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2 Free Issues of Forbes

The Stanford Bitcoin Mafia



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FULL BIO

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Ryan Breslow

Stanford Bitcoin Group members Matt Rials, Ryan Breslow, Pat Briggs and John Meier pose after a dinner with the Winklevoss twins.

In winter quarter of 2013, Stanford officials were perplexed that 10% of the energy used in a 100-person dorm seemed to be consumed by one room. They kicked down the doors and walked in to find a room hotter than a sauna, with machines and equipment whirring - students had put together a **Bitcoin mining rig in their dorm room**. The first wave of Bitcoin mania was sweeping through Stanford.

Bitcoin early adopter and venture capitalist Tim Draper gave an evangelical talk at Stanford later that year. It was not uncommon in a classroom to see students day trading Bitcoin instead of taking notes. Though it was not at the price point or hype level it is at

today, interest in the currency was spreading like wildfire. Flash forward five years, and these former freshman and sophomore crypto enthusiasts are now CEOs of their own crypto companies - the Stanford Bitcoin Mafia has been formed.

At the heart of the 2013 Bitcoin craze at Stanford was the CS 184 class taught by Andreessen Horowitz partners Balaji Srinivasan and Vijay Pande. Srinivasan later went on to found Earn, formerly 21.co, a Bitcoin startup with \$115 million in funding that monetizes email and social media accounts. Srinivasan's first iteration of the class in 2013 focused on a mix of startup theory and practice, interspersed with various Silicon Valley power players as guest lecturers. While not the focus of the class, Bitcoin was covered and became a huge point of discussion in the class' bi-weekly hackathons. From the hackathons, the Stanford Bitcoin Group was born, a Bitcoin research team supervised by Srinivasan and Pande.

“For CS 184, you could optionally show up in the engineering building at 6pm on Thursday and just work on projects together,” Andy Bromberg said, CEO of CoinList, an AngelList spinout that catalogs tokens. “The group that ended up being the Stanford Bitcoin Group typically stayed until 6 in the morning, working all night together on things. Discussion would separate from the projects we were working on in class, and start digging into other things, like Bitcoin or other futurism projects. That’s where we really bonded. Late nights, early mornings.”

Other crypto founders like Nadav Hollander of Dharma Protocol were students in the class, but the Stanford Bitcoin Group consisted of seven core members. In addition to Bromberg, the group included John Backus and Alain Meier, founders of Bloom and Cognito, Ryan Breslow, founder of Bolt, Chris Barber, an investor, Matt Rials¹², a developer at Coinbase and then Netflix, and Pat Briggs, a developer at Google. The students were mentored by Srinivasan and Pande in a variety of Bitcoin related projects. Research consisted of Bitcoin trends and trading volumes, analyzing the Bitcoin protocol, and even exploring how Bitcoin could have affected economic disasters in countries like Greece.

There was also a lot of effort put into the evangelical side, teaching people how to use Bitcoin and showing them that it mattered.

“Right now it’s lots of forking, lots of different camps,” Breslow said. “There was a lot more alignment back then, a focus on making Bitcoin popular. It was a bit more altruistic.”

As part of their evangelical efforts, Breslow attempted a Bitcoin drop at Stanford, trying to emulate the MIT Bitcoin Club [who gave \\$500,000 worth of Bitcoin in 2013](#) to undergraduates across campus, worth millions now. However, he abandoned the idea after running into complications with the Stanford bureaucracy. Despite their extensive research, the Stanford Bitcoin Group never formally published anything, as there was simply no interest from the public. According to Breslow, “99/100 people you brought Bitcoin into conversation with had never heard of it.”

When it came to housing for the following year, Barber spearheaded an effort with members from the Stanford Bitcoin Group to make an entrepreneurship themed dorm room. Barber recruited Backus, Meier, and Breslow from the research group, adding on entrepreneurial friends Jesse Leimgruber and Daniel Maren for the six person dorm room. Leimgruber and Maren later joined Backus and Meier in the founding of Bloom, a cryptocurrency startup that seeks to create the first decentralized credit score. In Suites, a dorm at the edge of Stanford campus, Griffin 304 was born. Bromberg also lived at Suites in a room next door.

“I came across a group that all seemed destined to start a startup,” Barber said. “Those were the people I wanted to be surrounded by. I’m a big proponent of ‘You’re the average of the five people you spend the most time with.’ There were about 10 undergraduate dropout Stanford founders over that few year period when we were in school. 5 of the 10 were from Griffin 304. It didn’t seem to be a coincidence.”

By the time sophomore year had started in the fall of 2013, Maren had already dropped out to found DFly, a solar power electronics startup that was acquired by SunPower. By the end of the school

year, only Barber would remain a student, the rest dropping out to pursue startups. The environment in Griffin 304 was collaborative, competitive, hard working, and fun. The most discussed topic, of course, was Bitcoin.



Reuters

Jesse Leimgruber works on his computer in Griffin 304, a dorm room that housed many entrepreneurially minded students.

”We would stare at the price of Bitcoin on a monitor in Suites,” Leimgruber said. “We all had a lot of bitcoin. We did a bit of trading between coins, but mostly we just held. Occasionally, we would stare at the price and say ‘Hey it seems a little high right now, I would sell right this second.’ And then we would look at the price change, and say ‘Hey we should buy right now. Aha! We would have made some money.’ We were bitcoin maximalists, there were a whole bunch of other coins like Dogecoin and even Ethereum at the time, which came the year after. No one really believed in anything besides Bitcoin.” Now, however, Leimgruber is an Ethereum maximalist, building on top of the platform and keeping much of his personal holdings in the token.

Between following Bitcoin and pursuing their startups, Griffin 304

had little time for school, but took as many CS classes as they could anyways. The quirky group of startup kids were highly nocturnal, working on various side projects and blasting dubstep until 4 AM. Leimgruber subsisted mostly on trail mix, taking buckets back to their room from the dining hall downstairs. Everyone was a natural prankster. As the year went on, however, they started dropping out like flies.

Breslow was the first to drop out, leaving to build a Bitcoin wallet company. He made a clone of his key, however, and lived in Griffin 304 for the rest of the year, keeping a blanket and backpack in the room. He spent spring quarter at Stanford not taking any classes, coding 12 hours a day, and using the Stanford gym and dining halls. His current company Bolt is an end to end payments company.

Next came Leimgruber, who dropped out and worked on a couple bitcoin startups that did not gain much traction. Leimgruber then attended the Alchemist Accelerator and founded NeoReach, a data analytics company that connects brands with influencers. Though Leimgruber still works with NeoReach, his main priority now is Bloom. Bloom completed its ICO on January 1st of 2018, having raised over \$40 million in Ethereum from over 7,000 individual holders.

Bromberg dropped out next, founding Sidewire with Tucker Bounds, the former spokesman of John McCain's presidential campaign. Sidewire sought to connect readers directly with political experts, filtering out much of the noise associated with mainstream publications. Sidewire never reached the readership it wanted, however, winding down in mid-2017. Bromberg is now the CEO of CoinList, an AngelList spinout where the top ICOs are vetted and hosted. CoinList helped coordinate the Filecoin ICO that raised \$205 million.

Wynn Settles Universal Entertainment Suit for \$2.4 Billion

By **Edvard Pettersson**

March 8, 2018, 6:31 PM EST

Updated on March 8, 2018, 10:42 PM EST

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- Settlement adds \$464 million to original note for Wynn stake
 - Universal Entertainment will receive payment by March 31
-

Wynn Resorts Ltd. agreed to pay a total of \$2.4 billion to settle a lawsuit with Universal Entertainment Corp. over the forced redemption of the Japanese pachinko-machine maker's 20 percent stake in the casino operator six years ago.

The settlement announced Thursday is the latest dramatic turn since Steve Wynn resigned last month amid a sexual harassment scandal at the casino empire he founded. It adds \$464 million to a \$1.94 billion 10-year promissory note Wynn gave Universal in 2012 for the shares, and it puts an end to the biggest chunk of the court fight that started with the acrimonious falling out between Steve and his former business partner, Kazuo Okada.

Wynn Resorts has come under scrutiny from gaming regulators in Macau, Nevada and Massachusetts, where it is building a \$2.4 billion casino resort, in the wake of reports the founder and now former chairman pressured employees into having sex with him. The settlement with Universal Entertainment may help clear a path for Steve Wynn, the company's biggest shareholder, to sell part of his stake should that be necessary.

Remaining Claims

Okada, ousted from his Tokyo-based company last year, isn't a party to the settlement and Wynn Resorts' claims against him for breach of fiduciary duty remain pending. A trial on those allegations is scheduled for next month in Las Vegas and a lawyer for Okada, J. Stephen Peek, said his understanding is that the claims against his client will move forward.

In February 2012, Wynn Resorts took the Japanese billionaire's shares, which then had a market value of about \$2.7 billion, and gave him the promissory note in exchange. The company claimed Okada had put the company's gaming

licenses at risk by making illicit payments to Philippine regulators. Okada countered that he was forced out of the company because Steve Wynn perceived him as a threat to his control.

Wynn Resorts will make the \$2.4 billion payment to Universal by March 31, the company said in a statement.

“Today’s outcome is tremendous for our client,” ^{'67} David Krakoff, a lawyer for Universal Entertainment, said in a separate statement. “It resolves long-running litigation on very favorable terms, and provides substantial resources for Universal to continue its international growth.”

Universal Tumbles

Universal Entertainment shares tumbled 16 percent, their daily limit and the most in almost five years, in trading in Tokyo on Friday.

“The amount of the settlement was much smaller than expectations,” said Tomoichiro Kubota, an analyst at Matsui Securities Co. in Tokyo. “The fact that Kazuo Okada himself was not involved in the settlement left some uncertainty.”

Wynn Macau Ltd. climbed 0.5 percent in Hong Kong on Friday, while parent Wynn Resorts jumped 6.4 percent in New York on Thursday before the settlement was announced.

The settlement comes a day after Wynn Resorts unexpectedly raised <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-08/for-steve-wynn-dividend-boost-brings-a-12-million-windfall> its dividend, and announced one of its longer-serving board members resigned while another won't seek re-election.

Those steps are helping to bring some stability and boost investor confidence after volatility in the company’s stock amid the controversy surrounding Steve Wynn, said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Margaret Huang. Wynn Resorts shares fell as much as 19 percent following a Wall Street Journal article detailing the allegations of sexual harassment against Wynn.

Elaine’s Shares

The settlement doesn’t cover claims by Steve Wynn’s ex-wife, Elaine Wynn, who has been trying to get out from under a 2010 stockholder agreement that ties her up 10 percent stake in the company.

