

“Jenny Mei Is Sad” Selected As 2022 Floyd’s Pick Book Award Winner
January 19, 2022

The State Library of Ohio and the Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) Advisory Council are pleased to announce that “Jenny Mei Is Sad” by **Tracy Subisak '05** (Little, Brown Young Readers, 2021) has been named the seventh annual Floyd’s Pick Book Award winner, in memory of children’s literature expert, advocate, and librarian Floyd Dickman.

The Floyd’s Pick Book Award is given annually to a book written by an Ohio author or illustrated by an Ohio illustrator that is representative of high-quality literature created for children. It is given to carry on the legacy of Floyd Dickman’s work to support and share children’s literature.

The CTRO Advisory Council has also selected three Floyd’s Pick Honor Books for 2022:

- “Change Sings: A Children’s Anthem” by Amanda Gorman, illustrated by Loren Long (Viking Books for Young Readers, 2021)
- “Family Reunion” by Chad and Dad Richardson; illustrated by Ashleigh Corrin (Barefoot Books, 2021)
- “Watercress” by Andrea Wang; illustrated by Jason Chin (Neal Porter Books, 2021)

Floyd’s Pick Book Award Winner “Jenny Mei Is Sad” is a universally relevant story of friendship, compassion, and validating children’s emotions. It was praised by the CTRO Advisory Council for its rich story behind simple sentences; for its beautiful, understated illustrations; and for opening space for discussion while staying faithful to a child’s understanding and response to helping a friend no matter what. Jenny Mei smiles a lot and makes people laugh. But her friend knows that beneath the surface, Jenny Mei is not as happy as she appears, and stays by her through ups and downs.

Tracy Subisak is the illustrator of several picture books, including “Amah Faraway” by Margaret Chiu Greanias. She is from Columbus and now lives in the Pacific Northwest.

Floyd’s Pick honor book “Change Sings: A Children’s Anthem” by presidential inaugural poet Amanda Gorman celebrates how mighty things happen when people—especially children—come together. Cincinnati-based illustrator Loren Long, creator of the Otis series, previously won the inaugural Floyd’s Pick Book Award for “Little Tree.”

Honor book “Family Reunion” centers the joy, festivity, and love of a Black American extended family and the eye-opening experience of a young family member initially resistant to attending the reunion. Father-son team of Dad (Charles) and Chad Richardson live in the Cincinnati and Columbus areas, respectively.

Honor book “Watercress” is the beautifully rendered, poignant, and ultimately celebratory story of a young girl who is embarrassed by her immigrant parents’ behavior and by her own outsider status, until she learns some important truths about family and memory over a dinner

of foraged watercress. Andrea Wang spent her childhood in Yellow Springs and now lives in Colorado.

Floyd Dickman was a Library Consultant at the State Library of Ohio and a tireless advocate for children's literature and librarianship who had a tremendous positive impact on library and literacy services in Ohio and across the country. Upon his retirement in 1999, the State Library of Ohio Board's retirement resolution recognized Floyd's leadership, commitment, and passion for library services, children's literature, and family literacy. Floyd is also remembered as a dedicated mentor to librarians and library science students. During his career he was awarded the Ohio Library Council Librarian of the Year award and was named Outstanding Friend by the Ohio Family Literacy Task Force. Floyd Dickman passed away in June 2015.

The CTRO Advisory Council established Floyd's Pick in December 2015 with a proclamation by Beverly Cain, former State Librarian of Ohio. Ohio author and illustrator Loren Long, winner of the first Floyd's Pick Book Award for "Little Tree" and now a Floyd's Pick honoree for "Change Sings," graciously provided the Floyd's Pick Book Award artwork.

Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO), a project of the State Library of Ohio, Ohioana Library, and the Ohio Center for the Book, spotlights Ohio authors and promotes reading across Ohio. Every two years, a booklist of twenty representative titles for all ages is selected with the input of dozens of Ohio librarians, educators, and others invested in readers and reading.

<https://library.ohio.gov/news/jenny-mei-is-sad-selected-as-2022-floyds-pick-book-award-winner/>

OHIO graduate awarded fellowship to create podcast in Berlin

A recent OHIO graduate has been awarded a prestigious international scholarship to work on a project in Berlin, Germany, that will examine the intersection between LGBTQ+ identity, science and activism.

Abby Jeffers '18, a recent journalism graduate from the Scripps College of Communication, will relocate to Berlin for the year as a German Chancellor Fellowship for the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

The 12-month fellowship seeks graduates with initial leadership experience from Brazil, China, India, South Africa and the United States who will implement a self-chosen project that is both socially relevant and have a lasting public impact, as well as also supporting their career development.

As a German Chancellor Fellow, she will work alongside a mentor at the Free University of Berlin and in the archives at the Gay Museum in Berlin to publish a podcast that examines the relationship between science and activism.

She is critical of the scientific method used in the western world, particularly in the United States, for what she feels is an unwavering dedication to remaining objective. She feels this commitment to objectivity can negatively impact the politics that affect marginalized communities.

“Science is not objective or neutral in the way that it affects people’s life,” she said. “Those things are just not objective.”

Though German science certainly still falls under the same umbrella, Jeffers believes Germany will be a particularly interesting country in which to work on her project because of the country’s output of progressive theories by sexologists pre-World War II.

Jeffers is a former Cutler Scholar, OHIO’s merit scholarship program for students who want to explore how to use their skills and interests to make a positive impact in their communities. As a Cutler Scholar she worked with the Kaleidoscope Youth Center, an organization serving LGBTQ youth in Ohio.

The project is a deeply personal issue for Jeffers, who personally experiences the effects of science that is weaponized by partisan politics.

“I am myself am queer and nonbinary, so these are all very personal issues to me,” she said.

<https://www.ohio.edu/news/2022/06/ohio-graduate-awarded-fellowship-create-podcast-berlin>

Farmer School alum named Fulbright Scholar for second time

There's a lot of things an economics degree can help prepare you for. Ask **Bob Eckhart '87**.

Published 7/19/22

We all have them. Little statements of knowledge and lore based on personal experiences that had a significant and/or unexpected impact on our lives. For Bob Eckhart '91, one of those statements might well be “When it comes to choosing a college degree, never underestimate the influence of a 1980s TV sitcom.”

“Family Ties' Alex P. Keaton, everybody was a business major, you know? You just didn't get any pushback from your parents when you said 'I'm going to be a business major.' And so I was a business major,” he recalled.

In the 30 years since leaving Oxford with a degree in economics, Eckhart has been a lecturer, an author, a law student, and a social entrepreneur. Eckhart taught for more than 20 years in the English Department and College of Education and Human Ecology at Ohio State. He also taught

courses for the Fisher College of Business, Moritz College of Law, and Wexner Medical Center. He was the executive director of the Combined ESL Programs.

One thing he hasn't been? An economist. "Even while I was getting my business major, I knew it wasn't for me, but I have zero regrets. I think it was awesome because it laid a great foundation," he said. "I have shockingly vivid memories of my life as a business student, even though I never went into business."

Eckhart has cultivated his wanderlust since a summer trip to Luxembourg while at Miami. "I just fell in love with traveling and meeting people and experiencing new cultures. It was making the world seem like a smaller place," he said. Since leaving Ohio State in 2015, he's traveled to China more than 30 times, he taught a course on social entrepreneurship at the University of Lagos in Nigeria, and later this summer, he will train teachers on technology-enhanced learning in Uganda at the African Rural University for women.

And this fall, Eckhart will be a Fulbright U.S. Scholar – for the second time.

His first work as a Scholar was for a project on technology-enhanced learning at Minsk State Linguistic University in Belarus in 2018, where it turned out that his business degree came in handy. "I was training English teachers, but they connected me to a management and economics professor who was running a startup competition. He got me connected to their startup incubator and I gave some talks on cross-cultural communication at a conference they had for their startup week," he said. "And then I went back to Belarus the next spring to work exclusively with him as a Fulbright Specialist and worked with his management and innovation students."

This time, Eckhart and his wife, Brienne Beaujolais, will be in Moldova, investigating how technology has been used to bridge interruptions in the education of Ukrainian refugees. The couple was able to work with their host institutions to fine-tune their research in a way that will address the humanitarian crisis in the region resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"I had to wait four years before I could be a Scholar again, but I'll do this every four years if I can because it's such an unbelievable opportunity," he said. "I still have this incredible wanderlust and I enjoy meeting people and working with people and I feel almost like a duty to do this because I don't have any kids, I don't have any student loans, and I have had all these amazing opportunities. So how can I not seek out even more opportunities?"

