

This is America's oldest running black-owned business
By Parija Kavilanz, CNN Business
Photographs by Maddie McGarvey for CNN
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Over the past 138 years, a small business in Columbus, Ohio, has persevered through the Great Depression, two World Wars, the Great Recession and 25 presidents.

But E.E. Ward Moving & Storage's crowning achievement is that it has remained the oldest continuously operating black-owned business in the United States, a distinction recognized by the Department of Commerce and mentioned in the Congressional Record.

The company, which started off with just two horses and a wagon, has endured and evolved over the decades. Today, E.E. Ward operates a fleet of about a dozen long haul trucks and two warehouses in Columbus and Charlotte, North Carolina. It is also an agent for the moving company North American Van Lines

"From the early days of E.E. Ward's ownership and management to now, the long legacy of the company and the goodwill it has created within the community is what has sustained it for this long and warranted it to be kept alive," said **Brian Brooks '87**, who now co-owns the company with his wife Dominique.

Two horses and a wagon

E.E. Ward's legacy traces back to the 1840s, when John T. Ward served as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. He used his horses and wagon to help slaves escape to freedom through a network of hiding places and safe houses.

During the Civil War, Ward scored government contracts to haul supplies and equipment for the US Army. His son, William Ward, eventually took an interest in the business and learned the ropes. In 1881, the two launched the Ward Transfer Line. In 1899, after the company added storage to their offerings, they renamed it the E.E. Ward Transfer and Storage Company, after Edgar Earl Ward, John T. Ward's grandson who was running the business by then.

The business started using motor vehicles in the early 1900s, phasing out their last horse-powered moving team in 1921. By 1925 it had expanded to more commercial clients, including Steinway Piano Company, for which it transported nearly 900,000 pianos.

William's grandson, Eldon Ward, joined the family business in 1945. He would become the last Ward family member to own the company.

"Eldon was a stalwart of the community. He was on many boards of local organizations in Columbus and was active in charity work," said Jerry Saunders, 65, a Columbus native and CEO of Africentric Personal Development Shop, a substance abuse treatment and domestic violence education center.

The local branch of the YMCA, where Eldon used to swim at 6 a.m. each morning, even bears his name, noted Saunders.

Maintaining a legacy

When Eldon decided to retire to Phoenix in 1996 there was no succession plan in place and he did not have any children of his own.

"His niece was managing the business after him, but was thinking about selling it or closing it altogether," says Brooks, who is now the company's current president.

He started his first business at 20. Now he runs a \$300 million water park empire

Brooks' father was an attorney for E.E. Ward for 20 years. His parents were so close to the Wards that Eldon was Brooks' godfather. So when it appeared the business was going to leave the Ward family's hands, Brooks' mother pleaded with her son to help keep the E.E. Ward legacy alive.

He was already helping out with his family's real estate business and pursuing an MBA at Franklin University in Columbus, but Brooks started doing some research anyway.

"Frankly, I didn't know that industry. So I hired a business consultant to do due diligence," said Brooks, who is now 49. "But I felt strongly about the long legacy of the business and I wanted to keep that alive."

He ended up buying the firm with a business partner, Otto Beatty, in April 2001 for an undisclosed amount.

A new type of family business

When Brooks and Beatty took over, the company's offices were in a small building in downtown Columbus. At the time, E.E. Ward employed two office personnel, a total of five movers and drivers, four trucks and four trailers and was generating about \$300,000 in annual sales.

Brooks initially struggled to get his bearings. "From day one there was a learning curve. The moving industry is complex, with many regulations you have to learn about," he said. Plus, the business itself was stuck in a different era.

"It was all run manually with old dial phones," he recalled. "We had to modernize the technology, establish banking relationships, hire a payroll company because even this function was handled by the family."

"We worked quickly to get ads in the Yellow Pages and in trade magazines and we sent fliers and postcards to realtors," he said.

Today, the company is profitable and generates more than \$5 million in sales annually, he says. It has 50 full-time workers and, during peak season, it often brings on another 20 temp workers.

"I can certainly say we have taken E.E. Ward a lot further in the last 18 years."

Beatty left the business in 2014 to pursue other interests. Brooks now manages the operations with his wife Dominique, who handles the firm's branding and marketing.

The couple has made it a point to honor the Ward family's commitment to social good. Dominique also oversees philanthropic initiatives, including the Laps for Learning annual fundraiser at the local YMCA,

which E.E. Ward co-sponsors with other businesses. The event raises money to send children from underprivileged areas to swimming lessons and classes about water safety.

E.E. Ward has served as a second home to workers like Jerome Davis. He's 60 and has worked there for half his life, helping to pack and load cargo.

Davis plans to stay on at the company indefinitely. "I move people. It's what I do and I am good at it," he said. Although getting used to the new way of doing things was a big change for him, Davis has embraced it. "You can always learn something new," he said.

But mostly, he said he's grateful that Brookses have stayed true to the culture Eldon Ward fostered at the company. "We want to see this company through the next 100 years," said Dominique.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/04/success/ee-ward-black-owned-business/index.html>

At the National Zoo, a dentist had a tiger by the tooth

By Ian Shapira

February 9

The Washington Post

Nikita, a 308-pound Amur tiger, was blissfully gassed out on a gurney at the National Zoo. On Saturday morning, as the orange, black and white feline lay on her side, her tongue dangling out, some 15 zoo staffers fearlessly hovered. They opened her mouth, checked her heart rate, and, crucially, monitored for the slightest signs of muscle twitches and the long-shot chance that she'd suddenly wake.

Everyone knew the stakes. It would be bad, very bad, if Nikita woke up in this moment, in this very small room. The 6-year-old was getting a root canal.

Then, **Barron Hall '85**, a Northern Virginia-based, board-certified animal dentist, did what no other sane human would do to a sleeping tiger. He jammed a needle into her upper left canine tooth. Near the top. Near the gums. He kept doing this. Over and over.

