



# features

## Carrying on a university tradition *Banana Splittin' homecoming event excites students*

HANNAH PREDOJEV  
@AUCollegian

A classic dessert for children and adults alike, a banana is cut directly down the center in two halves. It rests in a transparent plastic dish filled with plentiful scoops of chocolate, strawberry and vanilla ice cream. Goopy swirls of rich caramel and decadent chocolate syrup are served on top of the banana, with juicy, yellow pineapple chunks and frothy whipped cream. Complete with a luscious red Maraschino cherry, the banana split is ready to be devoured.

Banana Splittin' is a banana split eating competition where individuals are judged in three categories, including best costume, most creative eating style and the fastest eaters. It was reinstated by President Carlos Campo in 2015 after a four year cancellation due to weather and lack of attendance.

"Every member on the team gets their own individual banana-split boat; we do chocolate, vanilla and strawberry ice cream," the CAB

co-chair of committee A, Kyle Wissel, said. "We always do one banana per split; typically, we do pineapple, chocolate, caramel, whipped cream and a cherry."

Wissel and Nicole Hubbard are in charge of the event.

For the competition, teams of five to eight members have the option to decide what categories they want to get judged in. Each group is required to create a sign for their team, as well as a label for each category they participate in.

Last year, junior Leandra Hunt and the sisters of Theta Phi Alpha rocked out in the contest and ate ice cream while pretending to play in an all-girls heavy metal rock band. Banging spoons on tables and singing into a microphone, they dressed up in gothic-style apparel and wore Kiss-inspired makeup.

Hunt has been attending the event since the fall of 2015, where she met her best friend at the first banana splittin' competition, and says that is has since become a beloved tradition for the two of them.



SUBMITTED BY BEX HUNTER

Last year, Theta Phi Alpha members competed in a team of five in the fastest eaters category.

"We always try our best to win; we are very competitive with Banana Splittin' because it means a lot," Hunt said. "It is super fun; there are so many people there, and the costumes are fun to look at."

Judges for the event include Dustin Hargis, the assistant director of student life, Dennis Clark, the student senate president, and Campo. Troy Miller, an admissions representative for AU, is the emcee. It is unknown whether or not another faculty member will be joining the panel, so students will have to wait and see.

Senior Frances Craider has been attending the event since the fall of 2015. Although she did not participate last year, she went to cheer on her friends in the competition. Both Craider and Hunt are participating in the best costume category

and most creative eating, with five people in their group in total.

"It is a lot of fun because it is not something that I would normally do; it is a step outside of my comfort zone," Craider said. "I don't care, because no one cares. You [are] silly and go all in."

Senior Ben Haraway is attending the event for his first time this year. Also on a team with Haraway is junior Nick Bapst, another first-timer who is competing with Haraway in all three categories. While their team has not decided on a costume or a specific strategy to eat the ice cream, they have five people on their team overall.

Haraway acknowledged that he is a little apprehensive for the event, but believes that it will be a wonderful turnout regardless.

"I think is a great event for the community because everyone can

come together, win or lose, and have a really good time," Haraway said.

Bapst is attending the event for his first time this year, but has previously competed in various banana-split eating events prior to this one. During one contest he competed with teammate and AU student Nathan Wood in high school, receiving a second place trophy.

He noted that he is feeling very confident about competing.

"We are coming for first place this year, and are expecting to win," Bapst said.

Not only do participants receive free T-shirts, but free banana splits will also be given to viewers.

The contest is located in front of Founders Lawn on College Ave and begins on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



SUBMITTED BY FRANCES CRAIDER

Last year, Frances Craider (dressed as Tina Belcher) and Leandra Hunt (dressed as Bob Belcher) took their costume inspiration from the TV show Bob's Burgers.



BEX HUNTER

Hailee Miller helps make banana splits for last year's Banana Splittin' competition.

## Congratulations Homecoming Court!

Andrea Daugherty  
Mellie Derry  
Maddy Hoy  
Hannah Wise  
Miki Yamamura

Colton Hiner  
Ian Kieffer  
Logan Rex  
Derek Stallard  
Matthew Wilcox

AU PRESS RELEASE

Ashland University announced their homecoming court for 2017.

## AU students create art with kids

KYLIE CHURCH  
@AUCollegian

Ashland University's Coburn Art Gallery will be hosting Art Saturday's for young students who otherwise may not have the opportunity or funds to participate in being creative at school.

Cynthia Petry, the director of the Coburn Art Gallery, implemented Art Saturday's back in 2009 when she became director of the gallery. She thought it was a great idea to get more children to participate in art-based activities.

It also had potential to be an excellent opportunity for Ashland students to get real life exposure to that type of work environment.

She extended this idea from a previous faculty member.

"The art education faculty member, Robert Stanley, had a similar program [to this] and it lasted during his ten years here and then he left," Petry said. "We didn't have it anymore and I felt like it was

an asset. I feel that way especially now. Some schools don't have art at all."

The first Art Saturday's program was held on Sept. 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. for children 4-8 years of age.

Children had the opportunity to learn about linear perspective in a way befitting their age group while they learned about dinosaurs.

The idea is to combine these two concepts so children can make their own masterpiece.

The next Art Saturday will be held on Nov. 4 for children ages 9-13 years old.

At this event children will be able to learn about surrealism using reptiles versus painting.

This event is \$5 to attend to ensure that there are enough supplies for everyone.

For more information on these events visit [www.ashland.edu/coburngallery](http://www.ashland.edu/coburngallery), call 419-289-5652, or email [coburngallery@ashland.edu](mailto:coburngallery@ashland.edu).



SUBMITTED BY CYNTHIA PETRY

Senior graphic design student Danielle Smith helps out young artist Georgia Knowlton at the T-Rex Can Draw Art Saturday event on Sept. 30.