<https://miamioh.edu/fsb/news-events/2022/07/farmer-school-alum-named-fulbright-scholar-for-second-time.html>

Polish startup Talkie.ai raises €2.5 million for its medtech solution boosting customer experience

By Patricia Allen

EU-Startups.com
July 22, 2022

Working in the healthcare sector brings many challenges – customer service needn't be one of them. Aiming to make fully automated customer service solutions that streamline and simplify telephone hotlines, Polish startup Talkie.ai has developed an AI-based platform and is ramping up development and expansion.

New Funding

Today, Talkie.ai has announced a new raise of about €2.5 million from a Polish-Austrian consortium of VC funds. It includes 4growth VC, NIF ASI, Satus Starter, FundingBox, Gateway Ventures and Movens VC.

Shareholders include the LT Capital fund, which invested in the company at an earlier stage of its development.

Talkie.ai – Automating customer service solutions

Talkie.ai is developing in a niche but important sector, developing fully automated customer service solutions for organisations where the leading channel of contact is a telephone hotline – more specifically in the healthcare sector.

The healthcare sector faces many challenges, and providing quality customer services is an additional burden they have to face. From the growing and seasonally varying volume of calls from patients, the need for 24/7 availability of medical registration, to the necessity to offer multilingual telephone-based patient support, the challenges faced would all benefit from a touch of automation and digitalisation.

Founded in 2018, Talkie.ai wants to provide that.

Ada (Malinowska) Andruszkiewicz '98, Head of Operations at Talkie.ai said: “With our bots, you just want to talk. This is important because our solutions typically handle about 80 percent of customer inquiries, reducing call center operating costs by up to half. This is also one of the reasons for the interest in the healthcare industry. In wealthy yet aging Western societies, there is a growing demand for efficient remote handling of patient inquiries. At the same time there is strong pressure to reduce costs through automation.”

The Polish startup additionally offers automation services for optimizing other common hospital and clinic processes, such as allowing callers to make and manage appointments as a self-service, order prescriptions, and provide information on pricing and availability of services, or basic medical triage. It can also integrate with patient appointment management systems, as well as with a number of the largest providers of call centre systems on the market.

Krzysztof Bacht, managing partner of the 4growth VC fund, commented: “The solutions offered by Talkie.ai respond to current economic trends: rising labor costs and automation of

business processes. This translates into a growing demand for conversational bots using artificial intelligence. We were convinced to invest by the competence of the founding team and the finished product. The Talkie.ai solution surprises us with its simplicity of use, speed of implementation, as well as quality – much higher compared to solutions I have had the opportunity to observe in many companies.”

Tailored Product

Talkie.ai has centred its solution around the healthcare space – offering a valuable and helpful solution to an overburdened workforce. It’s also meant that the team has been able to create voicebots that have over 90% accuracy in understanding caller intent after just the first 10 data samples. Using voice cloning tech makes the voicebots sound more natural, further enhancing the client experience.

The solution also stands out for having short implementation times – ranging from as little as one day for simple business processes to just under several weeks for more complex implementations. Configuration and operation of the voicebots are done from an administration panel that gives the user full autonomy and control over their operation.

Further, choosing one of Talkie.ai’s standard, industry-specific solutions means that implementation doesn’t require a single line of code to be written. There is also the ability to fully customize the product to the specific needs of an organisation – making the product unique.

Krzysztof Szubert, CEO of NCBR Investment Fund, commented: “New technologies, Artificial Intelligence – based, are an opportunity and a developmental necessity for the health care system. Civilizational health challenges require the introduction of new digital solutions, optimization of operations and practical applications of Artificial Intelligence. The Polish startup Talkie.ai is responding to such demands, boldly entering the next stage of growth and thinking about further expansion into the US market. NIF is making an investment in the company together with its partners, recognizing its huge market potential.”

What’s Next

Conversational Artificial Intelligence is a relatively new market, and it’s growing fast – estimated to be worth around €16 billion by 2024. The healthcare sector is buying into virtual assistants big time, finding it the most efficient way to optimise interactions with clients. Talkie.ai reports that by 2027, the market for virtual assistants in healthcare will be worth over €2.6 billion.

Talkie.ai is already operating in the US, UK and Poland. This new capital injection will be used to further specialize and tailor the tech and to supercharge expansion in the US. Supporting healthcare industries with specialized off-the-shelf solutions is driving Talkie’s next phase of operations.

Pawel Lipinski, CEO and Co-Founder: “We intend to use the financing we raised to further develop our healthcare offering and expand overseas, primarily in the US, from where we

already derive more than a third of our revenue. Given the scale of the healthcare market in the US, we see the greatest growth potential there. We also anticipate further expansion of our team, as well as the introduction of off-the-shelf offerings for other industries, tailored to their specific needs.”

<https://www.eu-startups.com/2022/07/polish-startup-talkie-ai-raises-e2-5-million-for-its-medtech-solution-boosting-customer-service/>

Seven alumni elected to the Board of Overseers
The Harvard Gazette

Seven alumni have been elected as new members of Harvard University’s Board of Overseers and six as directors of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA).

The new members of the Board of Overseers
Monica Bharel, M.P.H. ’12
B.S./M.D. ’94, Boston University
Senior Adviser to the Mayor of Boston
Brookline, Massachusetts

Sangu Delle ’10, cum laude, J.D. ’16, M.B.A. ’16
M.St. ’19, University of Oxford
Chief Executive Officer, Africa Health Holdings Ltd.
Accra, Ghana

Scott Mead ’77, cum laude
M.Phil. ’79, University of Cambridge; J.D. ’82, University of Pennsylvania
Photographer
London

Lauren Ancel Meyers ’95, magna cum laude
Ph.D. ’00, Stanford University
Professor, Departments of Integrative Biology and Statistics & Data Sciences, University of Texas at Austin; Director, UT COVID-19 Modeling Consortium
Austin, Texas

Todd Y. Park (CA ’90) ’94, magna cum laude
Co-Founder and Executive Chair, Devoted Health
Los Altos Hills, California

Vikas P. Sukhatme, M.D. ’79
S.B. ’71, Sc.D. ’75, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Dean, Emory University School of Medicine

Atlanta

Wilhelmina “Mimi” Wright, J.D. ’89
B.A. ’86, Yale University
U.S. District Judge, District of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota

Five of the new Overseers — Sangu Delle, Lauren Meyers, Todd Park, Vikas Sukhatme, and Wilhelmina Wright — were elected for six-year terms. Monica Bharel will complete the remaining four years of the term of Tracy K. Smith ’94, who stepped down as an Overseer to become a member of the Harvard faculty. Scott Mead will complete the remaining two years of the term of Yvette Roubideaux ’85, M.D. ’89, M.P.H. ’97, who has stepped down in view of other obligations.

The new Overseers were elected from a slate of nine candidates nominated by an alumni nominating committee whose 13 voting members are appointed by the Harvard Alumni Association executive committee. Harvard degree holders cast a total of 31,383 ballots in the election.

“The board benefits from a new complement of members every year, and we’re fortunate to have such an impressive group of colleagues who’ll be joining us,” said Paul Choi ’86, J.D. ’89, who will serve as president of the board for 2022-23. “I look forward to working with all of them in the coming year, as all of us do our part to help Harvard thrive in complicated but also exciting times.”

The Board of Overseers is one of Harvard’s two governing boards, along with the President and Fellows, also known as the Corporation. As a central part of their work, the Overseers direct the visitation process, the primary means for periodic external assessment of Harvard’s Schools and departments. Through its array of standing committees, and the roughly 50 visiting committees that report to them, the board probes the quality of Harvard’s programs and assures that the University remains true to its charter as a place of learning. More generally, drawing on its members’ diverse experience and expertise, the board provides counsel to the University’s leadership on priorities, plans, and strategic initiatives. It also has the power of consent to certain actions, such as the election of Corporation members.

Additional information about the board, its members, and its work can be found on its [webpage](#).

