

Ohio State Legal Services Association

Volunteer Profile: **Liz Mote '03**

Volunteering at Driver's License Clinics Inspired Liz Mote to Testify on Behalf of the Driver's License Amnesty Initiative

Attorney Elizabeth 'Liz' Mote was a regular volunteer at Driver's License Reinstatement Clinics held throughout the summer. The clinics helped low-income Ohioans take advantage of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles' Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative, a program that created reinstatement fee waivers and reductions for drivers with suspended licenses. The clinics brought together legal aid, volunteer attorneys, court officials, BMV employees and representatives of various county agencies to assist people in getting their licenses back.

It was "amazing to see so many people working together to help others," Liz said of the experience. "Even if people aren't eligible for the amnesty program, the license clinics can give some immediate hope there's light at the end of the tunnel, a path forward. I see the often terrible effects of driving with no license and no insurance in my practice, it's nice to make some small difference."

Helping at the clinics was so rewarding, Liz agreed to testify before an Ohio House committee in favor of a bill designed to make the fee reductions and waivers permanent. She told the committee that the "tangible benefits" of the program—like the BMV's ability to collect fees and the increase in licensed drivers—were obvious. "What cannot be as easily seen is how this positive interaction with the court shapes people's view of government and encourages rehabilitation," she said in her testimony. "Participants in the pilot program were genuinely appreciative of the government's willingness to give them a second chance and many leave the clinic with a renewed sense of civic engagement."

Liz also shared that the clinics provided an opportunity for less-experienced attorneys to gain valuable experience working with clients. As chair of the Ohio State Bar Association's Young Lawyer Section, she is committed to helping young attorneys learn and grow. The Young Lawyer Section organized efforts for attorneys to volunteer at the clinics. For Liz, who began volunteering for legal aid while still a student at Capital Law School, the effort was a great way to combine two of her passions. Testifying before the House committee was also rewarding. It was "a little intimidating," but overall "pretty amazing," she said.

Liz, a Columbus native, attended Kenyon College where she studied ancient Greek language, literature and history. Today, she works at the law firm of Kitrick, Lewis & Harris where she focuses primarily on serious injury and wrongful death claims and other complex consumer matters, with the overarching commitment, regardless of the types of cases, to help clients find positive solutions.

Thank you, Liz, for your leadership and commitment to access to justice!

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering, please email Dianna Parker.

SEOLS and LASC have scheduled our next round of driver's license clinics, and we can use your help!

October 30 – Muskingum

November 8 – Fairfield

December 4 & 5 – Franklin

December 13 – Marion

December 19 – Jefferson & Belmont

REGISTER HERE.

Addis Boyd '18, SEAS '22, puts “sistas” of color front and center in his clothing line

Columbia Spectator

BY ANYA RAJ

OCTOBER 24, 2019, 12:24 AM

She stands tall, her hands wrapped around her iconic torch and tablet. Her green, dashiki-inspired dress is accompanied by an Afro that peeks out from under her crown; her large hoop earrings cascade down her shoulders.

This take on the Statue of Liberty was the first design used by Addis Boyd, SEAS '22, for his company, “Sistas of Liberty,” which launched in February 2019.

The idea for the company and its signature designs was sparked by a class project in high school, where one of his classmates depicted the famed New York statue in a way he had never seen before.

“[She] made a model of the Statue of Liberty, ... put an Afro on her, and covered her in hip-hop lyrics. She was kind of explaining this idea in one of the meetings that I was in, and ... I was kind of sitting back, thinking, ‘Wow, this is pretty cool. Why haven’t I seen ... a Statue of Liberty that’s of color?’” Boyd said.

Inspired by his classmate, he sent the idea to his cousin, an illustrator at Northeastern University. Equipped with an array of designs, Boyd launched an initial line of garments by selling them on Etsy during Black History Month.

“When I saw our first design, I realized that it... could be so much more than ... [an] image of a black woman as the Statue of Liberty. We can do this with all types of ethnicities—represent all types of underrepresented people, and underrepresented women,” Boyd said.

He likewise took inspiration from his 12-year-old sister, who he hoped to encourage with the visuals.

Boyd started Sistas of Liberty in hopes of creating a platform to inspire and empower women and minority groups. This is especially reflected through the name he chose and the designs featured on his products, which are primarily T-shirts and sweatshirts.

“The word ‘sista’—I’ve heard it since I was little. It’s used a lot in the black community. It’s just another name for women that’s well-respected. It could be your mother, it could be your actual sister, it could be your daughter. ... It’s not specifically pertaining to Black people. ... Seeing that it could touch different people, I thought it would be a good name to represent our whole company with,” Boyd said.

Since launching his company, Boyd has grown his social media platform to over 2,500 followers, expanding the reach of his designs across Columbia and beyond its gates.

“In this country, especially now, [with] the political climate [and] ... divisiveness ... using a symbol that has supposedly always promoted freedom and equality and putting people who you don’t see their face a lot in that figure ... I thought it was important, especially considering the Statue of Liberty is ... important to this country,” Boyd said.

In line with the mission of his designs, Sistas of Liberty also donates 25 percent of its profits to charities that empower women. Being an engineer, Boyd was naturally inclined to the STEM field, so for the Black History Month design, he chose to donate to Black Girls Code, an organization that creates a platform for Black girls to explore science and technology fields.

Boyd also tries to incorporate this sense of diversity within the actual process of designing and sharing his apparel. When working on new designs that feature women with backgrounds that are not his own, Boyd makes it a point to use social media to discover artists who identify with that background, in hopes of having them design it. Including multiple ethnicities is additionally important to Boyd when it comes to modeling his apparel for Instagram campaigns.

Since the first design, Boyd has gone on to create similar versions of the sweatshirts with Desi and Boricua women, clothed in a shalwar kameez and the Puerto Rican flag respectively. Additional iterations include unisex breast cancer awareness versions.

“I understand ... from being a minority in this country, the importance of allyship and allies. I also acknowledge that there is a really thin line between not doing enough and doing too much—overdoing it,” Boyd said. “With this, I’m just trying to do as much as I can to ... help the progress of women in this country and empower them as much as they can. [I am] trying to be an ally, but still keeping [a] sort of like a carefulness that I’m not overdoing it or ... exploiting it in any way, ... because that’s not the intent and ... not what we stand for.”

For Boyd, diversity and representation are not topics that need to weigh individuals down. Instead, they can uplift and inspire anyone who is willing to engage with them.

"If you're down [to spread our mission], 'cause you should be down—everybody should be down. ... Keep spreading our mission, which I think should be more than our mission. It should be everybody's mission," Boyd said, sporting his own bright pink, Black History Month "Sista" sweatshirt and a smile.

<https://www.columbiaspectator.com/arts-and-entertainment/2019/10/24/addis-boyd-seas-22-puts-sistas-of-color-front-and-center-in-his-clothing-line/>

2019 W Association Hall of Fame Inductee Profile - **Matt Mahaffey '96 (CA)** '00 (Wooster)
Wooster Athletics
Posted: Sep 26, 2019

Few NCAA Div. III punters were as impactful as Matt Mahaffey when it came to changing the complexion of a game. Three times, the "golden boot" of The College of Wooster football program finished a season north of 40 yards per punt, and the four-year standout was a third-team selection to the inaugural D3football.com All-America team as a senior.

