

# ThisWeek COMMUNITY NEWS

## Sports

### Baseball: Solomon pursuing childhood dream

By **FRANK DIRENNA**

**THISWEEKSPORTS.COM**

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As Lee Solomon<sup>14</sup> neared the end of his senior season for the Lipscomb University baseball team, he pondered his future.

The 2014 Columbus Academy graduate had been accepted into the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State and was set to pursue a doctorate degree.

But on June 6, those plans were put on hold, as Solomon was selected by the San Diego Padres in the 25th round (741st overall) of the Major League Baseball draft, presenting him with an opportunity to fulfill his childhood dream.

“It’s a surreal moment, for sure,” said Solomon, a second baseman who graduated from Lipscomb -- located in Nashville, Tennessee -- with a bachelor’s degree in law, justice and society. “Everyone dreams of a day they can play professional sports, and to get that call is something special.”

On June 10, Solomon reported to the Padres’ minor league facility in Peoria, Arizona, where he planned to sign his first pro contract. The 21-year-old expects to begin playing at the rookie-ball level this summer.

“I want to play for as long as I can,” said Solomon, a native of Gahanna. “I want to be a great player. I’m willing to just grind and enjoy the process while I can. I’m excited about it. It’s going to be fun.”

This spring with Lipscomb, Solomon batted .286 with eight home runs, nine doubles, 25 RBI, a team-high 39 runs scored and 15 stolen bases in 37 starts despite missing nearly a month of the season with a left hand injury. He earned second-team All-Atlantic Sun Conference honors for the second time in his career.

The 30th player in Lipscomb history to be taken in the MLB draft, Solomon ranks second in program history in stolen bases (64), fourth in runs (135) and walks (88), fifth in on-base percentage (.414) and doubles (37), sixth in triples (6), seventh in RBI (102) and eighth in total bases (262).

“Lee is one of the finest young men that I have coached,” Lipscomb coach Jeff Forehand said. “He represents Lipscomb and everything about it. He is a dynamic player that will have a great professional career on and off the field.”

Solomon capped his career at Academy by being named MSL-Ohio Division Player of the Year and first-team all-district after helping the Vikings reach the Division III district final, where they lost to Fredericktown 3-0. As a senior for the Vikings, he hit .449 with 18 stolen bases, 16 RBI and three home runs.

“Lee is a natural leader,” said former Academy coach Jim Collis, who stepped down after Solomon’s senior year.

“It doesn’t surprise me that Lee made it to the level he is at. Always someone who others rallied around. Besides being a great kid, he’s a person that his teammates could always count on.”

“I will always have a love for Academy,” Solomon said. “They treat me well whenever I go back there and treated me well while I was there, so I always had to be a Viking.”

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## BASEBALL (/BASEBALL/)

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# San Diego Padres Select Solomon In 25th Round of 2018 MLB Draft

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

993

By Kirk Downs

**SAN DIEGO** – <sup>14</sup>Lee Solomon was selected No. 741 overall in the 25<sup>th</sup> round by the San Diego Padres Wednesday afternoon in the 2018 Major League Baseball Draft.

He becomes the 30<sup>th</sup> Bison in program history to have his named called.

The second baseman turned in an impressive senior campaign despite missing a month of the season due to a hand injury. In 37 starts he batted .286 with eight home runs, nine doubles, 25 RBI, 21 walks and a team high 39 runs and 15 stolen bases. For his efforts, Solomon earned second team All-ASUN Conference honors for the second time in his career.

In the classroom, he carried a 3.61 GPA and earned a degree in Law, Justice and Society. The former ASUN Baseball Scholar Athlete of the Year landed a spot on the All-Academic team in each of the last three seasons.

The Columbus, Ohio native caught fire down the stretch in 2018 registering multiple hits in four of his final eight contests. He only had five such outings in his previous 32 games. Also during that stretch, he hammered five home runs, including a pair of long balls against Jacksonville in the Bisons opening game of the ASUN Championship on May 23.