Last week, Steve Wynn asked a judge to dismiss Elaine’s claims pertaining to the validity of that agreement because, following his resignation last month, he no longer seeks to enforce it. His request was denied in part because Aruze USA, the Universal Entertainment unit that held the Wynn shares, argued that it was party to the 2010 agreement and neither Steve nor Elaine Wynn could sell their shares without its permission.

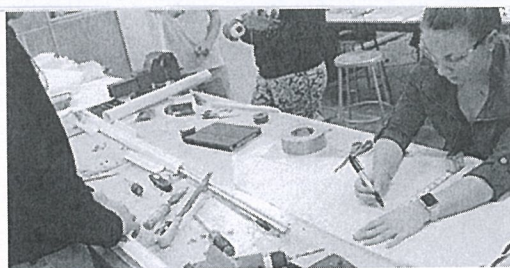
A spokeswoman for Elaine Wynn declined to comment.

As part of the settlement announced Thursday, Aruze will no longer consider itself part of the 2010 agreement, which will open the door for Steve Wynn to renew his argument that his ex-wife’s claims are moot. If the judge agrees this time, Wynn would be free to sell his shares if gaming regulators decide the misconduct allegations make him ineligible to be the company’s largest

shareholder.

The case is Wynn Resorts Ltd. v. Okada, A-12-656710-B, Clark County, Nevada, District Court (Las Vegas).

— *With assistance by Maiko Takahashi, and Daniela Wei*



Teams of undergraduate students from colleges and universities in the Northeast participated in the inaugural Engineering Innovation for Society student design competition. The competition was sponsored by the Department of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Nuclear Engineering (MANE), and the School of Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Photo credit: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute/Kris Qua

Troy, N.Y. — A hypertonic grip expander for individuals with cerebral palsy and stroke patients, a chair for students on the autism spectrum, and an independent lifting device for quadriplegic individuals are the designs created by teams of undergraduate students from colleges and universities in the Northeast during the inaugural Engineering Innovation for Society (EIS—pronounced “ice”) student design competition. The competition was sponsored by the

Department of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Nuclear Engineering (MANE), and the School of Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

At Rensselaer, students already take on design challenges for industry, service organizations, or entrepreneurs. Working in multidisciplinary teams, and coached by a professor and project engineers with extensive industrial experience, Rensselaer students formulate the problem and conceptualize designs to make a positive difference in the world. They work to build prototypes and test their solutions in a fabrication lab with state-of-the-art machining equipment, 3-D printers, and other devices.

Now, with the launch of the annual EIS competition, undergraduate students from other institutions will have an opportunity to visit the Rensselaer campus to experience the engineering workplace of the 21st century—and explore how innovative technological solutions lead to a better and more sustainable world.

“The Engineering Innovation for Society student design competition is a tribute to Professor Burt Swersey who served as a lecturer in the Rensselaer School of Engineering’s Department of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Nuclear Engineering for more than 25 years, before he passed away in March 2015,” said Suvaranu De, head of the Department of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Nuclear Engineering at Rensselaer. “Swersey was an innovation and entrepreneurship guru—a legendary teacher and mentor who lit the flame in many Rensselaer students to make a positive difference in the world. EIS is our way of teaching the next generation of innovators how to identify problems and seek creative solutions so that they can have a positive impact on people’s lives.”

This year’s inaugural competition included 31 students from colleges and universities in the Northeast, including Columbia, George Washington University, Parsons School of Design, MIT, Stevens Institute of Technology, United States Military Academy, University of Buffalo, University of Connecticut, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, University of New Hampshire, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Yale, and York College of Pennsylvania.

Last month, from January 11 to 14, on the Rensselaer campus, students were assigned to teams and worked on various projects to dream up novel ideas and develop prototypes for individuals who have disabilities, provided by the Center for Disability Services (CDS) of Albany, N.Y. Additional projects included the development of a dental stability device, designing a Parkinson’s writing assistant, improving a feeding tube device, and a canopy to protect patients who use wheelchairs from the elements during transfer to vehicle.

“We have long been recognized as a leader in design, producing the very best engineers for the current workplace,” said John Tichy, tribology expert and professor in the Department of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Nuclear Engineering at Rensselaer, who led the EIS organizing committee. “Now we’re expanding our influence, in keeping with The New Polytechnic, to motivate and engage students to address grand challenges, enabling cross-fertilization in new disciplines and with the very best collaborating institutions. Based on our reputation, the undergraduate students from some of the very best schools in the Northeast region came to Rensselaer. We learned from them, they learned from us; and we all made contributions to aid people with disabilities.”

Tichy noted that he hopes the EIS student design competition and some of its key concepts that are focused on projects driven to help society will spread in future years by reputation and word of mouth. “Using a rapid design paradigm that has been seen in hackathons and makeathons, our primary goal in creating EIS is to bring inventive students to the Rensselaer campus, to introduce them to all aspects of design and prototyping, while also creating a space for them use our facilities, and work with our faculty and staff in the School of Engineering, to develop engineering



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solutions to real-world practical problems.”

In addition to Tichy, the School of Engineering MANE faculty and staff involved in coordinating the event included Assistant Professor Jason E. Hicken; Professor of Practice Asish Ghosh; Sam Chiappone, director of manufacturing innovation for the School of Engineering, and staff from Rensselaer’s Manufacturing Innovation Learning Laboratory, and members of the MANE Student Advisory Council.

“The Center for Disability Services provides hope through innovation and services to people of all ages who have disabilities,” said Alan Krafchin, the center’s president and CEO. “We are honored to be the only community nonprofit to collaborate with these high-achieving college and university students as part of the EIS competition. Our medical and clinical professionals were able to explain and demonstrate real-world needs experienced, in some cases on a daily basis, by individuals with disabilities. Participants then sought solutions and created prototypes which may someday be available in the marketplace and could be helpful to thousands of people. These students truly are Engineering Innovation for Society.”

The Center for Disability Services, based in Albany, N.Y., has more than 80 locations throughout the Capital Region and Saratoga/Lake George region, which offer health, dental, outpatient therapy and medical specialty services, education, job training, residential, and transportation services. The center, which has been a community resource for 76 years, provides innovative programs and vital services, which are often not available elsewhere, to thousands of individuals with disabilities and families every year.

Student projects—which were mechanical in nature—were evaluated both on conceptual design and prototyping. Prizes awarded included \$10,000 to the first-place team, \$4,000 to the second-place team, and \$2,000 to the third-place team.

Professor Swersey’s daughter, Sarah Swersey, and members of her family traveled from Massachusetts to Rensselaer to deliver the awards, which were dedicated in honor of her father, to the participating teams.

The team designs for the EIS 2018 competition are:

First Place: Students created a hand splint that can change size and shape. The device is beneficial to individuals who are hypertonic, as it can be difficult and painful to stretch their hand and wrist and position it appropriately. Team members included: Michael Eaton (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), Richard Huizar (MIT), Travis Jones (York College of Pennsylvania), Andrew Reardon (Yale), and Avi Steinburg (Columbia).

Second Place: Students created the Autism Chair for students to accommodate increased sensory stimulation and vigorous movement. The goal was to propose an affordable design for a classroom setting that would be similar to existing chairs used in the classroom and not stand out. Team members included: Yonah Elorza (Columbia University), Sankee Maringanti (Stevens Institute of Technology), Konstantin Mitic (George Washington University), Noah Payeur (University of New Hampshire), and Gregory Zogby (United States Military Academy).

Third Place: Students worked to develop a convertible wheelchair bed to enable the transition of a quadriplegic individual from the bed to a chair without aid from another person. Team members included: Danielle Browning (University of Connecticut), Olivia Gustafson (University of Buffalo), Kalen Patrick Kahn (United States Military Academy), and Connie Zhang (Columbia University).

The Canopy team worked to create a system that could be usable by one person to protect a patient using a wheelchair from weather-related elements during transfer from a vehicle. Team members included: Aydin Akyol (Yale University), Bettina Arkhurst (MIT), Audrey Balaska (University of New Hampshire), Amanda Redhouse (York College of Pennsylvania), and Jacob Thompson (United States Military Academy).

The Parkinson's Writing Assistant team worked to create a writing device or pen for individuals who have Parkinson's. Team members included: Christopher Krause (MIT), Valeria Villanueva (Yale), Hannah White (United States Military Academy), and Mey Young Olivares Tay (Stevens Institute of Technology).

The Dental Chair team worked to develop a dental stability device to make the patient more comfortable during visits. According to the Center for Disability Services, there is a tool to assist with keeping a patient's mouth open during procedures, but the individual's head is held manually, which is inefficient and upsetting to patients. Team members included: David Cardoza (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), Tyler Langbein (University of Buffalo), Minxuan Li (Parsons School of Design), and Mahdiar Edraki (University of Massachusetts-Amherst)

The Feeding Tube team worked on a prototype to improve the device to address problems with clogging, leaking, detaching, and cleanliness. Team members included: Kelly Ehrhart (Stevens Institute of Technology), Julia Lin (University of Pennsylvania), Eli Mattingly (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), and Brian Savidge (United States Military Academy).

"Engineering to help humanity is at the core of what we do at Rensselaer," De said. "I believe in the innovative spirit of our undergraduate students, and competitions such as EIS are aimed at unleashing that spirit to improve the human condition. What we saw over the weekend is truly inspirational—teams of students from diverse backgrounds, working together to come up with game-changing solutions that may improve the quality of lives of people with disabilities. This is indeed the future of student-centric engineering education."

The Engineering Innovation for Society student design competition exemplifies the vision of The New Polytechnic, an emerging paradigm for teaching, learning, and research at Rensselaer, the foundation of which is the recognition that global challenges and opportunities are so great they cannot be adequately addressed by even the most talented person working alone. Rensselaer serves as a crossroads for collaboration—working with partners across disciplines, sectors, and geographic regions—to address complex global challenges, using the most advanced tools and technologies, many of which are developed at Rensselaer.

About Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, founded in 1824, is America's first technological research university. For nearly 200 years, Rensselaer has been defining the scientific and technological advances of our world. Rensselaer faculty and alumni represent 85 members of the National Academy of Engineering, 17 members of the National Academy of Sciences, 25 members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 8 members of the National Academy of Medicine, 8 members of the National Academy of Inventors, and 5 members of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, as well as 6 National Medal of Technology winners, 5 National Medal of Science winners, and a Nobel Prize winner in Physics. With 7,000 students and nearly 100,000 living alumni, Rensselaer is addressing the global challenges facing the 21st century—to change lives, to advance society, and to change the world. To learn more, go to www.rpi.edu.