Mahaffey's contributions weren't limited to punting, as the Westerville, Ohio, product spent two years doubling as one of Wooster's top wideouts. His highlights there included a 63-yard, third-quarter touchdown reception versus Grove City College in 1997 that stood as the winning score of a 10-3 clash. In fact, he finished within the top three on the team in receiving yards in 1996 and 1997.

"Matt's development as a player mirrors that of many of the young men we coached and who committed to our football program at Wooster, though he certainly took it up a few notches relative to most," said Jim Barnes, the head coach at the time.

Sophomore year is when Mahaffey started to hit his stride. The left-footed punter upped his per-boot average nearly seven yards to 41.4, and was rewarded with the first of three consecutive first-team all-North Coast Athletic Conference honors. With Wooster rolling in all three phases of the game – the Scots averaged 34.5 points per game and held the opposition to 14.1 – the program won its first NCAC title, and first conference championship in 38 years.

"Matt's performance as our punter was integral to earning the NCAC title," added Barnes. "Our offense was still developing and though it showed some explosive potential for big plays, Matt's ability to flip the field with his punting was key. That allowed our strong defense the opportunity to return the football to our offense with more favorable field position. His leadership helped give us tremendous championship-level balance in all three phases of the game."

Wooster's team success helped Mahaffey start to get noticed nationally come his junior year. Now exclusively focused on punting, Mahaffey averaged 41.2 yards per boot – a total fifth in Div. III – placed 11 of his 39 punts inside the opposition's 20-yard line, and had a long of 70

yards. The College Sports Information Directors of America took note of the Wooster sensation, and voted him to its All-America third-team and to the prestigious Academic All-America® second-team.

Mahaffey's consistency carried over to his senior year, during which he placed 23-of-49 punts inside the 20-yard line, while averaging 40.5 yards per boot overall. He earned All-America honors from Football Gazette in addition to being elevated to the Academic All-America® first-team.

"We knew Matt had a special gift in punting the football and he certainly capitalized on that potential," summed up Barnes. "I am sure Matt would give credit to our long snappers and the protection he received as well, however it was primarily his commitment and pursuit of excellence that made him outstanding and a huge difference-maker for our team."

Highly active on campus, the business economics alumnus served as president of the Student Government Association as a senior, and thanks to a perfect mix of academics, athletics, and extracurriculars, was awarded a prestigious NCAA postgraduate scholarship, which he utilized to obtain an M.B.A. from The Ohio State University.

Since graduating, Mahaffey's focus has been in real estate, and he's currently an investor for Nationwide Insurance in Columbus. There, Mahaffey leads the origination of real estate investment for a \$750 million portfolio.

Personally, Mahaffey and his wife, Sarah, call Columbus home, and are the parents of two sons, Jack (10) and Will (8).

<https://www.woosterathletics.com/sports/fball/2019-20/releases/20190926ks55ji>

FOOTBALL: **Sam Tuckerman '16** on target for Team 147

JARED FEL & EAMONN SMITH

Yale Daily News

OCT 23, 2019

One can often find kickers on their own during a football practice, entranced in a rigorous routine of placing a football perpendicular to the ground on a holder, before then positioning themselves in an athletic stance and approaching the football with a calculated number of steps — keeping their hips and shoulders in line. They then deliver a soccer-style kick to the football, aiming four inches above the bottom tip of the ball and continuing the kicking motion well after the pigskin has left their foot.

The kicker is one of the most important positions in football, and Sam Tuckerman '20 is no exception. While the Bulldogs currently sit at a 4–1 record, it very easily could have been 3–2

had it not been for two key kicks from Tuckerman last week, one being an onside kick with less than two minutes remaining and the second being an extra point to seal one of the most improbable Yale victories in recent memory. It was a display of superlative kicking that was anything but atypical for the senior. Rather, it was an exemplification of the remarkable season Tuckerman has been enjoying — a season that has him currently leading all other Ancient Eight kickers in makes.

What has made this season even more noteworthy and admirable is the fact that it marks the first time in Tuckerman's collegiate career that he has been tasked with the role as starting kicker — all three of his previous seasons for the Elis were as a backup. Astonishingly, the last time Tuckerman had even attempted a competitive field goal before this season was as a high school student in 2015.

"In regards to the PAT to seal the game, I remember jogging on the field and just thinking about how every single person on our roster, regardless of whether or not they made the trip to Richmond, had a major role in helping aid that comeback," Tuckerman said. "All these guys sacrifice their bodies every day in order to help the team succeed. Playmakers like [Reed Klubnik '20, JP Shohfi '20 and Kurt Rawlings '20] carried our offense through those final minutes, but behind the scenes, that comeback doesn't happen without great protection from our offensive line, an elite stop by our defense, a full week of preparation from our scout team and a perfect snap, hold and protection on the extra points. At the end of the day, I didn't want to let any of these guys down."

Tuckerman came to Yale as an elite kicking prospect out of high school, which further demonstrates his commitment to Yale's success when he did not receive the starting role right away. He attended Columbus Academy in Ohio, making a name for himself in three sports. Tuckerman gathered nine varsity letters: three each from soccer, football and basketball. Yet, it was clear that football was his true calling. Tuckerman was tabbed as a 4.5 star recruit and the 28th best kicker in the nation by Kohl's Kicking. Accolades also poured in from his conference play, as he was an all-state and all-metro selection his senior year.

Tuckerman's recent success comes mainly from his own patience and perseverance throughout his career. He served as a backup placekicker his first year and graduated to a larger kickoff role in the following season, performing that duty in eight games. The Ohio native was rewarded for his hard work and dedication to the squad, seeing his first college place-kicking action against Cornell last year. However, the waiting only fueled Tuckerman's fire for success, and he has come out with a vengeance this year.

"Sam has been absolutely huge for us so far this year, especially given how much uncertainty we had regarding our special team units coming into the season," offensive lineman Sterling Strother '20 said. "It goes without saying that he's been automatic kicking the ball, but his impact has spanned far wider than that. He's been such a positive influence on [the] younger kickers ... Sam's just a source of energy for our whole team and I can't picture our team's infrastructure being the same without him."

This season, Tuckerman leads the Ivy League currently in both attempts and makes, splitting the uprights on six of his seven kicks this year. He averages nearly a field goal per game, and his 42-yard blast against Dartmouth ranks him in the top five for distance in the Ancient Eight.

Tuckerman's excellence has been a huge boost for the Team 147 and is well-deserved for one of the most dedicated members of the Eli squad. To put into perspective the marvelous performance he has put on these last five weeks, one must realize that these weeks marked the first time Tuckerman had even attempted in-game field goals in four years.