He finished his Purple and Gold career ranked inside the top 10 of multiple categories in the NCAA era, including stolen bases where his 64 swipes was just one behind Tyler Wilson for the most all-time. He was fourth in walks (88) and runs (135), fifth in on-base percentage (.414) and doubles (37), sixth in triples (6), seventh in RBI (102) and eighth in total bases (262).



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# Michael Corey <sup>'01</sup>

Executive director | Human Service  
Chamber of Franklin County

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Michael cares deeply about people. For over a decade, Michael has dedicated himself to providing leadership and service to our community. His service at the Children's Defense Fund in developing and implementing policies to give voice and support to children is well-documented. In his current role as the executive director of the Human Service Chamber, Michael has exhibited tremendous leadership in coordinating the public, private and nonprofit sectors of Franklin County in the provision of housing, education, healthcare and other support for members of our community. And for many years, Michael has been a volunteer and contributor to a number of civic and charitable organizations in our city. ... Michael loves Columbus. He has dedicated himself to the betterment of its residents. Columbus is a better place, especially for underserved citizens, because of Michael's leadership and involvement.

- R. GUY COLE JR., chief judge, U.S.  
Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals



## Pick one of your nonprofits and tell us, what led you to get involved? YWCA

Columbus: After my father passed away in 2005, my mother and I began a tradition of doing community service around Christmas in his memory. Every December for about 10 years, my mom and I have organized a group of my dad's closest friends and family to serve a meal at the YWCA Family Center. This is particularly special for me because, after my dad passed away, my mother worked at the YWCA for several years, and because one of my beloved mentors - Cindy Lazarus - served as the Y's CEO for a number of years, and brought the Family Center to life. The number of families at the center has grown commensurate with the need in this community. As long as that need persists, the YWCA and its wonderful new CEO, Christie Angel, will too - and so will we.

**If you were going to join a march in protest or support, what would it be over?** The best part of my role at the Human Service Chamber is that it is my job to protest or support a wide range of issues critical to our country and to our

**Twitter handle:** @MLCorey1982

**Hometown:** Columbus

### PHILANTHROPIC INVOLVEMENT:

- ▶ YMCA of Central Ohio
- ▶ Lower Lights Christian Health Center
- ▶ YWCA Columbus
- ▶ American Constitution Society
- ▶ Komen Columbus

community on any given day. If I had to choose one of particular importance to me, I would join a march in support of people, specifically those under unique pressures in 2018, people that our member agencies are serving diligently and urgently every day: refugees and immigrants, people of color, people in poverty, the LGBT community, women, children, those experiencing homelessness, those experiencing mental illness, those being bullied, those fighting addiction and anyone else in need.

**What job would you be terrible at?** I would be

a dreadful artist. I have infinite respect for those that have honed their skills as artists - especially those with a brush. I can't draw a proper stick figure or even sign my name in anything resembling legible English.

**What skill do you wish you had?** I wish I could wave my hand and eradicate poverty and heartache. Absent that someday becoming a practical skill, I wish I were a gifted artist: The power that art has to bring us together, to help us heal, to help us learn, whether through music or painting or drawing or photography - it's remarkable. We need good art and artists as much as ever, and I'm eager to support and admire them, since I can never be among their ranks.

**What is a product or service you love so much that you'd happily be that company's spokesperson?** I'd be a spokesperson for the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless. I am biased, because my wife is a member of the coalition and I get to learn with frequency about the breadth and depth of their work on behalf of men and women and children in need.

# Dan Crane <sup>'02</sup> 34

Senior financial director  
| Crane Group



**Hometown:** Bexley

**PHILANTHROPIC INVOLVEMENT:**

- ▶ United Way of Central Ohio
- ▶ Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Franklin County
- ▶ CelebrateOne



**Pick one of your nonprofits and tell us, what led you to get involved?**

I think it is really inspiring to be a part of such a large and impactful organization like the United Way of Central Ohio. Bringing together a diverse set of volunteers and donors to support a broad range of important initiatives and organizations can have a huge impact on the members of our community that need it the most. It's also a very exciting time to be a part of United Way as we work to position the organization for success in the future by embracing technology and adapting to the changing landscape of workplace giving.

