

# A walk down memory lane

## A dedication to AU's most special moments of 2017



The AU football team completed one of their best seasons in the program's history as they made it to the second round of the NCAA Division II playoffs for the second time.

Fashion merchandising students traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio to get an inside look at the famous bridal district.

**HANNAH PREDOJEV**  
@AUCollegian

The year of 2017 at Ashland University has provided individuals with lots of laughs, new friendships, a newfound sense of independence, difficult challenges, Instagram-worthy moments, the occasional tears, the drive and the discipline to work hard and succeed and most importantly, the year of 2017 has shown us that things do get better. As a campus, we have overcome adversity and embraced one another wholeheartedly, as if the person you just met yesterday is one of your dearest friends.

We evolve as humans as each year passes, and new life lessons are learned. For some, appreciation for those around us only grows stronger and more apparent, as someday, people will graduate and eventually start the next chapter in their life.

Being a part of AU this year has given individuals the chance to discover what they have a passion for, and who they aspire to become.

Some will have created lifelong memories to be cherished forever. These are a few of those memories.

A large glass box used to be seen immediately upon walking into the dining hall, located in the middle of the floor. Known as the "fishbowl," it was a place students could go to seek peace and quiet to work on homework or spend time with friends.

With the fishbowl eliminated and new "island style" seating in place for students, Patrick Ewing, the vice president of operations and Planning, noted that the construction for this project began last May and continued through the duration of the summer.

The renovations were made possible due to student dining revenues and campus capital improvement budgets, and he discussed how it has been over a decade since any sort of major changes were made to the cafeteria.

Sophomore Amelia Woodyard attends convo three to four times a week. A fan of the new changes, Woodyard enjoys having more room to walk around the dining hall, ultimately providing students with the opportunity to not only socialize more, but also become closer as a whole.

While junior Allison Montgomery attends convo once or twice

a week, she believes that the fishbowl was a nice "getaway" from the everyday chaos a college student faces.

Initially, she was a little apprehensive about the renovations, but she came to find that they were not so bad, after all.

"It does have a rather nice, sleek, modern look to it that the rest of Convo could use, actually," Montgomery said. "I was worried it was going to feel too "in the open," where it feels like everyone is staring at you, but it doesn't."

Junior Madeleine Beck eats at convo five times per week. She discussed her thoughts on the renovations to the dining hall.

"I believe that convo can seat more people, and the electrical outlets really help when you need to work on your computer or charge your phone as you eat," Beck said.

With the new changes in place, who knows what renovations are in store for the rest of campus in the future. Rest in peace fishbowl, we will never forget you.

Another memorable moment that stood out for two students in particular surrounded the popular Mexican fast-food chain, Chipotle.

Byron Reyna-Corzo, a recent AU graduate of May 2016, traveled with senior Christopher Carrillo to the Chipotle grand opening event, arriving at the burrito chain at 7 a.m. Even though doors did not open until 10:45, the two were looking forward to what lies ahead, as neither had previously attended anything like this before.

When Reyna-Corzo heard that Chipotle was finally coming to Ashland, he thought it was about time, and could not have been more thrilled.

"Chipotle is one of the best fast, casual options out there; especially being in Ashland, once you get tired of convo and nest, it is a great alternative."

He says his favorite menu item to order includes a bowl with cheese, chicken, extra lettuce, guacamole, green tobasco sauce and rice.

The new Chipotle location, which officially opened for its customers on Sept. 12 of this year, was complete with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, photos and even the Chamber of Commerce made an appearance.

"Upon the store opening, Chris and I walked in and everyone was clapping and congratulating [each

other]," Reyna-Corzo said.

For the opening, customers received a goodie bag, which included items such as a shirt and a recipe for the restaurant's pico de gallo salsa.

For being the first in line, Reyna-Corzo had additional items in his bag of treats, including a coupon for one free meal and a buy-one, get-one as well, along with Carrillo.

Chipotle is located on 1988 E. Main St. and is open from 10:45 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

For one student, she was inspired by a field trip she and her peers took this November.

Created in September of this year, the "Fashion in Action Organization or FAO led by co-presidents Alex Wiegand and Gaby Norheim, recently took a field trip to Cincinnati, Ohio, where individuals had the opportunity to get an inside look at the bridal industry, talk with the owners of each store and, learn about potential internships offered.

Additionally, they also went to a local catering business, which served everyone lunch.

