

“CLASACTS”

Bruce Heyman '80 *A Passion for People* | Ron Ford E'92 *Giving Back* | Kevin Ogilby '92 *Open to Opportunity* | Jonathan Ishee, Jackson Moore '03 *Starting Out*

A PASSION FOR PEOPLE

'80

BRUCE HEYMAN, '80, HAS a passion for people. Though he's managing director of the Private Wealth Management Group for Goldman Sachs' Midwest region, it's not the numbers of the stock market that bring him to his Chicago office each day.

"This is my second family. I care about the clients personally and professionally, and try to help them in any way I can. That's what keeps me going," he says.

It was this interest in, and involvement with, his private investors that built his clientele of high net-worth individuals into one of the largest groups at Goldman Sachs. "The challenge isn't figuring whether the market is going up or down in the next six months," he explains. "Rather, it's earning your clients' trust by really understanding their risk profile; developing an asset allocation that's appropriate for them, using the best managers in each category; and then constantly monitoring for changes."

Heyman's passion for people extends back to his alma mater. He and

other Owen alums from Goldman Sachs take it upon themselves to help prepare first-year students for careers in the industry. "This year we did a small, group dinner and gave a presentation to the students as if they were a wealthy prospect that we were solicit-



Bruce and Vicki Heyman

ing for their personal business."

He is a past president of the Owen Alumni Association, and wife Vicki, '80, serves on the board of Vanderbilt's Ben Schulman Center for Jewish Life and Vanderbilt's Alumni Association. Both will be general chairs for this fall's Reunion/Homecoming November 5-6. "I hope Owen alums turn out in droves," he says. "It will be a great time to celebrate where Vanderbilt has been and where it is going."

—CAROL WISSMANN

PLEASE NOTE: Class Acts appear only in the printed version of this publication.

DANIEL DUBOIS

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GIVING BACK

E'92

RON FORD'S LIFE READS like a Horatio Alger novel. Alger's more than 134 rags-to-riches books usually tell the story of a young teenage boy, from a poor and disadvantaged family, who overcomes numerous obstacles and triumphs to build his own American dream—much as Ford has.

"I grew up with divorced parents," says Ford, E,'92. "My mother had five children, basically a year apart. We were a poor, but loving family. I knew that while I was grateful for my background, there was something I needed to do." And that was to become the first person in his family to attend college.

After graduating from high school in East Tennessee, he worked a 40-hour week at Oak Ridge National Laboratory while attending a community college, later graduating with an accounting degree from the University of Tennessee. In Nashville, he worked for Porcelain Industries, which offered to put him through the Owen School.

"Owen changed my life," claims Ford, who had long considered Vanderbilt the mecca of education. "I wouldn't be where I am today if [the late dean] Marty Geisel hadn't taken a chance on me." His thirst for knowledge didn't stop there, and he went on

to earn a Ph.D. from the Weatherhead School at Case Western.

Throughout his busy career, the now president of Wells DC, and chief financial strategy officer of Wells Real Estate Funds, has taken time to give back to Vanderbilt. He served on the Owen Alumni Board for 11 years, including a stint as president. During that time, he interacted with the Vanderbilt Alumni Board, becoming a member a few years ago. He assumed presidency of that group in October and became a member of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust in April, an honor that he says, "is more than his dream come true."

— LEW HARRIS



Ron Ford