**What is one thing you love about Central Ohio, and one thing that can be improved?**

Central Ohio is a very welcoming and collaborative community, and people in Columbus want to see each other succeed. This environment creates opportunity for a broad range of people to have an impact and achieve great things. However, these opportunities are not as widely available as they should be, and we have work to do to reduce the disparities that exist across our community. One specific area that we can and should improve is to reduce the infant mortality rate in Central Ohio, and there are wonderful organizations like CelebrateOne, Moms2B and Bottoms Up Coffee that are working hard to do just that.

**If you were going to join a march in protest or support, what would it be over?** Support for affordable housing and inclusive growth. We're very fortunate to be experiencing the level of growth that we are in Central Ohio and it is important that we support that growth in a way that allows for its benefits to be shared broadly.

**What job would you be terrible at?** Television host. I think the pressure of being entertaining and gregarious on camera would not fit with my somewhat introverted personality. I swear I'm a fun person in real life, I'm just not sure I could play one on TV.

**What skill do you wish you had?** Ice skating/playing hockey. I've become a huge Blue Jackets fan, but I never really learned to skate growing up.

**What is a product or service you love so much that you'd happily be that company's spokesperson?** Blue Diamond Wasabi Almonds. These are constantly stocked in our pantry at home and I would gladly attest to their perfect balance of spicy and salty flavor.

**Can you tell us about a pet you've had, current or past?** We had a beagle named Honey growing up. She was a lot of fun and loved chasing squirrels. I can remember her bark very well and I'm sure our neighbors can, too.

**What's the top place on your vacation bucket list?** Vietnam. My sister-in-law's family is from Vietnam and I've never been anywhere in Asia before.

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Daniel is a dedicated leader, supporter and champion of the CASA of Franklin County mission. He was an active and engaged member of the board of trustees from 2012 to 2017, serving as board president the last two of those years. He worked very hard as a fundraiser and always looked for ways to raise CASA's visibility in the community. ... Daniel was a board member that we could always count on to go the extra mile for any cause that our organization needed. His common sense approach to issues was always welcomed and appreciated. As the executive director of a nonprofit organization that advocates for the most vulnerable in our community, children who have been abused or neglected, I can personally attest to Daniel's extraordinary professionalism and passion for serving these children.

— KATHY KERR, executive director, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Franklin County

# The Columbus Dispatch

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## Theodore Decker: Columbus man becomes reality TV star in Belarus

By Theodore Decker

The Columbus Dispatch

Posted Jun 10, 2018 at 5:30 AM

Updated Jun 10, 2018 at 12:44 PM

If all goes as scheduled, Bob Eckhart<sup>187</sup> of Clintonville will become a reality TV star later today.

In Minsk.

Which is fine by him. He loves the place, even if as recently as a year ago he knew as much as most Americans do about the capital city of the eastern European nation of Belarus, which is next to nothing.

Before he learned last fall that he would spend four months in Minsk as a Fulbright scholar, Eckhart knew the city only as a running joke in the sitcom "Seinfeld," which consistently referenced a fake film titled, "Rochelle, Rochelle: A Young Girl's Strange Erotic Journey from Milan to Minsk."

And he knew that Phoebe, a character on the sitcom "Friends," broke up with her scientist boyfriend, David, because research was taking him to Minsk. The implication being that Minsk might as well be Siberia.

"Those are the two ways you have heard of Minsk in popular culture," Eckhart said.

Now he knows better.

Today on Belsat TV, Eckhart, 48, will be the first featured foreigner in a documentary series titled, "Welcome to Belarus."

The idea of Belarusian documentary filmmakers Katsyaryna Markavets and Maxim Shved, "Welcome to Belarus" hopes to show Belarusians their country through the eyes of foreigners. In the process, they wrote on the network's website, "we may see our country in a different light."

Eckhart's background is in cross-cultural communication and English as a Second Language. He had been at Ohio State University as a student, staff or faculty member from 1993 through 2015 but now works as a consultant on U.S. State Department grants to OSU's Global Gateways program.

Most of his career has been tied to Asia, and he sought a Fulbright scholarship to Estonia to broaden his experience.

