

## Tuition that goes down over four years? It's true at Lasell

The Boston Globe

JON CHESTO

DECEMBER 18, 2018

Like many college presidents, Michael Alexander '69 years ago forecast the perfect storm that is currently engulfing higher education.

That's why the Lasell College chief started the Lower Cost Models for Independent Colleges Consortium two years ago, with financial help from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The group of college officials already had been meeting informally since June 2015, but in January 2017 they set up a formal structure, with annual dues. The goal: to lower the colleges' cost of attendance and strengthen their financial viability, by trying new models and approaches.

That launch took place before several school closure announcements in the region. Mount Ida College, a former member of Alexander's consortium, is already gone – merger talks between Lasell and Mount Ida failed, and the Newton campus is now owned by UMass. On Friday, Newbury College in Brookline announced it would become the latest casualty.

Tuition costs have risen through the stratosphere, but fewer kids are going to college, compared to eight years ago. And public universities, by and large, have lost significant state funding over the past decade. The dynamics are putting pressure on Alexander and his consortium to come up with solutions.

Alexander might have found one at his Newton college. Called Lasell Works, participants' tuition actually drops over their four years at the school. The catch? They have to live off-campus during their sophomore year, taking classes online and working a part-time job. The promise: Cumulative tuition savings of \$22,000.

"They're all taking basically the same courses, but they're not here in the residence [hall]," Alexander says. "We save a lot of money. We're passing the savings on to them."

Lasell costs \$52,000 a year, with room and board. Maybe that's why 63 freshmen signed up for the semester that's ending, the first time that the program has been in effect, Alexander says. He thought he would only attract 20 or so. Of course, things could change next year when those students are off-campus – they can still participate in college events, but might miss living and taking classes there.

One thing Alexander is certain of: Something needs to change in the approach to higher education. Other members in the consortium are awaiting the results of the Lasell Works initiative, he says, to see if it can be replicated. They're also experimenting on their own campuses.

"These are a group of presidents who are interested not only in bemoaning that the business model is broken," Alexander says, "but also in trying to figure out ... the new business model."

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## Improving Access to the IC Natural Lands

Ithaca College

BY KYLE HORNYAK

DECEMBER 5, 2018

Ithaca College's commitment to sustaining an inclusive environment extends to the 560 acres of forest surrounding the campus: the Ithaca College Natural Lands. Students and faculty members regularly work together on projects using the Natural Lands as an outdoor classroom, and IC and Ithaca community members can enjoy seven miles of trails throughout the lands. However, prohibitive slopes and uneven surfaces make access to the Natural Lands extremely limited for people with mobility impairments. Now, thanks to two recent grants from the J.M. McDonald Foundation and the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, a student-led initiative to improve access to one of the most inviting parcels of forest will make the Natural Lands more accessible to members of the campus and surrounding communities.

A raised gravel bed turnpike more than half a mile long has been constructed near the entrance of the Boothroyd Woods Trail near Boothroyd Hall. Additionally, an eight-foot wide path of paved asphalt, funded by the two foundations, will connect the campus with the turnpike and an informational kiosk. This project will also improve drainage and reduce erosion, making the trail more sustainable as well as more accessible.

Jake Brenner, associate professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, is faculty manager of the lands and serves as the IC Natural Lands committee co-chair with Timothy Carey, associate vice president and chief facilities officer. Brenner's passion for and expertise in human-environment geography (the study of how humans interact with natural environments) makes him a "natural" fit for the faculty manager position.

The proximity of IC's campus to the Natural Lands provides opportunities for the campus community to collaborate on innovative land management. IC students take on leadership roles in day-to-day operations and projects such as the improvement of the Boothroyd Woods Trail.

Oscar Mayer '19 is the current Natural Lands student intern. The Natural Lands were a huge draw for Mayer, an environmental studies and sciences major, to attend IC in the first place. "I've always connected so much to being outside in fresh air, exploring the outdoors and enjoying the peace it brings. Having all these acres of woodlands surrounding the campus creates truly unique and special opportunities for students."

After Mayer graduates, fellow environmental studies and sciences student **Sam Hillmann (CA '16)** '20 will serve as student intern. Like Mayer, Hillmann has been involved since his first year at IC. "I've always loved the Natural Lands; they're one of Ithaca's most valuable resources," Hillmann says. "The amount and diversity of nature is incredible."

Both Mayer and Hillman got involved stewarding the Natural Lands their first year at IC, and since then have worked with Brenner and other students to tackle projects like the recent Boothroyd Woods Trail improvements. "It's really the students who coordinate with the facilities team, not the faculty," Hillmann says. "Brenner is always there as a resource, but it's important for students to learn about actually managing a natural area."

Brenner is confident that the recent student-led improvements will allow more Ithaca community members to access and enjoy the IC Natural Lands. "What the Natural Lands have been lacking is physical accessibility," Brenner says. "The paved approach path will make it much easier to get to the trail. As soon as you're in the parking lot, you see the inviting trail entrance. The goal is to bring the trail to the people."

One person who has been consistently coming to the trail regardless of its condition is Barbara Skoblick. Recently retired after working for 25 years at nearby Cornell University, Skoblick was looking for volunteer activities in which she and her husband, Larry, could participate. Their shared love of the outdoors and proximity

to the IC Natural Lands led them to become involved with a program through the Ithaca College Gerontology Institute that recruited retirees to volunteer as land stewards.

As part of their responsibilities, Skoblick and her husband hike the trails regularly, reporting on their observations. "It was a lot of fun," she says. "We both learned a lot through identifying trees, wildflowers, mushrooms... you see lots of different wildlife every time you go through the Natural Lands."

Traversing the trail was not always easy. "The trail was a bit rough in the beginning," Skoblick acknowledges. "The poor drainage would turn the trail into a string of mud pits or ice dams. There would be water just sitting on the trail that would freeze."

The recent upgrades to the trail, namely the paved walkway and drainage pipes, have made a huge difference in her and Larry's experience as land stewards, and she hopes the Ithaca community will enjoy the increased access to the Natural Lands. "I think more people will use the trail now that it's no longer full of rocks and roots," Skoblick says. "It's more convenient and much easier to get around. The trail really is a very nice place to go, especially now that it's not a big mess," she says, laughing.

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## Spirited, adventurous Pitkin County Assessor Tom Isaac '66 retires

The Aspen Times

Jason Auslander

January 9, 2019

After nearly 50 years in Aspen as a ski bum, business owner, city councilman and seven-term Pitkin County Assessor, Tom Isaac has achieved near-legendary local status.

"He's just been an icon in that position," Pitkin County Commissioner Patti Clapper said.

Icon is a good word for Isaac, Pitkin County Manager Jon Peacock said.

"He's not only an icon in our organization but around the community," Peacock said. "Tommy has exemplified how to handle change with grace both personally and professionally."

On Tuesday, Isaac's tenure as assessor — no one ever ran against him in 28 years — came to an end when Deb Bamesberger was sworn in as the county's new assessor on the steps of the Pitkin County Courthouse. Isaac sat at the base of the stairs in his wheelchair next to former Pitkin County Sheriff Bob Braudis and watched the festivities with a characteristic smile on his face.