"Sam has been a pivotal guy for the team," Shohfi said. "He has already had several key kicks this season that have changed the game for us. He's worked really hard to be where he is at, so it is great to see him having a lot of success in the kicking game. He represents Yale football incredibly well in the way he works and cares about his teammates. He'll continue to be a leader for us, and there's never a doubt in my mind that when his name is called, he'll get the job done."

Tuckerman will next take the field this Saturday at 1 p.m. against Penn.

<https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2019/10/23/football-tuckerman-on-target-for-team-147/>

Haverford Athletics
October 24, 2019

HAVERFORD, Pa. - Haverford senior co-captain **Caroline Aronowitz '16** was named a PhilaFH Defensive Player of the Week, the organization announced on Wednesday. Aronowitz joins Ashton Evans of Arcadia and Sadie Strober of Delaware Valley as honorees from Division III this week.

The Fords' offense grabbed the headlines in a 7-3 rout of Washington College on Thursday. In the Saturday win over McDaniel, it was the defense that was front-and-center as the Fords did not allow a shot or a penalty corner over the entire 60 minute contest during a very convincing victory 3-0 over the Green Terror. Leading that defensive unit through their third shutout of the season was Aronowitz.

The psychology major has earned high praise from Haverford Head Coach Jackie Cox for what she brings to the Fords' defensive approach.

Caroline's defensive footwork and ability to come up with the ball is excellent. She can stop fast breaks to goal against the fastest opponents", Cox said. "She also has the stick-skill and speed to get the ball up the field on our right side. She plays a right half back so we rely heavily on her for offensive and defensive plays."

Aronowitz is nearing the conclusion of what has been an illustrious career at Haverford. The Columbus, Ohio native has appeared in 64 career games, with 11 defensive saves to go with a pair of goals and six assists in those appearances. Aronowitz has twice been named All-Centennial and has been selected for the Fall Academic Honor Roll in each season of eligibility.

The Fords (8-6, 2-5 CC) will return to action on Saturday in a crucial Centennial Conference clash with Dickinson (7-7, 3-4 CC). First pass is slated for 1 p.m. in Carlisle, Pa.

<https://philafielddhockey.com/philafh-defensive-players-of-the-week-hs-berberian-harriton-milhous-radnor-kieft-notre-dame-zaskoda-dock-college-evans-arcadia-strober-delval-aronowitz-haverford/>

RICART AUTOMOTIVE DRIVES EV FLEET GROWTH AND MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION IN COLUMBUS

October 24th, 2019

Smart Columbus

POST BY **Rick Ricart '98**, President, Ricart Automotive

Ricart Automotive Group was certified as an Electrified Dealer by Smart Columbus, ensuring that our sales team would be prepared to serve and educate customers who are interested in electric vehicles (EVs). We also made sure that EV chargers are onsite for customers to practice with and use, and that we could support increased interest in EVs by beefing up our EV inventory.

As we look into the future of mobility and transportation, we realize that we must continue to be on the forefront of change, as EV adoption is projected to increase sharply in years to come.

Investing in Multi-Modal Future

Now, we are looking into new, innovative business practices: multi-modal transportation options. I believe in the vision of an omni-channel transportation system. Multimodal transportation will give consumers options—they will most likely be able to choose their type of transportation depending on the journey, the reason, the weather, and so many more factors.

We're very excited for the future and we don't have to look too far. In the next two to three years we will see fleets of vehicles, company vehicles, subscription vehicles, rental vehicles, rideshare vehicles and more.

Ricart Automotive Group recently invested in a 110,000 sq.ft. warehouse to expand our fleet and commercial vehicle sales and service division. The new building, which is slated to open in 2020, will have electric vehicle charging stations. This is in addition to the 12 EV charging stations already on-site at the Ricart Megamall, located in southeast Columbus.

Fleets of companies owning cars, both internal combustion engines (ICEs) and EVs, are already a big part of our transportation and business plan. As more people continue moving back to urban areas and facing challenging commutes, many companies will need to continue to look at offering transportation to employees.

To prepare for these changes, Ricart has invested a significant portion of our training dollars into ensuring our technicians are ready. Technicians are currently going through manufacturer-required training for EVs for all seven of our new vehicle brands, including Ford, Genesis, Hyundai, Kia, Mazda, Mitsubishi, and Nissan.

EVs in Ford's Pipeline

You don't have to look like a Toyota Prius to be aerodynamic anymore. Manufacturers are more keenly aware of customer needs and are transforming and perfecting EV models based on the feedback from dealers and customers. One of the main factors is the look of the vehicle - including its aerodynamics.

I'm personally very excited to see in the next 18 months Ford's battery electric performance-themed crossover. Ford's Project 727 will be a 4-door crossover with mixes of the Ford Mustang and an SUV. This specific model is anticipated to fit the needs of a wide array of Ford's customers who are looking to drive an EV while still maintaining speed and space.

We know there are some new model EVs coming, and we'll start to see the first few adaptations of our current models. Vehicles that are traditionally known to be ICE vehicles will have options for battery plug-ins and electric systems that will perform better.

Future-Proof Expansion

In addition to all of the preparation on the automotive side, Ricart recently acquired the three A.D. Farrow Harley-Davidson stores in Columbus which will offer even more transportation options for their customers. It's exciting now that we've broken into the two-wheel urban mobility sector with scooters, motorcycles, and battery powered bicycles.

In the next seven years, Harley-Davidson has 52 fully-electric models coming out ranging from children's bicycles, scooters all the way to full-size motorcycles. In Spring 2020, the new full-sized LiveWire is expected to drop in stores.

What we have in front of us right now is more opportunity. From a dealership standpoint, and from the partnership with Smart Columbus, we know multi-modal is going to be here sooner than we think, and we're excited about it!

<https://smart.columbus.gov/electric-vehicle-consumer-adoption/ricart-automotive-drives-EV-fleet%20growth-multimodal-transportation-columbus-region>

Chris Jones '84 - President and CEO of Iron Pony Motorsports Group, has recently been given the privilege to name one of the new baby rhinos at The Wilds. (Scout – after America's first motorcycle brand Indian Motorcycle and their famed motorcycle model "Scout.") This "naming honor" has been realized after four years of donations generated from Iron Pony Motorsports "The Ride For Rhinos" annual motorcycle ride, which benefits endangered animal species at The Wilds.

The Wilds continues lineage of rhinos

By Alissa Widman Neese
The Columbus Dispatch

Another southern white rhinoceros has been born at The Wilds, adding to the longest lineage of the species outside its native ranges in Africa.

The female calf was delivered Wednesday afternoon in the conservation center's pastures. She is the 21st southern white rhino born at The Wilds in the past 15 years and the third fifth-generation rhino to be born at the facility.

The calf has been named Scout, after a brand of motorcycle, to recognize the generosity of Iron Pony Motorsports. For four years, the Columbus business has hosted a "Ride for Rhinos" motorcycle ride fundraiser to benefit the species at The Wilds, which is located about 80 miles east of Columbus and operated by the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

Scout and her 5-year-old mother Agnes — who was also born at The Wilds — are doing well and continuing to bond, the facility said Monday. Scout's father is 21-year-old Kengele, a first-time dad born at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

"We are thrilled to announce the arrival of this white rhinoceros calf and to continue to be part of the species' conservation story," Jan Ramer, vice president of



Scout, a southern white rhinoceros calf, was born at The Wilds to 5-year-old Agnes. The conservation park has one of the largest groups of southern white rhinos outside Africa. [GRAHAM S. JONES/COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM]

The Wilds, said in a statement Monday.