That fell through, but Fulbright offered him a scholarship to instruct teachers at Minsk State Linguistic University in Belarus, which is sandwiched between Poland and Russia with Lithuania and Latvia to its north and northwest. He arrived in Minsk in the depths of the Belarusian winter and rented a flat behind the National Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theater.

And then, "I fell deeply and madly in love with Minsk and didn't want to leave," he said. "What a place."

The city of 2 million people is immaculate, orderly and beautifully designed.

"I don't think I heard a car horn until I'd been there about six weeks," he said.

The city and its culture left him breathless. Once or twice a week he would attend the ballet or opera, where a balcony seat cost a couple of bucks. He became so enthralled with the theater that he proposed there to his now-wife, who had unwittingly brought her own engagement ring with her during a visit from Columbus. Eckhart's mother had hidden it in a container of Parmesan cheese.

One of Eckhart's teacher-students connected him with the documentary filmmakers. Eckhart, an avid cyclist who in 2009 cycled from Ireland to Istanbul, had been planning a ride to a museum village outside Minsk. The filmmakers tagged along, summarizing the experience on their website in these words:

"In the first episode, U.S. citizen Bob decided to go on a bicycle to Dudutki museum which is 45 km (27.9 miles) off Minsk. The authors doubted he would be able to reach it. While Katsyaryna and Maxim were going to Dudutki by car, he was riding along a bicycle route. And they did not even manage to catch him up!"

The highlight came when a cafeteria worker at the living history village, who served Eckhart his salad, invited him and the filmmakers to her nearby home, where Eckhart discovered that she still lived much as the museum depicted.

“Basically, she is still living a folk life,” he said.

Her initially reserved but ultimately welcoming personality was shared by many Belarusians, Eckhart said. They sometimes seem unsure how post-Soviet Belarus fits in Europe and is seen by the world.

“They think it’s beautiful, but they’re not sure and they’re trying to get confirmation through the eyes of foreigners,” Eckhart said.

He hopes his television debut communicates to Belarusians how they and their country changed his life. And he’d love to reprise his role.

“My plan is to go back, to help them see how wonderful their country is.”

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[@Theodore\\_Decker](#)

## <sup>14</sup> Katherine P. Restrepo Named to Colby's Highly Selective Dean's List

20h

Katherine P. Restrepo of Columbus was recently named to the highly selective Dean's List at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2017-18 academic year. Restrepo is one of 438 Colby students-or 23 percent of the qualified student body-to qualify for the Dean's List last semester.

Restrepo, a member of the Class of 2018, attended Columbus Academy and is the daughter of Robert and Mary Restrepo of Columbus, Ohio. Restrepo earned a semester grade point average of 3.75 or higher last fall to be included on Colby's highly selective Dean's List. She majored in American studies and art history.



# PUCO chief on how new technology will benefit Ohio energy consumers, plus regulating the 'clean energy revolution'

🔑 SUBSCRIBER CONTENT: Jun 14, 2018, 7:07am EDT

The coming changes to the energy industry in Ohio mean more information and interaction between consumers and their utilities, said the chairman of the state's regulating commission.

In a podcast with the [Ohio Farm Bureau Federation](#), Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Chairman Asim Haque<sup>198</sup> discussed the group's [ongoing review of how to best modernize the state's power grid](#), citing the growing connectivity that means consumers will inevitably demand more information from their power companies.



PUCO commissioner Asim Haque became chairman in May 2016.

"What the PUCO has to do is create an environment that allows this innovation to be deployed to customers," he said. "There will be the grid that (utilities) will continue to own and operate, and investment made to get to a point where innovation can be deployed."

PUCO's PowerForward project is studying technology that will change Ohio's energy industry and the regulations needed to manage it. He likened this new technology to the deployment of the internet and how the Federal Communications Commission has had to evolve policies around it.

"We're expressing the governmental will to allow innovation to be deployed to customers," Haque said.

Samuel Randazzo, general counsel for Industrial Energy users of Ohio, said in the podcast there are "non-traditional" methods promoting this already, like smart thermostats. Some rural electric cooperatives in the state notify customers of "peak alerts" for when energy usage will be highest, and use meters that consumers can read directly to gauge and control their own energy use.

"There are things here we need to be thinking different rather than throwing more money into more meters and distribution systems," Randazzo said.