But this was his job — digging a hole, irrigating the tooth's precious insides, and restoring it — and he's one of animal dentistry's best. (He has worked on Secret Service dogs and more than 50 tigers.) And Nikita deserved the best. She's part of the Amur tiger subspecies, an endangered population that lives mostly near the Amur River in Siberia. Poaching and habitat loss have reduced their numbers dangerously. As few as 360 are left, according to the National Zoo, but conservation efforts in Russia promoted by President Vladimir Putin have helped slow down the decline.

Fear not, Nikita does not hail from an Internet troll farm. And she's no spy.

Hopefully, she's a breeder.

Nikita was born at the Bronx Zoo in New York in 2012 and came to Washington in November 2018 so she could commune with the National Zoo's other Amur tiger, an 11-year-old named Pavel. He arrived at

the National Zoo in the fall of 2017 from Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. For the National Zoo, Pavel was a huge prize: He was the first of his endangered subspecies to be exhibited here since 1948.

The zoo's wish is that Nikita and Pavel produce at least one litter.

"With the cats, however many they have is awesome," said Craig Saffoe, the zoo's curator of the Great Cats. "We'd love to get a breeding at bare minimum."

But before Nikita and Pavel could begin their courtship, she needed that root canal.

As Hall, the dentist, began the procedure Saturday morning, he explained the root problem. Since Nikita fractured the crown of her tooth at some point in the past several months, bacteria had wormed their way into the tooth's exposed cavity — the "pulp" — which contains blood vessels and nerves.

Without medical intervention, the bacteria would continue festering. The pus and necrotic tissue, left to stay, would put Nikita in endless pain. "She would suffer in silence. That's what most animals do," Hall said. "As long as they eat and wag their tail, people think, 'Oh, they're fine.' We're the only species that gets rewarded for whining and complaining, so that's why our teeth get addressed."

Then Hall got out his needles. Technically, they're known as "files." They're made of stainless steel and look exactly like the kind of instruments no human would want to see poised above their mouth without being under anesthesia.

"I'm just accessing the pulp cavity," Hall said nonchalantly, shortly after he started jamming one file after the other into the enamel of Nikita's tooth. He needed to drill a hole so he could extract the bacteria and dead tissue from the pulp.

"We need to get things opened up, so we can work our way down," he said. "We have no idea how long this has been exposed for. But we need to get in there and clean it all out and sterilize it and fill it back in [with a rubber-based material] so the dead space is solid."

Was he scared about the whole jabbing-a-tiger-in-the-tooth thing?

"I'm not concerned," he said. "I've done this long enough. I am more concerned about her not waking up than her doing any type of damage to me."

Hall, who has served as the National Zoo's animal dentist for the past 12 years, seemed to delight in his job. Toward the end of the procedure, he dug his file into the tooth and pulled it out to show off what he'd excavated.

"Oh, look! Look!" he said, pointing at some gray, stinky, lint-like material stuck to the file "That's necrotic pulp! This is so cool."

Finally, the drilling, the jamming, the digging, it was all over, mercifully. He'd cleaned her tooth out and filled it in. Cosmetically, Nikita looked brand new. The zoo's staff hoisted her off the gurney and placed her into an adjacent fenced-in enclosure, Cage No. 7.

Soon, she'll be in heat or "estrus," according to Great Cats keeper Dell Guglielmo. And she'll be curious about her fellow Amur tiger, Pavel.

"Hopefully," Guglielmo said, "Nikita won't ever bare her teeth at him."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/at-the-national-zoo-a-dentist-had-a-tiger-by-the-tooth/2019/02/09/0cfd2444-2c85-11e9-984d-9b8fba003e81_story.html

John McCoy '61 would do it all over again – reflecting on a career at Bank One

By Doug Buchanan – Editor in chief

Columbus Business First

Feb 19, 2019, 6:00am EST Updated Feb 19, 2019, 7:45am EST

"Hindsight is a wonderful thing."

Those words rarely ring truer than when spoken by John B. McCoy, the former CEO of Bank One Corp., who built on the successes of his father and grandfather to grow the Columbus-based bank into one of the most acquisitive and innovative companies in America, only to see that history snatched away in a bit of high-profile corporate infighting.

McCoy, 75, reclaims his family's legacy of innovation in *Here's the Deal*, a book co-written with journalist Jeff Sheban that recounts how the McCoys brought a spirit of being young, scrappy and hungry to several decades of growing a bank from a distant third place in a college town with just three banks into a nationwide powerhouse.

The book details how John H. McCoy and John G. McCoy laid the groundwork for what became Bank One by being open to new ideas and new approaches that traditional bankers wouldn't dare adopt. They even had the wacky comedienne Phyllis Diller as their spokesperson for a time.

John B. McCoy took that foundation to new heights with a seemingly never-ending series of ever-larger acquisitions, eventually totaling more than 100. That included a \$7.3 billion deal in 1997 for First USA, then the nation's third-largest credit card issuer. It would prove to be McCoy's Achilles heel. (Although the deal remains, along with many other things, something Jamie Dimon is no doubt thankful for.)

Of course, Bank One's history in Columbus had its most-significant moment in 1998, when on April 13 of that year, McCoy stepped the podium at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York and announced the \$29 billion merger of equals with First Chicago NBD, a deal that included moving the corporate headquarters out of Columbus to Chicago.

Anyone who was paying attention at the time knows what happened next – infighting, pettiness, board dysfunction. It was a mess, with problems at the First USA credit card business becoming the cudgel that First Chicago's parochial team used to batter the interloper McCoy into retiring.

Does he have regrets about that deal?

"Hindsight is a wonderful thing," McCoy said, but he prefers to focus on the legacy of the bank his family built. That includes becoming one of Central Ohio's largest private employers, with more than 18,000 local employees, far more than when the First Chicago deal was announced.

In fact, he said he would do both the First USA and First Chicago deals again – he'd just be sure the management team at both was better so problems would have been dealt with more effectively.

"It was the right transaction to make," he said of the First Chicago deal specifically and the decision to move the headquarters. "We saw that it made sense to be in Chicago if we were going to be a national entity."

These days, McCoy, 75, is "winding down" into full retirement after stepping down from the boards of AT&T and the PGA Tour, although he still remains active on the board of a private equity firm and with a bank in Charleston, S.C.