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Women's Track & Field | 3/19/2018 2:19:00 PM

Five Garner All-Region Honors

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Senior Jen Beltran and sophomores ¹¹⁶ Louise Rosler, Lilly Price, Sydney Covitz and Claire Conley have picked up All-Region recognition following the 2017-18 women's indoor track and field season.

Conley is an All-Region shot putter with the 27th best mark in Division III this season. She reached a distance of 13.25 meters/43 feet 5.75 inches at the Armory Last Chance meet on Feb. 23.

Ranking as the 36th best distance medley relay team in Division III, Beltran, Rosler, Price and Covitz earned their honors with a first-place finish at the Centennial Conference Championships in 12:10.43 on Feb. 25.

Beltran was also named All-Region in the 800-meter run. She ran it in 2:15.19, which was good enough for second-team all-conference at the championships. Her 800 time finished as the 31st best in Division III.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The Transfer Story of Michigan's Duncan Robinson Is Not Your Average One

QUICKLY

- Before Duncan Robinson was a key player in Michigan's run to the 2018 Final Four, he played at a small Division III liberal arts school in rural Massachusetts, and the 6'8" forward still shares an long-lasting bond with his former teammates.

By TIM LAYDEN March 29, 2018

There was this thing that Duncan Robinson would do, four years ago, when he was a 19-year-old freshman basketball player at Williams College, a tiny, elite Division III liberal arts school, with a student population of just over 2,000, in the Berkshire Mountains of rural, northwestern Massachusetts. Williams freshmen, like D-III freshmen everywhere, are asked to help with menial support duties, and before away games, Robinson took it upon himself to carry trainer Lisa Wilk's heavy bag of supplies from the bus to the locker room, along with his own bag. After games, he would carry it back to the bus. It was a heavy bag, about 50 pounds of tape and wrap and other supplies. Sometimes Robinson would fight off fellow freshman Dan Aronowitz¹³ to carry the bag. This muling was a small act, but something that everyone at Williams seems to recall as quintessential Robinson. When he decided to leave Williams after his one season, some of his friends made a funny, "Please Stay, Duncan" video in which they put little water droplets on Wilk's face to make it appear as if she was weeping.

This weekend Robinson, a 6'8" senior forward, will play for Michigan in the Final Four, first against Loyola-Chicago on Saturday evening and then, potentially, in the national championship game on Monday night. The Final Four, past and present, is a cascade of remarkable stories. Michigan's next opponent, for one, is this year's Cinderella. Robinson's personal tale is well-known enough that announcers can dispense with it in four words: The Division III transfer.

But it's more than that. Robinson is a unicorn: A player who transferred from D-III, not just to D-I, but to the highest level of D-I, a contending program in a power five conference, and with a full scholarship in hand from the beginning. He then became a starter in his first year of eligibility and has scored more than 1,000 points. When he steps on the court Saturday, he will become a subset of one—the first player to participate in both the Division I and Division III basketball Final Fours. (And he won't just participate; he will be the first Michigan player off the bench, averaging more than 25 minutes and almost nine points a game in the tournament.)

This is why, when I talked to Robinson earlier this week, as he walked across the Michigan campus, and asked him about Lisa Wilk, his voice was at first rote: "I was a freshman, and I tried to help out wherever I could," he said, "That bag was too heavy for Lisa." He has told his story endless times,

but not this part. So then, after a pause, his voice turned wistful. “That seems like forever ago,” said Robinson, with an audible sigh. It was, of course, forever ago. And it also wasn’t.

Inside every story about the one who leaves, there is a story of those who were left behind. For every athlete who moves up, and on, there is a story of those who did not, and of the endless connection between the two.



COURTESY OF MIKE GREENMAN

On the afternoon of March 22, 2014, Williams played Wisconsin-Whitewater in the D-III national championship game, in Salem, Va. Williams had advanced to the title game with a resounding 98-69 victory over rival Amherst in the semifinals, after Amherst had dealt the Ephs three of their four regular-season losses. Robinson was the star of that semifinal win, with 30 points on 13-for-18 shooting, including 4-for-6 from beyond the three-point line. With seven seconds left in the title game, Robinson missed a well-defended 12-footer in the lane, but teammate Michael Mayer, a first-team D-III All-America center, tipped in the miss to give Williams a one-point lead. Whitewater’s Quardell Young then took the inbounds pass and went 70 feet in a blur for a game-winning lay-up. Robinson was the last of five Williams players with a shot at Young, each of them half-challenging, half stepping back.

“You think you’ve won,” said Robinson this week. “Then all of sudden I’m picking the ball up in transition and I didn’t want to foul so I just kind of Ole-d and he got to the rim.” Robinson missed a desperation 40-footer at the buzzer; nobody knew at the time that it would be his last try as a Division III player.

After the game, Williams coach Mike Maker was asked about the team’s

future. "We've got the best Division III player in the country," said Maker.

Robinson's classmate Aronowitz says, "We were planning to go on and win more games than any class in Williams history, play in three more Final Fours, win two or three more national championships. We talked about it all the time."

It did not happen that way. Three months after that brutal championship game loss, Maker took his 147-32, six-year record at Williams (.821 winning percentage) and three Final Four appearances to Division I Marist. Six weeks later, with Maker's assistance and encouragement, Robinson signed with Michigan. It was a dizzying time in his life, but on this central point, Robinson has never wavered. "It wasn't until coach Maker took the Marist job that I decided to look into things," he said this week. "I was staying at Williams for four years. I loved it there."

Mike Greenman, a point guard who entered Williams with Aronowitz and Robinson in the fall of 2013, and was Robinson's freshman roommate, says, "From March to August, it was amazing how quickly things changed. Like flipping a switch."

The ensuing four years have told a story of soaring, unprecedented success by an athlete who challenged himself to reach beyond his immediate grasp and chased a dream. But also it is the story of a coach whose decision compelled the player's, but who did not experience similar success and now is unemployed, and of friends and teammates who struggled with Robinson's departure even while embracing his new career. And Robinson knew it then, and knows it now. "I try to be a compassionate person," he says. "I know my decision affected so many other people, and it's impossible to ignore those implications."

Understand: It's all good. It's always been good, really, just a little messy at times. When Robinson takes the floor Saturday night, at least four of his former Williams teammates will be in the crowd at the Alamodome. "Duncan is carrying the flag for all of the guys in Division III who thought maybe we could have played in Division I," says Dan Wohl, who was two years ahead of Robinson at Williams. "That, and just pure joy for Duncan, watching him out there."

A narrative arc like Robinson's unfolds in a thousand places. But start here: in the gym at Brandeis University in the spring of 2012, during a tryout camp for high school basketball players with superior academic records. Robinson was there, having completed four seasons at Governor's Academy in Byfield, Mass., and was preparing for a post-graduate year at Phillips Exeter Academy. He was a 6'6" and weighed less than 170 pounds but moved fluidly and shot like a machine. Mike Maker was there. "I thought of him as a baby [Mike] Dunleavy," says Maker. "I fell in love with him. I recruited him hard."

Robinson committed to Williams in the fall of 2012. That winter he led Exeter to a New England prep school title, but still was not pursued by Division I teams. "There was no doubt in my mind that he could play in the Ivy League, at least," says Maker. "He fell through the cracks. That happens sometimes."

Robinson's first year was the freshman's roller coaster. He started out dominating pickup games in ancient Lasell Gym, a bandbox with a running track overhead. Williams was an established D-III program, with rotation players who had all gotten Division I looks before falling off radars or opting for a Williams degree and a chance to play for national titles. "We had good players, and the older guys wanted to show Duncan what was up in our program," says Mayer, who graduated in 2014, played a year of professional basketball in Spain and now is a graduate student in mechanical engineering at Tufts. "But he was torching them, making threes with guys up in his face. Not every day, but often enough."

Wohl, who also played a year as a professional, in Israel, and now works in business development and government affairs for Tesla, says, "he had an incredible first month, and then for whatever reason, not so well for a month or so. He was a freshman." (Wohl, as a 6'5" wing, was also intensely competitive with Robinson, an edge that remains to this day, blanketed by a tight friendship).

After the first formal practice of that year, Robinson thanked Maker for working with him. He did it again after the second and the third. Maker called Jay Tilton, Robinson's coach at Exeter. "Yeah," said Tilton. "He's going to keep doing that." Early in the season, Maker read a story in Robinson's hometown paper, in which Robinson was quoted as saying that, as a freshman, he didn't want to step on too many toes. Maker called Robinson into his office and said, "Step on toes. We need you to step on toes."

(An aside: I am a Williams graduate and was a benchwarmer on the basketball team a long time ago. Hence, I follow the program a little bit. In that winter of 2014, I went to see Williams play Trinity in Hartford, near my home. Williams won the game by 20 points, but Robinson scored only seven points and shot 1-for-5 from three. He did not stand out. But that was just one game. My only strong memory from the night was identifying Robinson by name, just a little too loudly, to my wife, only to see Robinson's mom turn and look right at us. Lesson: Never say names out loud at youth sports or in cavernous, nearly empty Division III gyms because you're likely sitting near a parent.)

Robinson got better and more assertive as the season unfolded. His teammates began to understand his potential. One night Robinson and Greenman went to the gym for a late night shooting session. "This guy is like, 6'7", and we're shooting threes, and he hasn't missed a shot in 10 minutes," says Greenman. "I remember saying to some of the other guys afterward, 'What is Duncan even doing here?'" They lived together in Williams Hall, a century-year-old, L-shaped, four-story building that formed half of what generations of Williams students have called the

freshman quad. “We would go back to our room and play FIFA and talk about basketball and life,” says Greenman. “He was my best friend. He is my best friend.”

The work ethic was evident. Robinson not only shot at night with Greenman, but he played one-on-one at night with Wohl. “At that point in my life, I was obsessed with basketball,” says Wohl. “And Duncan loved it more than I did.”



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Maker's departure rocked the program, but it wasn't entirely novel. Six years earlier Dave Paulsen left to become head coach at Bucknell and has since moved on to George Mason. Some coaches stay for a lifetime at top D-III jobs like Williams (or others), some find new challenges irresistible. Not long after Maker signed his five-year deal with Marist, news broke that Robinson was re-opening his recruitment. Maker had worked as an assistant under Michigan coach John Beilein at West Virginia and gave Robinson a strong recommendation.

Robinson talked through the process with his Williams friends. “He called me before he went to Michigan for his visit,” says Wohl. “I said, ‘Look, as your teammate, I want you to stay at Williams. But as your friend, if they offer you a scholarship, you can't turn it down.’”

