

# **Alumni Spotlight: Ed Collison '93**

## **Biographical information:**

I am originally from East Brunswick, NJ. I attended St Joseph High School in Metuchen. I came to WCU at the urging of Kim Chotkowski (Philipp) and her mother because her older sister Emmy Kachel was already at WCU and loving it. Both of them reside in West Chester and are at our table at the gala, this year.

## **What motivated you to study in the Business Program?**

I always wanted to be in the business school, I decided on Accounting because it was one of the most well regarded programs at WCU at the time. I added Economics as a dual major because I really enjoyed the financial class offerings (Finance was not a major at that time).

## **What is your official title and what are your responsibilities in your current position?**

I'm the Executive Vice President and a Principle of Hobbs and Company, Inc. Like any small business, my responsibilities run the spectrum based on the needs of the business. (Estimating, pricing, sales, safety, management, purchasing, marketing).

I also am the former Chairman of the Penn Del Jersey NECA Chapter's Future Leaders Committee, sit on the board of the Chester Joint Apprentice and Training Committee, and a member of the NECA National Future Leaders Committee.

## **What is a typical day like at work? What do you enjoy most about your current position?**

I enjoy the variety that my job and company provide. There aren't too many days that are the same or require the same skill sets. Every project is different and requires a different plan to execute effectively and efficiently.

## **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

Our free time is mostly spent shuttling our kids to different events. (Swimming, Tennis, Basketball, Lacrosse, Soccer, Field Hockey, Golf.....) There isn't much "free time" that exists in our household.

We try and travel a lot. Our trips vary from Ski trips (Park City and Vermont in 2016), Washington DC, Florida, Ireland, the shore.

I enjoy exercising, and recently started playing Racquetball at the Y. I hope to resume playing golf in the near future.

**What advice would you give to a current student who aspires to follow in your footsteps and pursue a similar career path?**

Being involved in a small business requires you to have knowledge of so many disciplines. Don't take classes that are only within your comfort zone, if I were to do it again, I'd take more communication and technical writing classes.

**What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishments (both personally and professionally)?**

Personally, watching our 3 daughters grow up so fast and succeeding in so many ways, except cleaning up after themselves. Participating on the WCU Business Advisory Council.

Professionally, the completion of the 3 Residence Halls on campus, because I get to see them most every day, my children were able to see them being constructed and have a better understanding of what I do, and what they have done for the look of WCU.

**What is your favorite memory of your time at WCU?**

I don't have one specific favorite memory and thankfully I had many great memories. It is a big reason why I never left West Chester. The intramural sports, concerts in Hollinger and out on the lawn behind Hollinger, etc. I even had the opportunity to see some of my professors at the gym. I always find myself looking at the former residence of Dr. Demoss and thinking about the graduation party he had. I can't remember anything else about the party, other than his house on Price St. (I drive by it at least once a day!)

**How do you plan on honoring President Weisenstein's legacy at this year's gala?**

Being asked to co-chair the gala certainly helps! Honestly, I'm not sure what we have planned at the gala itself but it's been very enjoyable reaching out to the community trying to gain new corporate donations for the scholarship as well as looking for silent auction donors. Everything is so busy leading up to it; I haven't given much thought about the actual night.

**Why will this year's gala be unique?**

Having both former President Weisenstein and Interim President Fiorentino at the gala will make it very unique. So many great things have happened at the University over the past 7 years (Shutting down the coal/steam plant, new residence halls, BPAC, enrollment growth, Doctorate studies). It will be great to see the retrospective video to see how much WCU has changed during his tenure. Interim President Fiorentino makes me feel even closer to the University because I still remember some of the Economics classes I had with him and my participation in the Business Advisory Committee while he was Dean of the School of Business and Public Affairs.