"So when I think about my career, I judge it less by what has become of John B. McCoy than what has become of Bank One – rising from a weak No. 3 in Ohio's capital city with Phyllis Diller hawking business, to being an integral part of the nation's largest and most profitable bank," McCoy wrote in the final pages of the book. "The hard work of three generations of McCoys has not gone unrewarded."

And it has not gone unnoticed in Columbus.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/columbus/news/2019/02/19/john-mccoy-would-do-it-all-over-again-reflecting.html>

From the editor: Bank One's McCoy family embedded innovation in the 'Columbus Way'

By Doug Buchanan – Editor in chief

Columbus Business First

Feb 22, 2019, 6:05am EST Updated Feb 22, 2019, 6:40am EST

When people talk about the "Columbus Way," they're highlighting certain traits that the region has come to be known for: Public-private cooperation, a higher calling to do what's right for the community, an openness to newcomers, among them.

There's another strand of the city's DNA that deserves recognition as well: Innovation.

We aren't beholden to hoary traditions or old guards in Columbus. We are accepting of new ideas and new approaches.

Think about some of the business iconoclasts that have come out of Columbus: Les Wexner, Dave Thomas and Charles Lazarus '31 among them. Each took on their respective industries and through hard work and deviating from consensus grew their companies to renown across the country and beyond.

To that Mount Rushmore of Columbus business history we ought to add the McCoy family, who over several decades built what became Bank One and, ultimately, the foundation of what it is now the largest bank in the United States, JPMorgan Chase & Co.

The history of innovation by the McCoy's shines through in a new book by **John B. McCoy '61**, the third-generation leader of a bank that back in the day was a distant third in a town of just three banks.

How did they do it? As McCoy recounts in *Here's the Deal*, his grandfather John H. McCoy seized on a novel approach to compete with the blue-bloods in town, Huntington Bank and Ohio National Bank: A focus on retail banking.

The "unorthodox gamble" to focus on extending installment loans to common people helped the then City National Bank & Trust gain market share and set the stage for his son, John G. McCoy, to continue to innovate ways to serve customers in ways that were unorthodox in the staid world of banking.

"You might say we were hard-wired to try new things," John B. McCoy said in the book, including the nation's first dedicated drive-through branch, the nation's first ATM at Kingsdale Shopping Center, and one of the first big pushes into consumer credit cards.

The bank's approach was so unorthodox that in 1962, it hired wacky comedienne Phyllis Diller as its spokesperson, something hard to fathom even today.

Fast forward to the 1980s and the holding company Banc One Corp. was growing by leaps and bounds because of an insatiable appetite for acquisitions, more than 100 deals in all. The key to its success was something that John B. McCoy dubbed the "Share and Compare" management system that let new affiliates see how they stacked up against each other and against benchmarks established by the top performers.

As McCoy told me recently, the system was really an extension of the bank's history of innovation because good ideas were encouraged, adopted and expanded throughout the enterprise.

"We were always trying the new and different," he said. "... We were always looking for new ideas."

While acknowledging that only about 40 percent of those ideas worked out, "if you don't try something," he said, "nothing's ever going to happen."

The family's influence extended beyond setting an example for the kind of results-focused approach that's become common in Columbus.

As Wexner recounted during a recent appearance at Ohio State, John G. McCoy sought him out at his lone store when Wexner was still in his 20s and was a nobody to most everybody. Although he at first suspected the well-dressed man claiming to be a bank chairman was a "con artist," he said the resulting relationship had a profound influence on him. In particular, he recounted a meeting in McCoy's office several years later when Wexner's business had slowed and he was worried the bank was going to drop him.

"He said, 'You know you're doing pretty well. You ought to think about how you contribute to the community,'" Wexner said. "... He was quite sincere. He said the advice he has from his father was to think of it in terms of tithing. Give 10 percent of your time, 10 percent of your resources, but start working on it now."

"That was one of the most-important conversations that I've had in my life," he said. "I've processed it perhaps over a period of years ... I've gone back to it and thought about it. I think we all look for purpose in our life and what he was talking about was how to find purpose. ... In human terms, isn't there something about making the community a better place?"

https://www.bizjournals.com/columbus/news/2019/02/22/from-the-editor-bank-ones-mccoy-family-embedded.html?ana=e_du_prem&s=article_du&ed=2019-02-22&u=Mwt6OQoaPvj0f8HHWMQYUg0107acd5&t=1550866771&j=86842911

Meet **Baylee Mueller '17** - UDA Field Hockey
University Degree Abroad
February 15, 2019
UDA Staff

Why Chester? Why England?

Most people ask me those two questions once I tell them where I go to school. I chose the University of Chester as it provided great academic opportunities, an opportunity to gain practical experience, continue to play hockey at a high level for both the University and at a club level, and the opportunity to live overseas. I first visited the University in March of 2018 after I came to the realization that I needed to expand my comfort zone outside of the bubble that was my hometown. I am currently studying event management and business management. A major part of what drew me to the University of Chester was the emphasis on work-based learning. I have found the coursework at university is extremely different compared to my high school experience and previous year at university in Virginia. For my major at least, the classes are divided up into lectures where the week's lesson is introduced to us and the seminar goes into further detail in small groups. I am only in class three days a week, so on my off days I have the ability to explore the city and or dive deeper into the topics discussed in class by reading articles and academic journals. The rich history of Chester also drew me to chose the University. I walk around exploring the city finding new shops to add to my list of places to visit for a morning cup of tea or dinner with my friends.

My experience at Uni has not only been influenced by academics, but also the people around me. Additionally, my nationality has also given me friends and many of them are a part of the UDA team. Not only do I have friends from the United States, but from Wales, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Australia, South Africa, and Holland. Everyone at Chester has been so welcoming to me, but I wouldn't have been able to make these friends if I hadn't walked down the hall and met the few people hanging out in the hallway. The cliché saying of "leave your door open" is one of the main things that has given me the opportunity to make new friends from all around the world.