The southern white rhino is considered near-threatened, with about 20,400 left in the wild, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Rhinos of all species are frequently poached for their horns.

In 2014, The Wilds welcomed the first fifth-generation southern white rhino calf born outside of Africa, a male named Letterman. In

2017, the center welcomed its second, a female named Faith.

Rhino breeding is recommended by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, a nonprofit group that includes more than 230 accredited institutions in the United States and abroad, including The Wilds and the Columbus Zoo. The association manages species survival plans for at-risk animals, which helps species maintain genetic diversity and thrive.

Guests may have an opportunity to view Scout and Agnes in the rhino barn beginning Friday as part of winter tours of the facility.

Winter at The Wilds
Tours are available at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. through April. Reservations must be made at least 72 hours in advance. Go to www.thewilds.org for more information.

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Read: The Duality of Queer and Christian

Qth magazine

October 3, 2019

By **Abby Jeffers '18**

She/Her/Hers

For those of us who identify as both queer and Christian, it can be difficult to find common ground when a history of condemnation and alienation of the other group exists in both communities. Christians have condemned those in the LGBTQ+ community as living in a “sinful lifestyle,” and the LGBTQ+ community has long referred to Christians as being bigoted and hypocritical, so living as someone who identifies as both can feel like a constant tug-of-war between two conflicting identities.

When I was a freshman in high school, I was outed by a girl in the grade above me. She found out I was questioning my sexuality and told her mom, who then told my mom – in the middle of a Bible study and in front of other moms. My mom is now an avid ally, but at the time, she approached me and told me that she still loved me, but that she also believed that same-sex relationships were a sin. I was heartbroken and felt alone in my house and in my head, and I slid into a cold, dark hole of self-loathing as I began to believe that God hated me for who I am.

Almost exactly four years later, as an incoming freshman at Ohio University, I spent the first few days of college life with a small cohort of students, one of whom told me that, even though she thought that queer people should have legal rights, she didn’t believe her God could support that lifestyle. I felt sick; it felt like a punch in the gut and like this college that I had previously thought would be a new start was tainted by the shame I had felt in my past.

I have since made peace with God, but I was not always a Christian. When I was younger, we attended church and participated in the choir and Sunday school. In middle school, I struggled to believe in a benevolent higher power after a sibling’s friend died by suicide and I witnessed my own friends dealing with depression and anxiety. I had also always associated religion with anti-queerness, so I assumed that I would always be the outsider. Then, my mom discovered a church in our new neighborhood, and although I was hesitant at first, I let my sister talk me into going to the youth group meetings.

The moment I first stepped through the door at the high school student night, I was welcomed with a hug, and it was this sense of warmth and love that drew me in. The church preached a “belonging first” mentality and told its constituents that no matter what they’d done, they were loved.

My family grew to be somewhat of a staple at the church. I created a core group of friends from the other student volunteers, and I even met my girlfriend there. I had finally found a space in which I could develop my faith without hiding my identity as a queer person.

Several years later, however, I was confronted with the fact that the leadership contract, a requirement for all church staff and volunteer leaders, stated that the church believed a holy marriage was between one man and one woman. I marinated on that information for several months before requesting a meeting with my pastor to discuss it. At the coffee shop where we met, he confirmed that anyone in a same-sex relationship was prohibited from becoming a leader.

The pastor told me that it was nothing personal, but that this part of me that I believed to be foundational to my identity and an authentic part of myself was not so. Instead, he told me, it is true that I was made in the image of God, but that my attraction to women was instilled in me by Satan. My pastor said that God and the church both still loved me, even though I was living a life of sin by dating another woman. He told me that the church believed that marriage is between one man and one woman and that, even though I may love another woman, that love is wrong.

In that conversation, everything I was told directly conflicted with the most important message that I had come to internalize: that I was loved unconditionally, regardless of my identity.

So I left the church. I felt betrayed and hurt by a community that I believed had loved me wholeheartedly.

But this time around, throughout all of the chaos, I found that my faith remained steady. After enduring turmoil from previous dissonance between God and my own identity, I had built a solid internal foundation of faith and love as well as external groups of other Christians and queer people who affirmed both of my identities regardless of other factors.

I also found queer community and peace in places I'd never considered looking: in a friend and former boss who tried earnestly to suggest a new spiritual home, though she identified her "church" as sitting in a circle with her closest friends and telling them she loved them; in the enthusiastic and loving and fiery queer people who worked at the LGBTQ+ youth center where I interned; in a fellow conference-goer who happened to be the first openly gay student body president of her college.

Eventually, though, it was within myself that I found the acceptance I craved. Yes, community helps, but I had to tune out the external messages and come to terms with that Creator myself through a long period of self-reflection. Though it was a long and complicated process filled with years of inner turmoil, I found that when my faith didn't waver during a difficult test with the church, I had finally accepted both of my identities fully and completely.

I have also forgiven myself for years of internalized hate toward my own queerness. I have forgiven the girls from high school and college, too, and though I haven't spoken to the one who outed me since we graduated, I'm glad to call the other girl my friend.

And, perhaps more importantly, these days, I can proudly say that I am both queer and a Christian and that I believe that God loves me unconditionally, not in spite of my identity as a queer person, but because of it.

<https://qthmagazine.com/2019/10/03/queerchristian/>

Chicago fitness chain eyes Columbus for growth

Tristan Navera – Staff reporter

Columbus Business First

Jun 14, 2019, 6:30am EDT

A Chicago-based gym has its eye on expanding in Columbus.

Shred415 – named for its style of four 15-minute high-intensity workout sessions – has opened its first location off Sawmill Road. A second will open later this month in Lewis Center.

Lauren and **Dustin Speaks '04** are franchise owners of the Lewis Center location at 6297 Pullman Dr., which will start classes at the end of this month. As he put together gym equipment in the orange-and-black 2,900-square-foot storefront, Dustin Speaks said the concept felt right to invest in. He's starting a new career after 10 years as a pastor and took inspiration after getting some feedback from a friend who ran a CrossFit gym.

"It's a very motivating kind of atmosphere, and I think that goes a long way when you're talking different levels of fitness," Speaks said. "We want people with different goals to be able to pursue them."

The gym will host classes of up to 30 in high-intensity interval training, and combination strength training and treadmill work. This kind of workout is self-driven, so it will allow people who are getting in shape to work out at their own intensity alongside people with more advanced fitness goals, said Andrew Rickly, the gym's community manager.

It will sell memberships as well as flexible packages of different sizes and private sessions, Rickly said.

It's also got a children's play area for while people are in their classes, said Speaks, who has three children.

"Culture is a big part of the franchise which we liked," Speaks said. "It's very family-oriented."