The newly elected HAA directors
Sofia Bahena, Ed.M. ’13, Ed.D. ’14
B.A. ’06, Trinity University
Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, University of Texas at San Antonio
San Antonio

Michael Bervell '19
M.S. '21, University of Washington
Portfolio Development Manager, Microsoft Venture Fund
Snohomish, Washington

Jyoti Jasrasaria '12, cum laude, J.D. '18, cum laude
Associate, Elias Law Group L.L.P.
Washington

Cherie Lynn Ramirez, Ph.D. '12
A.A. '02, Valencia Community College; B.A. '06, Rollins College
Assistant Teaching Professor, Chemistry and Physics, Simmons University
Boston

Corina Santangelo, M.P.A. '99
A.B. '93, Pontificia Universidad Cattolica Argentina
Head of Fundraising, Child Fund Mexico
Mexico City

Judith Michelle Williams '91, cum laude
M.A. '95, Ph.D. '97, Stanford University
Human Capital Consultant, Magic Deer L.L.C.
San Francisco

The new directors were each elected for three-year terms. They were chosen from a slate of nine candidates, nominated by the same HAA committee that puts forward candidates for Overseers. Harvard degree holders cast 32,498 ballots in the directors election.

The HAA Board of Directors is an advisory group that actively works to support Harvard alumni volunteers working on behalf of the HAA. The board's main work focuses on developing volunteer leadership and increasing and deepening alumni engagement through an array of programs that support alumni communities worldwide. In recent years, the board's priorities have included strengthening outreach to recent graduates and graduate school alumni; supporting antiracism work in alumni communities; and continuing to build and promote inclusive communities.

"It's an exciting time to welcome new alumni leaders to our deeply committed HAA board," said Allyson Mendenhall '90, M.L.A. '99, the association's incoming president, whose tenure starts July 1. "We are all eager for these dedicated volunteers to join in our continuing work — to ensure a vital and deeply connected alumni community and to support and empower the countless Harvard graduates from across the globe who are advancing positive change in the world."

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2022/05/seven-alumni-elected-to-the-board-of-overseers-six-to-haa/>

Weekend Interview: Cooper Carry CEO **Kyle Reis '01**

National Architecture & Design

August 5, 2022

Catie Dixon, Bisnow Managing Editor

This series gets into the heads of the decision-makers of CRE, the people shaping the industry by setting investment strategy, workplace design, diversity initiatives and more.

Kyle Reis took over as CEO of architecture and design firm Cooper Carry in June 2021 at the age of 38, and his focus since has been evolving the 300-person firm, including by adding a sustainability leader, hiring a chief operating officer with a focus on technology, and diversifying his leadership team across gender and racial lines.

“We must continue to create an inclusive culture with fulfilling career and leadership opportunities for a more diverse workforce,” Reis said. “If our leaders better reflect our clients and the communities in which we work, we will be a better firm.”

Cooper Carry’s employees are 54% female and 40% people of color.

Bisnow: Baron Rothschild once said the “time to buy is when there’s blood in the streets.” Where is the blood today?

Reis: At the current moment “the blood” is in the cost of construction. We are working with clients nationally across many markets and sectors, and while they have varied business and project objectives, a unanimous concern is the high cost of construction. Fortunately, demand is still strong in many markets and the cost of capital is still relatively low, so our design services are still in high demand. I am cautiously optimistic that construction costs will stabilize and investment in commercial real estate will continue to be positive.

Bisnow: What is your most controversial CRE opinion and why are you right about it?

Reis: Prior to my current role as president and CEO of Cooper Carry, I served as Cooper Carry’s director of planning. In that role, I was fortunate to participate in many community engagement opportunities in planning and urban design projects across the country. I am also a student of the history of land planning, zoning and land use law in our country. It is not so much an opinion as an acknowledgment that many of the land use regulations from our past exacerbated the inequity in many of our communities. The greater CRE industry has the opportunity, and the obligation, to acknowledge this and be thoughtful about how we create, implement and measure access and equity in communities moving forward.

Bisnow: If you weren't in real estate, what path would your career have taken?

Reis: Since I was 11 years old, I have known I wanted to design buildings and spaces. I have also always been fascinated with business from the time my dad started his own accounting firm in the basement of my childhood home. If I had not pursued a career in the real estate industry, I probably would have followed a business path, leading a community-based nonprofit.

Bisnow: If you could make one change to the industry, what would it be?

Reis: I am passionate about creating resilient, sustainable and equitable design for all. If I could make one change to our industry, I would provide attainable quality housing for everyone. There is no silver bullet to fix our national attainable housing crisis, so we need to work creatively across the real estate industry to do our part to address this issue.

Bisnow: What is one thing you would do differently from early in your career?

Reis: I would have traveled to more places around the world early in my career to further broaden my worldview and firsthand exposure to more cultures and places. Having a true worldview and more robust understanding of other cultures is something one only achieves by being out in the world.

Bisnow: As a leader, how do you decide who is worth mentoring and who is simply not a good fit?

Reis: I begin with the philosophy that every person is deserving of mentorship in their career. If someone is seeking mentorship and they are not a good fit, it is important to spend some time to connect that person with someone who may be a better fit. There are many instances when I have been able to connect people in my network with more aligned experiences who may not have been a good fit for me. I have sought mentorship from those who align with the values to which I adhere and who have gained wisdom through experience and failure.

Bisnow: What are your thoughts on the metaverse? Does it have any relevance for CRE?

Reis: The metaverse has been a topic of conversation and ideation recently. We have discussed the potential social and experiential attributes of the metaverse in how we may work together in the future as well as possible impacts and opportunities related to commercial real estate. The capabilities of the metaverse are of interest to some of our clients, which makes it even more intriguing for our firm to understand because we listen intently to our clients. As the graphic interface of the metaverse continues to improve, I believe it will create more interest than today's version over the long term. I envision the metaverse having some impact in our hybrid work environment and in e-commerce, which are both currently impacting CRE.

Bisnow: What do you see as the lasting impacts of the pandemic on CRE?

Reis: The pandemic accelerated many trends that we were already beginning to see in how we work together. Hybrid work is here to stay for the foreseeable future, and that will continue to impact our built environment. I am most intrigued by how we can adaptively reuse some of our commercial office supply to address other needs like housing. Cooper Carry designed an amazing project in Alexandria, Virginia, called The Foundry, which converted an outdated government office building into an award-winning mixed-use residential community. I am willing to bet we will see more opportunities like this one as a result of the impacts of the pandemic. The emphasis on improving mental health, wellness and balance in our lives is a very positive impact of the pandemic that directly affects how we will design and build in the future.

Bisnow: As you know, there is a massive conversation underway regarding advancing more people of color and women into the C-suite. What are you doing to address those voices and that movement within your own organization?

Reis: The C-suite in the architecture industry has been dominated by White men for a long time, and that is rapidly changing. Women represent a majority of architecture students in accredited academic programs and have for some time. In early June, we promoted eight new principals, including four incredibly talented women leaders. Our next wave of leaders is extremely diverse, and I am so excited about that. It is so important to provide intentional mentorship and leadership development opportunities to women and people of color as our industry continues to mature. We intentionally and actively recruit talent from diverse colleges and universities and have established meaningful dialogue with many universities from which we recruit talent. One example is Tuskegee University, an amazing HBCU, with which we have established a meaningful relationship working together to attract and retain more architects of color into the industry. We must continue to create an inclusive culture with fulfilling career and leadership opportunities for a more diverse workforce. If our leaders better reflect our clients and the communities in which we work, we will be a better firm.

Bisnow: So, this is the weekend interview. What's your typical weekend routine?

Reis: It is so exciting after the last two-plus years to more comfortably spend time with neighbors, friends and family. I typically start my weekend with my wife and three children hanging out on our street with friends on Friday nights. We will usually work in some family walks or hikes and a practice or two over the weekend. I also love running and try to fit some personal exercise time into my weekend routine. My weeks are busy, so I love having the weekends to recharge with my family.

<https://www.bisnow.com/national/news/architecture-design/weekend-interview-cooper-carry-ceo-kyle-reis-114207>

Congratulations to **Donald Brown '90**, **Ryan Vesler '01** and Emily Campbell for being named to the list of 2022 National Philanthropy Day® Honorees recognized by the Central Ohio Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP)!

Columbia Gas -- where alumnus Donald Brown '90 is EVP/CFO of NiSource, Inc. and President of NiSource Corporate Services -- was named Outstanding Large Corporation for its Columbia Cares program which "donates time, money, and other resources each year to hundreds of philanthropic programs and organizations across their 61-county service area."

HOMAGE -- the retro and vintage clothing company founded by CEO Ryan Vesler '01 -- was awarded Outstanding Small Business for its support of "91 various charities through their HOMAGE Works Campaign and have raised \$599K in support of their partners."