Sports has always been a part of my life since I was able to walk, so the ability to join the hockey society was the cherry on top when choosing Chester. Both the men and women teams welcomed me with open arms. My experience with University hockey has become much more than winning or losing. It has given me a group of friends with common interests. We have enjoyed cooking team meals together on Sundays and themed team socials every Wednesday after our games. The hockey team won their league last year, so there is an expectation to keep winning, but at the same time we have fun while playing. University hockey is only four days a week and many of the girls play club hockey on the university's off

days. This provides me the opportunity to play as much or as little hockey as I would like. Every sport society at Chester is their own unique family. All athletes are welcome no matter their ability level.

My overall time at the University of Chester has been some of the best few months of my life and for anyone looking to study in the UK or overseas in general, I strongly encourage you to look at the University of Chester.

<https://www.udauk.org/single-post/2019/02/15/Meet-Baylee-Muller---UDA-Field-Hockey>

Scots Sweep at Kenyon Classic

Feb 16, 2019

The College of Wooster

GAMBIER, Ohio – The College of Wooster men's and women's track and field teams swept their competition at the Kenyon Classic on Saturday.

The women dominated the eight team field with 161.5 points. Otterbein was second with 93.

The men had a closer outcome, downing second place Penn St.-Behrend by just three points 141-138.

Two school indoor records were broken. Emani Kelley shattered a 1994 record set by Michelle Poole in the 500 dash beating the prior time of 1:22.54 and setting the new one at 1:19.98.

Brian Lief also broke a record from the 1990's, 1998 specifically when Brandan McCabe ran a 2:34.84 in the 1,000 run. On Saturday, Lief ran a 2:33.73 in the event to break the record.

Focusing on the women first, Claudia Partridge and Carolyn Webster both jumped five feet and one inch to claim the top two spots in the high jump. Also, Webster won the long jump at 16-feet, 8.5 inches.

Korri Palmer, Maya Vasta, Claudia Partridge and Ciara Hudson won the 4x200 relay under a time of 1:54.17, edging Kenyon's second place time of 1:54.65. The 4x400 relay team of Kelley, Vasta, Audrey Cordova and **Cobi Warstler '16** finished second at 4:18.62.

The first-year Vasta was second in the 200 dash in 27.39 and third in the 400 dash in 1:03.08. Warstler won the 1,000 run with a time of 3:18.52.

Christine Weber threw 35-feet, 2.5 inches to win the weight throw. Mallory Crane was third in the triple jump (31-feet, 9.5 inches).

For the men, freshman William McMichael won the 400 dash with a time of 51.46 seconds.

In distance, David Westcott won the 3,000 run in 8:53.85 and Jackson Feinknopf won the 5,000 in 15:51.91. Aedan Pettit was second in the 1 mile with a time of 4:29.15.

Wooster won the 4x200 relay in 1:35.12 behind the team of Drake Pence, McMichael, Myles Parker and Justin Fox. The Scots also won the 4x400 relay in 3:33.51 thanks to McMichael, Matt Olszewski, Parker and Lief.

In the field events, Kristian Coleman won the triple jump (43-9.25) and placed third in the long jump (20-2.5). Spencer Wilson won the weight throw with a throw of 48-feet and 6.75 inches.

Next, the Scots will compete at the Denison Last Chance Meet next Friday.

<http://www.woosterathletics.com/sports/track/2018-19/releases/20190216x0elqc#.XGjPYKnZlvi.twitter>

Pizzuti Cos. launching speculative warehouse project in West Jefferson

Feb 13, 2019, 4:20pm EST

Tristan Navera, Staff reporter

Columbus Business First

Pizzuti Cos. is building as much as 2 million square feet of new warehouse space in West Jefferson.

The first of two warehouses will be an 850,000-square-foot speculative project northeast of National Pike and Byerly Road. It's designed to accommodate one or more tenants, and can be expanded to 1.2 million square feet.

This is Pizzuti's first speculative warehouse in the Madison County. Work is to start in the spring for completion by the end of the year.

Longer-term, the company envisions building an 880,000-square-foot warehouse next door. The two warehouses would sit on what is now 104 acres of farmland south of the Target distribution hub at the Park 70 at West Jefferson industrial complex.

"As we continue to observe the growing demand in the market, we believe the time is right for speculative development in West Jefferson," Jim Miller, executive vice president of development for Pizzuti, who will manage leasing for the site, said in a statement.

The land benefits from a 15-year, 100 percent tax abatement.

While Pizzuti is best known for major office developments, it's also building the 500-acre CreekSide Industrial Center, the 280-acre Rickenbacker West Industrial Center and the 350-SouthPark Business Center in the Columbus market, as well as the 1,000-acre Pinnacle Business Center in Chicago.

"Industrial developments have played a key role in our company's growth over the past 40 years and we look forward to continuing to expand into new markets both inside and outside the state of Ohio," COO Joel Pizzuti '90 said in the statement.

Park 70 at West Jefferson made major news twice last year – Duke Realty sold four existing warehouses and 3.8 million square feet to Toronto-based Granite Real Estate Investment Trust in a \$232.5 million deal including 78 acres of land to the north and west of this development. Shortly thereafter, it was announced Duke would build an 855,000-square-foot sorting facility for Amazon to the east.

Red Architecture & Planning is designing the Pizzuti buildings.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/columbus/news/2019/02/13/pizzuti-cos-launching-speculative-warehouseproject.html?s=print>

CROSSING PARTY LINES WITH FINTECH FOXES JON BOUKER, DAN RENBERG AND KATE FLOCKEN

'06 OF ARENT FOX

February 6, 2019

<https://www.arentfox.com/>

What if, even amidst all the acrimony inflaming our politics these days, we really could all get along -- at least about some things? What if, while holding true to our varied, principled views, we could communicate, civilly, across the partisan divide? What if, in fact, we could even enjoy doing that?

Might it be possible to get some things done?

We're posting today's show the day after President Trump's State of the Union address, and just a few weeks into the tenure of the very unique 116th Congress. We've just gone through the holidays with families worrying that political debates might ruin their dinner gatherings. We've just gone through the government shutdown, and now the deadline for avoiding the next one is just a week away. It feels like half the country is arguing about politics and the other half has tuned out, figuring, why bother, since Washington is gridlocked and nothing can get done anyway.