Greenman says, “I talked to him a lot that summer. We were on vacation together a little while before he decided. Basically, ‘Look man, we're really gonna miss you, but this is an unbelievable opportunity.’”

The team kept in touch via group emails. In early August, Robinson weighed in, saying, as Aronowitz recalls, “It's always been my goal to play at the highest level.” So they knew. “We knew, he was going,” says Aronowitz, who graduated from Williams last spring and is corporate development intern for Hawthorne Gardening Company in Port Washington, N.Y.

The next year, under first-year coach Kevin App, a Cornell graduate who had been an assistant under Maker five years earlier, Williams went 15-10. Wohl, who been a guard/wing, took over Robinson's spot at the four and carried the team for long stretches. Greenman stayed at the point and Aronowitz became a starter. “We weren't a very good team,” says Greenman. “I remember saying to Dan [Aronowitz] a few times, ‘Can you imagine how good we would be if Duncan was still here?’” They were 15-10 again the following year, and again missed the NCAA tournament.

Greenman missed the entire season with a foot injury; Aronowitz became a star. Both Aronowitz (1,362 points) and Wohl (1,268) would become all-time Williams greats in Robinson's absence.

And have no pity for the Ephs: Last year they went back to the Final Four with Aronowitz and Greenman leading a sophomore-laden team. This year, with Greenman taking a fifth year, they won the New England Small College Conference title and scored a virtual No. 1 seed in the D-III tournament before getting upset in the second round. The program will be fine.

To be sure, it would have been different had Robinson stayed. "It's inevitable that you would wonder what if," says Aronowitz. "But not for a second did any of us feel any reservations about Duncan getting this amazing opportunity, which he earned every bit of."

ICON SPORTSWIRE/CONTRIBUTOR/GETTY IMAGES

It was hardest for Greenman, who came to Williams as a 5'7" point guard with the face and body of a 14-year-old, but a mature game and toughness to match. Robinson was his freshman roommate, a touchstone in most lives, and then he was gone. "It stung," says Greenman. "We came in here and we both started and we both played 30 minutes a game and we did everything together. He was my guy and in college, as a freshman, that's such a huge thing. And all of sudden he's not there, and my coach is not there. It was hard."

Maker has had the toughest four years of all. He took over a Marist program that hadn't had a winning season since 2008 and hadn't been to the NCAA Tournament since 1987. His teams went 28-97 (.224) and never finished higher than 10th in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. He had been given a five-year contract that was eventually extended to seven, but was fired in February, after four seasons. (It was a much more difficult time in other ways for Maker, as well; after his first season in Poughkeepsie, Maker's and his wife Erica's second son, Declan, was born prematurely, after 24 weeks, and lived just 30 days.)

Maker says he is not done coaching. "They have to pay me for three years, so we're going to be very selective about the next job," says Maker. "But I have a lot of coaching left in me."

He is older, at 52, than his Williams players, and looks back on that pivotal summer of 2014 with a grown man's distance. "I don't have any regrets about Duncan leaving Williams," says Maker. "And you're talking to someone who loves Williams. Those kids had much more influence on me than I had on them, every day. But Duncan did the right thing *for him*. His career is a great story, but you know what? Duncan is where he belongs."

As for the coach who sent Robinson on his journey: "My dream was to coach Division I basketball. It was something I needed to do, just like Duncan needed to leave Williams and go to Michigan."

In the four years since Robinson left Division III, he has lived a novel of athletic experiences. While sitting out a year as a transfer, he often felt overwhelmed by the pure physical talent around him. "I'm not sure I was a plus-athlete, even in Division III," says Robinson. "Up here, everybody is bigger, stronger... and the game moves much faster." But then he started 27 of 36 games as a redshirt sophomore and made 45% of his threes. The number has fallen each year, until this year, as a fifth-year senior, he was removed from the starting lineup in January, in favor of freshman Isaiah Livers, who is absolutely a plus-athlete.

Wohl visited Robinson in Ann Arbor shortly after the benching. "He felt like his last season was slipping away," says Wohl. On a Friday night, they went to Crisler Arena for a workout, along with Harry Rafferty, a close friend of Robinson's from Exeter who went on to play at Wesleyan, one of Williams's rivals. The three of them played rotating games of one-on-one. Wohl would remember similar games at Williams, where they often played in semi-darkness in a facility that officially closed at 10 p.m. "At Crisler," says Wohl, "all the lights were on."

Throughout Robinson's Michigan career, with all its peaks and valleys, he has maintained close contact with his Williams friends. "He's never missed a beat in terms of staying loyal to all his old friends," says Aronowitz. Earlier this winter, Aronowitz helped Robinson get his first victory on Fortnite, the immensely popular online video game. "I'm really not that good at Fortnite," says Robinson. "But Dan Aronowitz is incredible at it, so I rode his coattails to a couple victories."

During one summer get-together, Robinson dogged Greenman by explaining to him that this entire scenario was his fault. It seems Greenman had saved Williams with unconscious three-point shooting in two games late in that 2014 season. "If you hadn't done that," Robinson explained, "Maybe we don't get a good seed in the NCAA tournament and we don't go to Salem and coach Maker doesn't get the Marist job and I don't go to Michigan." They all laughed at that one.

Last weekend Wohl and two of Robinson's Exeter teammates were in attendance when Michigan won the West Regional at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. When Robinson made a three-point dagger to give Michigan a 10-point lead late in the game, Wohl says he leaped out of his seat—clad in Michigan gear—and let out a "primal scream." Robinson has turned the loss of his starting position into the best basketball of his career; he was named the Big Ten's Sixth Man of the Year. Since his benching, he has shot 41% from three and become a reliable, almost inspirational defender, when defense had been his one glaring weakness. When I asked if it can now be said, unequivocally, that transferring to Michigan was the right decision, Robinson said, "I made the choice that was meant for me to make."

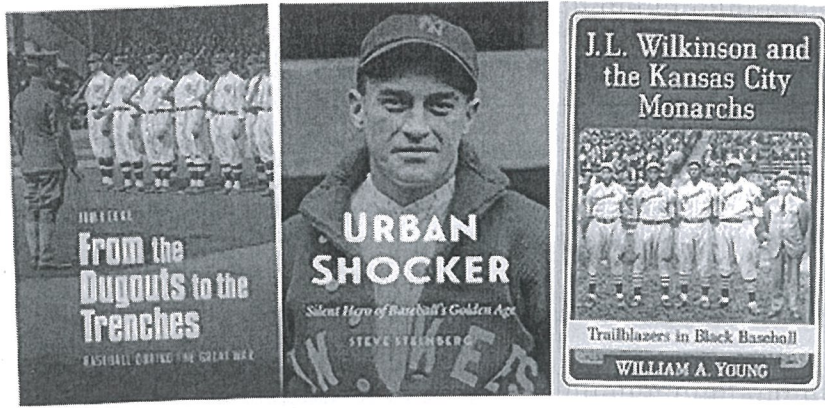
COURTESY OF DAN WOHL

Robinson says that his career won't end with the Final Four. "I want to keep playing as long as I possibly can," he said. Maker thinks there is place in the NBA for a 6'8" shooter with range. "He does something better than anybody else in the world," says Maker, "and that's shoot the basketball. But he's not just a shooter, he's a basketball player." (It annoys Maker to see Robinson described in terms like "floor-spacer," as if his only job is to draw defenders from the lane.)

Maker will be in San Antonio. Aronowitz, Greenman and Wohl are planning to be there, too, along with other friends from both Williams and Exeter. They will see when Robinson is open and implore that his teammates pass him the ball. They will squirm when he lets it fly and the ball arcs toward an uncertain fate. It's the end of a journey, not just for Robinson, but for all of them as well. "I'm living through Duncan now, a little bit," says Greenman. "I tell him, 'Hey, we did this together.'"

One year together, four years apart. Teammates forever.

Leeke, Steinberg, Young win 2018 SABR Baseball Research Awards



The 2018 SABR Baseball Research Awards (<https://sabr.org/about/sabr-baseball-research-award>), which honor outstanding research projects completed during the preceding calendar year that have significantly expanded our knowledge or understanding of baseball, have been awarded to

- **Jim Leeke**, *From the Dugouts to the Trenches: Baseball During The Great War*, published by University of Nebraska Press
- **Steve Steinberg**, *Urban Shocker: Silent Hero of Baseball's Golden Age*, published by University of Nebraska Press
- **William A. Young**, *J.L. Wilkinson and the Kansas City Monarchs:*

Trailblazers in Black Baseball, published by McFarland & Co.

The authors will receive their awards at the [SABR 48 national convention](https://sabr.org/convention) (<https://sabr.org/convention>), June 20-24, 2018, in Pittsburgh.

The selection committee of Bill Felber (chair), Tara Krieger, and Larry Levine released the following statements about the winning books:

- On Young's *J.L. Wilkinson and the Kansas City Monarchs*: A solid job of describing the birth and life of the Monarchs as well as the politics and economics of all of Negro league baseball. The book contained numerous revelatory nuggets, among them new insights into the relationship between the Negro Leagues and Judge Landis and the leagues' role in Jackie Robinson's ascension. Most important, it highlighted the central role played by Wilkinson in maintaining the institution of Negro League baseball.

- On Leeke's *From The Dugouts To The Trenches*: An illuminating and thorough examination of one of the least understood periods of baseball. Rich in context, this book provides badly needed insight into the factors shaping baseball's survival during the First World War. It is also well-researched and well-written.
- On Steinberg's *Urban Shocker*: Biography as it ought to be done. Steinberg takes us inside the life of a man far better appreciated in his own time than he is today. Urban Shocker's was a life full of struggle, first for deserved recognition and then — when that recognition finally came — for health. The book combines attention to detail with feeling.

Leeke, a former news journalist and US Navy veteran, is also the author of *Nine Innings for the King: The Day Wartime London Stopped for Baseball, July 4, 1918* and *Ballplayers in the Great War: Newspaper Accounts of Major Leaguers in World War I Military Service*.

Steinberg is a baseball historian and co-author with Lyle Spatz of *1921: The Yankees, the Giants, and the Battle for Baseball Supremacy in New York*, which won SABR's Seymour Medal in 2011. Steinberg is a two-time winner of the SABR Baseball Research Award, having been honored with co-author Spatz in 2016 for *The Colonel and Hug: The Partnership That Transformed the New York Yankees*

Young is an emeritus professor of religious studies at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, and the author of *John Tortes "Chief" Meyers: A Baseball Biography* and several books on world religions.

The SABR Baseball Research Award is designed to honor projects that do not fit the criteria for the Seymour Medal or the McFarland-SABR Baseball Research Award.