"In Spanish they say he is a 'personaje,'" said Griff Smith, former Aspen Middle School principal and longtime Isaac pal. "A character. He's ubiquitous. He's always happy. He's been around forever."

Smith related a story that occurred several years ago when he and Isaac were skiing a lot together. They were on the slopes one day when a man Smith would only describe as "an Aspen notable" skied up to him and said, "That goddamned Tom Isaac!"

"I thought, 'Oh no,'" Smith said. "He said, 'I went in there to protest my property taxes and the (guy) is so nice I left wanting to pay him more.'"

"I think that tells most of the story."

Isaac, 70, was paralyzed from the neck down in a body-surfing accident in Mexico in the spring of 1982. At the time, doctors said he'd likely have 20 good years of health, Smith said, noting that Isaac was active and skiing for more than 30 years until a stroke two years ago.

The stroke led to months of recuperation in Denver, though Isaac bounced back and returned to Aspen more than two years ago to resume his assessor duties. Lingering health issues, however, led him to decline requests to comment for this story.

Isaac, who grew up in Columbus, Ohio, came to Aspen in 1972 with his new wife to ski and visit college friends and, like many a longtime local, never left.

"After a couple weeks, we realized we had found the Promised Land, and I'm still here," Isaac told The Times in a 2014 feature story.

Isaac owned a wine and beer shop in the Brand Building for his first couple years in town, which allowed him to ski during the day and work at night. Two weeks after he sold it, however, he was riding his bicycle on Highway 82 east of town when he was hit head-on by a car.

The brush with death — he suffered a fractured skull — led him to take stock of his life and vow "to do something worthwhile," he said in 2014.

That resulted in a stint on the Aspen Planning and Zoning Commission, which led to his first term on the Aspen City Council. But his stance against the proposed Little Annie ski area on the backside of Aspen Mountain led voters to reject him in the next election, he said.

"I managed to piss off enough people so I wasn't brought back," Isaac said.

After the body-surfing accident, Isaac eventually returned to Aspen and lost a close Pitkin County commissioner race to Helen Klanderud, who became the first female commissioner in county history.

In 1985, he was again elected to the Aspen City Council, but this time a perception that he was pro-growth limited his service on the council to one term again. But the county's then-longtime assessor retired, so Isaac threw his hat into that race and narrowly won over three other candidates. Since then, no one has run against him.

"He was never challenged," Peacock said. "I think that speaks volumes about the credibility he earned in this community."

In the beginning, however, the situation in the Assessor's Office was chaotic.

Not only did Isaac have to be carried upstairs to his office every day because there was no elevator in the building, the office was in complete disarray thanks to antiquated technology and Aspen's booming real estate market.

By the time all properties in the county were reappraised, property values went up an average of 50 percent, provoking the public's ire.

"People wanted to come scream at us," Isaac said in 2014 of his first year. "They were fighting mad. We had 4,000 out of 8,000 properties under protest."

Deputy Assessor Larry Fite, one of Isaac's first hires who still works in the office, remembered that scene Tuesday after Barnesberger was sworn in as his new boss.

"Everybody was pissed," Fite said. "Protests normally end in August and I don't think they ended until October (that year). It was a pretty tumultuous first year."

Things at the Assessor's Office soon calmed down under Isaac's steady hand, and have remained that way for most of the past three decades.

Outside of the office, however, Isaac has lived an adventurous life.

For years, he made his way on his own from his home near Herron Park to the courthouse. Clapper, who lived down the street from Isaac when she first moved to town, said she remembers seeing him trucking down the street in his wheelchair in the middle of a blizzard.

Smith said the Police Department would "get all sorts of complaints" on snowy days about Isaac and how he was going to get hurt on his commute.

"People were always worried about him," Smith said. "Innumerable people had to stop (their cars), get out and push him out of a rut or an ice dam."

"Everyone knows he's a little crazy."

About 20 years ago, members of Challenge Aspen taught Isaac and Smith how to ski together again. The duo skied together frequently after that, and traveled numerous times to Bariloche, Argentina, where Isaac became a bit of a local celebrity, Smith said.

"He was a legend in Bariloche," he said. "He was just an unusual adaptive skier. You don't see many quadriplegic skiers. And he just loved Bariloche."

But Isaac didn't stop with skiing. He went rafting and even scuba diving, and never let the fact that he was paralyzed get in his way, Smith said.

"He's so tough," he said. "In all the years of his disability, I never once heard him complain."

In fact, Isaac once told Smith that given the option of reversing his paralysis, he'd remain paralyzed.

"He's happy with his station in life," Smith said.

Isaac plans to remain in Aspen after his retirement, he said.

"He loves being outside," Smith said. "Any time the sun is shining, he can just motor down the bike path."

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## Big Lots Announces Selection of Industry Leading Reflexis Workforce Scheduler™: Community retailer selects advanced labor solution to support future growth

Business Wire A Berkshire Hathaway Company

January 13, 2019 10:01 AM Eastern Standard Time

DEDHAM, Mass.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Reflexis Systems, Inc., industry leader in real-time store operations and workforce management solutions, announced today that Big Lots has selected Reflexis Workforce Scheduler™ to increase its systemic capabilities for their 1,400 stores, including associate scheduling, forecasting and budgeting. By combining Workforce Scheduler™ with its implementation of Task Manager™, Big Lots will increase efficiency while ensuring the necessary resources to support future growth.

Big Lots, a leading community retailer operating stores in 47 states, sought a solution to increase scheduling accuracy and engagement for more than 35,000 store associates. With the addition of Workforce Scheduler™, Big Lots can more efficiently forecast workload demand, and rapidly generate accurate schedules and create labor budgets.

"We are excited to add Reflexis Workforce Scheduler™, giving Big Lots the complete functionality of the Reflexis ONE™ suite," said Mike Schlonsky '84, EVP Human Resources & Store Operations, Big Lots. "With the power of the full suite, we will increase visibility into store-level execution, reduce labor complexities, and automate many time consuming manual tasks. Additionally, this solution will help us increase productivity and lower associate turnover and, in turn, improve the overall shopping experience across our fleet of stores."

"Reflexis is thrilled to assist Big Lots in streamlining its labor scheduling and store operations processes," said Brett Friedman, SVP Sales & Marketing, Reflexis. "We're excited to add Big Lots to a growing roster of clients who recognize the value of having a solution that handles the entire retail work challenge."

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## CURRIER JOINS FIRST OHIO PLANNING

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Columbus, Ohio—January 15, 2019—David S. Currier '02, CFA has joined First Ohio Planning (FOP) as Director, Portfolio Management. Currier has extensive experience in financial planning, investment, merger/acquisition (M&A) and statistical analysis from his previous roles as an Investment Advisor, M&A consultant, Equity Portfolio Manager and Fund Manager. Currier is also well-versed in real estate market research.

In his position at FOP, Currier will be responsible for Portfolio Management, Investment Research and building long-lasting relationships with new clients.

Jim Ryan, FOP Founder and Managing Principal, said, "We are thrilled to have David join the First Ohio team. Despite his relatively young age, he has great depth of understanding the financial markets and, most important, a wonderful reputation with clients and industry counterparts."