Shred415's Lewis Center location will employ 10 to 15 when open, in addition to about another 10 fitness instructors, and it's currently hiring as well as offering specials for new customers.

The Lewis Center franchise plans to expand to the west, Speaks said, adding that it's looking in Westerville, New Albany and near Polaris in order to open a second location by early 2020. The currently open location is at 6610 Sawmill Road, with a franchise group that includes Katie & Scott Blickhan, Sara Wortman and Chad Hemminger.

It's in a fast-growing area, in between a new Starbucks location and a soon-to-open Scrambler Marie's in what has been Ohio's fastest-growing county for years.

The chain, founded in 2011 by Bonnie Micheli and Tracy Roemer, has been steadily growing and has 20 locations open today, but the goal is to open 150 locations by next year, targeting urban and suburban metropolitan markets.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/columbus/news/2019/06/14/chicago-fitness-chain-eyes-columbus-for-growth.html>

Shop Talk: New Gym in Lewis Center Combines Cardio and Strength Training
Columbus Underground
October 14, 2019 2:30 pm
Randi Walle Randi Walle

The fitness scene in Columbus continues to grow with the addition of a new gym in Lewis Center at 6297 Pullman Drive. Chicago-based Shred415 follows a unique model that allows everyone to have a complete and personalized workout.

Shred415 Lewis Center Owner **Dustin Speaks '04** opened the gym earlier this year after taking a class at a Shred415 gym in Indianapolis. Speaks has always been interested in fitness, and he loves how the model of Shred415 connects physical and emotional health with community. Last year, he traveled with his now studio manager, Andrew Rickly, to Chicago to learn the ropes, and together they opened the Lewis Center location in June 2019.

The gym's name is derived from the workout model it follows – four 15-minute intervals. The workout alternates cardio and high intensity interval training (HIIT) for a full-body workout. A typical instructor-led class contains 30 participants, with 15 starting on treadmills and 15 starting on the floor. Every 15 minutes, the groups swap. The workouts strive to be effective and engaging for everyone.

Exercises can be personalized and modified to fit each individual. Class participants self-select their own starting point and the instructor coaches them on where to go from there. Participants are encouraged to push past their own comfort zone for one to two minutes and then recover for a brief period before doing it again. For example, participants on the floor would be instructed to pick up a "heavy weight" instead of a specific weight, allowing participants to decide what feels heavy to them. On the treadmills, participants would be

encouraged to increase speed or incline by .1 to .5 from their starting point instead of a specific speed or incline. This method allows all participants, from novice to seasoned pros, to benefit from the workout simultaneously.

In lieu of a traditional membership, Shred415 offers several options for classes. The first class is always free. After that, participants can pay per class, pay for a specified number of classes, or pay for unlimited classes on a month-to-month basis. The gym offers a fully-stocked locker room, complete with towel service. They also offer childcare for most classes, where kids can hangout with games, toys, coloring and a TV.

Shred415 strives to be “more than a workout” for the fitness community, but creates a family-friendly environment and participates in activities outside of the gym. Once a week they do pop-up events in the community, usually collaborating with another local business, to offer an outdoor workout and family activities. Shred415 also frequently brings treats into the gym, like ice cream, local coffee, and chips & dip for participants to enjoy together after their workout.

For more information, visit Shred415.com, or follow the gym on social media @Shred415LewisCenter.

<https://www.columbusunderground.com/shop-talk-new-gym-in-lewis-center-combines-cardio-and-strength-training-rw1>

Byers Chevrolet Donates AED Training Unit to Jackson Township Fire Department
Grove City, OH

SEPTEMBER 10- Jackson Fire Department received an AED Training Unit donated by Byers Chevrolet of Grove City, in a partnership with the Ohio Automobile Dealers Association (OADA).

Jackson Township Fire Dept. Inspector Indol Moore stated that the department holds two training courses a month for the AED Units, and the unit will be incorporated into those classes for the community and surrounding areas.

George Kauffman '92, Vice President of Byers Auto Group said of the event, “It was our pleasure to donate an AED unit to the Jackson Township Fire Department in Grove City. We admire and respect their commitment to keeping our community safe. The support we have received and continue to receive from Grove City has been amazing and equipping our first responders with the necessary tools needed is our way to say thank you.”

Byers Chevrolet General Manager Jeremy Francis, along with Chris Haas of the Ohio Automobile Dealers Association, and OH Representative Laura Lanese (R-Grove City), presented the AED training unit at the dealership on September 10th.

Jackson Township Fire Department firefighters that were present at the donation included Inspector Indol Moore, Lt. Garvey, and Firefighters Mollohan, Gatten, Windmayer, and Gatten.

http://oada.com/aws/OADA/pt/sd/news_article/256743/_PARENT/layout_details/false

Humans Have (Not) Landed on Mars: 11 scientific misconceptions debunked
Caltech Magazine
Fall 2019, Features
BY LORI DAJOSE (BS '16)

When someone asks me what I majored in at Caltech, I tend to hesitate. Sometimes the answer, planetary science, draws some puzzled looks from nonscientists. If they misheard me, they might say, "I love plants, I'm actually a vegetarian!" Or, if they heard me correctly: "So, where are the aliens? Can you bring Pluto back?" And so on. Once, a person responded by telling me his favorite planet was Europa: a good effort at conversation, though Europa is not, in fact, a planet.

Misunderstandings abound when it comes to science. Here, eight Caltech scientists correct some common misconceptions people have about areas of research.

Myth #1: Today's solar panels are as good as it gets

"Solar cells convert the sun's energy to electricity in materials called semiconductors. Most solar cells use silicon as a semiconductor. Silicon is a good material; it's efficient, and the field is close to maximizing the material's potential. However, silicon is actually quite difficult to produce. It's expensive and uses some harsh chemicals. For solar cells to keep getting cheaper, we need to find some alternatives to silicon.

"I'm working on making solar cells out of new, ultrathin semiconductors called transition metal dichalcogenides. They can absorb the same amount of energy as a silicon cell, but because they're almost a thousand times thinner, you can make a thousand times as many cells for the same amount of material. This would make solar cells much cheaper to produce."

CORA WENT, GRADUATE STUDENT IN PHYSICS

Myth #2: People have been to Mars

"It's a pretty common misconception for people to think that we have already sent humans to Mars and that we've already brought samples back. We've done neither of these things!

"Retrieving samples from Mars is difficult because getting off Mars is difficult. A craft that lands on Mars's surface also needs to carry a rocket that can launch from there. The components of rockets don't do so well with extreme temperature changes, and on Mars you get 90-degree temperature swings in the course of an average day. Doing that over and over to your rocket is not good for reliability.

“Putting people on Mars is hard because space is not a hospitable place for humans. A one-way trip to Mars takes seven months, and a roundtrip takes about two years because Earth’s and Mars’s orbits align only infrequently. So not only do you need to bring enough food, water, and fuel, you have to keep the astronauts protected from cosmic radiation and the microgravity that weakens their bones. Any spacecraft carrying humans would need to be five to 10 times more massive than the Curiosity rover, and getting that heavy a craft to land safely on Mars is a tough task we haven’t solved yet.”

