



I'm Still Evolving

KEN ANDREYO

In the late 1980s, David Hopkins' '91 skills on the football field caught the attention of recruiters, and he followed the footsteps of his brother, Stuart '91, all the way to Guilford. But college academics did not come easily to him, despite graduating from a premiere math and science high school in Baltimore, Md.

Football seized all of his time the first semester, and playing first string made studies difficult and resulted in his place on academic probation as a mathematics major. But one of his teammates was an economics major, and his interest was sparked. During second semester, he got some much-needed nurturing from professors Salem Anjuni and Carol Clark and slowly raised his GPA to 3.0.

"Academically, Salem saw the best in me and told me where gaps were," Hopkins recalled recently, from his desk as vice president for consulting services at PNC Bank in Pittsburgh, Pa. "Bob Williams was the antagonist, he was really tough, and working with him was a maturing experience for me. He taught me that I could change my learning style. The day I graduated, he came running towards me to tell me how proud he was to see me go on."

Along the way, Hopkins transitioned from introvert to extravert and navigated his way to leadership roles on campus: president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, captain of the football team, winner of the Golden Helmet Award and recipient of the Milner Excellence Award.

Performing countless benefit-cost analyses in economics

classes taught him something new about how to evaluate each decision he made in life. "I left Guilford with a mantra: that doing something includes the cost of not doing something else: that's what economics teaches you."

Hopkins and his wife, DeVona (Gibbs), have a 6-year-old daughter, Darrien, and are expecting another daughter in February. DeVona strongly encouraged him to go to business school, and two years ago he received a master's in business from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania with a concentration on information systems, strategies and economics. The Wharton degree, he found, catapulted him over several levels of management.

From the 28th floor of the PNC Bank Building, Hopkins thinks up ways to better utilize information and creates tools to better serve customers in banking investment and small and large businesses. He is a new board member for Wireless Neighborhoods, a program that provides computers, networks and Internet access to schools, libraries and churches in underserved neighborhoods.

"This is not the end of the line; I don't feel I've arrived," he says. "I am still evolving. But I look back on my time at Guilford and I often tell people that the Quaker philosophy toward community and individualism, of acknowledging diverse perspectives, was extremely important in my development. From a Christian perspective, I feel that everything we do is for the glory of God. I have been given much, and much is expected of me."

— Sheridan Hill