"Because this is an extraordinary career move—one that I plan to build into the remaining years of my work-life—I invested a lot of time in investigating the FOP operations, business philosophy and how Jim built this firm

into the top-tier of financial firms in the area. I was so impressed with my findings and feel privileged to becoming associated with the FOP team,” said Currier.

David is a Columbus Academy Lifer who graduated in 2002 and is the son of former long-time Head of the Upper School, Phil Currier. David’s mother Heidi is a faculty alumni as well, having worked in the library for many years. He is a lifelong resident of Central Ohio and currently in Bexley with his wife and two children.

First Ohio Planning is the partner of choice of many businesses and professionals for financial consulting needs. Based in Columbus, Ohio the firm offers comprehensive services such as qualified plan design and implementation, including 401(k) plans, group benefits, financial planning, investments, long-term care, life and disability insurance and worksite programs.

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### MLK Day speaker, granddaughter of Percy and Lileah Harris, encourages hard conversations

The Gazette

Alison Gowans [alison.gowans@thegazette.com](mailto:alison.gowans@thegazette.com)

Sun., January 20, 2019

**Evelyn Carter '06** knows conversations about race can be difficult, but she wants more people to have them.

“People are very apprehensive about speaking about race in general,” she said during a phone interview on Thursday. “But that conversation is how we’re going to start to break down inequities.”

Carter, who has a doctorate in social psychology, has studied racial bias and writes and speaks about confronting bias. She will be the keynote speaker at three Martin Luther King Jr. events in Cedar Rapids today, including a talk at Coe College at 9 a.m., a workshop at the Cedar Rapids Public Library at 2 p.m. with her mother, Anne Harris Carter, and an address during a community celebration at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church.

“The overarching theme I’m really excited to be talking about is colorblindness, why colorblindness is not an ideology we need to be embracing when we talk about diversity and inclusion,” she said. “It’s only recently that we’ve started to understand that celebrating and embracing diversity and recognizing differences is really the way to go.”

Though she lives in Los Angeles, Carter has roots in Cedar Rapids — her grandparents were local luminaries Percy and Lileah Harris. Percy Harris was the Linn County medical examiner for 40 years, and both he and Lileah held numerous leadership positions in the community.

Among other activities, he served as the first black member of the Iowa Board of Regents, was president of the NAACP Cedar Rapids Chapter and was medical staff president at St. Luke’s Hospital, while she served on the board of the NAACP and the Cedar Rapids Human Rights Commission, among other positions.

The under-construction the Public Health and Child and Youth Development Services center, the Dr. Percy and Lileah Harris Building, will be named for the couple.

The celebration at St. Paul’s will include presentation of the annual Dr. Percy and Lileah Harris “Who is My Neighbor” Award, given to an individual recognized for working of justice in Linn County.

"I think they impacted me because they impacted my mother. My mom has basically been working in diversity and inclusion almost as long as I can remember," Carter said of her grandparents.

"In middle school and high school we referred to her as Ms. Diversity. She was always talking about being inclusive, always encouraging us to think about including people from all different kinds of groups."

Yet she said it wasn't until she was in college at Northwestern University that she started to fully understand the effect of race on her life. She later received her master's degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Ph.D. from Indiana University.

"Race wasn't something that was talked about very much outside my house, outside my church," she said. "In high school, all my friends were white. In college, I saw the vast array of what blackness can look like."

She said once she started learning about the structural barriers of racism in American society, she wanted to find ways to break down those barriers.

"If you can't talk about it, you can't recognize it, you can't fix it," she said.

She said many white people grew up being told talking about race was rude, but that people sometimes use that as an excuse to not engage with racism. She said colorblindness also can be used to erase the experiences of people of color.

Yet she cautioned people who want to start engaging with questions about race and structural racism to not rely on the people of color around them to do the mental and emotional work for them.

"There has to be some recognition that these conversations are difficult for people in different ways. My expectation is not for people of color to be a resource for white people all the time," she said. "It takes a mental toll for people of color."

Rather, white people who want to learn more should start with things such as books, podcasts and articles, she recommended, as well as attending public lectures and workshops. And then, she said, they should talk to other white people about these topics, what she calls "active allyship."

"Part of my mantra is getting people to talk about race, but also to recognize there are conversations that have been happening for literally hundreds of years," she said.

Carter is senior consultant at Paradigm Strategy Inc., co-founder of Illuminate Diversity Consulting and served as director of translational research and anti-bias training in UCLA's Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

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Lazear Capital's **Ted Lape '83** on transparency, creativity and the rise of ESOPs

Smart Business Dealmakers

By: Jayne Gest

9:57am EST January 22, 2019

Lazear Capital Partners isn't afraid to deliver bad news to business owners who want to sell.

“We do a ton of education for sellers for free because we don’t want to take money from someone who doesn’t understand what they want to do,” Partner Ted Lape says. “Sometimes we do an enormous amount of work upfront, just to tell people they shouldn’t do a deal.”

People appreciate the firm’s honesty and groundwork, and the effort often turns into referrals.

But the education hasn’t been limited to sellers. Lape, who started in banking, considers his two partners, Bruce Lazear and Michael Morosky, to be mentors.

“It’s funny, even though we’re all partners — I think I’ve learned more from those two than I have from anyone else,” says Lape, who’s been with the consulting firm for about a decade.

In this month’s Dealmaker Q&A, we spoke with Lape about transparency in dealmaking, the rise of ESOPs and his most memorable deals.

What are some qualities shared by successful dealmakers?

The best dealmakers ask a lot of questions up front. Seminars and trainings tell you to do that, but a lot of people don’t do it very well. They don’t really ask the questions to understand what the client really wants. And then, obviously, listening to those answers is key.

Sometimes people want to do the same deal over and over again because they did it once and it worked. Investment bankers or buyers have a structure that works. They know it. It’s easy to replicate. So, sometimes they try to take the seller and cram it into that structure — and that doesn’t work well.

For example, we do M&A, but we do a lot of ESOPs. In the ESOP world, people tend to do the same deal over and over again. Every one of ours is different. We try to be creative when we’re doing a deal.

You mentioned ESOPs. Are they a trend?

We go through M&A and ESOPs as options, as well as recapitalization, and we actually make more money per deal if we do an M&A transaction. But when they really understand both options, more people are picking ESOPs.

What are some of the advantages of ESOPs?

Selling to your competitor that you’ve been competing with for 10 years is harder because the seller is probably going to be out of a job or things are going to change dramatically. A lot of their people may be out of jobs. The legacy may be gone. So, there are all those problems. But then, doing the deal itself is a lot harder.

In an ESOP, it’s very collegial. It’s hard to explain, but everyone is working together. In an M&A transaction, by its nature, it’s adversarial. Everyone is trying to be the winner, not the loser. So, it’s very confrontational. I think we do a good job of protecting the owner from a lot of that, but it’s the nature of the deal.

Then there’s also a lot of concerns about confidentiality. Word gets out and all their competitors learn that they’re for sale. Their clients learn they’re for sale. Their employees learn they’re for sale, and it creates a lot of problems. You don’t have that in an ESOP.

So, there are some advantages in the way they're done, and in the outcomes that people seem to like a lot. Not to mention all the tax advantages.

What are a few memorable deals Lazear has worked on?