BETHANY EHLMANN, PROFESSOR OF PLANETARY SCIENCE AND JPL RESEARCH SCIENTIST

Myth #3: Stem cell research requires embryonic tissue

“There’s a common misconception about stem-cell biology that all of the stem cells used in our research are taken from unborn embryos. In fact, you can make stem cells very easily from any type of adult tissue by just introducing a couple of transcription factors (molecules that modify gene expression). A lot of people react strongly when I say I work on stem cells because they think they come from embryos, but, in fact, I use stem cells from adult skin cells.”

ALISON KOONTZ, GRADUATE STUDENT IN BIOLOGY

Myth #4: AI will lead to a robot uprising ... or solve the world’s problems

“Artificial intelligence (AI) can be heavily distorted as two extremes: the first is the idea that AI will become dystopian and destructive to humanity, and the second is the notion that AI will solve all of the world’s problems by making super-intelligent scientific advances. Neither of these are true in the foreseeable future.

“Even though the field has made a lot of progress recently, the simplest of tasks (for humans) are still extremely challenging for AI to tackle. Take computer vision, for example; the process of teaching computers to recognize objects in an image. For a human, identifying discrete objects in an image is so trivial we don’t even think of it as a challenging problem. Currently, there is a big difference between the mechanisms that humans use to see and the mechanisms used by computers. For example, say you add a small amount of noise to an image. A person can ‘overcome’ the noise and still easily perceive what is in the image. But a machine can be completely fooled. Humans have an inbuilt robustness, but artificial intelligence is more brittle.

“We do, however, need to take caution in some aspects of using AI. For example, AI can become biased and unfair toward certain demographics if it learns from biased data. What’s more, launching poorly designed systems into the real world, like self-driving cars, can cause fatal accidents because they go wrong in nonintuitive ways. We don’t even know when to expect systems to make mistakes because they make decisions so differently from humans.”

ANIMA ANANDKUMAR, BREN PROFESSOR OF COMPUTING AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

Universal Truths

With unfathomable distances, sizes, and incomprehensible timescales, outer space can seem abstract to people who aren't astronomers. Astronomy graduate student Mia de los Reyes explains a couple of common misconceptions about the universe:

Myth #5: Galaxies are basically static

"In the same way a forest seems peaceful but is constantly changing, galaxies are ecosystems that are ever-evolving. Stars are being born and dying, material is flowing around, and galaxies gravitationally interact with one another.

When people think of galaxies, they think of static pictures. But galaxies are very much dynamic."

Myth #6: There is a "center" of the universe

"The phrase 'center of the universe' is used casually, but it's interesting because there actually is no center of the universe. Even though the universe is expanding, it's happening everywhere at the same time. Space itself is being stretched out. The expansion looks the same from any point within the universe because everything is moving away from everything else."

Myth #7: Genetically modified food is unsafe

"In agriculture, there are two ways to create a genetically modified organism, or GMO. The first is simply to speed up the natural process of breeding: take a gene from one plant and put it in another of the same kind, such as a tomato plant. The other way is to take a gene from one organism and put it into a different type of organism; taking the gene that produces a natural insecticide in a bacterium and transplanting it into a corn plant, for example.

"In order for any of the resulting GMOs to go to market, they first have to be tested extensively by the USDA, the FDA, and the EPA.

"There has been some lobbying to require labels to identify foods that are genetically modified. This is actually rather counterproductive because it gives the erroneous impression that one type of food is 'safer' than another. Take the natural insecticide BT, for example, isolated from a bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Plants can still be labeled 'organic' when they are sprayed with BT. Plants like corn, cotton, and soybeans can also be genetically modified to produce this pesticide themselves, and since they produce it internally, these plants don't need such a high dose for the insecticide to be effective.

"So, in this case, the GMO plant would actually have less insecticide on it than its 'organic' counterpart. People might be afraid to purchase it, though, simply because it is labeled 'genetically modified.'"

SARAH COHEN '11, GRADUATE STUDENT IN BIOLOGY

Myth #8: Voter discrimination is a thing of the past

"In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court held in *Shelby v. Holder* that the most important provision of the Voting Rights Act was unnecessary. In his majority opinion, Chief Justice Roberts asserted that discrimination against African American voters was no longer concentrated in the South and that combating it was now less important than upholding states' rights. My research shows, however, that voting discrimination is still widespread, and that it is, in fact, still concentrated in the South.

"It's also a misconception to think that prejudiced people show prejudice to all groups equally. For example, in the mid-1850s, the Know-Nothing Party in Massachusetts was very anti-Catholic and anti-Irish, but it supported school desegregation for black and white children. Prejudice is not universal and uniform, which complicates the study of discrimination and bias.

"For those of us who study racial discrimination today, it can actually be quite difficult to determine public attitudes. Most racially prejudiced people are not going to admit in a survey that they are racially prejudiced. So, sociologists and social psychologists must devise ways to measure implicit bias in order to identify the attitudes people really hold and whether beliefs align with their behavior."

MORGAN KOUSSER, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Myth #9: Math is all about numbers

"Math is not really about calculations and computations. It's the study of different abstract structures and their properties.

"The fundamental pursuit of mathematics is to define a structure consisting of some objects and rules for how they can interact and then try to prove that those structures must behave in a certain way. The system doesn't have to describe the real world, and it doesn't have to use numbers. Systems of logic, not numbers, are the foundations of mathematical construction. For example, you can look at geometric shapes and surfaces, and figure out how they behave.

"Everything in math is about building something. You create something abstract and set some definitions and rules for how it works, and you play with it and see what happens. If you succeed in proving through a logical argument that your abstract system always behaves in a certain way, you also understand the behavior of all the different specific examples."

JANE PANANGADEN, GRADUATE STUDENT IN MATHEMATICS

Shaky Understanding

Earthquakes are scary, not only because of their potentially destructive effects but because they can happen anytime. Staff seismologist Jen Andrews addresses two common seismic issues:

Myth #10: Science can predict when the Big One will happen

“As seismologists, we’re often asked if we can predict when the Big One (a magnitude 7 or 8 earthquake, most likely on the San Andreas Fault) is going to happen. We can’t actually predict when it will happen, but we do something called forecasting, which is where we give some idea of the likelihood of certain events of certain magnitudes within specific time frames. The natural cycle of the San Andreas system shows a magnitude 7 or 8 every few hundred years at different sections, and we haven’t had one for 300 years in the southern section, so we estimate that there is a 19 percent chance that we will have an event greater than M6.7 within the next 30 years. We also forecast how the faults might interact: an 8 on the San Andreas could stress nearby faults and possibly trigger a 7 on those. But it’s not prediction. We don’t know when it will happen.”

