ALUMNI PROFILE

Greg Beebe – Life with a Purpose

The Hartford Scholars Program at the University of Hartford made it possible for Greg Beebe to change the course of his life. He grew up poor in inner-city Hartford with no male role models, in a family where no one had graduated from high school. Greg’s family changed apartments frequently because money was tight (they even lived in a motel for a while). Food stamps and government cheese was a staple. But Greg knew at a young age that he had goals: to earn twice his age times 1,000 at age 30, reach six figures by age 40, and become a company president by age 50. He has done all that—and more.

An entertaining outing for Greg’s family was a trip to the grocery store followed by a picnic lunch while parked at Bradley airport, watching planes take off and land. He loved camping, and the Boy Scouts provided opportunities for leadership and tutelage. Scouting helped Greg to focus on his goals, with no distractions. He soon achieved the top prize: Eagle Scout.

A girlfriend recognized Greg’s interest in electronics as he spent time building a stereo system pieced together from junk parts. She pressed him to pursue an engineering education at the University of Hartford, where she intended to study. On a visit to campus Greg sat in on a DC Electrical Fundamentals class at the Ward School of Technology, talked with the dean and then his advisor, all of which helped him realize that electronic engineering technology was a good fit.

Greg believes that attaining Eagle Scout gave him a huge edge over another candidate holding equivalent qualifications when he applied for his first job at Sennheiser Electronics. Over more than 23 years at Sennheiser Greg learned three things: he enjoys internationalism, challenges, and building teams. His purpose in life is to nurture internationalism, challenges, and building teams. His purpose in life is to nurture internationalism, challenges, and building teams. He feels fortunate to have been in a multi-year training program at Sennheiser, which primed him for the varied domestic and international leadership roles. He headed sales and marketing in four different countries simultaneously, which required frequent contact with partners in Turkey, Greece, Spain, and Portugal. His role as VP for business in Latin America not only fueled his interest in internationalism and team-building, but has lead to life-long friendships.

Greg sees the many steps in his life as blessings. “this doesn’t happen to a person who ate government cheese,” he says. He believes that when he set his life goals at 13, somebody upstairs was listening.