Amidst all the collective angst about our political discourse, I found myself, one afternoon last fall, in a meeting with the leadership team of the government affairs group at the law firm, Arent Fox. One partner, Jon Bouker, is a Democrat. Another, Dan Renberg, is a Republican. And as we talked, they kept making me laugh. Watching them interact, watching them brainstorm together, watching them riff on each other's points, I realized we could all use a little more of whatever makes them effective.

So I asked them to come on the show, along with fintech expert Kate Flocken from the firm's emerging technologies group, to share with you, our listeners, the secrets of how to get things done in a polarized and partisan environment. We recorded it, actually, on Day 32 of the 35 day shutdown.

Their first piece of advice is to forget the notion that nothing can get done. As Dan pointed out, the House has about 100 new members, and that is more than 20% of the total institution. This makes it a whole new organization, full of opportunities for fresh starts. Also, for those of us working in technology, we suddenly have a huge new cohort of members of Congress who are digitally-native -- who grew up with technology as a core part of their lives. We've never had this before. It can make whole new debates possible. And as my guests say, we're even seeing the Congressional rules start to modernize.

Beyond that, my guests shared insights on how to be effective with policymakers and regulators -- especially for startups. Is it best to lie low and hope the government won't notice you? Or is it smarter to go talk with them -- state or federal regulators, and legislators? Should you get to know your members of Congress and their staffs? If so, how do you do that? Who should you reach out to? Why would they want to talk with you? And what would happen if, sometime soon, you suddenly face a crisis, a regulatory or enforcement issue, and your company's very first government interactions have you on defense, dealing with people who don't understand you? Kate shares a great story about that

scenario. And Jon makes a memorable point that every former member of Congress has a story about what they're most proud of, that almost always began with talking with one person.

We also had a far-ranging discussion of the policy outlook this year for tech and fintech. Will there be privacy legislation? How are policymakers thinking about consumer data protection? Or alternative data in credit underwriting? What are the dangers that Congress or regulators might accidentally strangle innovation that could help consumers? How do ideas on big topics like these gestate over time in the policymaking process? Can they sometimes seem stuck, be stuck, and then suddenly move? (The answer to that is yes, they definitely can.) And of course, Dan helpfully compares and contrasts real life with House of Cards.

My guests even take on the big question: if you're going to meet with regulators or legislators in some marble-columned building in Washington, do you -- or don't you -- have to wear a suit?

Full podcast can be found here: <https://www.jsbarefoot.com/podcasts/2019/2/6/crossing-party-lines-with-fintech-foxes-jon-bouker-dan-renberg-and-kate-flocken-of-arent-fox>

CJO Artistic Director fills home with art and history: The jazzy and personalized home of Byron Stripling, artistic director of Columbus Jazz Orchestra
cityscene
February 23, 2019 12:00 AM
by **Mallory Grayson '12**

When relocating from New York City, Byron Stripling and his wife Alexis Wilson were instantly attracted to the Westerville area for its close-knit community – one where they could envision raising their two daughters. They've planted their roots here for nearly sixteen years and will become empty nesters this fall.

Stripling, a well-known jazz trumpeter and artistic director of the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, says he didn't even see the house until after his wife had already put in a bid. For Stripling, it was love at first sight, especially when he realized he could transform the basement into his personal music room.

Perhaps the most noticeable difference between this house and many other homes, is the absence of televisions, making the space open for reading and discussions. Art that Stripling and Wilson have collected over the years fills every wall in the home, offering a taste of almost every culture.

"Art speaks to us – similar to how I feel about music. When I see something that moves me, I just have to get it," says Stripling. "Decorating our home was never about expense, just what inspired us."

Stripling and Wilson walk through their modern yet simplistic home, spotlighting some of the artistic history they've incorporated into their lives.

<https://www.cityscenecolumbus.com/luxury-living/cjo-artistic-director-fills-home-with-art-and-history/>

Exclusive: Ricart getting into the motorcycle business by buying Harley-Davidson dealership

By Dan Eaton – Staff reporter
Columbus Business First
Feb 19, 2019, 6:00am EST Updated Feb 19, 2019, 7:27am EST

Ricart Automotive is getting in the motorcycle business.

The Columbus-based auto dealership is acquiring the three-store A.D. Farrow Harley-Davidson dealership for an undisclosed sum.

“Harley-Davidson is a brand our family is passionate about,” President Rick Ricart ‘98 said in an interview. “This is an opportunity for us to diversify.”

Bob Althoff, who has owned A.D. Farrow for 18 years, will maintain a minority ownership share in the business and will stay on as a partner.

“My kids aren’t in the business,” Althoff told me. “I can’t live forever, but family can. That’s the A.D. Farrow name, the Ricart name. I could have brought this to the national market, but I needed to hand this off to better, strong hands. They’re going to do just fine.”

The two sides have been discussing a deal for more than a year, both Ricart and Althoff confirmed.

A.D. Farrow was founded in 1912.

The deal includes the Franklinton dealership at 491 W. Broad St., the store and real estate at NorthStar in Sunbury, and the Centennial Park dealership in Pataskala.

The Pataskala dealership will be relocated to 5840 Scarborough Blvd. just off Brice Road, a nearly 3-acre site acquired by a Ricart affiliate in January 2018 for \$1.5 million, according to Franklin County property records.

The plan is to brand the stores as “A.D. Farrow powered by #1 Ricart.”

“The A.D. Farrow name has a 107-year history in Central Ohio,” Ricart said. “For us to eliminate that would be ridiculous.”

A.D. Farrow has 55 full-time employees and 30 part-time.

“This is a different industry for us,” Ricart said. “We’re looking forward to getting to know the employees and figuring out how to grow.”

Though a new business for Ricart, the family knows the brand well as customers. Ricart himself owns a 2014 Street Glide and he estimated his extended family owns 20 Harley-Davidsons.