There are two. One, we helped Lyon Video decide what they wanted to do. We looked at both selling to competitors and an ESOP. We went down both paths. Ultimately, Bob Lyon, the seller, decided that an ESOP was right for him for a whole bunch of reasons.

That was the first ESOP we did at Lazear Capital — I had done a number before that — and it really propelled our business because we went on to do more and more.

The second one is we sold Progressive Medical to a big hedge fund. Progressive Medical is a fairly large local company, and the buyers were basically Wall Street people. They were very aggressive on the buy side. They wanted to do a lot of things that weren't good for the seller, and we did a great job helping the seller to get a great deal.

What's your approach when a deal starts going off track?

First of all, we've been very fortunate. Almost every one of our deals has closed, and a lot of that has to do with the fact that, on the M&A side, we're very careful who we take on and they're serious about selling. On the ESOP side, we do a lot of work up front to tell them what they're going to get.

But unforeseen things do happen. For example, we're in the middle of a deal now where the seller had a big dip in earnings. So, what do you do then? Well, we're sticking with the client and we're learning about what they're doing to fix that, so once they fix it, we understand the story and how we can tell that story to the prospective buyer.

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InSecurity Podcast: **Stephanie Preston Domas '05** - Maybe Your Pacemaker Can't Kill You  
by InSecurity Podcasts  
February 04, 2019

Being a CISO for a large healthcare organization has a degree of difficulty that will give you a headache. Quite aside from all the human-related factors involved in the equation, let's take a clinical look just at the medical technology found in a modern hospital.

To give just one example, the Mayo Clinic has:

63,000 doctors and allied health staff

25,000 networked medical devices

More than 6,000 unique makes and models of devices

Industry Best Practices states that each device should have a unique 20 character password for every employee on every device

A system that locks users out after 10 minutes of inactivity

New passwords for every employee on all devices they use every 30 days

Do the math...

That's an unwieldy number of passwords to be created and entered monthly. In the healthcare industry, inefficiency can cost lives – and so too can a lack of security.

In this week's episode of InSecurity, Matt Stephenson talks with Stephanie Domas, Vice President of Research & Development at MedSec. Her job is to oversee the design and manufacture of connected medical device solutions that save lives and also remain secure. File this one under "be careful what you wish for..."

To listen to the podcast click here: [https://threatvector.cylance.com/en\\_us/home/insecurity-podcast-stephanie-domas-maybe-your-pacemaker-cant-kill-you.html](https://threatvector.cylance.com/en_us/home/insecurity-podcast-stephanie-domas-maybe-your-pacemaker-cant-kill-you.html)

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## 52 Places To Go in 2019: No. 47 Columbus, OHIO

The New York Times Travel

DANIEL SCHEFFLER

Jan 10, 2019 - A starter kit for escaping into the world.

With a revitalized riverfront and booming downtown, Columbus is already one of the nation's fastest-growing cities. Now, it's poised to become the model for the future of innovative urban transportation, with self-driving shuttles carrying travelers along the Scioto Mile, which recently completed a massive revitalization, adding 33 acres of riverfront green space for festivals, water sports and outdoor art. (The newly opened National Veterans Memorial and Museum also sits on the Scioto Peninsula.) Among the newest dining options are Veritas, which specializes in small-plate offerings; Service Bar, run by the young chef **Avishar Barua '05**, a veteran of New York's Mission Chinese and WD-50; and in the North Market neighborhood, veggie-forward Little Eater. The ultracool Short North Arts District offers access to the city's notable local businesses like the new fashion store Thread and the original Jeni's ice cream store. But don't skip Italian Village and German Village neighborhoods, where innovators and dreamers have opened destination shops like Stump Plants and Vernacular and bars like Cosecha.

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## The Pride of Working in A/E/C

Plotlines

MIKE PLOTNICK

JANUARY 8, 2019

After the dot-com crash of 2000 claimed me as one of its victims, I found my way to the bricks-and-mortar world of architecture, engineering and construction (A/E/C).

A layoff is never an enjoyable experience, of course, but I'm grateful for that "separation" because it freed me up to discover a sense of greater purpose I hadn't realized was missing from my job.

When I joined HOK in early 2001, one of my first observations was how passionate its architects, engineers and other design professionals were about their work. They took seriously their role in addressing so many of the world's greatest challenges.

It was—and is—infectious.

With that in mind, I reached out to several A/E/C friends and former colleagues to ask them why they're proud of what they do.

**Transforming Neighborhoods:** "I am incredibly proud to be with a firm committed to designing highly impactful, sustainable and resilient social infrastructure projects. Most of our work is local — which to us is New York City; and we feel fortunate to be able to use design to improve and sustain neighborhoods and communities we know. As managing principal, my role is to keep us doing what we do, but do it better and better each year. I'm proud to play my part." — Kirsten Sibia, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP, managing principal at Dattner Architects

**Passing the Mantle:** "I am so proud to be an architect, it rubbed off on my daughters. The older is a registered architect; she understands architecture. The younger is a school guidance counselor; she understands architects. Kidding aside...as an architect, I bring value to clients and communities; enabling environments that create wealth in all its forms: knowledge, health and financial success." — Sam Spata, AIA, owner, principal of Method Lean

**Small Actions Lead to Big Changes:** "As a landscape architect, I am proud to work in a field where each project and every interaction offer an opportunity to make a positive difference for our world. Through the design of outdoor spaces, I strive to simply move the needle, in the knowledge that small actions can lead to big changes—and I love working with a close-knit team and collaborators who share this outlook." — Michelle Ohle, PLA, ASLA, LEED AP, principal and landscape architect at DTLS Landscape Architecture

**An Indelible Mark on Communities:** "I love working in the A/E/C industry because you can see the tangible, lasting impacts of the design and construction efforts that go into a new building or infrastructure project. It's not like other industries where you're creating numbers in a spreadsheet, legal documents or a new leadership strategy—all of which are vitally important. You're part of leaving an indelible mark on the communities in which we work, live and play." — Barry Sutherland, LEED AP BD+C, director at McCarthy Building Companies

**Continuous Learning Opportunities:** "I was fortunate enough to have a boss and mentor take a chance on this former retail marketer and for that I will always be grateful. I now work with architects, designers, project managers, interior designers, planners and more who all have one common goal: to make the world a better place through design. I'm proud to be in this industry because I get to learn from and help these incredibly gifted people work on projects that shape our communities." — Jill Davis, LEED GA, director of marketing at Cline Design Associates

**Helping Economies Grow:** "I am proud to have made a positive impact on people's professional lives and on the growth and advancement of the companies I have worked for over the past 20+ years. These achievements inspire me to continue serving as a mentor, and to use my skills and expertise to help drive revenue for my firm. This is an industry that helps economies grow. What we do empowers communities around the world." — Maribel Castillo, vice president and director of corporate communications at T.Y. Lin International

**Part of a Family Legacy:** My father and grandfather were both architects and for 20 years of my life, I too thought I might be an architect. As an architectural photographer, it allows me to give back to an industry that has given my family and me so very much. I say that I live vicariously through my clients. When my images help my A/E/C clients win awards, get published and are awarded new work, I feel that my images have served them as I had hoped and I too feel good. To paraphrase the great architectural photographer Julius Shulman, 'Architects live and die by the images taken of their work; as these images alone are what people see. For every one person who visits a project, there may be ten thousand who only view it as a photo.' That is my obligation to the industry I serve." — Brad Feinknopf '82, owner and principal photographer at feinknopf photography

Building Next-Generation Marketers: “In addition to taking great pride in the work of my client firms, who contribute so much to the communities they serve, I am proud of the evolving role of the A/E/C marketer. Over the last 40 years, my colleagues and I, in our firms and as part of SMPS, have been part of the transformation of professional services marketing. From the early days of bird dogs and marketing coordinators, our roles have become increasingly central to enterprise strategy, brand identity and today, client and employee engagement. It's a remarkable trajectory that continues as a new generation of marketers leads the way. – Nancy Egan, principal at New Voodoo

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## Pittsburgh housing authority development chief to leave agency for Washington, D.C.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Kate Giammarise

12/30/2018

The top official overseeing development at Pittsburgh's housing authority and large-scale projects in Larimer, the Hill District and elsewhere, will be leaving the city in the new year.

