

## Executive Profile

### Successful, Young, and On-Track: What Drives this New Innsbrook Executive?

When Chris Wallace enthusiastically shares his experience of test driving his new car on the winding roads of Germany and Switzerland, you realize this next generation Innsbrook executive is leading by example in every aspect of his life—work, family, community, and play. Once you get to know Chris, you will understand that what drives this successful, young executive is much more than a fast car.

Christopher L. Wallace is a young, successful CPA and new executive in Innsbrook. Wallace recently turned 33 and marked this important year by joining Keiter, Stephens, Hurst, Gary & Shreaves as a partner, becoming a Junior Achievement of Central Virginia board member, and traveling to Europe. Other than the five founding partners of the CPA Firm that has had its roots in Innsbrook since 1986, he is one of the youngest to become a partner at Keiter Stephens in its 30 year history.

It is ironic that Wallace is just slightly older than the Firm. When asked about this he said, "We, [referencing two other new partners at the Firm, Matt McDonald and Scott McAuliffe], are the start of the next generation of partners at Keiter Stephens. We are looking forward to continuing the growth of the Firm and to serving clients in our marketplace. We believe that if we continue to work as a team, mentor our staff, and serve our clients well, we will be able to build upon our Firm's excellent reputation."

Wallace attended The University of Mary Washington where he met his wife, Christine, and was an All American tennis player in 1997. Upon graduation, he went to work with the Richmond office of Ernst & Young. He worked his way up the ranks to senior manager in seven years. When Wallace joined Keiter Stephens in August 2007, he did so not only to pursue his professional goals but also his personal goals of staying in the Richmond area where he grew up and giving back to this community.

"I felt that Keiter Stephens would be a perfect match for my career goals. The strong reputation of the Firm, the strength of the Firm's client base, and their ties to the community were considerations in my decision," Wallace said.

So what really drives this young executive? "My competitive nature, even since childhood, has always motivated me and it seems to have carried over into my professional career. The desire to do my best, regardless of the situation, has played a role in my professional accomplishments." Wallace said.

In addition to his competitive nature, his family and community involvement are the important drivers in his life. Wallace has been married to Christine for almost eight years.

He credits his wife as being the backbone of his accomplishments, "Christine's support and encouragement throughout my career have been instrumental in my success."

They have two young children, Whit and Nora, and he treasures the time he shares with his family.

"Like most people, my life was more one-dimensional before we had our children. I think Christine is now used to the computer being turned back on after we put the children to bed. My perspective is if working from home a couple hours each night allows me to get home earlier for some quality time with my family, its definitely worth it.

Wallace was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of Junior Achievement of Central Virginia.

He had been involved at the volunteer level with Junior Achievement for over five years by going into local classrooms and teaching students about economics. His deep belief in Junior Achievement's mission for financial literacy led him to accept the board position.

"This is such an important aspect of our education system that sometimes gets overlooked.

Christine and I will stress the importance of financial responsibility to our own children as we raise them, but I wanted to go beyond my own family and help others. Working with and continuously supporting JA is one way that I can achieve this aspiration." he explained.

In addition, Wallace is a low handicap golfer, continues to play competitive tennis, and serves on the Board of Directors at Salisbury Country Club.

When asked about what advice he would give other professionals rising up through the ranks, he remarked, "I have been fortunate during my career to work with so many talented individuals. I think my ability to learn from my clients, mentors, and peers have made me a well-rounded business professional. I have also been fortunate to find a Firm whose culture lines up very well with my own beliefs. I think its important to have the opportunity to do your best work every day."

Chris Wallace is driven by his focus on his family, community support, and a healthy competitive nature. This new Innsbrook executive is already on the fast track to success and an inspiration and role model for many young professionals.