“They’re good guys with deep roots,” Althoff said. “They’re riders. They’re customers of ours. They get it.”

Ricart said that unlike the auto industry, Harley-Davidson is a lifestyle brand. While a car or truck is mostly about moving the driver from point A to point B, loyal Harley lovers have a deeper affinity for their motorcycles, which have entire events and clothing lines built around that name.

But it isn't just that traditional Harley that had Ricart intrigued. Ricart praised the brand's research and development efforts in recent years, both in its efforts to make engines better and more efficient (while not losing that signature sound or muscle) and its work on new products including electric options, off-road capable bikes and scooters.

Harley-Davidson announced plans for a new R&D facility in Silicon Valley to focus on electric vehicles last fall and showed off a trio of scooters at the annual CES event in January in Las Vegas. Being able to offer those products, in addition to the traditional motorcycles, the array of auto brands and a growing fleet business, is part of Ricart's vision to support a larger mobility footprint and alternative transportation, Ricart said.

A.D. Farrow bills itself as America's oldest Harley dealer, founded in 1912 by Alfred D. Farrow and his wife Lilly Farrow. Farrow's shop originated in Nelsonville and moved to Columbus in 1924.

https://www.bizjournals.com/columbus/news/2019/02/19/ricart-getting-into-the-motorcycle-business-by.html?fbclid=IwAR0hFINOPx-TDIhEzIUdtwHxiZv_6glMSn3rppUd3YCCnn8dxEuQ1vwBJk

2019 Pillar Awards for Community Service

Smart Business

By: Jayne Gest

6:11pm EST December 19, 2018

Celebrating the culture of community service

Medical Mutual, along with co-founding partner, Smart Business, is proud to present the 10th annual Pillar Awards for Community Service.

The Pillar Awards recognize organizations that set the standard for outstanding service to their communities. These organizations' service efforts take many forms, including volunteer time, charitable giving and pro bono support. What all our honorees have in common, though, is the culture they have built where service is ingrained in their values and employees are empowered to support their communities.

At Medical Mutual, we strive to embody a culture of service. As a company dedicated to our Ohio customers and employees, we have a responsibility to support the local communities where we live and work. When businesses help those in need, we strengthen our entire community.

One of the Pillar Awards that will be presented is a special honor given to a company whose employees best exemplify the values of Medical Mutual's own Employee SHARE Program. SHARE stands for serve, help, aid, reach and educate.

Our SHARE Program is the heart and soul of Medical Mutual's community service effort. Through our employees' generosity and passion, the program coordinates more than 50 events in support of nonprofit and community agencies. Last year, our employees spent more than 5,800 hours aiding area organizations.

We are proud to be in the company of extraordinary organizations that improve the communities we serve. Together, through our culture of service, we are building stronger communities.

On behalf of Medical Mutual and Smart Business, we congratulate all our 2019 Pillar Award recipients.

Rick Chiricosta

Chairman, president and CEO, Medical Mutual of Ohio

Pillar Award honorees



E.E. Ward Moving & Storage Co.

Brian Brooks '87, President and co-owner

The E.E. Ward Moving & Storage Co. was founded in 1881 under the principle of providing service excellence. This value still holds true 137 years later — and the practice of excellence includes the company's long history of making a positive impact on the Central Ohio community.

In 2018, E.E. Ward held its second annual Laps for Learning fundraiser. This swim-a-thon helps raise money to provide swim lessons. Water safety is a major concern for Ohio youth, especially in the African-American community. Ohio's youth drownings increase by 119 percent during the summer and African-American children are three times as likely to die from drowning. Last year, Laps for Learning raised \$12,705 to provide swim lessons for 161 children.

In addition, E.E. Ward supports other organizations through monetary donations and moving assistance. Gary Sinise Foundation's RISE program builds smart homes specifically adapted to accommodate wounded veterans. In July, E.E. Ward provided in-kind moving services for U.S. Army Capt. Nick Vogt.

The company also has a strong relationship with The Childhood League Center, which provides education, intervention and therapeutic services to children under the age of six with developmental delays, as well as In Christy's Shoes, a foundation that raises money to support women facing homelessness, human trafficking, domestic violence, substance abuse, brain cancer and unemployment.

President and co-owner Brian Brooks and the E.E. Ward team are committed to being trustees of the humanitarian legacy created by founder John T. Ward and further advanced by his great-grandson Eldon Ward. ●



Ricart Automotive
Rick Ricart '98, president

A third-generation, family owned business, Ricart Automotive prioritizes its philanthropy by focusing on family, education and the arts. To date, the company has supported more than 30 charities and nonprofits and donated more than \$1 million in corporate financial contributions. Some organizations that have benefitted include Shadowbox Live, After-School All-Stars, The Ohio State University, several schools, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Dreams on Horseback, the Alzheimer's Association, Susan G. Komen, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Mid-Ohio Foodbank, FFA, the United Way and the Women's Small Business Accelerator.

Community service is also embedded in Ricart Automotive's employee culture. The company gives its 540 employees one paid service day every year, so they can volunteer. Employees have volunteered for causes such as the Ronald McDonald House, school fundraisers for their children, A Kid Again and Habitat for Humanity.

In addition, Ricart Automotive's leadership, which includes President Rick Ricart, knows that in order to foster a community of giving, it needs to support those closest to the company: its employees.

Through the company's internal 501(c)3, One of R Own, employees have the option to donate a certain amount of money per pay period. If at some point an employee falls on hard times and needs assistance making ends meet, another employee can anonymously nominate the person to be a candidate for a donation. The committee then silently writes that employee a check — whether it helps pay a bill or provides another type of service — to help get the employee through the rough patch. ●

<http://www.sbsonline.com/article/2019-pillar-awards-for-community-service/>

History in the Making – The Brooks Influence

Published on February 9, 2019

Jack Evangelides, Founder and CEO of Absolute Websites • Professional Web Development - Expert Marketing • Your Vision, Our Mission •

Brian '87 and Dominique Reighard Brooks are continuing the iconic legacy that E.E Ward Moving & Storage still holds to this day. The company is renowned for being the longest continuously operating black-owned business in America, conjuring an incredible 138 years, this powerhouse of a business is standing strong as it continues to make history. The Brooks are sigils for success and completely undermine the cliché that you shouldn't mix business with pleasure as their company and marriage go hand-in-hand, both presenting success. It is important to acknowledge such feats and what better time to do it than Black History Month. E.E Ward Moving & Storage managed to overcome the most volatile of landscapes, politically, economically and socially, throughout their history, so we must ask: where did it all begin? And, what ingenious tactics and strategies were taken to maintain a successful company for such a duration?