Myth #11: Earthquakes open up huge chasms in the ground

“Movies can scare people when they portray earthquakes as opening up massive, jagged chasms in the ground. Even though huge earthquakes release lots of energy, the ground physically doesn’t move very far. The amount of slip on the fault does correlate with the magnitude of the earthquake. To create a magnitude 7.8, like the earthquake that essentially destroyed San Francisco in 1906, the ground moves on the order of meters, maybe 20 feet or so. But, how much of the fault is moving a meter matters, too. In the 6.7 Northridge quake of 1994, about 30 kilometers of fault moved 1 meter. It doesn’t sound like much, but it has the potential to create enormous damage.”

<https://magazine.caltech.edu/post/scientific-misconceptions>

OHIO PROGRESSIVE **MORGAN HARPER '01** RAISED \$323,000 IN FIRST QUARTER OF HOUSE RACE

The Intercept

Rachel M. Cohen

October 9 2019, 9:00 a.m.

MORGAN HARPER, the 36-year-old progressive running for Congress in Ohio’s 3rd Congressional District raised a remarkable \$323,000 during the first quarter of her campaign, setting her up for a potent primary challenge to 69-year-old Rep. Joyce Beatty, a four-term incumbent.

Harper, a first-time candidate, is running on the idea that Congress needs a new generation of leaders and is coming at Beatty from the left. Her platform consists of universal child care, tuition-free public college, Medicare for All, reparations, affordable housing, and a Green New Deal. In July, she told The Intercept that she sees freshman lawmakers like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ayanna Pressley, Ilhan Omar, and Rashida Tlaib as role models. “I most closely identify with the women who are pushing for the bold policies that we’re going to need to make sure people are OK, and we build a United States that works for everyone,” she said.

Beatty, a longtime official with Ohio State University, entered politics in 1999, taking over her husband's seat in the Ohio state House, where he had served the previous two decades. There she became Democratic leader and the first woman to hold that position in the chamber's history. She was then elected to Congress in 2012, serving on the powerful House Financial Services Committee, often aligning herself with financial interests.

Harper's first-quarter haul came from approximately 2,670 individual donors from all 50 states, though the plurality came from Ohio, according to figures provided by her campaign. Residents of 90 percent of the ZIP codes represented in the Ohio district, which includes most of Columbus, were among the donors, said Harper. The average donation to the campaign was \$85, with 90 percent of donations standing at \$100 or less.

Like other progressive challengers, Harper has sworn off money from corporate political action committees, lobbyists, and the fossil fuel industry. Beyond that, Harper has also said she will not accept donations from payday lenders and firearms manufacturers. But Harper's time spent working at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Washington, D.C., as well as her degrees from Tufts, Stanford, and Princeton, also give her a network to tap for bigger contributions than many challengers are able to muster.

Harper's campaign has raised the fourth-largest amount of money among any first-time congressional primary challenger in the initial quarter of their campaign, according to data provided by Data for Progress. Her haul trails Tim Canova, who raised roughly \$537,000 in the first quarter of his ultimately unsuccessful 2016 bid; Suraj Patel, who raised more than \$525,000 his first quarter against New York Rep. Carolyn Maloney in 2018; and Ayanna Pressley, who raised \$364,000 against Michael Capuano that same cycle. (Patel narrowly lost his 2018 primary bid, and he recently announced that he will be launching a second challenge. Pressley won her race and now represents Massachusetts' 7th District.)

Harper's campaign fundraising prowess was made possible by a strong ground operation, she told The Intercept. "We have at this point a solid group of folks who are consistently canvassing every week," she said. "People stop in, we're out speaking at different events and supporting different progressive movements that are underway. We are feeling very optimistic. The biggest challenge is just overcoming the privileges that come with incumbency. But once we get to people, they're really excited."

Three recent incidents put Harper's campaign on the national map, giving her a boost among out-of-state donors, Harper said: an endorsement in early August from Justice Democrats, an appearance on the Young Turks, and "the Jonathan Weisman thing" — referring to a Twitter controversy initiated by then-New York Times Deputy Washington Editor Jonathan Weisman. On August 7, he noted that Justice Democrats had endorsed a challenger to Beatty, "an African-American Democrat."

Harper then quote-tweeted Weisman, saying, "I am also black."

Harper's tweet went viral, elevated in part by prominent figures like Roxane Gay, who tweeted, "Any time you think you're unqualified for a job remember that this guy, telling a black woman she isn't black because he looked at a picture and can't see, has one of the most prestigious jobs in America."

The episode escalated when Weisman emailed Gay, her assistant, and her book publisher to demand Gay apologize for her tweets, arguing that she had "willfully or mistakenly" misconstrued his remarks.

The drama resulted in Weisman getting demoted, and he hasn't tweeted since that day.

"All those things just amplified awareness nationally and really increased the number of small donors," Harper told The Intercept.

Harper's fundraising news comes on the heels of a successful quarter for Jessica Cisneros, a progressive challenger running against Rep. Henry Cuellar in Texas's 28th District. In the last quarter, Cisneros raised \$310,000 — a significant boost, likely aided in part by Sen. Elizabeth Warren throwing her weight behind the candidate in September. Marie Newman, a progressive running against incumbent Democrat Dan Lipinski in Illinois's 3rd Congressional District likewise saw a successful quarter. Campaign manager Ben Hardin told The Intercept that Newman raised \$350,000 in the most recent fundraising period. Newman, who came close to defeating Lipinski in a primary challenge last year, has been endorsed by Warren and Ocasio-Cortez. Both Cisneros and Newman have also sworn off corporate PAC and lobbyist money.

"These are pretty astounding numbers," said Sean McElwee, co-founder of Data for Progress. "The fact that we are having this number of primary challengers hitting these numbers — and I suspect there will be more to come — is telling and really a sign that the idea that primary challengers are somehow abnormal or somehow malignant is wrong."

"If I were an incumbent, I would be scared shitless," McElwee continued. "Right now, if you were a member of Congress who thought, 'Oh, only Capuano or Crowley or white guys in majority POC districts need to be worried,' what candidates like Morgan Harper and Jessica Cisneros are saying is that any Democrat representing a safe Democratic district should be put on watch."

Correction: Oct. 9, 2019, 11:51 a.m.

A previous version of this article said that a majority of Harper's donations came from Ohio. In fact, it was a plurality of donations.

<https://theintercept.com/2019/10/09/morgan-harper-ohio-congress-donations/>

Ohio-based Origin Malt is bringing Midwest grown barley back to brewing
Craft Business Brewing

OCTOBER 7, 2019
KEITH GRIBBINS

The craft part of craft beer embodies many characteristics. The Brewers Association has a specific definition, defining a craft brewery as “small, independent and traditional” with descriptions for each word. That term “craft” also exudes other non-defined feelings of artisanship, specialized ingredients and local flair to consumers (among many other things). The word craft says this product, this beer, has a story to tell, and Ohio’s Origin Malt wants to help breweries create and tell those stories.

The Columbus, Ohio-based maltster is focused on bringing back Midwest-grown barley, which it feels aligns with the local-focused narratives of many a brewery. Origin Malt was formed in 2015 to “redefine what is possible in a globally connected, locally driven supply chain.”