The selection committee consists of: Bill Felber (chair), Tara Krieger, and Larry Levine.

To see a complete list of SABR Baseball Research Award winners, [click here \(https://sabr.org/about/sabr-baseball-research-award\)](https://sabr.org/about/sabr-baseball-research-award).

This page was last updated March 15, 2018 at 1:57 pm MST.

Gamecocks Win Exhibitions Saturday in Spring Opener Carolina takes all four MOP victories over Converse, Ohio State



Jan. 27, 2018

Exhibition – Carolina def. Converse & Ohio State

- Final Scoresheet – Hunt Seat
- Final Scoresheet – Western
- Twitter
- Facebook

Meet Info

Final Score (Hunt Seat): Carolina 9, Converse 0

Final Score (Western): Carolina 7, Ohio State 1

Date: Jan. 27, 2018

Location: Blythewood, S.C.

Venue: One Wood Farm

MOP Winners

Student-Athlete	School	Event
Chloe Schmidt	South Carolina	Equitation over Fences
Lizzie van der Walde	South Carolina	Equitation on the Flat
McKenzie Duncan	South Carolina	Reining
Caroline Gute	South Carolina	Horsemanship

BLYTHEWOOD, S.C. -- South Carolina resumed its 2017-18 equestrian campaign Saturday with a pair of exhibition victories. The Gamecocks defeated Converse in hunt seat action, 9-0, and they dispatched of Ohio State's western squad, 7-1.

The Gamecocks won all four MOP awards on the day. In equitation on the flat, Lizzie van der Walde earned the honor with a 63-53 win over Converse's Elizabeth Gilbert on Chip. Chloe Schmidt was the fences MOP after tallying an 80-76 victory over Julia Williams on Batman.

On the western side, the Gamecocks conceded just one point on the day. Caroline Gute was the horsemanship MOP with a 73.5-695 win over Ohio State's Mariah Sherer on Reggie. The reining MOP went to McKenzie Duncan^{'17} for her 68-61.5 victory over Grace Tachikawa on Stoner.

UP NEXT FOR THE GAMECOCKS

Carolina's first official meet of the spring is scheduled for next Saturday in Dallas, Texas. The Gamecocks will take on SMU beginning at 10:30 am ET.

Columbus Academy Graduate Samuel Wittmann^{'15} Earns Dean's Award at Colgate University

2017 Mar 6

Colgate University Class of 2020 member Samuel Wittmann, from Blacklick, OH, has earned the fall Dean's Award for academic excellence.

The Dean's Award at Colgate is awarded to students with a 3.3 or higher term average.

Colgate University is a highly selective residential liberal arts institution distinguished by its commitment to global engagement, student-faculty research, off-campus study, sustainable practices, and utilizing technology to enhance the teaching and learning experience. Colgate offers 55 majors to a diverse student body of approximately 2,900 undergraduate students, and supports 25 Division I athletic teams. Since 1819, the university's campus in rural central New York has been renowned for its beauty and for the important role it plays in the student experience.

BASEBALL (/BASEBALL/)

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NORTHERN KENTUCKY 6
1-8



LIPSCOMB 11
5-5

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Northern Kentucky	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	0	6	14	0
Lipscomb	1	2	2	0	0	6	0	0	X	11	15	0

March 02, 2018 at 2:05 PM
Dugan Field , Nashville, Tenn.
Attendance: 237 Duration: 3:18 PM

W: KNOX (1-0) L: SERVICE (0-1)

- [PREVIEW \(/BASEBALL/NEWS/2017-18/13928/BASEBALL-HOSTS-FAMILIAR-FOE-IN-FOUR-GAME-SET/\)](#)
- [RECAP \(/BASEBALL/NEWS/2017-18/14935/BATS-CATCH-FIRE-AS-BASEBALL-DOWNS-NKU-11-6/\)](#)
- [BOXSCORE \(/BASEBALL/BOXSCORE/2017-18/11127/NORTHERN-KENTUCKY-VS-LIPSCOMB-03-02-2018/#BOXSCORE\)](#)
- [PLAY-BY-PLAY \(/BASEBALL/BOXSCORE/2017-18/11127/NORTHERN-KENTUCKY-VS-LIPSCOMB-03-02-2018/#PLAYBYPLAY\)](#)

Bats catch fire as Baseball downs NKU, 11-6

Friday, March 2, 2018
By Russell Vannozi

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – After a rocky start to the season, the Lipscomb baseball team appears to have found its footing for the moment.

The Bisons cruised past Northern Kentucky in an 11-6 victory on Friday afternoon at Ken Dugan Field at Stephen L. Marsh Stadium. A six spot by the Lipscomb bats in the sixth inning ultimately made the difference in what was the Bisons' second straight win over the Norse.

Senior infielder Lee Solomon led the charge with 3 RBI, including a triple that plated two runners in the bottom of the sixth. Classmate Jeffrey Crisan and designated hitter Chris Bashlor each chipped in a pair of RBI. The Bisons finished with a total of 15 hits.

Lipscomb (5-5) starting pitcher Erik Gutierrez tossed three scoreless innings before running into trouble in the fourth. He went 3.2 frames and gave up two earned runs on six hits.

Northern Kentucky third baseman Dominic Mercurio went 4-for-5 with 3 RBI to lead the Norse, but the Bisons bullpen kept their opponent in check in the final four frames.

JUCO transfer Robbie Knox picked up his first career victory after going 3.1 innings and striking out three batters. The lone run he allowed came on a wild pitch in the eighth.

Around the Horn:

- All nine Lipscomb starters registered a hit, including redshirt freshman Coleman Goodwin, who recorded his first collegiate base knock with a single in the sixth inning.
- Crisan went 3-for-5 with an RBI in his third game back from an injury.
- Solomon finished the night 2-for-5 with 3 RBI. The senior is on a 3-game hitting streak after an early-season slump.
- Furstace picked up first and second hits of the season and finished the game 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored.
- Adam Stewart closed the game out by tossing a scoreless ninth inning.



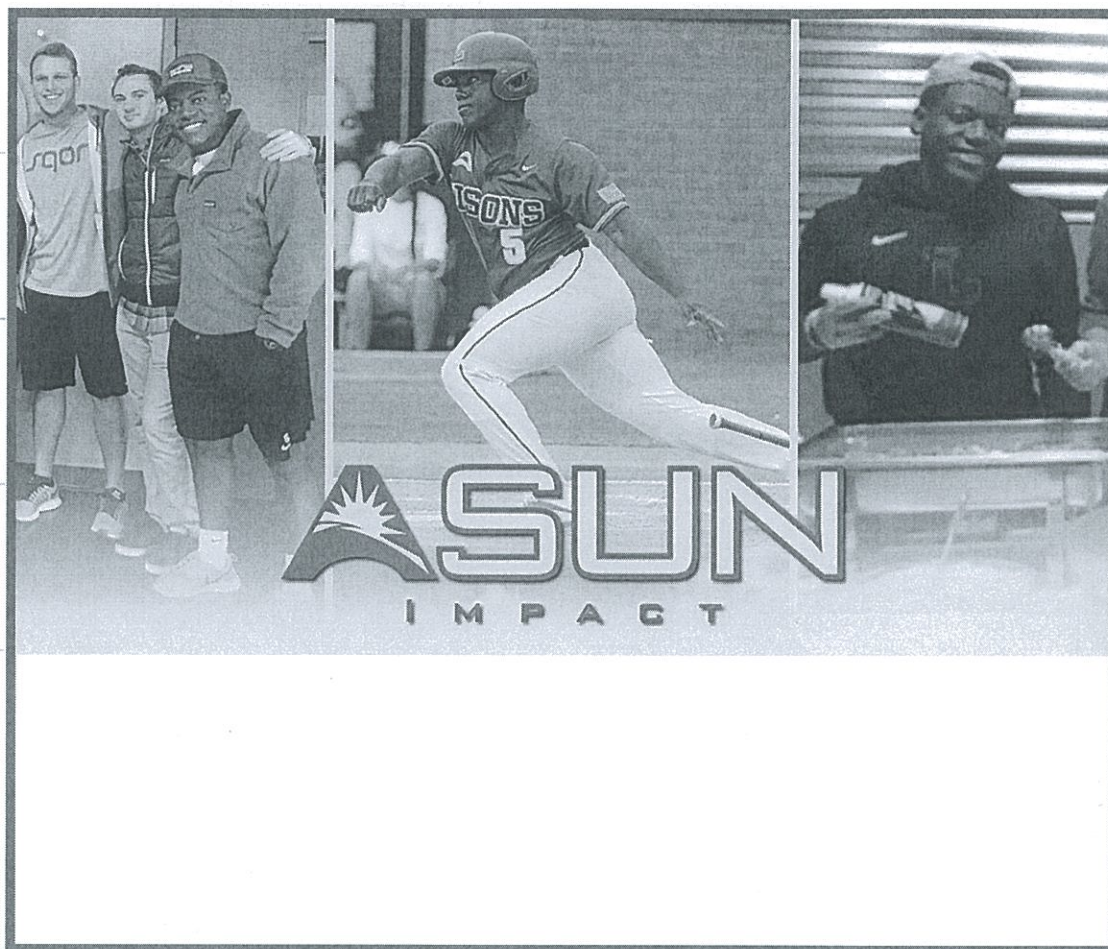
NORTHERN KENTUCKY AT LIPSCOMB | MARCH 02, 2018

PITCHING	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Win: KNOX (1-0)	3.1	2	1	1	2	3
Loss: SERVICE (0-1)	3.0	5	3	3	0	3
BATTING	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	HR
MERCURIO (NKU)	5	1	4	3	0	0
CRISAN (LIP)	5	0	3	1	0	0



BASEBALL

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POSTED: MAR 22, 2018

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ASUN BEAM VIDEO SERIES: LEE SOLOMON'S IMPACT AT LIPSCOMB

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LakePoint, Ga. - In the first ASUN Beam Video Series, the conference features student-athletes across the ASUN that have made an Impact in the classroom, in competition and in the community. Throughout the spring, the ASUN will feature two student-athletes from each institution that epitomize the conference's beam of Impact.

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Lipscomb's Lee Solomon has impacted the Bisons' Baseball program through his leadership and contributions on and off the diamond. His attitude on making an IMPACT every day has made him of the leaders and role models on the campus of Lipscomb.