The Foundations for Success – From Wagons to Riches

Success doesn't come overnight, success doesn't come easy, in fact, success is usually something so sporadic and so out of the ordinary that you don't know you have it until you look back at what you have achieved. Well, this is just the case for the foundation of the longest continuously operated black-owned business in America. This esteemed company was officially launched in 1881 by John T. Ward and his son William Ward. This father and son dynamic duo kick-started the, legacy to come moving and storage company, using just two horses and a wagon. The company was successfully navigated for years on end, but in 2001 the Ward family had no family succession plan for its future. It was this moment when Brian Brooks took the initiative to purchase the business, unaware of the incredible path that laid in front of him, from Eldon W. Ward.

Transform and Thrive

Brian and Dominique Brooks had not only taken the responsibility for the continuation and the success of E.E Ward Moving & Storage, but they had taken the reigns of obligation for the continuity of the company's legacy. However, the 21st century was to go through its own paradigm shift, digitalisation and technological achievements were to kick start the century and it was something that's the Brooks would later adopt into their business to help continue the success. Upon purchasing the company, Dominique was quick to learn the ins and outs of logistics, she used her versatile mind in combination with her passion to help Brian drive the company to success. Dominique had always been a woman with many talents, she made the decision to use her unique set of skills to increase the brand image of the business. She intelligently used her social media knowledge, via networking and production and marketing techniques to ensue robust development and laid the foundations for years to come. Brian and Dominique's skill-sets went hand in hand, working together in perfect harmony to build a business for the future.

"When we triumph, it makes the win 10x better because I am winning with my best friend and partner."
– Brian Brooks

Climbing New Heights & Reaping the Rewards

Due to Dominique's unique abilities to navigate amongst the online world, she was, and still to this day, an icon to the e-society. Using her background in fashion and marketing, in addition to the constant networking that she undergoes, Dominique released a clothing line '1881 Apparel' proving that it is possible to transform and succeed in different industries. Her entrepreneurial mind-set, passion and desire for success provided her with the perfect platform to perform in multiple aspects of business. Dominique's achievements embody a perception that can and will inspire others to reach their goals, to attain their dreams and to fulfil their visions.

"Intuitively we know when it is time to recalculate our route. Regardless of the industry, regardless of the endeavour, I sincerely believe you can find success in life by fusing your talents, life experiences and connections – and a lot of hard work." – Dominique Brooks

With great sacrifice, comes great reward. Brian and Dominique Brooks have dedicated a copious amount of time, effort, resources and pure hard-work to ensure the success of E.E Ward Moving & Storage, of 1881 Apparel and of all challenges that they face. Henceforward, their adventure did not go unnoticed, E.E Ward Moving & Storage has been at the heart of many awards. They have rightfully received: OMSDC MBE Supplier of the Year Award, 2018 BBB Torch Awards for Ethics and the 2019 Award for Community Service sponsored by Medical Mutual and Smart Business. These are only a few awards that

this significant empire has brought about and I am confident that their list of accomplishments will grow as their company grows for years to come.

Success is a Mind-set

“We tend to limit our potential with virtual barriers when the goal we are really able to achieve is far beyond what we first imagined. Do not underestimate your ability to reach beyond.” – Brian Brooks

From taking a company that holds such a legacy such as enduring the U.S Civil War, the Great Depression, two World Wars and 26 presidential terms is no easy task. But not only to provide success, but to envisage a future that encompasses a widespread audience, giving back to society and spreading the legacy of E.E Ward Moving & Storage is simply incredible. From partnerships with NASCAR Hall of Fame Richard Petty, to establishing 1881 Apparel and Dominique even had a successful modelling career, being the face of Carol’s Daughter. The Brooks really are an inspirational couple and prove that, with the right frame of mind, you can pivot to different industries and success will follow if you have enough belief. The Ward family legacy could not be in better hands, it has been preserved through patience, discipline and the ingenious strategic maneuvers into the correct industries. America’s oldest continuously operated black-owned business shows no signs of slowing down and the legacy envisages a successful future. It is an exciting story to behold and one of which that you will want to follow to see the great heights that the Brooks will reach next.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/history-making-brooks-influence-jack-evangelides/?fbclid=IwAR2VqGbqZItZlGkBgmrTS-wQEwCxjMEbEMbZSI3VmNyQshU7b5sYYY3S0Lc>

Q&A: Chamber’s director seeks ways to help human service agencies

By Mary Sterenberg / For Columbus CEO

Posted Feb 17, 2019 at 10:57 AM

Updated Feb 17, 2019 at 10:57 AM

Michael Corey ’01 took over as executive director of the Human Service Chamber of Franklin County in 2017, becoming the fifth director in the organization’s eight years.

Nearly two years later, the chamber’s membership has grown from 48 member agencies to nearly 70, including nonprofits such as the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, Children’s Hunger Alliance, Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus and Catholic Social Services. The chamber gives human service organizations a unified voice at the local, state and federal levels, helping the larger community understand the challenges that exist for people experiencing poverty in central Ohio.

Q: What was the state of the Human Service Chamber when you took over?

A: The transitions that had happened in the leadership position made it difficult to sustain any sort of consistency or value for our member agencies, so the number of members had declined. But fortunately, we had a really robust group of founding members and board members and others that had stuck with it. They knew that the potential existed for this organization to be really impactful. My task was to work with the board and our members to figure out what we could do to quickly provide value for each of them quantitatively and qualitatively.

Q: What made you a good candidate for this position when you didn't have a strong professional background in the nonprofit world?