Departing for the trip around 6 a.m. on Nov. 10 and returning later that evening, the fashion students visited three different bridal stores, which, according to junior fashion merchandising major Summer Starkey, is the largest bridal district in the U.S.

"The owner of the store, [Andy Star], told us how he got into the bridal industry, and knew all of these designers, [including] Vera Wang, Betsey Johnson and Doc Marten," Starkey said.

She commented on how Star has internships available for those who are interested.

"I think that would be so cool; I could learn more about dress fits, bridal gowns, prom dresses, mother of the brides and all that type of stuff," Starkey said.

Currently, Starkey works at the fashion retail store, American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. in Lodi, Ohio, as a manager. Ultimately, her dream is to someday become a buyer for a fashion company and be able to select the items that will be eventually displayed in stores.

Overall, Starkey loved every minute of the trip and ultimately gained a lot of insight about the world of bridal wear.

The fashion-merchandising students are having an upcoming event called "Spotlight on Style,"

where they will showcase a variety of looks for every season, located in the John C. Meyers Convocation Center.

The event starts at noon, and tickets are five dollars at the door. All are welcome to attend.

The AU football team reflected on a game that proved once again, all of their hard work and passion for the sport continues to pay off.

Competing against Saginaw Valley on Nov. 11, the AU football team continues to shine in their success. In 2012, they captured the title of GLIAC champions with a record of 11 and 0. In 2015, they were named GLIAC champions, and left undefeated. Finally, in 2016, they were named GLIAC South champions, with a record of 10 and 0.

Lee Owens, the head football coach at AU, explained how the team felt secure overall that they were going to execute a win.

"Our guys had great confidence that they were going to win; I remember Travis telling me when we came out of halftime, he said, "coach, just put it in my hands; we are not losing this game," Owens said.

Owens discussed how the game against Saginaw Valley brought the team closer together.

"The celebration at the end was great; to be able to sing the fight song with the players, ring the victory bell and get the championship picture taken, that was exciting," Owens said.

Additionally, he elaborated on how the team snagged another win against the two-time defending champion, Northwest Missouri State, in a playoff game.

"We made then what many people consider the greatest victory in the history of our school," Owens said.

Senior quarterback Travis Tarnowski divulged that the preparation itself leading up to game day required a lot of hard work and dedication.

"I trust our coaches and the rest of our team and what we are going to be able to do, no matter if we start out fast, if we start out slow, I always know that I can count on every single guy to pick it up and be able to finish strong," Tarnowski said.

As his own unique pre-game ritual, Tarnowski noted that he always put his left contact in before his right, as well as his shoes and socks, for good luck out on the

field. He is very humbled to have had such a fulfilling season with teammates he considers to be like family.

"To see everyone smiling, and all of the families and supporters, that goes a long way for me," Tarnowski said. "Being able to sit back the last minute and soak it all in, and [reflect] on all of the hard work we put into it, was really awesome."

Tarnowski would like to thank his mother, Kelly, and his father, Jeff, for their everlasting love and encouragement over the years. He also is extremely gracious towards his coaches for believing in all of their players, and making their dreams become a reality.

Our final memorable moment comes from a group of fraternity brothers, who brought a new meaning to the term "rock 'n' roll" during a campus event.

Junior Alan Naymick performed for his first time, rocking out on the guitar during Lip Sync, a competition for those who like to pretend to sing and create routines.

The event, which took place on Nov. 19, consisted of all of the fraternities and sororities on campus.

Naymick's band, Animal House, spent two weeks getting ready for the performance, and rehearsed for an hour every other day.

Also in the band with Naymick, included juniors Jacob Smith, who performed as the drummer, Vince Lester, who sung lead vocals, and Zachary Portner, who performed on bass.

Donning white shirts that read "Animal House" complete with dark jeans for the apparel, the group selected variety of songs for the competition, including "Another Brick in the Wall, Part Two" by Pink Floyd and "People are Strange by the Doors", among others.

Winners of the lip-sync competition were awarded a trophy and included the sorority Alpha Delta Pi and fraternity Phi Kappa Psi.

"I would encourage other students who are going to be in a fraternity or sorority to try it out because it is a good way to get everyone involved, have fun and be creative," Naymick said.

Here is to closing the chapter on the year 2017, and starting fresh. Here is to being happy, living spontaneously and doing everything one has ever wanted, striving to make every day a memorable one.

Cheers to another year.