**Darrell Davis '87**, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh's chief development officer, will be taking the same position at the District of Columbia Housing Authority in Washington, D.C.

In Pittsburgh, he oversaw the \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods development in Larimer and East Liberty, and the early stages of planning for redevelopment at Bedford Dwellings in the Hill District, the oldest remaining public housing complex in Pittsburgh.

Other development he oversaw included the Kelly Hamilton Homes in Homewood and the conversion of Glen Hazel communities in Hazelwood under a program known as RAD — Rental Assistance Demonstration — that aims to infuse new funds into traditional public housing for needed repairs and renovations.

Housing authority staff and board members praised Mr. Davis at his final board meeting this month.

“You will be missed for all the technical expertise that you provided,” said Valerie McDonald-Roberts, board chair.

Board member Peter Kaplan praised his ability to address concerns of residents and community members.

“I think it's crucial to the work,” Mr. Kaplan said.

“It's just been incredible working in this city as it goes through its Renaissance, and just watching all the different forces at play and trying to make sure the city stays affordable to families,” Mr. Davis said.

Prior to Mr. Davis, development at the authority was overseen for more than a dozen years by Nathaniel Boe of private consulting firm CVR.

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## Valvoline Launches Vehicle Recall Awareness Program: Initiative targets reduction in open recalls, consumer safety and dealership business growth

NEWS PROVIDED BY Valvoline Inc.

Jan 16, 2019, 08:30 ET

LEXINGTON, Ky., Jan 16, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Valvoline Inc. (NYSE: VVV), a leading worldwide supplier of premium branded automotive lubricants and services, today announced the launch of its Vehicle Recall Awareness Program, an innovative initiative that aims to reduce the number of open recalls on the road – thus improving consumer safety.

"There are more than 57 million vehicles on the road today with open recalls – that's one-quarter of all cars on the road operating with components that pose a potential safety hazard to drivers and those around them," said Rob Stravitz, Valvoline Instant Oil Change vice president of marketing and customer experience. "As consumer safety is a top priority, this is a natural extension of our existing consumer safety program that is core to Valvoline's operations."

With the Vehicle Recall Awareness Program, every consumer that enters a participating Valvoline Instant Oil Change location will automatically receive an open recall check on their vehicle. If an open recall is identified, the consumer is notified and provided details to have their recall serviced at one of Valvoline's preferred dealership partners nationwide. Consumers will be provided an incentive to have their recall serviced at a participating dealership.

DMV.org reports that in 2017, nearly two times more vehicles were recalled than sold. Armed with this information, Valvoline's Vehicle Recall Awareness Program was created to keep consumers safe and to enable dealership business growth.

"The Valvoline Vehicle Recall Awareness Program connects consumers with Valvoline preferred dealerships, helping keep drivers safe while providing referral opportunities that deliver tangible business value," added Jamal Muashsher, Valvoline Core North America vice president marketing, digital and customer experience.

Dealerships currently enrolled in Valvoline's Vehicle Recall Awareness Program are reporting early positive results.

"Valvoline's unwavering commitment to consumer safety and trust aligns directly with the core values we hold here at Ricart. We are proud to partner with them on the Vehicle Recall Awareness initiative," said Rick Ricart '98, president for Columbus, Ohio-based Ricart Automotive. "Not only have we seen great results, but the program essentially runs itself. Enrollment is simple and reporting on program performance is provided on a consistent basis."

For more information on the Vehicle Recall Awareness Program or to enroll your dealership, contact [Solutions@Valvoline.com](mailto:Solutions@Valvoline.com). For all media inquiries, please contact JamieDay Montgomery at [jamieday@bigcom.com](mailto:jamieday@bigcom.com).

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These 'Nasty Women' are pushing for a 200-lap women's Little 500. It won't be easy.

Indiana Daily Student

BY CAROLINE ANDERS '17

Published Jan 15, 2019 8:31 pm

A movement has been churning among the women of Little 500 for some time now.

They started out on tricycles, racing in the "Mini 500." In 1988, 37 years after the inaugural men's Little 500, the women graduated to two wheels. Though they finally had a race of their own, things still weren't equal.

Their 25-mile, 100-lap race is just half the length of the men's competition.

One group of women is looking to change that. It won't be easy.

The doubters say doubling the lap count will force some of the lower-tier teams out of the race, making the already small women's riding community even smaller.

The women pushing for the change say progress can't happen without a calculated leap of faith.

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A petition to increase the women's lap count to 200 began circulating through the cycling community Friday, but the conversation about equality began long before last weekend.

Melanzana Cycling alumna Brooke Hannon said most women who ride the Little 500 have thought about the lap disparity at some point.

"People talk about it every year," she said. "You finish the race, you get off the bike and you're like, 'I could probably do a hundred more.'"

There seems to be no real reason for the disparity. It was just a sign of the times when women started riding the Little 500 in the '80s.

"I definitely don't want people to think that the Student Foundation doesn't think women are capable of riding 200 laps," Little 500 Race Director Andrea Balzano said. "The women's race has just always been 100 laps. That's just the way that it has been."

Some women have been talking about reshaping the race for years. Others say they just accepted the difference.

Céline Oberholzer, senior and captain of cycling team RideOn, said she didn't immediately realize anything was off.

"It's kind of silly because I did the race in 2017, and the thought never crossed my mind," she said. "I just accepted it."

After taking a year off from riding the Little 500 in 2018, Oberholzer said she started thinking about the imbalance more. She talked to a few other women about the idea on a long ride through Bloomington over the summer.

They later became the first group to do more than just talk about making the change.

“Initially, we were like, 'Let’s just stay and race for 200 laps,” Oberholzer said. ““They can't pull us off the track.””

After deciding there were likely better ways to propose the change, Oberholzer and the group put things in motion. They started a group chat called “Nasty Women.”

They quickly learned the process they were about to embark on would be harder than they thought.

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The spectacle of Little 500, a fundraiser for scholarships drenched in Hoosier pride, sits peacefully on top of a restless governing body.

There are boards and councils, rulebooks and handbooks. There’s a multiple choice test for rookie riders.

Each year, that government tweaks rules. New this year: no one on the track can wear headphones on race day, and riders who don’t listen to medical advice could be disqualified.