Dale Arnold, who manages energy programs at Ohio Farm Bureau, said there needs to be education for businesses, as more digital technology emerges over six to seven years that helps farmers (and other industries) save money and cut energy costs.

"Next to labor, energy and electricity in the form of fuel is their largest single input," said Arnold. "They want to be able to have a number of rules and regulations in place ... to help them control that and give them better decision making."

PUCO has had to adapt its rule-making to the rapid advances in the energy industry, in particular as companies embrace renewable energy. A group of business advocates [recently called for a stronger strategy to promote efficient and renewable energy](#), saying Ohio could see \$25 billion in new investments.

"The clean energy revolution has been a real disruptor to typical energy regulation we've seen over decades," Haque said. "When you think about the concepts of affordable and reliable, clean energy — while undoubtedly has its merits — doesn't sometimes fit neatly into the policy rubric of the PUCO."

Clean energy can at times be more expensive and less reliable than traditional energy generation, and it's difficult to figure out how to incorporate that into policy on energy. Still, concerns about energy security has been "politicized" in the past few years, especially as it relates to the competitiveness of coal and nuclear, Haque said.

"(Renewable energy) is here to stay and we have to figure out how to incorporate it into our policy," Haque said.

Haque said energy industry is watching policy on the federal level too, especially as it relates to coal and nuclear plants struggling to compete with cheaper natural energy prices. Cybersecurity is a "constantly moving target" but the right measures are being taken, he said.

## Columbus Academy graduating class to hear from longtime teacher, coach

By MARLA K. KUHLMAN  
THISWEEKNEWS.COM

Posted Jun 5, 2018 at 6:05 PM

Updated at 11:21 AM

Columbus Academy's class of 2018 will celebrate graduation with the school's longest-serving teacher, John Exline, who will serve as commencement speaker.

The ceremony will take place at the school beginning at 9 a.m. June 7, when it will honor 95 seniors from all over central Ohio.

Members of the class have been accepted to 60 colleges and universities in 23 states.

"Our graduating class is comprised of many outstandingly accomplished students, but collectively is marked by a profound streak of kindness," said Melissa Soderberg, Columbus Academy's head of school.

"For example, they collected enough funds to provide a beloved teacher with his bucket-list item -- tickets to an Army-Navy football game. Fittingly unselfish for the class of 2018, the surprise presentation came on a day designed for the seniors to be celebrated," she said.

According to information from Columbus Academy, Exline, the school's longest-serving teacher and coach, joined the academy's faculty in 1968, shortly after his graduation from the University of Notre Dame.

Since then, he has taught history, economics, physical education, public speaking and geography/civics.

In addition, Exline has held the positions of athletic director, middle school head, summer program director, SAT prep director/instructor, financial aid administrator and even ground maintenance tech, when he cut the school's grass during two summers in the early 1970s. He also has coached at least one sport in each of his 50 years at the school, including basketball, baseball, football and tennis.

"It is an honor to have the opportunity to speak at the commencement," Exline said. "I have had a wonderful 50 years as a teacher, coach and administrator, as well as a great four years as a student."

He said his first year of teaching was Columbus Academy's first year at the Gahanna campus.

"It has been a joy participating in the growth and development of the school," Exline said. "I look forward to a few more years. It keeps me young!"

Soderberg, who has led Columbus Academy since 2013, said Exline's impact is broad in terms of the culture of the school.

"Quite a few of his students are the sons and daughters of former pupils, so he is truly shaping our generations," she said.

For the past five years, Exline has held the honorary position of Rainey S. Taylor History Chair.

He and his wife of 41 years, Ann, live in Gahanna. They have four adult children: <sup>'97</sup> Adam, Elizabeth, Katherine and <sup>'04</sup> Andrew.

Their sons graduated from Columbus Academy, and Elizabeth has been a teacher in Academy's Lower School since 2011.

Student speakers at commencement will be senior class president Georgia Tuckerman, who will welcome guests to the ceremony, and Andrew William Cary Cup recipient Lexis Hughes, who was chosen by classmates and the faculty to deliver the 2018 valedictory address.