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ASUN Beam Series: Lee Solomon, Lipscomb



Solomon came to Lipscomb already a leader. At Columbus Academy in Columbus, Ohio, Solomon was a three-year letter winner in football, a four-year letter winner in the baseball team and also a two-time captain in baseball. After seeing limited time as a freshman, Solomon took the ASUN by storm in 2016. As a sophomore, Solomon started all 58 games for the Bisons (the only one to do so), hit .370 with 11 doubles, three triples, four home runs and 50 runs batted in, while leading the ASUN in stolen bases with 25 and set the program single-game record for stolen bases with five. His performance helped him garner ASUN Second Team All-Conference honors.

His play also helped him earn a scholarship, after playing his first two seasons as a walk-on. Off the field, Solomon was just as impressive as he was selected the 2016 ASUN Scholar Athlete of the Year, becoming the first sophomore to win the honor. Last season, Solomon was unanimously selected for the second-straight season to the ASUN All-Academic Team. Solomon holds a 3.82 GPA as a Law, Criminal and Society major.

During his time in Nashville, Solomon has made an impact off the diamond as well. He was a member on the Presidential Ambassadors Council for the 2016-17 school year. He's also served on Lipscomb's Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) for all four years. In 2016, Solomon participated in the ASUN Task Force on Time Demands. Solomon has been an integral part of Project 658, which is a Christ-centered organization that is focused on helping at-risk refugees. In 2016, Solomon and other Bisons student-athletes, took a mission trip to Charlotte, N.C. with Project 658.

Tweets by @ASUNSAAC

ASUN SAAC @ASUNSAAC

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The Columbus Dispatch

Small hauler boosting the recycling rate -- one business and one apartment at a time

By Marion Renault

The Columbus Dispatch

Posted Mar 2, 2018 at 12:01 AM

Jeff Shively wonders what the unused meal kits, abandoned sex toys and framed Michael Jordan posters he collects during trash runs intimate about the lives of their former owners.

Were those empty liquor bottles drunk in celebration or in sorrow? Why would anyone send a fully functional laptop to the landfill? And what does the scarecrow in the trash mean?

“You really get to know someone from their trash — you know a little too well, sometimes,” said Shively, who is a field manager for TrashCab, a local recycling and trash hauler that goes where municipal recycling and garbage collectors can’t or won’t go.

Within a roughly 45-minute radius of Downtown, TrashCab provides doorstep recycling and garbage services for apartment buildings, townhomes and businesses.

“We’re glorified garbage men,” said founder and president Teddy Douglass.

A of central Ohio residents found that nearly half of those living in multifamily units don’t have access to recycling at home, and a third don’t recycle at all.

When Douglass was finishing up college and living in an apartment complex in Grandview Heights, he had two options: drag his recycling to a dumpster 300 yards from his building or toss it in his car and drop it off at a public bin.

He thought at the time that it didn’t make sense that there wasn’t a version of curbside recycling for apartment-dwellers.

“I would pay someone to do that,” Douglass said. “I figured I couldn’t be the only one.”

So in late 2011, he and a co-worker, Brennan Kelley¹⁰¹, took it upon themselves and started a recycling business out of a Ford F-150 pickup truck.

Today, TrashCab has grown to a dozen employees and four compacting trucks. The company services between 6,000 and 8,000 units and about 60 small businesses per week.

Most of the nearly 1 million pounds of recyclables processed daily at Rumpke's regional facility are collected through curbside and community recycling programs. But some of the material comes from third-party haulers such as TrashCab, Rumpke spokesman Jonathon Kissell said.

With its smaller vehicles and willingness to send employees into buildings to collect recycling and trash from break rooms and communal bins, TrashCab fills a gap, Kelley said.

Pricing for recycling and trash pickup can range from \$35 for monthly bin collection to \$10,000 for full-building services. This is for a large building like the LeVeque Tower.

On a recent Friday run, TrashCab crews swept through LeVeque Tower's residential recycling in about 30 minutes before heading to New Albany to empty out the curbside bins at an apartment community. They stopped at about 10 sites that day.

"I feel good at the end of my day," TrashCab driver Mark Uphouse said, "especially considering how much trash I've accumulated in my lifetime."

In certain cases, TrashCab works with housing developers during pre-construction phases, urging them to consider including designated trash and recycling rooms.

The surging demand for and supply of rental units in the Columbus market has added a sense of urgency for proponents of diverting waste from the landfill, according to the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio.

Recycling also can be a challenge in high-traffic business corridors such as the Short North, where dog toy and treat company Bark & Co calls home.

"Because of our building location and limited space in the alleyways, we couldn't get a recycling bin," company spokeswoman Kendyll Skinner said. Instead, employees volunteered to round up the office's recycling and drive it to a public drop-off site.

"It was frustrating. It's like, 'We want to. Please let us recycle,'" she said.

Now, TrashCab picks up from Bark & Co twice a week and makes an extra trip to collect surplus cardboard.

SWACO's residential survey found that people want to recycle, but often don't.

"If you don't make it very easy, very convenient, the majority of people throw everything in the trash," Kelley said.

But once people get used to having access to recycling, it's another story, Douglass said. "We're still starting to see people almost expect it," he said.

In the next couple of years, TrashCab plans to expand to other cities in the region.

"Every city, every area, every township is different in what it takes for recycling ..." Kelley said. But there's always going to be trash.

"The only change is, the more you recycle, the less of it you have," he said.

Otis Klingbeil^{'16} named to dean's list at Bates College

Mar 1

Otis Klingbeil was named to the dean's list at Bates College for the fall semester ending in December 2017. This is a distinction earned by students whose cumulative grade point average is 3.71 or higher.

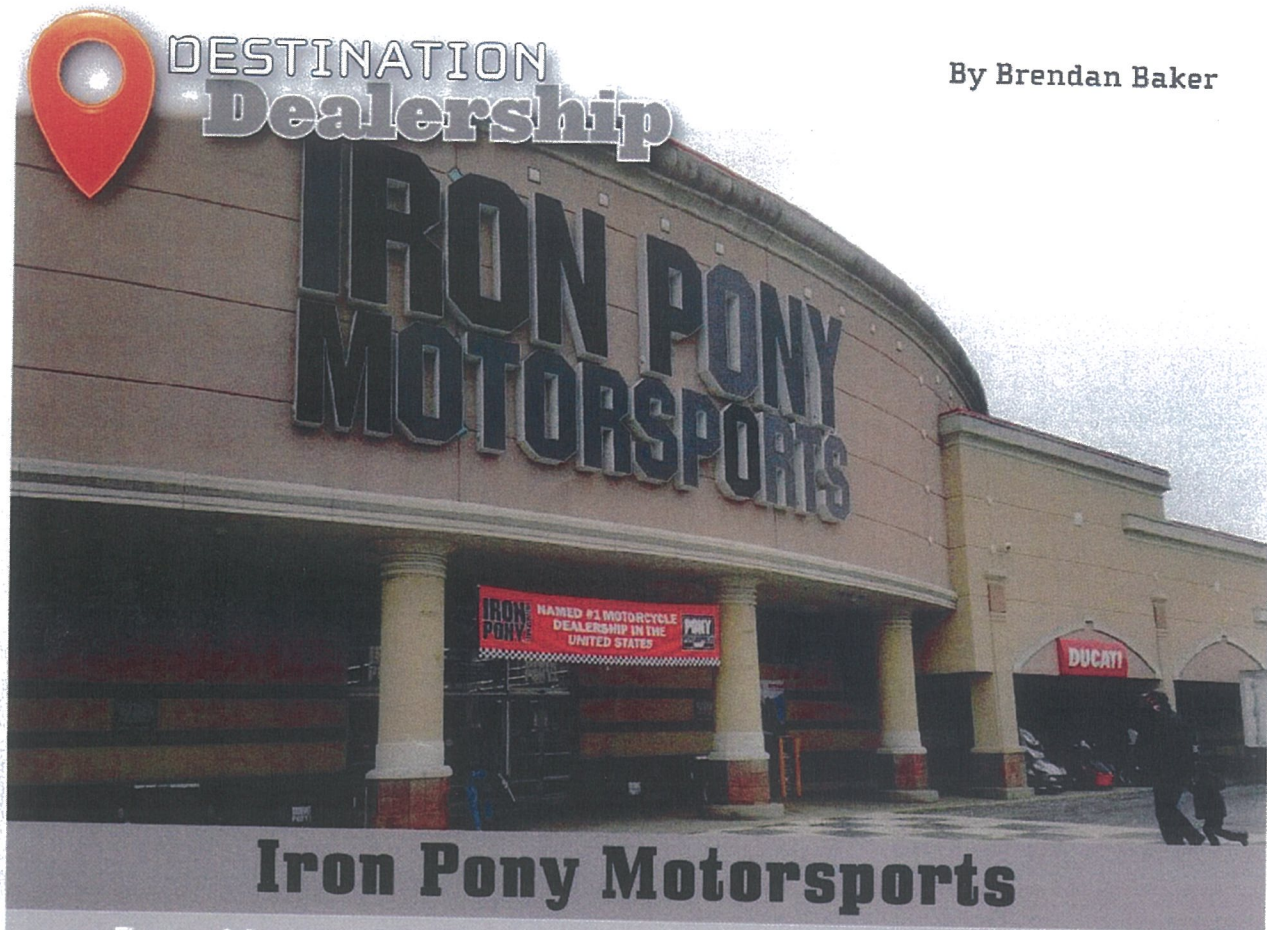
Klingbeil, the son of Mr. and Ms. James D. Klingbeil, Jr. of Powell, Ohio, is a 2016 graduate of Columbus Academy. He is majoring in politics and art and visual culture at Bates.

Located in Lewiston, Maine, Bates is internationally recognized as a leading college of the liberal arts, attracting 2,000 students from across the U.S. and around the world. Since 1855, Bates has been dedicated to educating the whole person through creative and rigorous scholarship in a collaborative residential community.

With a commitment to affordability, Bates has always admitted students without regard to gender, race, religion or national origin. Cultivating intellectual discovery and informed civic action, Bates prepares leaders sustained by a love of learning and zeal for responsible stewardship of the wider world.

DESTINATION Dealership

By Brendan Baker



Iron Pony Motorsports

From Mom & Pop Shop To Multi-Channel Retailing Giant

A typical dealership Iron Pony is not. ^{'84}Chris Jones got his start in the industry in 1974 selling only motorcycle parts and accessories out of a corner of his dad's auto parts store. Sales grew, along with his vision for the future. Several years later, Chris and his wife Tammy bought out his dad and took over the entire operation. Today, Iron Pony is what marketing director Frank Lark calls a "multi-channel retailer," focusing on every possible channel to sell powersports vehicles, parts, apparel or accessories.

