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Harold Wolfe: UMass Alum Provides Skills To Young People

Harold Wolfe moved to the Pioneer Valley from Urbana, Illinois to obtain an MFA at UMass Amherst on the advice of a friend who had taught at the university. He says he was excited to go “back east”, as people in the Midwest refer to the east coast. Most of his fellow students had been out of college for a while and had some experience outside of the classroom. “We knew how fortunate we were to be in school,” says Harold. “We were all serious students. We all studied and hung out together.”

Harold got his degree, and never looked back. “The Pioneer Valley is beautiful and varied in terms of country and urban areas... it’s near Boston and New York, yet the pace here is relaxed.” It appealed to him. “In this area,” he adds, “UMass grads are your neighbors and coworkers.”

As a Teaching Assistant at UMass Amherst, Harold had taught technical writing. It was an easy transition to a career as a technical writer after graduation, and led to his creating a firm, Helios Custom Training, Inc., that provided customized training materials to Fortune 500 customers. “My biggest job as an owner was selling our services,” he says. “When I decided to close my company, a career in fundraising was a logical step.”



Harold Wolfe

Since that time, Harold has worked as a corporate support associate for WGBY in Springfield, the local public broadcasting station. From Curious George to an upcoming documentary on ambulance drivers in World War I, WGBY serves the community with quality programming for every interest and life-stage. Harold works with local companies and organizations, obtaining underwriting for programs that air on WGBY.

Harold also volunteers for the NCAA Men’s Division 2 National Basketball Championship Education Committee. “We’ve put together lesson suggestions that help 4th grade children prepare for both the MCAS and the basketball tournament in Springfield,” says Harold. “Their lessons culminate in free admission to tournament games.” Harold sometimes brings Curious George and other PBS program characters with him to kids’ events. “Then I feel like my job is to bring joy to small children -- and that’s the best job anyone could have,” he adds.

Harold says he has many fond memories of his days at the university. “There were always concerts and guest lecturers. The best, though, was when all the English Department graduate students held a prom. We decorated the basement of The Drake (now condos), dressed up and brought ‘dates’. It was a hoot.”

“The three years I spent at the university were possibly the best in my life,” Harold says. “I made lifelong friends, and I learned to excel in academics. The research and writing skills I honed at the University have been invaluable in my career.”

Prepared by the UMass Amherst Alumni Association. For more information go to UMassAlumni.com.