Tuckerman received this year's Hamill Award, which is presented to the senior who has demonstrated positive leadership combined with a high degree of excellence in academics and school activities and has consistently upheld the honor of the school.

# A Bridge To Brilliance

Steve Croyle

([Http://614columbus.com/Author/SteveCroyle/](http://614columbus.com/Author/SteveCroyle/)) / Jun 18,  
2018

## Back before Columbus craft beer exploded, Gordon Biersch was the city's test tank for a new era of brewers.

Gordon Biersch is unfairly overlooked in most craft beer discussions. This is largely because the “chain” concept flies in the face of craft beer. The ideal craft brewer is fiercely independent, carefully brewing beers that they can take pride in while satisfying the demands of a thirsty public.

In a lot of ways, a truly outstanding craft brewer has to be a counterintuitive businessperson. Where most businesses, like Gordon Biersch, are relentlessly driven by the goal of increasing revenue without shrinking net margins, a craft brewer will squeeze that margin in hopes of bringing forth a beer that truly stands out in a crowded market space.

It's time for GB to get its due.

There was a time when Gordon Biersch was exciting.

That would be when it first opened in the sparkling new Arena District. Back in 2001, Barley's and Barley's Smokehouse were the only brewpubs in town. Columbus Brewing Company was there, but the quality of the

product was suffering and there was always a strange, if not strained relationship between the brewery and the eponymous, yet technically unaffiliated, restaurant. Elevator was in the market, but brewing out of Marysville. They purchased the old Clock restaurant, providing a local suds-slinging stronghold in March of 2000.

If we're being honest, Gordon Biersch brought precision to Columbus. Barley's and the Smokehouse brewed small batches and offered a wide variety of beers, many of which were brewed but once. GB was all about those German lagers. The selection didn't change, so things had to be consistent. This, of course was in the early days of craft brewing and if you were taking bets on which brewing model would be most successful, you would have bet on lagers, simply because it's not as hard to convert people to them.

Gordon Biersch hired a highly qualified brewer to run the show here in Columbus: Eric Bean. Yes, the very same Eric Bean who presides over Columbus Brewing Company. The very same Columbus Brewing Company that was bobbing helplessly in the doldrums of mediocrity when Gordon Biersch first opened.

Bean is a super geek who admits to reading science books for fun. After completing undergraduate work in Biological Anthropology, he enrolled in the Masters of Brewing Science Program at UC Davis. After that he worked at several different breweries in the Northwest and Cleveland before taking the job at Gordon Biersch in Columbus. Despite his pedigree, Bean went through a rigorous training program prior to starting work here in town.

He jokes about wondering if he's even allowed in the building these days, but after reintroducing himself (with his trucker hat and long beard, Bean looks more like

someone slinging merch from the back of a station wagon outside a Slayer show) to a regional manager who happened to be around during his tenure, it's clear that he's held in high esteem.

Bean directed the buildout of the brewhouse, and the efficiency of the layout seems universally appreciated by his successors. Even Matt Crema, the fifth and current brewer, seems to notice an intuitive flow to the process.

"I brewed four beers, and only four beers," Bean joked. "Red, Yellow, Brown and Seasonal."

Early on, Gordon Biersch did look for a certain visual aesthetic in their beers, as a lot of beer drinkers, particularly those who hadn't already been converted to craft, had a tendency to let color be their guide. Gordon Biersch probably missed an opportunity to provide a little more education, and explain that the color of a beer

actually doesn't mean that much in terms of flavor, but they were not trying to avoid the cerebral approach most craft brewers had to take in their tap rooms in order to overcome trepidation.

Bean was integral in helping Gordon Biersch work out some issues with their early recipes. They had a large production facility out West, and the recipes were all formulated on that system. The brewers at the individual facilities were responsible for brewing those same beers to the quality assurance standards prescribed at the corporate brewery.

This was not a matter of the local brewers cranking out beer from extracts. Bean had to run the brewhouse as if it was his own, which meant ordering grain, hops, and yeast, and brewing from scratch. "We just couldn't hit those numbers," he said of the corporate standards. "So we had to adjust the recipes for the smaller systems."

