



# opinion

# Biggest moments of 2017

2017 was a very memorable year for many different reasons. The Editorial staff of the Collegian relives some of the moments that shaped 2017 both on and off campus.

**KAITLYN MOORE**

**Manchester attack**

I would say the most impactful thing that happened this year would be the Manchester terror attack in May at Ariana Grande’s concert. It was a terrible, horrible, awful event, but artists everywhere stepped up and said “we aren’t backing down,” continuing to do tours in the face of it. In wake of a tragedy like this, I think it is important to continue doing what makes you happy and to do what you love. We cannot control everything that happens to and around us, and that sucks, but we can control how we handle uncontrollable situations in the aftermath. We can’t live in fear for the rest of our lives. I think it inspired a lot of people to create music, to pursue their passions and I think it spurred that feeling of creating true strength for yourself forward for the rest of the year. Everyone keeps saying 2018 is going to be different, more positivity and less toxicity, and I genuinely feel that movement got a big push from what happened in Manchester. I think 2018 is going to be the year for renewal and positivity for so many people.

**42nd Annual Madrigal Feaste**

I have gone to Madrigals 3 times so far, and I plan to go next year too, but this year felt more special. I really enjoyed myself with my new friends in the Honors Program. I had fun interacting with my new friends in the theater program who were acting as the court and players, and this year I was chosen to go up on stage for the “surprise” before the night ended. This semester has been a crazy roller coaster, both in school and in my personal life. I realized as everyone in Redwood started singing “Silent Night” that the semester is coming to a close and things are calming down. I just felt very at peace and I will remember that feeling for a long time. Madrigals this year made a big positive impact in my life. For me, that was the most memorable thing that happened on campus this semester.

**NOAH CLOONAN**

**National Championship**

There were many exhilarating things that happened during this year in the world of Ashland University athletics, but for me

nothing was more exciting than the Women’s basketball team’s national championship. Every sports broadcaster dreams of having the opportunity to broadcast a National Championship game, but for many that dream never comes to fruition. But thanks to the historically good women’s team, my dream was able to come true. Beyond fulfilling a lifelong goal, the coolest thing to me about the journey was that the game was in Columbus and this allowed the Eagle faithful to come out in full force and support the Eagles.

I have never been to a sporting event that was louder than Alumni Hall was when that final buzzer sounded. Seeing the campus and the entire Ashland community all rally around the team is something that I will remember for the rest of my life and will go down as one of the best sporting memories in my life.

**Pulp: Juice and Smoothies**

There was also a lot of amazing things that happened in the world of sports elsewhere in Ohio and I thought that one of those would be my favorite moment that happened this year outside of AU, but that all changed two weeks ago. Pulp: Juice and Smoothie bar has been one of my favorite places to eat and just a few weeks ago it was announced that there would be a Pulp built in Ashland! As soon as I found this out, it instantly became my favorite moment of 2017. If you have never had Pulp and you like smoothies, this is a must visit for you. From smoothies with Red Bull, to Protein smoothies, wraps and yogurt bowls, Pulp has everything you could ever ask for. And to make things even better, Pulp is going in just two doors down from Chipotle making the combination of Chipulp easier than ever.

**BEX HUNTER**

**Charlottesville**

Though it was a horrible event, the Charlottesville rally was one of the biggest events this year. On Aug. 11-12 a group of white supremacists, coming in all forms including neo-Nazi’s and KKK members, held a rally to protest the Charlottesville City Council’s decision to remove Confederate monuments from the public. About 100 people protested shouting Nazi slogans and some holding guns, swastikas and anti semitic posters. When counter-protesters



BREE GANNON

The women’s basketball team won the programs second National Championship after finishing 37-0.

showed up, things got violent rather quickly. Our President, who time after time publicly insults football players for kneeling, refused to denounce the white supremacists for this event that ended with over 40 human casualties, three of those being deaths.

**President Campo renewal**

In October it was announced that President Campo’s contract with the University had been extended for another three years. Campo has been AU’s 30th President since 2015, and in that amount of time he has really put a focus on the idea of community both on and off campus.

Moving forward, he would like to make improvements across campus including dorm halls and athletic facilities. Many AU students, staff and faculty have faith in the work he has done and is continuing to do for AU and are glad to see he will be around until at least 2021.

**BREE GANNON**

**Football Team wins the GLIAC title**

The Ashland University athletic program added yet another historic season to their program. Coach Owens and the football team clinched their first outright GLIAC championship title in five years and the third title overall in six seasons. The Eagles were 11-2 overall and 9-0 in the conference. After clinching the title, the Eagles moved into playoffs where they were faced with the two-

time defending national champs and the best defensive team in the country. The team beat Northwest Missouri State 21-18 and moved on to the second round against Harding where they were defeated 34-24. The end of the season also ended the era of, possibly one of the greatest quarterbacks in program history, Travis Tarnowski. Tarnowski was awarded GLIAC player of the year and the NCAA Division II Conference Commissioner’s Association Super Region 3 Offensive Player of the Year. During the season, he was also achieved 10,000 career touchdowns and 10,000 passing yards. Coach Owens was named the GLIAC Coach of the Year.

**Indians 22 game winning streak**

Baseball, in my opinion, is the best season of the year and it comes with rooting for my favorite team, the Cleveland Indians. The past few years have proved to be exciting when it comes to being a fan, with the 2016-2017 season ending with a 102-60 record and with the second longest winning streak in MLB history.

There is no doubt that the historic 22 game win streak was admired by all of the MLB and the fans that accompany it.

The streak started on Aug. 24 after a 13-6 win against the Boston Red Sox and clouded over the sadness that every Indians fan everywhere still felt from the 2016 World Series loss.

The streak ended in a close 4-3 loss against the Kansas City Roy-

als on Sept. 15. The rest of the season brought 14 more games in which the Tribe won 11. With such a historic season behind them, one can only hope they continue their hard work for the 2018 World Series trophy so we can all forget about the ending of the 2017 season.

**RENÉE BORCAS**

**AU Live**

This October we rolled out our new converged media website, AU Live. After months of work in designing and building the site, it is finally live for people in the AU community to get quick access to local news, whether that is through written articles, AUTV-20 videos, or clips from WRDL. This has not only made for a more convenient user experience, but will help us in the JDM department grow as new media creators.

**Inauguration of Donald Trump**

The presidential inauguration is a symbol of democracy in the United States.

This year’s inauguration marked the change from the Obama administration into the Trump administration and was a huge event, sparking protests and controversy.

The contention caused by President Trump claiming that there was a larger turnout for the event, despite the photo evidence that proved otherwise, conveyed the message that we have entered an era where our government is not afraid to present “alternative facts” at true statements to its citizens.

*The* Collegian

**EDITOR’S NOTE**

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*The Collegian* is a student-run paper, published bimonthly.

*The Collegian* is printed by the  
Wooster Republican Printing Company.

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