have board games that you can play while you are drinking.
Zach: While it is mainly a place to sit down and converse, they do have board games and televisions to watch any games that are on.
Food/Drink:
Bree: Unfortunately we did not get to experience the food trucks the night we went. They have a



From left to right: Joel Vanderzyden, Samantha Johnson, Annie Schaubeo and David Allman enjoy the atmosphere and drinks at the Taproom.

bunch of different trucks that come and sit outside for the customers since the establishment does not have a functioning kitchen. Another unique thing about the Taproom is that you can also bring your own food or order it there. My friends and I have ordered pizza there before and it was great. But I did get a drink while there, I ordered a cranberry sangria. The Taproom is more known for their 12 on-tap beers from different breweries but they do have select bottled beers, wines, sangrias and select liquor choices.
Zach: We went to the TapRoom on a night that they did not have a food truck so it was a little disappointing but most people who go are not going for the food. With a good selection of beers it gives people the opportunity to broaden their horizons. With the food trucks and the ability to bring in your food it makes the Taproom a unique venue and something that you are not able to witness often.

Overall Experience:
Bree: This is probably my favorite bar in Ashland and I go there more than I probably should honestly. The environment is so inviting and the food trucks are always so good. I would definitely recommend the place to anyone that is looking to get out of the usual bar scene.
Zach: While I am not a person that goes to bars or drinks, I thought that the Taproom was a neat place just to hangout and enjoy the atmosphere. If you are a person that drinks and is over 21, the Taproom is a place that everyone should try to experience sometime soon.
Our overall thoughts? Check them out! The Taproom is open Thursdays from 4 p.m. - 10 p.m., Fridays from 4 p.m. - 11 p.m. and Saturdays from 2 p.m. - 11 p.m. For more information on them and their food truck/ event schedule go to The TAPROOM On Main on Facebook.

Department chair spotlight:

Alison Rossi

CHRISTINE JENKINSON @cej_1997

Alison Rossi, Ashland University's Instructor for Fashion Merchandising, has been teaching for three years and has some experience working in the fashion field.
"I went to Walsh for business, but wanted to do fashion so I went out to San Francisco and worked for a tech startup that was in fashion," Rossi said. "It is no longer there, but basically people sell their higher-end stuff. We had to understand the market price and the quality from the photos. There was another startup that I worked with a woman who went to Harvard and it was really interesting to see that she knew all the business, but she did not know fashion as well."
Students can major or minor in Fashion Merchandising. Within the department, there is a group called the Fashion in Action Organization.
FAO travels around Ohio to meet professionals and alumni. Another thing the organization does is give back.
"We've collected clothes in the winter for the past two years to give them to a certain organization that we feel needs them," Rossi said. "We try to do fundraisers within the campus such as Paint and Sip, obviously no alcohol, and movie nights which we try to have in the fashion room. We bring snacks and chill and whoever wants to come

can watch one of the documentaries you see on Netflix."
Rossi stressed how important not only knowing fashion is, but understanding economics, psychology, art and the fact that fashion comes in cycles and is nothing new.
"It is really understanding the ins and outs of fashion and the numbers of it, the understanding of trends, what is popular or not, it is what spot do we want to have our store in, when do we want to release this, what is going with the economy," Rossi said. "You have to know how a person thinks or how a body shape plays into clothing...It is also history, knowing when it was

popular helps a lot of people appreciate the history of when it was."
Rossi took the design-focused department back on a merchandising track, but left a hint of styling.
"We have a Ready to Wear Class," Rossi said. "That's a lot of styling and knowing what's going on right now. Industry Fashion is also a course, and that is knowing what's going on, what's the color of the year and to pair certain things when you know a customer and what the genre is of them. So it is both the math of the markdown and what color is in season."
Right now, the department is planning for their fashion show

April 12 and 13: Nature: Taking a scenic route.
"One person is sand, another one is a volcano, moss, floral prints or flowers, one of the girls at one point was rocks, another was snow, so they are all getting inspired and making garments that are wearable," Rossi said. "It is not wearing actual leaves or something like that. It is really cool to see the theme coming alive within the show as well. The runway will probably be some form of grass or moss, along with a flower wall in the background and different kinds of elements like water is going to be seen on the table and forms of

burnt things to represent fire."
To join the fashion show, email Rossi at arossi@ashland.edu.
"Anyone can join," Rossi said. "If you want to be just a part of the show, if you want to make a garment but are not in Studio one or two, we're all for it. If you want to just help out or be a model, you can. We are more than happy to have them, the more the merrier. One of our models is in the fashion department and the organization, so we get people from the art department and drama department to help us out with the props and music."



Johnathan Benko ('17), Mary Northiem ('18), Alison Rossi, Dr. Dan Fox, Haley McDonald ('17), Alex Wiegung ('18) at the Fashion Show 2016