Beer is a tricky business. If you're trying to bake cookies, and you need to increase or decrease the volume, it's simple math. Beer math tends to act like it's drunk. If you're brewing 20 barrels of beer as opposed to 40, you don't simply divide by two. That's the challenge Bean and some other brewers faced, but even when they dialed those recipes in, meeting those standards from corporate kept him up at night.

"Quality control was a big deal for them, but I got it. They had to have consistency across the brand."

After a few years, Bean began formulating a business plan to open a brew pub. Then an opportunity to take over Columbus Brewing Company presented itself and the rest is history. He spent most of 2005 working at both places, trying to get CBC's house in order. Chris Altmont, a friend of Eric's from Cleveland, took over as the GB head brewer when he left. Chris later left GB and moved back to the Cleveland Area as Chief of Brewing Operations for Fatheads.

Keith Jackson was the one who took over for Altmont. He studied geology at Ohio University and had a good job, but it was in an office and Jackson had more of a field position in mind when he took that career path. He decided he wanted to be a brewer.

"I just kept bothering Eric, and eventually he hired me," Keith said of his first job at Columbus Brewing Company.

Jackson worked his way up the ranks at CBC, and when Bean heard that Gordon Biersch was looking for another brewer, he told him to go for it.

"He told me it was great opportunity to move forward in this business," Jackson said.

By the time Jackson showed up at GB in 2012, the four-week training program had been reduced to shadowing

Altmont for a couple weeks—and now, he had the ability to brew his own beers. But there was another stark difference in 2012, too: GB realized that it wasn't a major player in the craft beer market. People just weren't connecting with them, despite a lot of effort on the part of GB to be involved.

So, something shifted. And in the years since, GB has become much more of an assist man in the local scene than just competition. They participate in local craft beer events, and their brewers become very engaged in the local craft beer scenes. Gordon Biersch will help other brewers if they're short on yeast or specialty grains. They are not insular, but there's just a perception that tends to hold them back.

Crema, the current GB Brewer in Columbus, thinks that part of it is that GB is still afraid to embrace certain modern craft beer traditions, like giving beers off-the-wall names.

"I'd love to give my IPA a name that connects locally, but my boss just wants me to call it an IPA," he explained.

Jackson found it difficult to be as creative as he would have liked because there were strict budget limitations with regard to acquiring certain ingredients, but he admits that playing by those rules helped him grow as a brewer.

"You're responsible for that brewhouse," he said. "If you run out of beer, or you don't sell a beer, it's on you."

The other brewers agree. It's a challenge, especially in Columbus. Crema faced a dilemma with the Blue Jackets making the playoffs this year. How many people would come in each night? Moreover, how deep were the Jackets going? It takes several weeks to brew a beer, so if you're not thinking about this well in advance, you're

screwed.

*Dan Griffin '07*  
Griffin, who took over the brewery after Jackson left in 2016 mentioned that there are nights where you can watch the serving tanks drain almost as if there was a leak.

Jackson's experience at GB put opening a brewery on the radar. Prior to that he'd never really given it a lot of thought, but having to manage all of the aspects of running a brewer at GB made it a realistic possibility. Things came together in 2016, and he left in July of that year to open Combustion in Pickerington.

"That was not my plan at first, but it's really working out," he said.

Griffin's opportunity couldn't have been more perfectly timed. He had the feeling he'd worn out his welcome at Long Trail, after interviewing for a job at Boston Beer Company. GB offered a good salary, benefits, and an opportunity to move back home. He earned a degree in product design and development at Eastern Michigan University, and found himself bored as hell working at Honda. So, he went to Heriot Watt University in Scotland

and earned his Masters of Brewing Science. Like Eric, he's also a third degree science geek, and when the two of them talk shop, the conversation quickly rises above most people's ability to comprehend it. Griffin didn't really plan on opening a brewery either, but a family friend pitched him an idea and he left Gordon Biersch earlier this year to start work on Outerbelt Brewing Company, which should open in the Lancaster area before the end of the year.

Crema grew up in the Chicago area, and jumped at the opportunity to take over as the brewer at the Columbus location. It seemed like a smart career move, but Matt's quickly realized that Columbus is probably going to be home for a long time.

