

“Business is more than just numbers,” believes Tim Alles, a 1999 Hope grad; **the important aspect of working in the business field is to look behind the numbers and learn the story being told.** It was here at Hope that Tim learned this new perspective of business.

Tim’s interest in the business field led him to the Department of Economics, Management and Accounting (DEMA) where he received a Management major. The DEMA classes challenged Tim to view the business field in a new light. Tim learned how to “unravel the layers of every problem to reveal the core issue.” The DEMA professors taught him the skills to dig deep into each situation in order to find the best solution; a skill he continues to find valuable in his career and life. Having the ability to apply these skills to his career allows Tim to concentrate on the important aspect of his work, the relationships with clients, the story and even character of the projects; to Tim, “business is essentially a people thing.”

Tim first learned these concepts through the strong examples set by the DEMA professors. The professors showed Tim how “personal Christian principles naturally spill into business principles.” Tim believes that Christians are called to offer the “very best of mind, mouth and hand,” as good stewards in their jobs. Using the combination of hard work, intelligence and strong principles can allow business to be one’s highest calling.

The DEMA program taught Tim how to successfully incorporate these lessons in a career. In addition, Tim sees his liberal arts education being applied in his daily work as well. The liberal arts education allowed Tim to explore other areas of interest. Not only have the general classes been beneficial to his career path, but they have also allowed him to develop the love of learning, even beyond his major.

Although Tim quickly points out that the “real world” can be tough, he shares the advice and encouragement to take advantage of the four years at Hope. “College is the prime opportunity to reveal skills, talents, interests, make connections and find desires in life. It is important to find balance in life,” and Hope offers the opportunities to do just that. Tim may have come to Hope based on its academic excellence and athletic opportunities, but he left with direction and the desires to lead a fulfilled life.