

MATT SLAUGHTER INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS EXPERT

BY PAUL MOORE

Matt Slaughter became a professor at Dartmouth at age 25, has served on an economic advisory council to the President, and has travelled all over the

world. But what really gets him going is the Grumpy Man Blues Weekend, his annual return to Minnesota to get together with about 20 fellow Minnetonka High School alums from the class of '86.

"We started it the year we graduated," he says. "Even though we were all friends in high

school, we did very different things when we were there. But we were able to build those relationships when we were at Minnetonka because it was such an inclusive environment."

The foundation Matt built at MHS has served him well as he has ascended through academia to become the Signal Companies Professor of Management and an Associate Dean at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business, as well as a recognized international expert on economics and globalization policies.

While in high school Matt wrote for the *Breezes* newspaper and was active in the croquet club. Pictured left to right. First row: Kathleen Flannigan, Kiersten Hall, Jon Thompson, Cynthia Flannigan, Jenna Peschko, Matt Sparber. Second row: Tryg Nederloe, Andy McGlasson, Jawn Bassett, Matt Slaughter, John Perkins.



Matt Slaughter's
Class of '86 Yearbook Photo

But in his first stop after high school at the University of Notre Dame, he couldn't decide what to study.

"I thought about engineering and I thought about other fields. I ended up doing kind of a great books, liberal arts program. Those very different college paths were possible in part because of the great training the high school provided in math and science, but also in things like English and history."

Matt graduated from Notre Dame summa cum laude with a B.A. in economics, then went to MIT for his Ph.D. He's been at Dartmouth since 1994 and lives in Hanover, New Hampshire, with his wife Lindsey and sons Nicholas, 12, and Jacob, 8. His adopted hometown is a college town, but also reminds him of home. "One of the nice things about Hanover is it's a lot like Minnetonka," he says. "It's a good community that supports its schools and its related activities."

Hanover also serves as a stable home base for a career that has taken Matt through most of Europe, much of Asia and plenty of points in between. Among the topics he delves into: how knowledge is shared among multinational firms, government policies



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me to their headquarters," he says. "It's kind of funny when someone from Cargill will start to describe where it is, and I'll say, 'That's about two miles from where I grew up.' Or they'll inquire about travel arrangements and hotels and I'll say 'That's fine, I'll be sleeping in the bedroom I slept in as a kid.'"

And what kind of kid was he? "Oh, he was just the best kid in the world," says his mom, Mary. "Matt learned a lot about what to do and what not to do by observing his two older brothers." As a result, she says, he never had trouble fitting in with any group. And to this day, "he loves those hometown connections."

One of those connections is longtime MHS teacher Glenn Skoy, who Matt still checks in with when he comes home. "Anything he did, he did well," says Mr. Skoy. "He was very consistent in everything he did, and he hung around really bright kids."

In a career full of prestigious accomplishments and scholarly published works, Matt has a recent highlight: an invitation to serve his country. From 2005 to 2007, he took a leave from Dartmouth to serve on the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA). He was one of three Senate-confirmed members of an organization that has been part of the executive branch of government since 1946. The council's chairman at the time was Ben

toward globalization and the relationships between the labor market and international trade, investment and immigration. Lofty stuff for a kid who spent several summers working at the old Lilli Putt on Highway 7.

Working as an international economics expert even brings him home. "Over the years, I've done a bit of work with Cargill in different settings, and they'll sometimes invite

dimension to that position, so I had to travel a bit to represent the U.S."

"I really enjoyed it. The issues I research and teach are the same as what I worked on there: the competitiveness of American workers in the American economy, trade and investment flows around the world and the value of the U.S. dollar, energy markets, the price of oil. It was a neat opportunity to apply the academic things I do in a public service setting."

Even while representing his country across the globe, there's always that connection to his old school. Matt says the communication skills he learned in Minnetonka have served him well in the rest of the world. "An important part of that [CEA] role is an ability to communicate about economics and business matters to lots of people. When I look back at classes at MHS and even in the middle school, that was a big part of the curriculum in a lot of the courses. That's something that in my career has been very helpful."

Matt says his parents didn't push him, they just told him to believe in himself, do his best and imagine the possibilities. He credits them with much of his success and says the place where he grew up played a pretty significant role as well.

"There was a real sense of support from the community, from the funding of the schools to the dedication from volunteers and staff. A lot of what I've been fortunate enough to do since then, I owe to those great teachers and just the district in general. It's the kind of thing that makes a community like Minnetonka very special."

Bernanke, now the chairman of the Federal Reserve.

"I'm a registered independent so it was interesting, not from a partisan politics standpoint, but CEA plays a traditional type of role in our government – we're there to be advisers to the president and members of the cabinet," he says. "I held the international portfolio and there's a diplomatic

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