Balzano, who has been race director since 2016, said she can’t remember a change as dramatic as doubling the women’s lap count ever being proposed.

The petition Oberholzer and her friends created is not part of the formal rule change process — it just measures public support. Tuesday morning, it had 375 signatures.

Those who wish to change a rule must first present their amendment to Riders Council, a board of seasoned student riders. The council will debate and then either pass or decline the amendment.

If passed by a two-thirds majority, the change will land in front of the Little 500 Rules Board. The board includes Little 500 volunteers, IU Student Foundation volunteers and a representative from the IU Foundation.

If a majority of the board moves to pass the rule, the change is recommended to the IU Student Foundation director, who holds ultimate veto power.

If the proposal to amend the rule for 2020 makes it past Riders Council, the "Nasty Women" will just have to sit back and wait.

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Senior Hank Duncan is on Riders Council. He’s supports women racing 200 laps someday, but he’s worried this change could be coming too fast.

Duncan is concerned some women's teams won't participate in the race in the future if the lap count doubles. He said the gap between the competitive and more casual teams will widen even more with the extra 100 laps. Some teams just don't know how to train for a 200-lap race. Others don't have the resources.

"If you think about the Little Five community, the power it has diminishes as you have fewer teams in it," he said.

Hannon, the Melanzana Cycling alumna, said the long-term benefits of doubling the lap count will outweigh short-term costs.

"We're not doing this for 2022 or 2020," she said. "It's for the women down the road. That will be a monumental day: when it's 33 teams and 200 laps."

A main point Oberholzer said isn't reflected in the petition is her group's commitment to giving all women's teams the resources to excel in a longer race.

Senior Hayley Kwasniewski, Independent Council rider and Riders Council member, has been working on a 200-lap implementation plan for a couple of months, but she's toyed with the idea for years. She's sketched out a manual for the one-year mark, five-year mark and 10-year mark.

Oberholzer is putting together a free training program for all women's teams. She's hoping this will address the concern that newer teams could struggle with the spike in laps.

"We're really being deliberate and thinking through everything," she said. "The misunderstanding is that the only thing we're doing is changing the race."

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Oberholzer's "Nasty Women" hope the women's race will be 200 laps in 2020. The marketing would be perfect for IU's bicentennial, she said. 200 laps for 200 years.

"If it doesn't make it this year, then I would just encourage the women to try again next year," Race Director Balzano said.

Though some riders say framing the 200-lap movement as a push for equality doesn't give enough context to the potential harms it could cause the women's race, Oberholzer disagrees.

"Our fundamental goal is women's rights," she said. "That is the bottom line. It's an outdated perception that women can only accomplish half as much as men."

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#### Statement from PUCO Chairman Asim Haque '98

Ohio Public Utilities Commission

For Immediate Release

Contact: Matt Schilling (614) 466 7750

COLUMBUS, OHIO (Feb. 4, 2019) – The following statement can be attributed to Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Chairman Asim Z. Haque:

Today, I submitted a letter to Governor DeWine, resigning my post as Chairman/Commissioner at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), effective March 1, 2019. I would not be doing this experience, nor my feelings about public service to this state any justice by expressing the common refrain of being “honored” to have served. It is of course true that I am deeply honored to have served. I think, however, it is more revealing, more personal for me to say that this experience has been an absolute dream.

I never expected that such an opportunity would ever come my way. I am a political independent, for which I joke means that I am a political nobody/nothing. I am a first generation American born son of (very brilliant professional) parents of Indian descent. I was born in Ohio, and I’ve never resided anywhere else. I’ve lived in Columbus, Cleveland, Springfield and Dayton. My mood is swung by the score of the Buckeye game, and the Cavs gave me the greatest sports moment of my life a few years ago. I love Ohio, and never in my wildest dreams did I think that, in my early thirties, I’d be given an opportunity to serve in this capacity.

I’m very proud of the work we’ve done here at the PUCO. Ohioans may not realize it, but from an energy/utility perspective, the rest of the country looks to us for leadership. I first realized this when, as PUCO Vice-Chairman, I led the agency’s efforts in analyzing and attempting to chart a path for Ohio’s compliance with the USEPA’s Clean Power Plan. The entire country was interested in our position and our public statements. There was no shortage of attention provided to the state when I took over as PUCO Chairman in 2016, either.

My first major task as Chairman was resolving extremely contentious coal/nuclear power plant cases. In hindsight, these cases will prove to be some of the most important cases in the history of state energy/utility regulation. After this, we started to peel away at our hefty case backlog, tackling major issues along the way through the decisions we were making. The list of cases, likely numbering in the hundreds, is very, very long. They included:

- Electric Security Plans Through the Mid 2020s: Customer electric bills are largely comprised of charges that are approved via electric security plan cases. These are highly contentious cases with dozens of parties that can take months, if not years to resolve. Our Commission successfully navigated the approval of electric security plan cases in all four of the state’s distribution service territories, and these cases/plans will be in place through the mid 2020s. This creates a very stable environment for customer bills and economic development in the state.
- Corporate Tax Reductions Reflected in Bills: When the federal government reduced the federal corporate income tax rate in 2018, the savings realized by our utilities should have been reflected in customer bills. Some of our utilities, however, were hesitant to return this money. Our Commission was adamant that every dollar be returned to Ohioans, and we have secured commitments from our four electric utilities and provided guidance to our other regulated utilities to ensure the return of hundreds of millions of dollars to Ohioans.
- Submetering Price-Gouging Prevention: We acted within our jurisdictional bounds to prevent the price-gouging of submetered residential customers.
- Distressed Utility Intervention: We intervened with two very distressed utilities - Ohio Rural Natural Gas and Youngstown Thermal - to ensure safe, cost-effective continuity of service for their customers. We initiated the transfer of pipeline assets for the Ohio Rural Natural Gas utility, and we placed Youngstown Thermal in receivership so that it could be managed more effectively by an independent third party. As we are economic regulators, much of what we do surrounds the approval of rates. Here, we went above and beyond those duties with “boots on the ground,” working with these local communities and their customers to ensure continuity of service.

- Data Center Tariff Development: We worked to design suitable tariffs for these large users, which very well could represent a new chapter of economic development in the state.
- PUCO/Ohio Power Siting Board Rules Compliance: We worked to ensure that the bulk of our administrative rules were brought into review compliance, tackling major policy matters along the way associated with net metering, renewables/energy efficiency, wind siting/safety, and a host of other matters.
- PowerForward (Grid Modernization): We launched a multi-year initiative, PowerForward, to try and tie the concept of innovation to an enhanced customer electricity experience. Unbeknownst to us, this initiative would garner national attention and our final product, PowerForward: A Roadmap to Ohio's Electricity Future, would be met with great praise. This Roadmap provides baseline guidance to our utilities and stakeholders about the future grid, and the Roadmap can be followed to truly try and create an environment where innovation will completely change how Ohioans experience power delivery going forward.

There is so much more than this. Our Commission collectively put its head down and worked tirelessly to get the PUCO to where it is today. We are on-track with our work, have an eye towards the future, and we have made the agency a place of true independent thought, mindful that each day in service of Ohioans is a privilege. I am forever grateful to my fellow Commissioners and the Staff of the PUCO for their hard work and for being partners with me in this venture. I am also thankful to our utility community for working collaboratively to piece Ohio back together after some challenging years.