Emily Campbell -- Columbus Academy's Director of Development and former AFP Central Ohio Chapter President -- was selected as Outstanding Fundraising Professional for her exemplary work with donors and our Development Team on the school's Annual Fund and our 25-hour giving day, All Day 4 CA. All of this year's honorees will receive their awards on November 22nd at a special event to celebrate giving, hosted by AFP.

<https://centralohioafp.org/national-philanthropy-day/>

How local journalists proved a 10-year-old's abortion wasn't a hoax

Many doubted the story of a young rape victim who had to cross state lines for an abortion. But journalists on the ground kept reporting.

By Elahe Izadi

July 28, 2022 at 7:00 a.m. EDT

It felt like half the country doubted the case existed. The Indianapolis Star had published a story July 1 about a 10-year-old rape victim from Ohio who was forced to travel to Indiana for an abortion because of new restrictions in her home state. An indignant President Biden cited the story a week later as an example of extreme abortion laws, and his political opponents pounced. They suggested it was a lie or a hoax. A national newspaper's editorial board concluded it was "too good to confirm." Even Ohio's attorney general called it a "fabrication."

Bethany Bruner paid that all little mind. Instead, she went looking.

The Columbus Dispatch public safety reporter and her colleagues spent days studying public records and calling sources, painstakingly narrowing their search for the girl's attacker to central Ohio. Then Bruner spotted an entry on the July 13 local court docket and learned a man would be arraigned that morning for the rape of a 10-year-old. She quickly hoofed the half-mile from her office to the courthouse.

Inside the courtroom, Bruner kept glancing at the door, expecting to see another reporter enter. None did as the judge called up the case. "I guess it's going to be me," Bruner thought. "I guess I'm going to be the one."

Within hours, the Dispatch and its sister paper, the Star, had locked down one of the first major stories of the post-Roe v. Wade era: Contra the talking heads, police had indeed investigated and charged an Ohio man with impregnating a 10-year-old girl, who had to cross state lines for an abortion after the Supreme Court's ruling allowed new Ohio restrictions to take effect. Their reporting demonstrated that the girl's horrifying situation was not as rare as many had assumed. It also showed why the public rarely hears of such abortion stories — and why they will need local journalists to inform them of the impacts of Roe's demise.

"We weren't thinking of it as a political football that people like to toss back and forth," said **Bro Krift '95**, executive editor of the Star. "We were just trying to tell a story to make people understand. To report the news, to make people understand the consequences."

Soon after the Supreme Court's June 24 ruling that overturned Roe and revoked the constitutional right to abortion, Krift directed his staff to find stories that showed the immediate impact on people in Indiana, which was considering new restrictions.

"We have to make this real," Krift thought. "This just can't be a number."

Their first story — by Shari Rudavsky, a Star health reporter of 17 years, and Rachel Fradette — included an anecdote from a trusted source: Indianapolis obstetrician-gynecologist Caitlin Bernard said she had just performed an abortion for a 10-year-old girl who had to travel from Ohio, where a ban on abortions after six weeks of pregnancy became law soon after the Roe decision. The girl was a few days over that limit.

Eight days after the story was published, President Biden highlighted the girl's situation as he decried state abortion restrictions. "This isn't some imagined horror," he said from the White House. "Imagine being that little girl."

His mention kicked off a frenzied reaction. Some outlets expressed skepticism of the Star's account because it relied entirely on one doctor, Bernard, who would not share more details about the anonymous girl. "This is a very difficult story to check," wrote The Post's Fact Checker. Snopes.com said it had "not been able to independently corroborate the abortion claim."

Others went much further. On Fox News, Tucker Carlson said the "story was not true." Jesse Watters devoted an entire segment to whether it was a hoax, saying his staff had found no evidence of the case's existence. "Shame on the Indianapolis paper that ran this thing on a single source who has an obvious ax to grind," Dave Yost, the Ohio attorney general, told USA Today. The Wall Street Journal published an editorial titled "An Abortion Story Too Good to Confirm." Ohio Republican Congressman Jim Jordan, tweeting a skeptical article, wrote, "Another lie. Anyone surprised?"

Meanwhile, local journalists kept digging.

The weekend after Biden's Friday speech, Star investigations editor Tim Evans started searching Ohio's public records to see if he could find the related assault case. Evans had experience on stories like this — in 2016, he helped expose Larry Nassar's abuse of young gymnasts — and he quickly turned up five Ohio cases involving sexual assault of children.

The Star didn't doubt the veracity of its initial story — Bernard had spoken on the record — but it wanted to learn more. By Monday, journalists there had turned to their sister paper in Ohio, the Dispatch. Both newsrooms belong to Gannett, the largest newspaper chain in the country, which has more than 100 daily publications, including USA Today. Gannett papers often collaborate because the news doesn't always abide by strict geographic boundaries, said Amalie Nash, the company's senior vice president of local news. "We're configured that way," she said. "It was very easy for our newsrooms who already know each other to mobilize quickly."

As the team dug in, it experienced firsthand the difficulty of reporting on abortion. By definition, such stories involve a medical procedure, and physicians are bound by the law to protect patient privacy. Moreover, this one involved a child victim, meaning agencies such as child services have restrictions on what they can share publicly. "It's going to be a very sensitive case where not a lot of people are going to have access to it, including people in the police department," Krift said.

The Star's journalists nevertheless managed to find public documents showing that 50 reports of sex abuse involving girls under 15 had been filed to Columbus police since May 9. They didn't find the 10-year-old victim among them, but suspected there were more out there because confidentiality restrictions keep certain complaints off public databases. After a long process of scouring files, they started to zero in on central Ohio.

That's when Bruner was asked to start making calls.

The 32-year-old had learned to navigate court systems during a decade reporting on police and crime. She starts every day by checking the Franklin County Municipal Court docket around 7:30 a.m. "You want to talk about shoe-leather journalism," Krift said. "That girl is hooked up, and has relationships, and knows how to work [sparse] documents to figure out things."

Bruner tried her law enforcement contacts all over Franklin County as she searched for which agency might be investigating the rape. "And what I was getting was a lot of is, 'It's not us,' " she said. "That process of elimination, we were getting down to just a few that I hadn't heard back from when I saw the arraignment list on Wednesday morning."

That list was 49 pages long. About halfway down, Bruner spotted an entry for an arrestee — Gerson Fuentes, 27, of Ohio. And a charge: "Rape — under 13."

Bruner called the court clerk, who scanned the affidavit and emailed it to her. The victim was 10. Bruner figured, this might be it.

She wasn't entirely surprised that Ohio's attorney general didn't know about this investigation, knowing that Columbus has its own crime lab and doesn't rely on the state's. And Bruner would soon learn that even within the Columbus Police Department, many didn't know about the investigation until the suspect's arrest.

"From my experience, these cases, detectives like to play them very close to the vest," Bruner said. "They want to protect these children just as much as anybody else does in terms of making sure their identity is kept private."

"And she's 10, you know," Bruner added. "I think that gets lost sometimes in the shuffle, that she's 10."

On July 13 — the same morning the Journal published its "too good to confirm" editorial — Bruner arrived at the Franklin County courtroom a few minutes before the doors opened. The judge was running late.

She found the courtroom partially filled with attorneys, detectives and spectators for the long list of cases that day. Bruner was shocked she was the only reporter in the room. She sat through an hour of arraignments before the one that brought her there was called.

With spotty wireless service, she sent updates to her team's group chat as she listened to Columbus police detective Jeffrey Huhn's stunning testimony: On June 22, Franklin County Children's Services had notified Columbus police of a pregnant 10-year-old. On June 30, the girl had a medical abortion in Indianapolis. She identified her attacker in an interview with police. Police arrested that man July 12 — the same day Yost told Gannett's Ohio bureau, "I know the cops and prosecutors in this state" and "there is not a damn scintilla of evidence" the investigation existed.

While talking heads and politicians continued to question the case's existence, Bruner listened as police confirmed everything. Back in the newsroom, Krift took about 30 seconds to mentally process her messages.

"Holy crap," he thought. "She's got it."

The subsequent story, which Bruner wrote with the Dispatch's Monroe Trombly and the Star's Tony Cook, was viewed 1.5 million times within 24 hours, Nash said. It was a major scoop. But few apologies followed.