Jones never intended to get into vehicle sales. He was perfectly content with the parts and accessories side of the business, but then opportunity knocked... and kept knocking. Currently, Iron Pony encompasses more than 133,000 square feet of space, with half dedicated to their franchise brands including Indian, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Honda, Beta and 11 other OEMs. The P&A "superstore" occupies the rest of the building, a former Super Kmart.

"I like having many different brands, even though it creates some headaches because every OEM has different end-of-month accounting needs and assessments they want. Each one wants to see things like door counts. Well, a door count on a store like ours is entirely different than a typical dealer. If you look at our door count of 2,000-3,000 swings a day, OEMs look at it and say, 'you should've sold 175 motorcycles that day.' Well, no," Jones says with a wry smile.

Door swing conversions aside, having access to 16 different OEMs means Iron Pony will always have something that sells.



Every year Jones says a different brand has the vehicle people want. "Sometimes you don't even see it coming."

Last year it was Kawasaki with the new Mules and FXTs and FXRs. "Out of the blue, those side-by-sides sales went through the roof! They hit a market around here for the five- and 10-acre guys and gals who have horse farms because they have power steering and big cup holders. They drive like a car, and you know they make sense for these customers. So our Kawasaki sales more than doubled last year. But then some of the Vulcans with their Ergo Fit Kits started selling, too."

Lark thinks that it is because Kawasaki and Yamaha started taking chances over the past few years and it's beginning to pay off. "Does Yamaha and Kawasaki miss? Absolutely. But guess what? They took chances. They tried stuff. You've got to give them credit for trying."

In an effort to be a full-circle dealership that not only sells you the bike but shows you how to ride it, too, Jones started the Iron Pony Riding Academy to help train new riders. "What we wanted to do was a little different than Harley who, to their credit, supports some of their dealers' training efforts." By *different*, Jones is politely saying *better*. "We buy the bikes on our dime. We pay the instructors to teach the MSF curriculum on our dime."

And Jones notes that not everyone passes the course. Before anyone passes the Iron Pony Academy, they have to know the basics and be able to ride... Iron Pony wants repeat business, not some statistics.

Another part of their vision for the future stared them in the face every day for years. After Iron Pony moved out of its original location, which was less than 10,000 sq./ft., they found a mid-sized building down the street with 24,000 sq./ft. Upon the move, Chris says that they didn't even need to purchase more inventory. "We just spread it out a little bit," he jokes. From 2000 to 2004 Iron Pony operated from a building less than a mile from the current location.

"I used to come in and think of how we could buy that building one day," he says. Then miraculously the giant Kmart closed down. "We moved up there, took a chance, and it worked. Customers

responded almost from the day we moved in!"

It wasn't easy and it changed the way Iron Pony did business. "Look at that extra overhead, the extra people and extra computer systems... it was a big deal." Big expenses required some Big Box thinking. "When we moved into that store it was the first time we departmentalized everything. We had a real receiving



Iron Pony Motorsports

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Phone: (614) 901-7669

Employees: 150

ponypowersports.com,
www.ironpony.com, and
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Brands: 16 OEMs and
top aftermarket brands
including Scorpion, Fulmer,
Tourmaster, and much more

department, an HR person and so on. That didn't mean Cory, Tammy and I weren't still packing boxes at night and making runs to UPS. And if the floor got busy, we were always there to help."

But it did mean branching out into

e-commerce. When they first moved, their e-commerce business was not like it is today. Jones says there just weren't as many small- to medium-sized competitors, so they had a larger slice of the online market. "Online sales were a good part of our business then. But back then there weren't as many players. There were some huge players, but there weren't as many small players. Now people can just create a web page and buy some warehouse space and call themselves a business."

Speaking of change, many manufacturers have rolled out MAP policies since Iron Pony entered the e-commerce world. It may sound crazy coming from someone with a large e-commerce division, but Jones is all for MAP. "I love MAP policy because that holds more for everybody. If you're going to make a product that should be \$70, it's \$70."

"I still have to argue with a few mid-sized distributors and manufacturers who do these 'MAP holidays' around Christmas time, Black Friday, Valentine's Day and so on... I always ask, how does it help me? It doesn't help me, it helps them! It moves more product through the pipeline, but at a lower margin for me." Jones says a MAP holiday or exception should mean a smaller margin for the distributor or manufacturer, not the retailer.

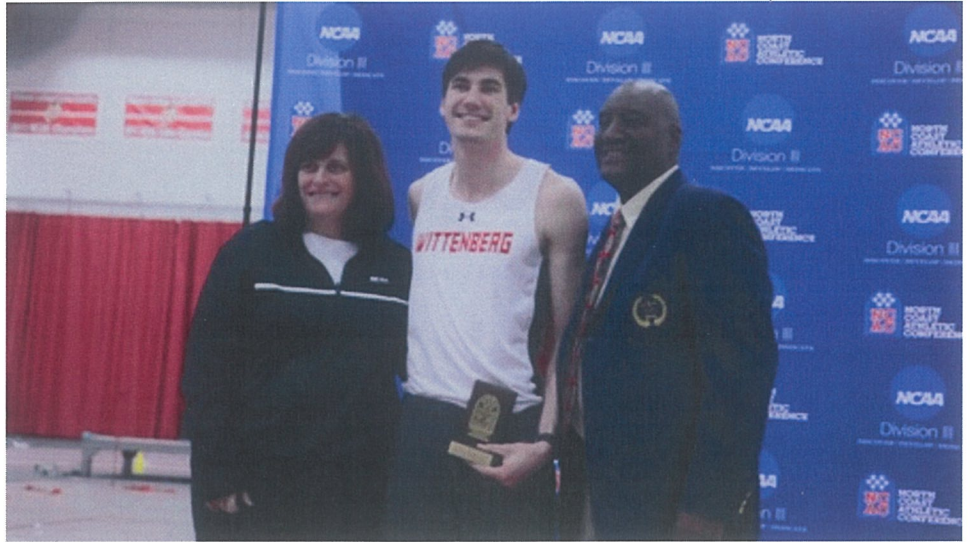
While negotiating the cyber highway, Iron Pony happened to become a destination dealership in the real world when they moved from 20,000 sq./ft. to the Super K's 100,000 plus sq./ft. as CFO Cory Atwood and VP Tammy Jones was establishing the mail order/e-commerce side of the business. The Iron Pony Powersports dealership and Iron Pony Motorsports superstore have gained a nationwide presence, and people come from all over the country to visit and buy products, bikes or service.

Jones says that most people who come in for the first time are blown away. "They will spend a couple of hours wandering the store. And service customers often shop in the Superstore while the work is being done." A far cry from the corner of a local auto parts store, this multi-channel retailer sounds like our kind of shopping mall! ♪

NCAC Indoor Championships Day Two Recap

Posted: Mar 03, 2018

Crawfordsville, Ind. – The Wittenberg University men's and women's track and field team closed wrapped up the 2018 NCAC Indoor Championships from Wabash College. Wittenberg senior **Tyler Gittins** earned the top men's sprinter and hurdler at the 2018 NCAC Championships with one individual event title and a pair of additional All-NCAC finishes. Gittins crossed the line first in the 200-meter dash in 22.64 seconds, while also finishing second in the 50-meter hurdles (8.40) and third overall in the 400-meters with a time of 50.68 seconds. The men's team brought in 88 total points throughout the two days of competition for a fifth-place finish, while the women accumulated 41 points to tie Denison for sixth place.



DAY TWO

Junior **Kenny Mayes** picked up a win in the 800m run, crossing the line in a time of 1:57.10. After a great first day in the shot-put event, **D'Anthony Dorsey** returned to the ring to collect third-place in the weight throw with a heave of 15.81m. **Dorsey** broke his previous school record in the weight throw category which stood at 15.38m. **Alexis Gray** claimed a second-place finish in the 300m run, posting a time of 2:21.07. **Ryelee Clary** earned a second-place finish in the 60m hurdles in a time of 9.22, with **Olivia Stevens** crossing the line in 9.63 for a sixth-place finish. **Kyle Farnbauch** (8.55) and **Marcus O'Neal** (8.61) earned their way amongst the top finishers in the 60m hurdles. The Wittenberg men's 4x400m relay team of **Mayes, O'Neal, Farnbauch, and Gittins** earned a third-place finish in a time of 3:26.49. The 4x200m relay team of **Tyler Branton, Brandon Johnson, Ryan Dale, and O'Neal** placed fourth in a time of 1:32.49. **Tay Morton** cleared a height of 1.86m in the high jump competition to earn a fourth-place finish. Earning a sixth-place finish in the 60m dash, Samantha Mitchell crossed the line in a time of 8.26. The Wittenberg women's team of **Mitchell, Tiarra Avant, Marteana Newton, and Tyra Barnes** earned a fourth-place finish in the 4x200m event with a time of 1:49.49.

[@Witt_TandF_XC](#) Tyler Gittins earns NCAC 2018 Indoor Sprinter of the Year! With one individual event title and a pair of additional All-NCAC finishes on the day! #TigerUp pic.twitter.com/4GPRCLlwKH

– Wittenberg Athletics (@WittAthletics) March 4, 2018

#NCACITRK18 W's 800 Meter Finals

1. M. Smith, [@OWUSport](#) - 2:20.58
2. A. Gray, [@WittAthletics](#) - 2:21.07
3. O. Jung-Beeman, [@Yeo_Athletics](#) - 2:21.41 pic.twitter.com/PQ0mNmzqQW

– NCAC (@NCAC) March 3, 2018

#NCACITRK18 M's 800 Meter Finals

1. K. Mayes, [@WittAthletics](#) - 1:57.10
2. H. Baehl, [@wabashathletics](#) - 1:57.41
3. Z. Munn, [@DenisonSports](#) - 1:57.83 pic.twitter.com/9QUeYffX1Z

– NCAC (@NCAC) March 3, 2018



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Nate Gordon '88



Nate Gordon
Bullis School
Potomac, MD, USA

Technology teacher, who takes his students to the journey of

exploration

Nate Gordon is the Lower School Technology Coordinator at Bullis School in Potomac, Maryland, US, where he teaches a Design Class to grades K-5. He is on a mission to implement technology and design thinking in his classes to show students how it can improve their everyday lessons.

Nate first got into teaching because he wanted to teach young kids how to read. He spent a lot of time teaching third grade students. Nate then became very interested in technology and decided it was time for something new.

About ten years ago he stopped teaching the third grade and became a technology and computer teacher, helping other teachers integrate technology into the classroom. Now that Bullis has finished completion on the new Boarman Discovery Center, he has a space where he can collaborate with other teachers in engineering, making, and robotics. In the past 10 years, his role has changed significantly:

“Ten years ago, there was no computer science for young kids. The technology advanced to a level that has allowed us to do that. We can now focus on open exploring and creativity when kids are so young that they can’t even read yet!”