"I really love this city," he said. "It's so accessible."

Matt started out as a paramedic, and decided after a few years he wanted to be a brewer. He took a job at Rock Bottom, who acquired GB a few years ago. He started waiting tables and begging to get some time in the brewery.

"I took a few classes at Seibel Institute in Chicago," he said. "But it was pretty basic, nothing like the detail these guys went into."

As his predecessors sample his beers it's clear that Matt's learned the ropes, and has a handle on how to run the brewery. The beers are on point, but he's the newbie here, and when these other guys talk, he's content to drink it all in.

“This is amazing,” he said. “These guys know so much, it’s just awesome to sit back and listen.”

Each one of these brewers has his own story, and a different background. They all share a passion for brewing, and it’s obvious that they all have an appreciation for Gordon Biersch and how their experience here at this now venerable brewhouse helped them become better brewers and develop a stronger understanding for the business.

It wasn’t just a stepping stone on a resume, but a bridge to their futures.

It’s strange that a brewery that can’t seem to emerge from the shadows of the growing craft beer industry has had such a powerful impact on it.



## Mark Smith '45



Smith, Mark

Dr. Mark Weldon Smith, 90, of Columbus, Ohio, passed away on May 16, 2018. Mark attended Columbus Academy and [Princeton University](#), and earned his BA, MA, and PhD from The [Ohio State University](#). Mark served as Dean of Men and Professor of Psychology at Denison University in Granville OH from 1953 to 1971. After leaving Denison, Mark continued to serve as a leading figure in the field of student affairs, including serving as the Dean of Students and Professor of Psychology at Union College in Schenectady, NY and at Eckerd College in St Petersburg, FL. He also served as the 1969-1970 president of National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, the leading association for the advancement of the student affairs profession, and co-authored a book titled Pieces of Eight. Dr. Adam Weinberg, President of Denison University said about Mark: "he was respected and admired by a wide range of students, who stayed in contact with him over the years. He even had a "Kitchen Cabinet" of former students who continued to meet in his home in Columbus. I have heard countless remarkable stories about Mark's Psychology classes, the freshman orientation speech, and his presence on campus. He cared about and connected with his students, often shaping their Denison experience in ways that had a tremendous impact on the rest of their lives." Mark was a leading advocate for student self-governance, delegating responsibility with trust and accountability. After his retirement from academia, Mark pursued the music that was so important to his students and became a Rock and Roll historian. He created his "Rock Scroll", an original hand drawn 275-foot long graphic history of Rock and Roll. He played football and basketball at Princeton and continued his love of sports throughout his life. Preceded in death by parents Harrison Wilson Smith and Ann Savage Smith, brothers Harrison Smith and Peter Smith, and son Mark Savage Smith. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Nancy Johnson Smith; son, Wilson Woods Smith, daughter-in-law, Rachel Smith, and granddaughters, Alice, Katherine, Ella, Aubrey and Emelia Smith. Also daughter, Dana Driscoll; daughter-in-law, Cherry Smith; granddaughters, Alexandria and Olivia Smith; and two great grandchildren. Interment will be at Captiva Chapel by the Sea on Captiva Island, FL. If desired, anyone who wishes to honor Mark may send a donation in his name to Office of the President, Denison University, 100 West College St, Granville, OH 43023. Donations may also be made to the Mark Smith Annual Scholarship at Eckerd College at [eckerd.edu/marksmith](http://eckerd.edu/marksmith).

## Carl Johnson(1942 - 2018) '61

Johnson, Carl

1942 - 2018

Carl Johnson, passed peacefully on June 20, 2018, at St. Ann's Hospital in Westerville. He was 75. Carl was well-known for his humor, quick wit and charming charisma. He had the gift of gab and used it well. He valued family above all else, and is survived by his wife, Marcia; daughter, Andrea; son, Drew, and four adoring grandchildren. Friends and family are invited to celebrate Carl's life on June 22 from 4-7pm at Hill Funeral Home in Westerville. Memorial donations may be made to the American Lung Association.

### **Funeral Home**

#### **Hill Funeral Home**

220 South State Street Westerville, OH 43081

(614) 882-2121

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