A: I knew I had passion and important skills from my prior careers. I had a lot of energy to drive this work, and to be a cheerleader and a champion for all of these agencies, and also to be a connector. I could not have crafted something out of the blue that fits my personality and my passions right now better than this job.

Q: What has membership growth looked like during your time at the chamber?

A: We were at 48 when I started, and I think we're going to hit 70 by the time the year is over. I wish we were at 85. I love the diversity of it, but I knew that was going to be a challenge out of the gate. How do we serve the largest nonprofits, those that have lots of resources to provide training for themselves and have a government relations person on staff, but also represent smaller agencies that maybe have a staff of five and they're all wearing 10 hats? But I love that.

Q: Does the Human Service Chamber have a primary area of focus?

A: When the chamber was founded, it had this noble but nebulous purpose of 'let's be one voice on behalf of the sector.' And I think that mostly manifested itself in government relations at the local level. How do we build relationships with City Council, the mayor's office, the county commissioners and local agencies to drive as much good work as possible? And as valuable as that continues to be, we had to widen that scope. Now we try to focus on the state and federal as well.

We came up with five areas of focus by talking to each of our existing members, but I also talked to anyone who would talk to me about what the needs were, where the gaps were, and who was doing what work. And then we try to fill in those gaps. The government relations piece will always be the bread and butter of the Human Service Chamber — it has to be. But it's not just lobbying. A lot of it is relationship building. Trying to educate elected officials and their staff, but also to just listen.

Q: What's an example of a collaboration the chamber has helped facilitate?

A: We're in ongoing conversations with COTA about how we can be a partner with them as they think about how they provide intra-city transit services for the next however many years. We had one group meeting with a lot of our CEOs and COTA — we had 35 of our CEOs show up for that.

Q: What are some of the biggest "wins" for the chamber since you stepped into this position?

A: We're now at the table for them [member agencies] in rooms where we weren't before. We have credibility now that we may not have had before, for no other reason than I've been knocking on people's doors. That alone has elevated the work of our sector.

Q: What is your vision for the future of HSC?

A: For me, a really successful Human Service Chamber is one that is shaping human services in this community for the next 100 years. It's something that the Columbus Partnership has done effectively for the business world, something that Experience Columbus has been doing in the tourism industry.

These nonprofits are very much businesses, and complex businesses, so how do we help them drive the conversation and think about how we're going to meet these needs across a fast-growing region that not only has entrenched poverty, but poverty that's breathing out across the community, too. We're the ones who are equipped to tackle that. This is an infrastructure that's just as elemental as streets and sidewalks. We have to be building that in a sustainable way.

<https://www.dispatch.com/news/20190217/qampa-chambers-director-seeks-ways-to-help-human-service-agencies>

PJM Appoints **Asim Z. Haque '98** Executive Director Of Strategic Policy And External Affairs:
Haque will lead the State Government Policy team's engagement and education efforts
NEWS PROVIDED BY
PJM Interconnection
Feb 04, 2019, 11:45 ET

VALLEY FORGE, Pa., Feb. 4, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- PJM Interconnection has appointed Asim Z. Haque as its executive director of strategic policy and external affairs. Currently the chairman and chief executive officer of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), Haque is stepping down from the Commission and will join PJM on March 11, 2019. He will be advising on energy policy matters and will be responsible for engaging and fostering relationships with members of state and federal government in PJM's 13 states and the District of Columbia.

"Asim is respected for his astute insights into policy and practical questions facing our industry. He will bring a unique and thoughtful perspective to PJM, informed by his recent service as chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio," said Vincent P. Duane, senior vice president, general counsel, Law, Compliance, & External Relations. Haque will report to Denise R. Foster, vice president – State & Member Services.

Haque was appointed to PUCO by Ohio Governor John R. Kasich in 2013 and was reappointed to a second term in 2016. As an attorney, he began his career in a general practice law firm, Ice Miller LLP in Columbus, where he represented a broad spectrum of clients in energy and utility matters. He went on to join the in-house counsel team at Honda of America Mfg., Inc. until his appointment in 2013.

Haque is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University, where he received a bachelor's degree in chemistry and political science. He received his Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, where he was awarded the school's Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award in 2015.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/pjm-appoints-asim-z-haque-executive-director-of-strategic-policy-and-external-affairs-300789045.html>

In Memory:

After an incredibly strong and willful fight against a long illness, **Millard Cummins '54**, beloved father and grandfather of Marc, Lisa, Philip, CeCe, Joel, Lindsey, Dani, David, Jonah, and Eli passed away on

February 25 at the age of 82. He was preceded by his loving wife of more than 50 years, Diane. Millard was adored by everyone who knew him. He will be forever remembered for his sharp mind, quick wit, hearty laugh, interesting conversation, and backgammon prowess. It is said by many that Millard was the exemplar of integrity. He was dependable and wise. He was steadfast in his love and devotion to his family, to his friends, and to OSU football (GO BUCS). Millard touched countless lives in a meaningful way and will be deeply missed. Funeral services were held Thursday at 2 PM at the Epstein Memorial Chapel, 3232 E. Main St. Burial followed at Green Lawn Cemetery. Shiva was held after the service at the home of Elinor and Robert Shook.

Published in The Columbus Dispatch on Feb. 27, 2019

Ajay Koduri '94, age 42, passed away suddenly on February 6, 2019 in San Francisco, California from natural causes. He was born in September of 1976 in St. Louis, Missouri. He graduated from Columbus Academy in 1994, Duke University in 1999, and Vanderbilt University Law School in 2005 with his Doctor of Jurisprudence. Ajay is survived by his beloved wife, Sowmya Reddy; parents, Drs. Vinod and Atchuthamba Koduri; and brother, Dr. Vamsi Koduri. His funeral was held at Schoedinger Worthington Chapel, 6699 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085 at 2 pm on February 16, 2019. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Bharatiya Hindu Temple, on 3671 Hyatts Road, P.O. Box 1466, Powell, Ohio 43065-1466. Visit www.schoedinger.com to send condolences to the family.

Published in The Columbus Dispatch on Feb. 15, 2019