Alumni Spotlight

Mark Hahn ’80

Mark Hahn ’80, School of Social Sciences & Human Services, was an Environmental Studies major. Hahn embodies energy in every sense of the word. His student days were a whirlwind of evening, Saturday and full-time courses, commuting, a career in the printing industry and promoting the College’s sustainability efforts. “I chose Ramapo College because at that time, it was one of the few institutions that offered a degree program that combined environmental studies with a co-major in business,” he says.

He recalls working to establish the Ecological Living Facility, an independent study program, and enlisting Professor Michael Edelstein as the group’s advisor. The goal of the group was to explore the possibility of establishing a student resident facility in which an energy efficient design promoted sustainable lifestyles. The student-led effort combined classes in the social and physical sciences with an architectural design studio curriculum. Hahn was pleased to be invited to the recent dedication of the Sharp Sustainability Education Center, noting that the new facility is located very near to the site that the student group proposed for its project, and adding, “I am pleased to know that the early student and faculty efforts at Ramapo to explore the issues of sustainability on campus have continued with the establishment of the Sharp Sustainability Education Center.”

Ramapo College is a family affair: Hahn’s brother and sister attended, and his wife, Geri, spent a year on campus. It’s no surprise that Mark met Geri at a sustainability conference, and that they both have continued their commitment to solving environmental issues.

Hahn currently serves as CFO/COO of FLM Graphics, a company that provides quality, cost effective graphic and reprographic services in the tri-state area. He is also responsible for corporate development at FLM, seeking to acquire companies in the industry. Mindful of conservation, FLM’s Fairfield, N.J. office holds a Forest Stewardship Council Chain-of-Custody certification. This certification was created to manage the social and environmental effects of a project throughout its supply chain.

During a sabbatical from the printing industry, Hahn reengaged in the energy business with an energy performance company that provided design, engineering, and implementation of energy efficiency solutions to public sector educational facilities. Previously, he was a management consultant focused on the sale and restructuring of businesses, specializing in the printing and digital media industries, and also operated his own printing company.

Keeping it green is part of Hahn’s community service interests. He is on the Advisory Board of EcoGreenHotel, a company that provides energy efficiency solutions and sustainable products to the hospitality industry. He also has served as a volunteer for Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, providing oversight to the N.J. Family Court on behalf of abused children.

Hahn says, “I’m pleased that Ramapo College has continued its early commitment to an interdisciplinary approach to environmental studies. It’s my experience that initiatives that promote sustainable solutions need to be critically analyzed from an economic perspective to have a long lasting impact. Often the sustainable solution is also the most cost effective when all the
Christopher Chudyk, '00, Anisfield School of Business, majored in Accounting, and was inducted into Delta Mu Delta, the Business Honor Society. Chris is a partner at Traphagen & Traphagen, an affiliate of Traphagen Financial Group in Oradell, NJ. He specializes in implementing computer software, business tax returns, review and compilations and tax planning. He joined the firm in 2000, received his CPA license in 2004 and, in 2006, was admitted as partner. Traphagen Financial Group offers accounting, investment and business consulting services.

He credits the Cahill Center for his internship with Montage Media Corp. during senior year, which gave him the background and experience on Quickbooks and tax/audit software that was very appealing to his eventual employer. In fact, Chris says “it is key that all students work in at least one internship or co-op to attain experience, skills and exposure to technology necessary in today’s accounting world.” Ramapo students are regularly selected and valued as interns at Traphagen & Traphagen, coming in with a solid accounting foundation.

The accountant sees green beyond the dollar sign. At the firm, Chudyk’s goal is to have a paperless system. He plans to totally transition the firm to Cloud Computing, a system that allows using files and applications over the Internet, in the next five years.

Chudyk has earned a number of industry designations. He is a Certified QuickBooks Advisor and a Certified Information Technology Professional, a designation awarded by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants held by less than one percent of all CPAs nationwide. He serves as a director of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants, Bergen Chapter and is the chairman of the Technology Committee. He is also a member of the AICPA.

His volunteer activities are aligned with his career. Traphagen has a vested interest in the community as does Chudyk. He volunteers for the NJSCPA Scholars Institute, Career Day and Pay It Forward program. He also participates in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, providing pro-bono tax preparation services to senior citizens and low-income individuals and families. Chudyk continues his volunteer activities at Ramapo as a member of the Anisfield School of Business Alumni Advisory Board.

A commuter student, Chudyk often crashed with friends on campus. He has fond memories of Professors Gramkow, Crawford and O’Grady Harvey, and especially Ray Rigoli. At Ramapo, Chudyk played on the Men’s Basketball team for three years. He stressed that “playing a sport is important and a great way to get to know people and develop social skills.”

He met his wife, Dawn Letizia Chudyk ‘01 at Traphagen. Currently, Dawn is a teacher at Woodside Elementary School in Westwood. They live in Ramsey, NJ with their three children.