Thanks are due of course to Governor John R. Kasich and his team for providing me with the opportunity to serve, and my sincere best wishes to Governor Mike DeWine and his team going forward.

As for what's next for me, I have accepted a job with PJM Interconnection in suburban Philadelphia. It is the regional transmission organization and wholesale market operator for thirteen states (including Ohio) and the District of Columbia. Its mission is similar to that of the PUCO's, as PJM is tasked with providing reliable power at least cost to a large footprint in this country. I am excited to lead their state team, try my hand at persuasion in Washington D.C., and continue to have a platform in the national energy policy discussion.

Again, this has been an absolute dream. I will miss all of my friends and colleagues, and I thank the people and businesses of the state of Ohio for letting me serve you over these past six years. My heart will always be here with all of you.

Very truly yours,  
Asim Z. Haque  
Chairman, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

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## PUCO chairman resigns for industry job

Columbus Business First

By Tristan Navera

Feb 4, 2019, 12:07pm

Gov. Mike DeWine will have a chance to reshape the state's strategy by appointing a new chairman for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Asim Haque '98 is leaving his post as chairman and commissioner at PUCO, effective March 1, to take a job with Philadelphia-based regional transmission group PJM Interconnection. He has started as vice chairman with the PUCO six years ago, and took on the role of chairman in 2016.

"I'm very proud of the work we've done here at the PUCO," Haque said in a release. "Ohioans may not realize it, but from an energy/utility perspective, the rest of the country looks to us for leadership."

The departure means another leadership change for the group, which oversees the state's energy industry. Haque has been a public face for PUCO's advocacy as it undertakes a number of regulatory initiatives, including settling electric security plans for the major utilities in the state, resolving coal and nuclear power plant cases, and a substantial project to study the potential for grid modernization in the state, PowerForward, which Haque has personally championed.

Consumer-focused initiatives have included preventing price-gouging in submetering and compelling major utilities in the state to pass on benefits from corporate tax cuts to customers directly. The group recently has been the deciding factor on a number of proposed solar and wind farms in the state, most recently including AEP Corp.'s plan to build what could be Ohio's largest solar farm.

"Our commission collectively put its head down and worked tirelessly to get the PUCO to where it is today," Haque said. "We are on track with our work, have an eye toward the future and we have made the agency a place of true independent thought, mindful that each day in service of Ohioans is a privilege."

Haque's term was to end in April 2021. The final decision on who will join the five-member PUCO commission falls to DeWine. Details on the succession plan for PUCO chairman were not immediately available.

In the meantime, the PUCO also is in the process of replacing Commissioner Thomas Johnson, who announced last month he would not seek reappointment.

Late last month, a 12-member nominating council put forward four potential applicants: Bryce McKenney, Dennis Deters, Eugene Krebs and Samuel Randazzo. Once appointed by the governor, the new commissioner will serve a 2019-2024 term.

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HOMAGE Founder Ryan Vesler '01 on LeBron James, Working With the NBA  
BY SLAM STAFF  
JANUARY 22, 2019

Ryan Vesler started HOMAGE back in 2007. His vision was to use t-shirts to help customers reconnect with memories or relationships from their past.

HOMAGE is now officially working with the NBA. What started as a business grown out of Vesler's parents' basement has grown into a company that even LeBron James has supported. We caught up with Vesler to talk about the past, present and future of HOMAGE.

SLAM: When did you officially link up with the NBA and become a licensee?

Ryan Vesler: We became an official NBA licensee in the spring of 2016, right before the Cavs went on their championship run. The timing couldn't have been more perfect.

SLAM: Where were you when you saw LeBron in your “Ultimate Warrior” shirt and what’s the back story with that?

RV: I was in California visiting some friends when, all of a sudden, I received about a dozen text messages that LeBron had just stepped off the plane wearing our “Ultimate Warrior” shirt. I couldn’t believe it. It was one of the most surreal experiences of my life. How did he get the shirt?! We still don’t really know for sure.

What LeBron has done for Akron and Cleveland, for the game of basketball... I could go on and on. It’s an honor to have a connection with him, and we’re forever indebted to LeBron for weaving our shirt into basketball history. As a means of paying “homage” and giving back, we’ve partnered with the LeBron James Family Foundation to support its incredible work in the community.

SLAM: You have a pretty good relationship with JR Smith. How did you connect with him?

RV: Back in late summer, early fall of 2018, JR came to one of our Cleveland stores and loaded up on sweats, which was awesome. Then, a little while later, he randomly arrived at a game dressed head to toe in an HOMAGE sweatsuit — it was totally unexpected and awesome. But the story doesn’t stop there...

One of our store managers, Dan Dover, decided to mimic JR’s look for Halloween. He nailed it! And because JR has a great sense of humor, he reposted the picture of our manager on social media.

SLAM: You’ve come a long way now that Bron is wearing your gear. What do you remember about your company’s beginnings?

RV: I still feel like we’re beginning. What’s wild is that, even though it’s been almost 12 years since I started, I feel like we are evolving, learning, and adapting each and every day. As an entrepreneur, you’re never fully satisfied... you’re always pushing yourself to be better and better.

As far as early memories, I remember t-shirt inventory “taking over” my parents’ house. I started in the basement, then expanded to the living room until my parents eventually kicked me out —they wanted their house back! We’ve been hard at work growing our national NBA business, with more freshness and storytelling. We want to apply this same hustle to other leagues and entities, including Major League Baseball and WWE.

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Michael Tomko '08 was featured in Columbus Business First as his company, Tomko Co., works on the historic redevelopment of The Hayden Complex.

JANUARY 4, 2019

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UPFRONT

# Historic high-rise getting \$20M rehab

OLDEST BUILDING ON CAPITOL SQUARE, HAYDEN TO BE BOTH PRESERVED, MODERNIZED

BY TRISTAN NAVERA  
tnavera@bizjournals.com



Michael  
Tomko

Michael Tomko may be a lawyer by trade, but he's playing the role of local tour guide these days.

That's because the 29-year-old, Harvard-educated Clintonville native is playing a role in the city's history, or rather preserving it.

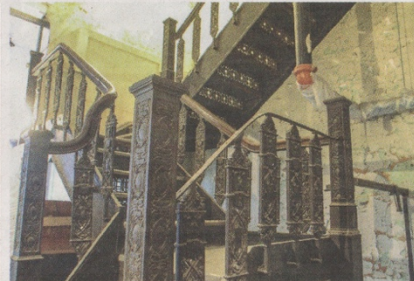
The president of Tomko Co., which specializes in historic redevelopment projects, recently led me through his latest project, a nearly \$20 million redevelopment of The Hayden complex at 16-20 E. Broad St. on Capitol Square.

"There's just so much to see in these buildings," he said. "It's the little details and the really great distinct feel they have."

The Hayden is a two-building complex that sits in the shadow of the Rhodes State Office Tower. The four-story building at 20 E. Broad St. was completed in 1869 and is the oldest on Capitol Square. For a time, it was the headquarters of the National Football League.

