Joe Jacques Nominated to College Advisory Board

New College of Business Advisory Board member Joe Jacques knew he was in for a challenge when he decided to major in accounting at Bloomsburg University. As the 1974 graduate will tell anyone, he has found success and personal gratification as a result of taking on this challenge.

“Accounting is unique in that no one can come into your field, but you can go into anyone else’s field,” says the owner of Jacques Financial, LLC, established in Rockville, Md. in 1979.

Besides heading his company, which specializes in tax returns and financial planning services, Jacques has tried his hand in a number of these fields. He appeared as a tax expert on ABC’s Nightline and local TV news, assisted U.S. Senate and House committees in financial and tax-related matters, and headed the financial investigation of Billy Carter, brother of former president Jimmy Carter, after the Senate Judiciary Committee appointed him in 1980.

BU’s accounting program, he says, was exceptional and prepared him for his future vocation, particularly in preparation for taking the CPA exam, a “life-changing” career decision for anyone planning a future in finance.

“Accounting is only one of the many areas you can go into—look into all the opportunities,” Jacques advises students entering the field. “Majoring in accounting prepares you to have a well-rounded education to go into any career path you want.”

Now, Jacques wants to use his position on the advisory board to give back to BU and help the next generation of accountants and businesspeople. He plans to use what he has learned over the course of his career to show students practical aspects of their chosen professions in addition to the theory.

Jacques hopes that his business, too, will pass on to a new generation as his son, prepares to take over Jacques Financial. He wishes his son the same enthusiasm he found for his work.

“I’m able to help my clients realize their lifetime goals, like educating their children and planning their retirement,” Jacques says. “I find helping them achieve these goals to be very satisfying.”

Michael Gillespie Named CFO of the Year

A constant drive for improvement has characterized Michael Gillespie’s personal life and career, starting with the 1995 accounting graduate’s education at Bloomsburg University and continuing to his success as chief accounting officer at Hersha Hospitality Trust. Widely recognized as one of the top financial officers in his field, Michael plans to bring similar determination to the Bloomsburg University Foundation Board and the Honeysuckle Housing Board.

“The key in business is to know what you don’t know—admit when you are unsure and always be willing to keep improving yourself,” he says.

Gillespie left Arthur Anderson as senior manager after eight years and worked as manager of financial policy and controls at Tyco Electronics Corp. He joined Hersha in 2005, when the company owned 27 hotels worth $250 million in assets. Due in part to Gillespie’s efforts to lead equity-raising activities in stock offerings, Hersha has grown to more than 80 hotels along the Washington D.C. to Boston corridor, with $1.5 billion in assets.
Recognized for his devotion to hard work, strong values and helping others Noble “Bud” Quandel ’69 was recently named Businessman of the Year by the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce.

Bud is President and CEO of Quandel Enterprises, a family-run provider of construction services. The company has been in the Quandel family since 1882 when Quandel’s great-grandfather founded it as a limekiln operation and small construction company near Minersville, Pa. Over the years, the business expanded to include architectural, engineering and planning services, always based on the principles of strong work ethic, commitment to accountability, teamwork and respect.

“I really consider it a privilege to lead the team of individuals in this organization, because of the strong core values we represent as a business,” Quandel says. Those values led, in part, to Quandel Enterprises’ selection as one of the best small- and medium-sized companies to work for in Pennsylvania and Bud Quandel’s recognition as Businessman of the Year.

Quandel believes that his time at BU helped shape him into who he is today, both in his personal and business lives. While completing his secondary education and social studies degrees, he worked as a laborer and carpenter’s apprentice, and later decided to pursue the family business rather than teaching. Now, he hopes to help his alma mater through his work on the Foundation Board.

“I hope that my business experiences can help pioneer the way into the future as Bloomsburg University finds new ways to fund itself around budget cuts,” he says. “I think I can help them get there and, as my education was part of my development, it gives me a special satisfaction to be part of the way forward.”

Quandel’s passion for his family’s company is evident and, as his son-in-law and cousin prepare to continue the family legacy, he emphasizes the importance of carrying that passion over to achieve success.

“Have a love for what you’re doing, then you will be highly motivated to succeed in whatever you do business in,” he says. “There are many setbacks in business, so perseverance and persistence are very important. Don’t lose your focus.”

On the merit of his career, leadership achievements and contributions to Hersha, Gillespie received a 2011 Central Pennsylvania CFO of the Year Award from the Central Penn Business Journal, which presented him with the Growth Specialist Award.

Gillespie says that his classes and extracurricular activities at BU gave him a definite advantage in launching his career. “The accounting program was one of the reasons I chose Bloomsburg. Plus as the son of working class parents, a state university was an education that I could afford,” he says.

During his time at BU, Gillespie was president of the Community Government Association and the Delta Mu Delta honors fraternity, and vice president of the Rugby Club. “The leadership qualities you demonstrate in the groups are a greater differentiator than good grades (when applying for jobs),” he says.

Today, Gillespie’s preferred activities include biking, skiing, cooking and spending time with his wife of eight years, their two children and their labrador, Watson.