Yost said he was "grateful" to police for "getting a rapist off the street." Watters wondered whether the girl actually needed to cross state lines for an abortion. Jordan quietly deleted his "another lie" tweet.

Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal's editorial board and The Post's Fact Checker updated their pieces with the details of the investigation, confirming its existence.

For Krift, it was textbook local journalism. Reporters methodically tracked down the facts while tuning out the national noise. “This whole story is an example of something happening too fast in terms of reaction,” he said.

Still, he’s left with concerns. Krift worries that doctors will become more reluctant to speak to journalists in light of what happened to Bernard, the Indianapolis doctor who first brought the girl’s story to the public. Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is investigating whether Bernard failed to report the abortion to state officials, as required, despite public records showing she notified relevant state agencies and her employer concluding she did not violate privacy laws. The physician has taken a legal step toward suing Rokita for defamation.

Meanwhile, the nation’s local press corps is dwindling. “People only know this happened and that this is one of the outcomes of what the Supreme Court decision was because of the reporting and the fact that someone was on the ground,” said Nash, the Gannett head of local news. But one-third of American newspapers that existed two decades ago will be out of business by 2025, one study found. Many remaining papers have a fraction of the staff they once did.

Gannett itself has gone through cutbacks, layoffs and furloughs, including after its merger with GateHouse in 2019 and after the coronavirus pandemic began. By the end of 2021, the company employed 4,300 fewer people than a year prior, though it’s unclear how many of those were journalism jobs and how much of the reduction came from layoffs vs. attrition or other causes. Nash said staff reductions are “indicative of what’s happening in the industry as a whole,” and her company is subject to the same forces plaguing all newspapers.

The company says it remains committed to covering the aftermath of Roe’s fall. It has reporters in nearly half of the country’s statehouses, which are expected to be ground zero for many abortion policy fights in the coming months and years.

As for Bruner, she’s still on the public safety beat, writing about house fires, car crashes and homicides while keeping up with the rape case. She reported this week that Fuentes pleaded not guilty on two counts of rape — which she noted is standard practice at arraignments so defense attorneys can get more materials.

“To me, it’s just an everyday story. This is the kind of stuff I report on day in and day out,” she said. “So I was just doing my job.”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/media/2022/07/28/ohio-abortion-journalism/>

Top Chef Alum **Avishar Barua '05** has a Second Restaurant in the Works
The chef’s Brewery District restaurant, Agni, will fill the former Ambrose and Eve space.
Erin Edwards

Columbus Monthly
July 14, 2022

Chef and Columbus native Avishar Barua is planning to throw a Midwestern backyard barbecue in the Brewery District, and everyone's invited.

On the heels of announcing his first restaurant, a Bengali-American daytime café called Joya's in Old Worthington, the former Top Chef: Portland contestant is ready to unveil plans for his next project. In an exclusive interview with Columbus Monthly, Barua shared that he has signed a lease on the former Ambrose and Eve space at 716 S. High St., where he plans to open Agni, a live-fire restaurant named after the god of fire in Hinduism and inspired by Midwestern backyard barbecues.

"Like when you go to your friend's house, and there's someone torching burgers, drinking beer. It's so much fun, that experience," Barua says. "If I can recreate that in a restaurant, I think that'd be something uniquely Columbus or uniquely Midwestern."

While Joya's Café will focus on breakfast, lunch and street foods on one end of High Street, Agni on South High will serve just dinner. The chef says he preferred that approach to opening one big restaurant with multiple personalities.

"You know, you don't really get any chance like this nowadays," Barua says about the opportunity Top Chef has afforded him. "So, I thought I'd go for it. One [restaurant] will be during daytime, and one's for night. I was trying to think about how much we were doing sometimes at Service Bar [Barua's former restaurant], and how we tried to do everything for everybody, and it does not work out."

Barua's new restaurant will include a Grillworks wood-fired grill, a cult favorite among chefs. Barua says at least some seats will offer customers a front seat view of the kitchen.

The chef says he is cognizant of the esteem in which Ambrose and Eve was held in its short lifespan. The restaurant, owned by Matthew Heaggans and Catie Randazzo, shuttered in 2020 after just two years.

"I'm rebuilding everything on the inside out, because I don't want people to think it's Ambrose and Eve. I don't want [diners] to have memories of it being Ambrose and Eve and say, 'Hey, you're doing this wrong,' because I think they've done a great job with it. You know, my style is different than their style. It will be dramatically different when you walk in."

Given its Midwestern barbecue inspiration, Barua's second venture will make good use of the front patio and porch, and the chef plans to build a back porch as well. The Brewery District restaurant sits on the same stretch of South High as Antiques on High, Law Bird and Emmett's Café, something that was influential in his decision to open a restaurant in the area.

"It's cool to be part of something. It feels cool to have neighbors. I didn't grow up having neighbors, but now I have restaurant neighbors," he says.

Following his seven-episode run on season 18 of Top Chef, arguably the most popular cooking show on American TV, Barua says he was approached with multiple business opportunities—some of which tried to woo the Columbus native away from his hometown. Instead, Barua decided to make a go of it here.

"I could have just gone [somewhere else]," he says. "I know I would've made more money. But I do believe in Columbus. So, I think it's worth a try."

Barua says he is sticking around because he wants to change the Columbus dining scene. But what exactly does change mean to him?

"I just think we need more people taking more risks, honestly. I mean, we always have commentary on what's wrong. And I was like, 'Well, why don't we try to do what's right?' It's challenging, scary, but we're trying to do it," he says. "I hope the city supports it. ... I'm from here. It sounds good to me. I've spent almost my entire life in Columbus. I feel like I can't be the only person that has this opinion or feeling."

Joya's Update

Joya's, which is named after Barua's mother, is starting to take shape in Worthington. Construction is currently underway at the café space, which was most recently Sassafras Café. It recently secured its liquor license, and Barua has added a takeout window to the storefront, an addition that he believes will engage pedestrians walking by and visitors to Worthington's popular outdoor farmers market.

Some early menu items that Barua is planning for Joya's include Vietnamese egg coffee, something he first enjoyed while travelling in Hanoi, as well as his Bengali-inspired kati roll, which Barua first introduced at Service Bar.

In addition to breakfast and lunchtime service, Joya's will also offer Barua a space to host creative pop-ups and special supper clubs—something the chef hosted earlier in his career and is excited to return to. He also plans to have Joya's and his Brewery District restaurant play off each other, though those plans are still in the idea stage.

Barua is targeting a mid- to late-August opening for Joya's and hopes to open Agni by the end of the year.

<https://www.columbusmonthly.com/story/lifestyle/food/2022/07/14/top-chef-alum-avishar-barua-has-second-restaurant-works/10052628002/?fbclid=IwAR3MDbwDidXwQa-djzAVhaxqctpBTZgjtqJHSNEFNHVSNSDoORRXNvrB4js>

Indie Chefs event brings variety of cooks, cuisines to Columbus
Erica Thompson
The Columbus Dispatch
June 8, 2022

Imagine sitting down to a 12-course dinner featuring the cuisine of a dozen chefs.

Now, imagine that several of the culinary artists are some of your favorites in Columbus.

And what if we told you the host is **Avishar Barua '05**, former executive chef at Middle West Spirits' Service Bar, and contestant on the 18th season of "Top Chef"?

Hungry yet?

That dream scenario will come true as the Indie Chefs' 10-city tour stops in Columbus on Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Each day, guests will be treated to dinner at Columbus State Community College's Degrees Restaurant. More than 20 local and out-of-town chefs are participating.

While Thursday and Sunday dinners are sold out, tickets for Friday's meal can be purchased at indiechefs.com, where the full lineup is listed.

"When everyone's in the same room that has positive energy to bounce off each other to help each other out, that's one of the coolest things in the entire world," said Barua, 35, of Dublin, who will open Joya's Café in Worthington this year. "If the chefs are happy when they're doing the event, you can imagine the food would be pretty special."

Using rough themes provided by Indie Chefs, half the chefs will cook on Thursday and half will cook on Friday. On Sunday, all chefs will be paired in groups of two for a largely improvised meal.

And guests will be able to interact with the chefs.

Founded by Grover Smith in 2014 as Indie Chefs Week, the initiative has grown into a nationwide dinner series with a mission to strengthen chef communities. Other partners include Brett Cooper, former owner and chef of the Michelin-starred Aster restaurant in San Francisco, and Rebecca Lemelin Gann, former programming director of the Atlanta Food & Wine Festival.