Its 13-story neighbor at 16 E. Broad St. was the city's tallest building from its completion in 1901 until the 47-story LeVeque Tower was completed 25 years later. The 11-story Wyandotte Building, regarded as the city's first skyscraper, was built in 1897.

In December, Tomko landed \$1.9 million in state his-



TRISTAN NAVERA

Distinct architectural features mark the historic Hayden buildings at 16-20 E. Broad St.

toric tax credits to help fund the Hayden project. The developer is investing \$2.6 million in equity on the project, along with securing \$10.4 million in bank loans and \$4.3 million in federal clean energy financing.

Tomko expects that the 100,000 square feet of leaseable space in the buildings could host 400 employees, and he said he has commitments that could fill the whole complex.

He has proposed removing circa-1970s and 1980s build-outs that covered up historic features in the complex to restore marble floors, original ceiling heights and windows, as well as adding new tenant spaces with modern amenities, a rooftop bar and a digital conference center.

The building has a number of interesting architectural features, including hardwood supports and an arched tile floor made from stone from Haydenville, Ohio.

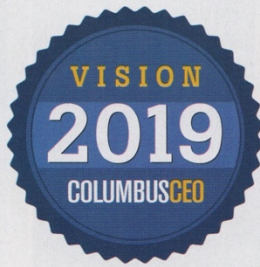
Both the town and building are named for businessman Peter Hayden, whose Hayden Clinton Bank occupied the first floor of the original building.

"Energy upgrades will make a big difference for this building," said Billy Patterson of Greenworks Lending, which is supplying the up-front PACE financing for the project, one of the largest in the city using the tool for energy efficiency upgrades.

"In general, it'll be a good chance to show how some of this technology has evolved, and using PACE is going to simplify the capital stack," he said.

"It's a no-brainer project."

**Rick Ricart '98** shared advice with Ohio Governor-elect Mike DeWine on ways to strengthen the Columbus economy and business climate.



## ADVICE FOR GOV. DeWINE

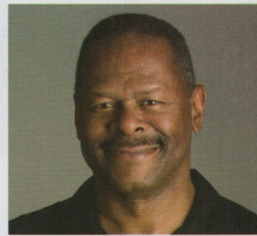
Compiled by DAVE GHOSE

Central Ohio business leaders share what Gov.-elect Mike Dewine can do to strengthen the Columbus economy and business climate.



**Rick Ricart**  
President  
Ricart Automotive Group

"Education is crucial to the continued growth of our economy and business climate and is the foundation of our community. By prioritizing early childhood education, making education more affordable, accessible, and building out in-school support programs, the governor-elect will put Columbus on the path to prosperity."



**Curt Moody**  
President and CEO  
Moody Nolan architectural

"The governor-elect and his development team should work with the Franklin County commissioners, the mayor and private developer stakeholders to develop a strategic central Ohio plan to expedite the most critical/crucial projects that act as a catalyst for future responsible development that adds to central Ohioans quality of life."



**Andy Joseph**  
President and CEO  
Apeks Supercritical

"Gov.-elect Mike DeWine can help by supporting Ohio businesses, paving the way for future expansion, particularly in the medical cannabis industry. By backing future expansion and legislation changes to the program, which reflect the adapting needs of patients, industry growth will allow Ohio patients to get the medicine they need."



**Francie Henry**  
Regional president, central Ohio  
Fifth Third Bank

"Manufacturing jobs are growing in the United States, and the U.S. share of such jobs globally is rising. To attract these jobs, the state must continue to make Ohio appealing for companies to do business here, through physical infrastructure and policies. Also, continue workforce development, especially in manufacturing and skilled trade positions, to give us a competitive advantage. Each manufacturing job created historically brings multiple other jobs in its wake."



**Liza Kessler**  
Partner-in-charge, Columbus office  
Jones Day law firm

"Ohio's economy will thrive if we can attract new business while retaining our existing companies. One of the key factors to achieve that goal is access to the world economy. A key consideration for companies considering a business center is: Can their employees travel efficiently? And that means nonstop flights. Put simply, our community needs government investment (in partnership with private dollars) to secure nonstop international flights at John Glenn Columbus Airport."



**Tanisha Robinson**  
CEO  
BrewDog USA

"It would be powerful for [him] to focus resources on supporting the growth of existing Ohio businesses and growing startup companies vs. worrying about attracting companies looking to move here for tax credits. It could make a huge difference to Ohio-based businesses if the state invested tax credits, grants, and support to the homegrown companies who are scaling and already committed instead of a disproportionate amount of this investment focused on importing businesses."



**Alex Timm**  
CEO and co-founder  
Root Insurance

"As we are looking to rapidly hire over the next few years, Root is very supportive of Gov. elect DeWine's proposal to increase investment in job training programs that give people the skills they need to compete for today's jobs. We also believe that investment in transportation will be key for the long-term growth of business in central Ohio. Our employees are increasingly looking for mass transportation solutions that can get them to and from work."

**Michael Corey '01** was profiled as the executive director of the Human Service Chamber of Franklin County in the February edition of Columbus CEO.



By MARY STERENBERG  
+ Photo by ROB HARDIN

Nonprofit

## Relationship Builder

Michael Corey is getting the Human Service Chamber "invited to every table."

**W**hen Michael Corey took over as executive director of the Human Service Chamber of Franklin County in 2017, he had very little professional experience with nonprofits. But his background in law combined with a passion for social justice and a knack for building relationships made him an attractive candidate.

He became the fifth director in the organization's eight years of existence, representing members such as the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, Children's Hunger Alliance, Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus and Catholic Social Services. Nearly two years later, the chamber's membership has grown from 48 member agencies to nearly 70.

"I had a lot of energy to drive this work, to be a cheerleader and a champion for all of these agencies and also to be a connector," he says. "I could



Michael Corey

### Human Service Chamber of Franklin County

1515 Indianola Ave., Columbus 43201  
[humanservicechamber.org](http://humanservicechamber.org)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:  
Michael Corey

EMPLOYEES: 1 full-time, 1 part-time

MISSION: To connect and support the nearly 70 human services organizations in central Ohio, giving them a unified voice at the local, state and federal levels

2018 BUDGET: \$128,000

not have crafted something out of the blue that fits my personality and my passions better than this job."

Corey has become a trusted partner to organizations including Columbus City Council, United Way of Central Ohio and the Columbus Foundation, says Rachel Lustig, CEO of Catholic Social Services and vice chairman of the Human Service Chamber's board of directors. "He's invited to every table," she says.

The Columbus Foundation provides funding for many chamber members, and Corey has been able to help organizations work together, says Dan Sharpe, vice president for community research and grants management at the foundation. "It's impressive to see how much forward momentum he has brought to the platform," he says.

The chamber was founded with the "noble but nebulous purpose" of

being one voice on behalf of the sector, Corey says, and he sees his role as amplifying the voice of central Ohio agencies.

The chamber provides benefits to members in five areas: government relations; fundraising advocacy and support; convening and collaborating; training, programs and services; and communicating and educating. The primary focus is on educating elected officials and their staffs in a way that is above partisan lines.

"They'll reach out to us now and say, 'We want to learn about this issue and maybe draft some legislation on it.' And I connect them quickly with our agencies," Corey says.

Corey sends member agencies legislative and political updates plus upcoming events, grants, staffing resources and even real estate opportunities.