“There are three key themes that we view as important to our company,” explained **Victor Thorne ’92**, Origin Malt cofounder. “One is seed to sip. The fact that we partner with farmers and brewers, and we’re really a supply chain company — growing, manufacturing and distribution. We are authentically looking at identifying the right varieties and working through the entire process of how we develop the marketplace from the genetics of the seed to the finished malt and how that impacts flavor. Because of our location and our Midwest focus, one of our taglines is malt within shouting distance. Just being able to truly demonstrate to the brewers and distillers that we’re close by. We’re part of the ecosystem in our region, and we’re collaborating.

“Then the last promise is honest to goodness. We really want to be authentic and transparent and share our innovation and share our research and be very open with our partners. We don’t want to view farmers as our vendors and brewers as our customers. We’re partners with them.”

Today, most of America’s barley is grown in the Northwest. The top three states are Idaho, Montana and North Dakota — with Minnesota, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Washington, Oregon and California adding to barley and malting’s main growing regions. Prior to Prohibition in 1920, barley actually accounted for nearly 350,000 acres of Ohio’s crops. In 2017, that number dwindled to fewer than 500 acres of barley grown for malting purposes. Origin Malt wants to bring back Ohio’s barley heyday and give Midwest breweries the ability to boast their own special, locally-sourced malt. Origin contracts directly with family farms across four different Midwest states, taking a hands-on approach to engage barley growers and beer makers with resources.

Within the next five years, Origin Malt has big plans to plant at least 75,000 acres of malting barley and operate a brand new, state-of-the-art malthouse in central Ohio. Right now, the company is working about 15,000 acres, but those acres are growing an exclusively licensed variety — LCS Puffin, a two-row winter barley — an offspring of Maris Otter from Limagrain Cereal Seeds.

“Puffin definitely has some unique characteristics that are very prevalent in U.K. originating barleys,” said Sara Hagerty, sales and marketing director at Origin Malt. “There’s a little bit of the nuttiness or almost a toasted almond quality in terms of flavor and nuance to the variety. What’s interesting is because we are 100 percent Puffin, in all of our different types of products — we have C-15, C-40, C-90, a brewer’s malt, pilsner malt — there is this beautiful undercurrent in terms of flavor and quality that the barley has. Part of that is also due to the quality of our contract malting. We work very closely with our contract malting partner to maintain all of our specifications so that we achieve our outcomes for our flavors and for what our goals are for different products.”

Origin has malted nine different types of malts over the last two years from Puffin. It’s a versatile grain — whether it’s being used as a Munich, pale, pilsner or low protein brewer’s malt. Puffin is actually a winter barley, and it has proven to be exceedingly successful and hardy in the Midwest’s mixed terroir. Its evaluation can be traced back to Ohio State and Associate Professor’s Dr. Eric Stockinger’s work on cold acclimation and freezing tolerance in plants.

“Puffin was identified in a seed bank by Dr. Stockinger. He got permission from Limagrain Cereal Seeds Co. out of the U.K. and Colorado, who owned the rights to it, to trial it. Now we have the rights to bring Puffin to the market in North America,” said Thorne. “Dr. Stockinger looked at over 50,000 unique varieties of barley. Most winters, when you go to his field in Wooster at the Ohio State extension, it would look disastrous. It’s intentional because it shows when you’re breeding these that some of the varieties don’t survive the winter due to its harness. You take those that do or you find the characteristics of those that do and you continue to enhance your genetics. Puffin has a very strong dormancy and has a short stock so it doesn’t blow over in those spring storms in May and June. It’s got great resilience.”

Also, because it’s a winter barley, Puffin is not as susceptible to the diseases that can often impact spring barley. Spring barley is at high risk of Fusarium Head Blight, which produces a vomitoxin (deoxynivalenol or more commonly known as DON) that spreads to barley from corn. What’s great about Puffin as a contradiction to spring barley, it’s a winter crop so it’s not being grown at the same time as corn. Also, Puffin is less at risk for pre-sprouting, which we just reported has been affecting this year’s spring barley crop in the Northwest.

“People are usually really looking at barley reports for spring barley,” explained Hagerty. “There concerns are, ‘What are the vomitoxin levels? Are we having any pre-sprouting?’ Some of those issues that threaten spring barley, winter barley is less at risk. Pre-sprouting is actually a huge problem for spring barley. What happens is the short crops spring barleys that are being grown in Saskatchewan or across the Plains, they get to a point where they’re in the field, and then these rain storms roll across. Because there isn’t latent dormancy in all spring varieties, they can often end up sprouting in the field. We’re lucky in that Puffin actually has a really sound dormancy. Even if there was ever a threat of pre-sprout, the variety itself as a winter barley has dormancy already in its genetics. That’s pretty outstanding.”

Origin Malt's products have been used by more than 25 craft breweries and can be found in 50+ beers. A good example is North High Brewing Co.'s Cover Crop, an American blonde ale that was a collab between the Ohio Farm Bureau and North High to commemorate the Ohio Farm Bureau's 100-year anniversary. Origin's products are also featured as the foundation of many recipes at Midwest breweries from Columbus' Nocterra Brewing Co. to MadTree Brewing Co. in Cincinnati.

"We currently use Origin Malt as our base malt in 75 percent of our beers, and we are shifting to using more of their specialty malts as they release them," said Bryan Duncan, brewer at Nocterra Brewing. "As a newer brewery we are building our house flavors and have been extremely pleased with the product. It is fantastic that we've had the opportunity to use a high-quality product that is grown in our backyard. As craft breweries, we have access to the same or similar ingredients and can create similar products based on regionality. Being able to have access to local grown malt helps define a regional flavor specific to the Midwest. We are excited to see the future growth of Origin Malt, and we have been happy working with their professional team."

In addition to direct sales, Origin Malt's sustainable, high-quality malt will be available to craft brewers starting this fall via the Country Malt Group, which will be distributed via five different warehouses across North America ready to serve brewers and distillers.

"We're also currently getting ready to launch a more robust version of our website, which I'm very excited for because you'll be able to actually place order requests directly online," said Hagerty. "Right now, we have our new crop material coming in, and that'll be available to consumers directly through Origin Malt but also through the Country Malt Group."

Regional Midwest craft brewers and distillers who value quality, innovation and local connection will find Origin Malt's Puffin selection quite interesting. The company continues to help more and more Midwest breweries tell local stories while showcasing traceability to product offerings — the latter a critical feature of the Origin Malt supply chain philosophy — going from seed to sip.

"I've been brewing since 2006 and one of the biggest things that I've learned as both brewer and as a supplier — to brewers traceability is so undervalued in terms of malts," said Hagerty. "We're really pushing to make sure that our customers know where we're growing, what we're growing and what makes this their malt. We are pushing that envelope in terms of delivering high-quality grain that we can confidently, with evidence, say this is 100 percent Puffin."

"Being able to source within your region and truly shorten your supply chain is what I think to be most inspirational about our project. Then top that with being able to bring barley back to this region and its historic prominence. Those are two big things that got me most interested in joining Origin Malt in the first place."

<https://www.craftbrewingbusiness.com/featured/ohio-based-origin-malt-is-bringing-midwest-grown-barley-back-to-brewing/>