Since its inception, Indie Chefs has produced 150 nights of service.

This year so far, the event has taken place in Austin, Texas, and Washington, D.C. The tour will culminate with "Commune," a food festival in Houston in spring 2023.

“It had always been about getting a bunch of like-minded people that are hard-working,” said Grover Smith, of Houston, who has years of experience as a general manager of restaurants. “We want to have as diverse (a group) of participants as possible, whether it's gender, background, the types of operations they run. We have people come from three Michelin-star restaurants, all the way down to somebody operating a food cart.”

Smith said this variety breeds powerful information-sharing and community-building.

He got to know Avishar Barua last year when the chef participated in an Indie Chefs event in Richmond, Virginia.

“The most successful events are always host-driven,” Smith said. “It's important that we have somebody that's a stakeholder in the local food community, and a positive person, specifically within the chef community.”

Barua recommended local chefs, while Experience Columbus and the Toledo-based Libbey Foodservice company helped craft an itinerary for all participants.

Columbus chef Kate Djupe will cook on Friday and Sunday.

“It's just fun to be with other people who care about food as much as you do,” said Djupe, 43, of Worthington, who will be selling single portions of cake at select vendors under the brand Heyacake. “And you get to have conversations with your peers that you might not have, because we're usually just busy trying to pump food out. And this is a really fun opportunity to meet new people.”

For Columbus chef Matthew Heaggans, joining Indie Chefs was an “easy yes.”

“The thing that I like about this kind of event is it's just such a wide range of executions and ingredients,” said Heaggans, 43, of Southern Orchards, who co-owns Preston's: A Burger Joint, and helped launch Café Overlook at the Franklin County courthouse. “It would be hard to put all these things on the table at a restaurant. Everyone gets an inside sneak peek at what other people in other cities are doing and some different techniques.”

He also said more collaborative opportunities are needed in Columbus.

“I think we have a scene that's about to break through,” Barua added. “We have a lot of people that are taking a lot of chances. I think it's one of the few cities where you can be yourself, and you have a very good chance to succeed if you're authentic.”

As part of his own unique journey, Barua has founded his own company, Seriously Fun, and will offer Bengali American food at Joya's Café, which is named after his mother.

“I just never thought I was qualified,” he said. “One day I'm cooking, the next day, I'm somehow a chef. Before, it's like, how do you chop an onion? And now, it's like, how do you manage a staff? How do you represent Columbus nationwide? I always try and do the best that I can.”

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/business/2022/06/08/avishar-barua-hosts-indie-chefs-event-columbus/7489993001/>

The ‘abortion pill’ may treat dozens of diseases, but Roe reversal might upend research
Mifepristone, the FDA-approved abortion drug, might also treat conditions like cancer and PTSD. Proving it works in a post-Roe landscape could be a challenge.

June 25, 2022, 4:30 AM EDT

NBC News

By Caroline Hopkins

Dr. Nancy Klimas has spent the better part of her three-decade research career trying to find a cure for Gulf War illness. Military veterans with the unusual, unexplained illness — which affects some 300,000 U.S. service members who fought in the 1991 Operation Desert Storm — suffer from a range of symptoms, including constant aches and pains, trouble concentrating, fatigue, respiratory issues and irritable bowel syndrome, all understood to stem from exposure to neurotoxic chemicals during combat.

Apart from symptom management — which she says is really just “chasing the tail of the dog” — there’s no treatment for Gulf War illness. And the clock is ticking: According to Klimas, director of the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine at Nova Southeastern University in Florida, the condition could turn into severe neurodegenerative disease if left untreated.

“I’m anxious to get in there and help these veterans as soon as we possibly can,” said Klimas, who is also the director of the Environmental Medical Research Program at the Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center. “It’s already been 30 years.”

Now, with a clinical trial for male veterans she’s launching at the Miami Veterans Affairs Hospital, she hopes this help will finally come. The study is testing out a combination of two drugs, both already approved by the Food and Drug Administration for different uses.

One is etanercept, or Enbrel, a drug for arthritis. The other is mifepristone — better known as the abortion pill.

If the clinical trial is successful, it could be the first step toward bringing these veterans some relief, Klimas hopes. But now that the Supreme Court has overturned the legal right to abortion established in *Roe v. Wade*, researchers studying mifepristone for uses outside abortion could face their own set of challenges.

A versatile drug

Since its approval by the FDA in 2000, the pills mifepristone, together with misoprostol, have been a safe and effective option for women seeking abortion during the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. Mifepristone is now used in more than half of the abortions in the United States, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights. The drug blocks progesterone, a hormone needed for the pregnancy to grow. Misoprostol causes cramping and bleeding to empty the uterus.

While mifepristone is most well-known for its use in medication abortion, its potential uses go beyond ending early pregnancies.

That's because it has multiple biological effects, which explains why it could work for conditions as unrelated as veterans with brain injuries and pregnant women seeking abortions. In addition to blocking progesterone, it also blocks the hormone cortisol.

Cortisol is often called the stress hormone, since it's released in response to stress. But cortisol also plays a key role in regulating blood pressure, blood sugar, metabolism, inflammation and sleep cycles, meaning that too much cortisol can contribute to a host of illnesses. Having a safe, effective way to block the receptors cortisol needs in order to act on these systems has been valuable for doctors who treat all sorts of conditions.

At a slightly higher dosage than the one approved for abortion, mifepristone is also FDA-approved to treat Cushing's syndrome, a rare disease marked by excess cortisol.

"It's a very good drug, and a very potent drug," said Dr. Atil Kargi, an endocrinologist at the University of Miami who has been using mifepristone to treat his patients with Cushing's syndrome since it was first approved for that use in 2012. "And there's no long-term toxicity that we're aware of."

"This chemical ... yes, it causes abortion, but it also does a lot of other amazing things," said Leslie Edwin, a patient and president of the Cushing's Support and Research Foundation, who was diagnosed with the disease in 2012. Edwin said she relied on mifepristone for 18 months to help manage the effects of excess cortisol in her body, including severe weight gain and type 2 diabetes.. "I was grateful that I had an option for a cortisol controller, and that it worked for me," she said.

"This is the only drug like it on the market," Klimas said. "If you took this one away, it would be taking away a great big tool."

Drug companies, including Corcept Therapeutics, which markets mifepristone for Cushing's under the name Korlym, are working on new drugs that block cortisol but not progesterone, but those still have a long way to go before they're available.

Apart from its two FDA-approved uses, mifepristone is also being investigated in clinical trials for breast cancer, brain cancer, prostate cancer, alcoholism, post-traumatic stress disorder and depression, among other conditions.

Dr. Rita Nanda, the director of breast oncology at the University of Chicago, is running several breast cancer clinical trials looking at the effects of mifepristone and combined with chemotherapy. Previous research has shown chemotherapy doesn't work as well for patients with active glucocorticoid receptors in their breast cancer tumors, Nanda said.

"By blocking the glucocorticoid receptor with mifepristone, we hope to enhance the effectiveness of chemotherapy," she said. She's also in the early stages of trying to determine whether this strategy works for ovarian cancer and prostate cancer.

Klimas said she chose to try mifepristone in the Gulf War illness trial because it was the safest already-approved drug that would do what she wanted it to: block the receptors to which stress hormones bind. By blocking these receptors temporarily, she said she is trying to reset the brain's stress signals in these sick veterans.

"We're trying to repurpose drugs so that we can get them through to these guys fast," she said.

What Roe's reversal could mean for trials

For the sake of Klimas' research, the drug's physical abortion effect isn't a big concern. The Gulf War illness trial is limited to 45- to 70-year-old men. "I don't think I've ever heard a patient do more than laugh about it," she said. "Pregnancy is not one of the things male veterans worry about."

Even before Roe was overturned, the fraught landscape for abortion policy in the U.S. painted a more complicated picture for research like Klimas' study.

"You can't believe the logistical nightmares we've faced with this study," she said.

Originally, Klimas designed the trial for an outpatient clinic associated with her university hospital. But she struggled to find a research pharmacy that would work with her, a challenge she attributes to the changing policies around mifepristone.

"We called every pharmacy in two counties and could not find one that could work with mifepristone outside a hospital setting," she said. Ultimately, she moved the study to the Miami VA, which has an inpatient hospital research pharmacy. The red tape involved in moving the trial delayed its start by a year, after what had already been a yearlong delay due to pandemic lockdowns.