Nate is interested in teaching students how to improve their thinking, building and planning skills, as well as understanding the importance of trial and error.

For Nate, the most rewarding aspect of being a teacher is when he sees that a student gets excited about something that they’ve created and about the process of learning

“I had a fourth grader tell me that ‘I love my mistakes’ because he learned so much from his failings today. It’s all about learning the creative exploration process, not only to learn how to repeat a skill, but to learn how to build something. Whether it is a unique way of solving a problem in math, to writing a story, creating a movie or learning how to program a robot.”

Nate thinks that in order for kids to enjoy coding and be successful at it, teachers need to give them a chance to cater the projects to their interests and skill-level.

“A lot of it is setting different expectations for different kids. If they achieve something, they are usually happy about it, even if it is something minimal. It’s about finding an achievable goal for everyone. I try to start with our basic objectives based on a minimal standard - I know all of them can achieve it and then I can give them more and go beyond that.”

Nate believes that STEAM subjects are very vital to teach, as engineering, coding and other similar subjects allow the children to understand the process of exploration. This process teaches students how to achieve results later in life. Having those skills means that in the future, when they're facing an unfamiliar situation, they know how to deal with it.

Nate sees a lot of potential for SAM Labs in the classroom. One of the things that caught his attention was the fact that all the blocks are wireless and versatile.

"I think that what makes SAM Labs great is how the products can be used across so many subjects to engage the students in different ways. Ease of use is really important too since it simplifies complex concepts into more easily digestible activities."

Nate has big plans with the STEAM Kit for the future:

"My hope is to finish the year with a Rube Goldberg project that uses various aspects of the SAM blocks. For example, it could end up that designing an alarm leads into a whole "home security" system."

For Nate, SAM Labs is a solution for teaching computer science across a variety of subjects:

"With the STEAM Kit, I know that I'm properly conveying lessons to my students – who will rely on this knowledge as they move forward in their education and career paths. SAM Labs' commitment to teachers and students gives me confidence that our curriculum will catch up to the where it should be as it relates to computer science."

Nate has come a long way since his early years of teaching young students how to read. He is now assisting other teachers with how to integrate technology in their daily lessons and teaching his students how to embrace their journey of trial and error. He is focused and passionate about learning and is no doubt, a great example for all the teachers around the world.

**Discover how SAM Labs can engage your
students**

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The Columbus Dispatch

Sports

High schools | Going to school with Esther Lawrence

Going to School subject Esther Lawrence of Columbus Academy



Posted Mar 1, 2018 at 7:48 PM

Updated Mar 1, 2018 at 7:48 PM

Esther Lawrence

COLUMBUS ACADEMY

Age: 17

Class: Senior

Grade-point average: 4.3

Sport: Diving

College: Will enroll at Harvard. She plans to major in economics or psychology and join the diving team.

Question: Why economics?

Answer: I'm leaning toward economics after taking three classes that changed my perspective. My teacher, Mr. (John) Exline^{'64}, is in his 50th year at Academy. I look forward to his classes every day. It's the intersection between public policy, economics and the cultural aspects that's intriguing. I'm also taking government, and you can't tell where one class ends and the other class begins.

Q: You can't wait to get to class?

A: Learning is a passion. It sounds cliché, but I wrote my college essay about the motivation for learning. I've always been a curious person and like my questions answered.

Q: What was your reaction to being accepted by Harvard?

A: I received the official acceptance letter in December. I was sitting on the couch with my mom and got an email about a change to my application status from the dean's office. I checked the email and it said "Congratulations," and I barely read the rest. My mom started cheering and gave me a hug.

Q: What was the process like?

A: I was determined not to have a dream school so I wouldn't pin all my hopes on it. I have two older siblings (Sydney^{'15} is 21 and attends Miami University, and Austin^{'17} is 19 and attends Case Western Reserve; the youngest is 12-year-old Maren) and I followed their college application process. I also visited Duke, Yale and Northwestern for diving.

Q: What clubs and activities are you involved with in school?

A: I started a book club here. I was on student council my freshman, sophomore and junior years as one of four elected representatives. I was on homecoming committee, I'm on prom committee and am co-editor of our literary magazine, Quest. I have helped plan the school arts fair and talent show.

Q: Have you written for Quest?

A: Yes, poetry. I pick a theme or idea that has been weighing on me for a while. It's cool to be able to write for a publication with your peers. Quest is a combination of photography, drawings, paintings, poetry and short stories, and it's impressive to see all these works from our student body.

Q: What else are you in?

A: I'm in an all-girls treble choir. Miss (Amy) Brooks does a good job of picking a combination of songs that have great lyrics and are fun to sing. During our last concert we sang "How Like a Winter," which is based on a sonnet by Shakespeare. Most people assume girls are going to sing light, happy songs, but that was somber, dark, kind of eerie and fun.

Q: What about things outside of school?

A: I volunteer at the Humane Society of Delaware County. I do a lot of unglamorous things like scooping dog poop and cleaning cat litter boxes. I also greet prospective adopters and do paperwork. I'm on the junior fair board for 4-H. I've gone to the state fair for 4-H four times. My sister, Sydney, was involved in 4-H far more and encouraged me to get involved.

Q: What else should we know about you?

A: I grew up on a farm in Sunbury and that has shaped a lot about who I am. We have four chickens and a big barn. I also started a lawn-care company with my siblings. My grandma lives in a neighborhood with elderly people and the man who cut their lawns moved. *Rodd Lawrence '80* My dad came home and said, "Why don't you try this?" We had seven or eight customers at the peak and now it's about four. It's great because every time I go to the neighborhood I get to see my grandma.

Video: Esther Lawrence of Columbus Academy

— Mark Znidar



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Watters Collects Three Hits at George Mason

Baseball

Posted: 3.7.2018

FAIRFAX, Va. – First baseman ^{'14}[Charlie Watters](#) collected three hits, including a two-run home run, as the Towson University baseball fell, 14-7, to George Mason Wednesday afternoon at Spuhler Field.

How it Happened

- The Patriots (3-8) jumped out early as they pushed across three runs in each of the first two innings.
- The Tigers (2-8) got their offense going in the fourth inning as Watters doubled into the left-field corner and scored when [Trey Martinez](#) followed with a double off the center-field wall.
- After a [Dirk Masters](#) walk, [Andrew Cassard](#) hit a ball into shallow right field that was misplayed, allowing two runs to score.
- Towson added two more runs in the sixth after Cassard singled and [Richie Palacios](#) drew one of his three walks on the day. [Noah Cabrera](#) followed with a two-run single through the right side.
- GM was able to answer the Tigers with four runs in the home-half of the inning.
- The Tigers got their final two runs in the seventh after [Craig Alleyne](#) walked and scored on the Watters two-run blast to left field.
- Watters led the offense by going 3-for-5 with a double, home run and two RBIs.
- Cabrera came off the bench to collect two hits and drive in two runs.
- Martinez threw out two of the three potential base stealers during the game.
- [Josh Seils](#) (0-1) suffered the loss after allowing five runs on five hits in one-plus inning of work.
- Brian Marconi (1-0) did not allow a hit in his three innings of work in the victory for the Patriots.

On Deck

The Tigers return to action Friday afternoon as they open a three-game series against Ohio at Schuerholz Park. First pitch is set for 2 p.m.

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Frequent party-switcher running as Democrat

By **Kimball Perry**
The Columbus Dispatch

James Robinson, a Jackson Township Republican, is running for Franklin County auditor as a Democrat, a move that Democrat Michael Stinziano views as a GOP plot to make him beat two registered Republicans if he is to win that office.

"I've seen a lot of strange things in politics," Stinziano said, "but this is one of the biggest head-scratchers."

Stinziano, a Columbus city councilman, is seeking to unseat Clarence Mingo, a Republican.

Stinziano expects a fight from Mingo and wonders whether Robinson is running as a Democrat to ensure that Stinziano has an opponent in the May 8 primary, forcing Stinziano to raise and spend money while campaigning through the primary and as a result weakening his resources

for the general-election race against Mingo.

"This is all being driven by the Franklin County Republican Party," Stinziano said.

Doug Preisse, co-chairman of the county GOP, denies that. "I've never heard of Mr. Robinson," Preisse said. "I've never met him. I don't know what his motivations are."

Mingo and Stinziano also said they don't know and haven't met Robinson.

"I think we're all trying to figure out who he is, what his platform is," Stinziano said.

Robinson, 58, wasn't home when a reporter knocked on his door Monday. He didn't respond to a business card left on his front door. His listed telephone number is disconnected.

Robinson has changed his political affiliation five times — from unaffiliated to Democrat to Republican to Democrat to unaffiliated to Republican — in Franklin

County since 1990, according to the Board of Elections.

In 1990, Robinson listed no political-party affiliation. He voted as a Democrat in a 1994 primary. Two years later, in a partisan primary, he voted as a Republican, and he continued to do so until 2004, when he switched again to voting as a Democrat in a primary.

He changed again in a 2011 primary, switching to a status unaffiliated with a political party. His status stayed that way until the 2016 primary, when he again became a Republican.

Ohio allows a candidate registered as a member of one party to run for election as a member of another party.

The Ohio secretary of state's 2018 Ohio Candidate Requirement Guide notes that candidates can run in primaries using any political party "regardless of party affiliation established by voting in a prior partisan

primary" if the candidate:
■ Isn't in elective office.
■ Is in an elective office other than "one for which candidates are nominated at a primary election."

Robinson meets both conditions, but that might not matter. To get on the May 8 ballot, Robinson was required to collect at least 50 valid signatures. The elections board determined on Thursday that he had collected 46, a decision that should have made him ineligible to run.

However, a Feb. 23 letter from a private citizen argued that eight of the signatures Robinson collected that the elections board deemed invalid should have been counted. The writer, Craig Wiley, 59, of the Far West Side, is a longtime deputy clerk with the Franklin County Municipal Court clerk's office. A telephone message left Tuesday for Wiley wasn't returned.

Like Robinson, Wiley has changed his political affiliation often: eight times since 1990. Now, he's a registered Democrat.
At Thursday's elections board meeting, the four members tied in their vote on allowing Wiley's request for reconsideration of the signatures' validity. Both Republicans supported it, and both Democrats opposed it, leading Preisse to note the irony of the two Democrats on the board voting to override what Wiley, a Democrat, believes are valid attempts by registered Democrat voters to have Robinson run as a Democrat.
The tie must be broken by Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted. The elections board has until March 15 to submit the tie to Husted's office.
"Never a dull moment," Stinziano said.

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