Klimas faced these logistical challenges despite the fact that mifepristone's makers say abortion restrictions shouldn't impact research for other conditions. Both Danco Laboratories, which

markets mifepristone for abortion under the name Mifeprex, and Corcept Therapeutics said that trial-specific protocols, which the FDA must clear, take precedence.

Trial protocols could, in theory, differ from the rules surrounding the approved drugs, said Abigail Long, director of marketing and public affairs at Danco Laboratories.

In other words, clinical trials investigating mifepristone for nonabortion uses aren't subject to the FDA's restrictions surrounding the drug when it's used for abortion. Until recently, that included a rule that patients seeking abortions receive mifepristone in-person from a prescriber with a special certification. During the pandemic, the FDA stopped enforcing the in-person dispensing rule, enabling patients to get the pill by mail. Then, in December 2021, the agency announced it would permanently allow the mail option. Doctors still need special certification to prescribe mifepristone, as do pharmacies dispensing it.

Many individual states have written their own sets of laws restricting how patients can get mifepristone for abortion, though, and legal challenges loom over whether these unlawfully infringe on the FDA's federal approval.

In a statement shortly after the Supreme Court ruling on Friday, Attorney General Merrick Garland said that states may not ban mifepristone based on disagreement with the FDA's judgment about its safety and efficacy.

"The Justice Department strongly disagrees with the Court's decision," Garland said, calling the ruling's impact on the lives of people across the country "immediate and irreversible."

This sets the stage for fraught legal battles in states like Kentucky and Louisiana, which enacted total bans on abortion — including medication abortion — the moment the court issued its ruling.

According to **Patricia Zettler '98**, a law professor at Ohio State University who focuses on food and drug regulation, those legal challenges could now intensify with new abortion restrictions across many states.

"There will be a lot of battles around what states can and can't do," she said. "The impacts that we could see in the clinical trial space will depend on how narrow or broad states attempt to restrict access to mifepristone." Even if legal restrictions on mifepristone for abortion don't apply to clinical trials for other uses, she said a Roe reversal could still complicate research.

"Beyond the actual legal environment, the impact on clinical trials will depend on how health care professionals and health care institutions interpret what the states are doing and how comfortable physicians and pharmacists feel in prescribing or dispensing it, even if it's legally permissible," Zettler said.

Impact on multistate trials

Klimas' Gulf War illness study is a small, Phase 1 trial designed for just a few dozen patients at the VA location in Florida. But if the drug works, she'll need to expand her study into Phase 2 and 3 trials, requiring many more patients enrolled across sites in multiple states.

In a post-Roe America, where differences in abortion policies from state to state could grow even more stark than they are today, researchers could have a tough time juggling multistate trials.

"It's bad enough with this single-site study in one state with one set of laws," Klimas said. "But if I have to figure out all the laws in all the states that we would be using as sites, it could get more complicated."

Michelle Oberman, a law professor at Santa Clara University whose work centers on the effects of criminalizing abortion, sees the burden of navigating abortion landscapes across state lines as one of the more concerning ways Roe's reversal could impact mifepristone trials.

"So does the science academy shift into red state/blue state?" she asked hypothetically. "If you want to be a serious researcher, are you going to be working in California or New York to develop new treatments?"

A researcher with a choice of trial location would likely stick to states with the least possible abortion restrictions, she predicted. And in that scenario, patients in more restrictive states, especially those who can't afford travel, could miss out on clinical trials. For years, travel costs have excluded marginalized populations from clinical research, making the prospect all the more troubling.

On paper, Oberman suspects mifepristone clinical trials for nonabortion use will remain legal and feasible. But in states where abortion is poised to become a crime post-Roe, she figures the downstream effects of the reversal won't be limited to what's technically legal.

"It doesn't take a prosecution to shift the way that the population feels about these meds, or the way those who would prescribe or investigate these meds think about their research," she said. "The impulse to not get involved with the law is about to come into view. If you're a doctor who's both really risk-averse and incredibly driven to help your patients, you may find yourself needing to practice medicine elsewhere. Because the risks won't be zero."

With Roe overturned Klimas wonders if having moved the Gulf War illness trial to the VA hospital might ironically work in her favor. "This is Florida," she said. "If it's possible to do things to restrict abortion, it will happen here. But I'm hoping the VA move could save me." The Department of Veterans Affairs is a federal agency, and in his statement on the ruling, Garland underscored the Department of Justice position that federal agencies and their employees answer to federal, rather than state, laws. Klimas said she's seeking legal advice on what, if anything, Florida-specific mifepristone laws could mean for the VA hospital.

In the meantime, she's anxious about what this Supreme Court decision will mean, both for the many thousand already-disadvantaged women it could hurt, and for the fate of the veterans in her mifepristone trial.

“Wouldn't it be sad to finally find something curative for a disease you got because you served your country — that sucked out 30 years of your life — and then it got stopped because of an abortion fight?”

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/abortion-pill-may-treat-dozens-diseases-roe-reversal-might-upend-resea-rcna34812>

In his letter to the editor, **Michael Hallet '70** shared his sentiments on the possible negative implications of poorly matched fights in the August 2022 edition of *The Ring* magazine.

LETTERS AND BOXING BUZZ

Russian boxers like Bivol entirely is overreach. Bivol operates an arena wherein dissent is not tolerated and punished by a shadowy network of internal intelligence and secret police agencies. Should athletes like Bivol decry Russian militarism, their families would face fierce reprisals.

Moreover, as a Kyrgyz-born Korean-Moldovan, Dimitry Bivol represents the kind of cosmopolitan Russia Putin's aggressively Slav-nationalist agenda seeks to erase. Even if Putin and like-minded Russian ultra-nationalists claim Bivol's win against Canelo as a win for Russia, boxing is the pursuit of individual glory, and victory remains Bivol's alone.

Moving forward, the boxing community must embrace the sweet and noble history of the sport, race and nationality and participation of Russian fighters on their ability and merit on their passports.

*Joshua Brannon
Sydney, Australia*

A poor decision by Canelo over Canelo Alvarez is the old boxing adage "a big man will always beat a smaller man." This applies to middleweights and light heavyweights and fight champions. Recall Canelo's KO of Stanley Ketchick in 1909 and Joey Maxim's KO of the great Sugar Ray Robinson in 1952.

*Valentine J. Belfiglio
Dallas, Texas*

For some reason, I am just as happy as when Adrien Broner lost to Marcos Maidana. Congrats, Dimitry Bivol! You never fell into any mind games and showed great skill. Canelo obviously didn't know his opponent this time; he kept trying to use that same ugly uppercut and never connected. He just wasn't going to win without changing tactics, which he never did. I could see the frustration when he got peppered by Bivol. It's baffling that he still thinks he won.

*Errol Ian Ave Acosta
Jacksonville, North Carolina*

On page 23 of your June 2022 issue (The 100 Greatest Punchers of the Last 100 Years), you write that Doc Williams was the one man to KO Joey Maxim. It was actually Curtis Sheppard.

*Allen Morris
Belle River, Ontario Canada*

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S RESPONSE:
Good grief! You are 100 percent correct, Allen. I penned that page on the No. 2-rated Archie Moore and I have no idea how I got my wires crossed like that in mixing up those two members of "Murderer's Row." Moore fought them both, but Maxim never faced Charley "Doc" Williams. The next time I write a historical article I might just have to employ you as a proofreader. Well done!

From Friday Night Fights on TV in the 1950s to my position as a ringside physician for the state of Ohio in the 2020s, I have been a fan of boxing for many years.

Last week I decided to watch the Showtime PPV bout of Errol Spence vs. Yordenis Ugas.

Though my primary goal was to watch the talents and determination of the fighters in the main event, I always watch the preliminary bouts too.

Though in the (distant) past the preliminary fighters – Francisco

Vargas, Yuriorkis Gamboa and Josesito Lopez – may have been worthy opponents to their opposition that night, the three – with the possible exception of Lopez – showed that they had little-to-no business being in the ring against Jose Valenzuela, Isaac Cruz and Cody Crowley, respectively.

I seriously thought that I was observing and foreseeing three future mentally and physically limited retired fighters – many of whom are described in the books by Tris Dixon – *The Road to Nowhere* and *Damage* – which The Ring has reviewed in the past.

Whoever the matchmaker was for these fights likely did a major disservice to the future health and well-being of the three losers of these fights and to the boxing public as a whole. I think that a future article by The Ring exploring these poorly matched fights and what role Showtime PPV played in this scenario would be of great interest to your readers.

The health of these fighters and future fighters is too important for such predictable mismatches to take place – even if this has been the custom for many years.

*Michael B. Hallet MD
New Albany, Ohio*

IN MEMORY OF SIGFREDO ZAPATA

The Ring Magazine has lost a beloved member of its family. It's with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Sigfredo "Ziggy" Zapata.

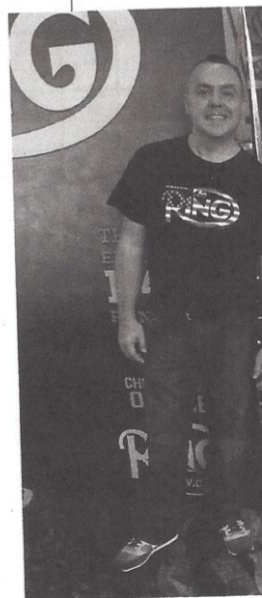
Ziggy was a crucial part of our International Boxing Hall of Fame induction weekend team. Every year, Ziggy would be found in Canastota, New York, with the legends of the sport and boxing fans

from around the world, Magazine merchandise, brand he loved.

The Ring Magazine is from Kappa Publishing 2007, and Ziggy was the manager at our fulfillment business being in the ring against Palm Coast Data. Ziggy transitioned painless. Three years, Ziggy brought me to the table for the management of The Ring helped design numerous Most recently Ziggy let me to change fulfillment contracts accomplished this search.

Ziggy was a bright light missed, and the world is a better man of his character.

Our hearts go out to parents, siblings, his parents, nephews, cousins, friends who knew and loved him. The Ring will miss him.



WRITE TO THE RING! Come On Box 90254, Brooklyn, NY 11209
* Emailed letters will include a return address unless a city and state of origin are provided. Letters may be edited for reasons of space.

Dream On, **Angela (Phillips) Thomas '01**, latest novel was recently featured in the July 18th issue of Women's World Magazine and the July 12th edition of USA Today! Dream On is her second novel written under the pen name Angie Hockman. It released in the US & Canada from Gallery Books/Simon & Schuster and in the United Kingdom from Headline Eternal/Hachette on July 5, 2022.



This week's best new books

Fiction




HISTORICAL FICTION

A Dress of Violet Taffeta
by Tessa Arlen

Readers are transported to 1893 in this sumptuous true story of fashion icon Lucy, Lady Duff-Gordon, who made a name for herself in the Belle Époque era. When Lucy is deserted by her husband, she turns to her art and fashion design as a way to make a living to support herself and her young daughter. In 1912, her world changes again after she survives the sinking of the Titanic. The emotional tale of a trailblazing fashion icon.




ROMANCE

Honey and Spice
by Bolu Babalola

Filled with lovable characters, hilarious moments and sizzling banter, this rom-com stars Kiki Banjo, host of the popular radio show *Brown Sugar*. But when Kiki kisses Malakai Koreda, who she publicly denounced on air, she finds her show on the brink of disaster. Soon, Kiki and Malakai embark on a fake relationship to salvage both their reputations. As tension turns to attraction, sparks start to fly. Could this be true love?




COZY MYSTERY

Death by Bubble Tea
by Jennifer J. Chow

A deliciously fun whodunit begins when Yale Lee gets a visit from her cousin, Celine. Her father makes them bond by running a food stall together at the Eastwood Village Night Market. As they serve up food and drinks, they're surprised to find that patrons really love their bubble tea—until one customer ends up dead. Now, the polar-opposite cousins have to team up to clear their names before it's too late!




CHICK LIT

Dream On
by Angie Hockman

This sweet and heartfelt saga begins as law student Cass Walker suddenly wakes up from a coma after surviving a car accident. She is flooded with memories about a man named Devin—who doesn't actually exist. But in a flower shop, one year later, she runs into the *real* Devin. She tells him everything and somehow...he believes her. The two embark on a real-life journey to turn what was once a dream into their reality.

Nonfiction




Easy No-Churn Ice Cream by Heather Templeton

Dessert connoisseur and author Heather Templeton, founder of Heather's Home Bakery, promises you don't need bulky equipment to make silky-smooth summer ice cream. Just pick up one magical ingredient: sweetened condensed milk. In her new guide, she shares no-churn techniques and easy recipes for 50+ flavors—from Vanilla to Blueberry Pie to Cookie Butter Swirl. Simply combine ingredients, pour in a pan, freeze and enjoy. She even has gluten-free and dairy-free swaps to satisfy every sweet tooth—*delicious!*

"To create a dreamy coffee-inspired flavor combination, just add in one tablespoon of pure coffee extract when adding the vanilla extract"

8 • 7/18/22 • Woman's World

In Memory

Richard Herbert Gurevitz '56, 84, passed away July 5, 2022 at the Tuscany Gardens Nursing Facility, Pataskala, OH. Preceded in death by his parents Samuel and Rose Gurevitz. Survived by sons Michael Gurevitz and Andrew (Jennifer) Gurevitz; sister Susan (Laurence) Schor; nieces and nephews Meredith (Rick) Marmurek, Joseph (Kristine) Schor, Wendy (Rami) Haim, Samuel Schor; and many cousins and friends. Richard attended the Columbus Academy (1956), where he played varsity football; the Ohio State University (1960), where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity and Romophos men's honorary society. He also attended the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine (1967). Affectionately known as "Dr. Dickie," his veterinary practices were Beechwood Animal Hospital and Bexley Veterinary Clinic. He also operated "My Doggie's Inn," a pet boarding and grooming business. He was also a member of the Columbus Veterinary Emergency Services. He received the Sertoma International Tribune award, as well as the Centurion Award. He was a past President of B'nai B'rith Zion Lodge Number 62. He was also a lifetime member, past Secretary, and past Treasurer of the Columbus Bonsai Society. Featured in an article in the Marietta, Ohio Times newspaper, he was a lifetime member of the Beer Can Collectors of America, with an enormous collection acquired over the years (although he never drank the contents of his collection). He was a lifelong contributor to the American Red Cross blood drive, and provided years of service to the National Federation of the Blind's Ohio Radio Reading Service. At his request, the family will not observe Shiva or hold a celebration of life. Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to The American Humane Society (www.americanhumane.org) or The American Heart Association (www.heart.org) He will be remembered by many as a generous, caring, and loyal friend. Online guest book at www.epsteinmemorial.com

<https://www.dispatch.com/obituaries/pwoo0247611>

Charles William (Bill) O'Brien '61, 78, passed peacefully at the Kobacker House in Columbus, Ohio. Preceded in death by his parents, William K. O'Brien and Lorene (Beth) Palmer O'Brien. Born January 25, 1944, in Columbus, Ohio, he was a graduate of Columbus Academy in 1961 and received his Bachelors degree from The Ohio State University. Bill married and started his family in Bexley, later residing in Granville, Ohio, Clermont, Florida, and finally Cumberland, Ohio. A former OSU campus area property owner and developer, he later bought into his parent's bowling business. He enjoyed lake life activities such as boating, fishing, and slalom skiing, which were born out of annual family trips to the Georgian Bay, Canada area. He also enjoyed photography, as well as building and creating home audio systems.

Survived by daughters Holly O. Hull (David), Kelly O'Brien (Matt), and William K. O'Brien (Cheryl); grandchildren Liam and Peyton Hull, Aidan O'Brien Chinn, Conor and Kennedy O'Brien; sister, Nancy O'Brien Dever (Dan) and brother Rick O'Brien (Mary Beth).

In 1984, Bill was listed in Columbus Monthly's "The Toughest SOB's in Town" article. <https://www.columbusmonthly.com/story/news/2014/03/04/the-toughest-sobs-in-town/22806926007/>

In 2008 he was diagnosed with a glioblastoma brain cancer tumor, and turned a 14-month average life expectancy into a nearly 14-year survival.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Kobacker House or Pelotonia.org benefiting cancer research at the Ohio State University.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/worthington-oh/charles-obrien-10782488>

Dudley W. Jordan Jr. '72, 68 of Cheboygan, passed away Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at home. The family has chosen to remember him privately.

Please share your memories and personal messages with the family on his guestbook below. To order memorial trees in memory of Dudley W. Jordan Jr., please visit our tree store.

<https://www.gaylordfuneralhome.com/obituaries/dudley-jordan-jr>