Bryant Farland ’93

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Bryant Farland ’93 is a great example of the advantage of a liberal arts education. He has worked for a United States senator. He has been a fundraiser for a university and an arts organization. He earned a law degree. He started his own construction business. Now he is corporate senior vice president at Skanska Building, Inc.—his career has changed over time, his values have not.

Farland chose Assumption because, although he had attended public schools, he recognized the difference of an education with a spiritual dimension. “Assumption provided an exceptional foundation for me,” he said.

“I was afforded academic opportunities and access to professors that I cannot imagine I would have had at other colleges or universities,” he explained. “The degree of personal engagement spurred my intellectual curiosity, which in turn drove me to seek additional challenges – and more work. I picked up additional courses each semester to enhance my experience and take advantage of the diversity of thought within the faculty.”

After graduating, Farland worked for U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont in Washington, DC, handling a variety of legislative issues. He met his future wife, Jennifer, on the Hill and traveled to her home state of Kentucky, where they married. He pursued unexpected opportunities such as leading two fundraising campaigns, first for the University of Louisville and then later for a local arts organization. He then joined two friends and formed a small construction and real estate development company.

Farland enjoyed his life in Kentucky, but law school had always been one of his goals. Five years after graduating Assumption, Farland enrolled at Catholic University Law School. After graduation, his construction experience served him well when he represented some of the country’s largest design and construction firms in complex construction disputes in private practice.

“As a lawyer, I look at issues from any number of alternative angles, not just the reflexive response that first comes to mind,” said Farland. “This appreciation for varying perspectives enables me to chart a course based on a full field of information – a skill that has helped me in law and in business.”

Skanska USA Building, one of the 10-largest development and construction companies in the world, recruited him in 2006. Farland became the company’s corporate counsel and oversaw all of their design/build legal affairs. He’s enjoyed the challenges and success as he negotiated diverse projects, such as MetLife Stadium (home to the NFL’s NY Giants and NY Jets), office towers in D.C., the central utility plant for the statehouse and agencies for State of California, the NFL’s NY Giants and NY Jets), office towers in D.C., the central utility plant for the statehouse and agencies for State of California, and numerous hospitals around the country.

He’s also worn several hats within the organization. “A couple of years ago I was asked to represent Skanska’s Infrastructure Development company. As counsel and member of the negotiation team, we worked on the company’s first public/private partnership project in the U.S. – a $2.1 billion tunnel project in Norfolk, VA, in which we were developer, investor and constructor,” Farland said.

Following the commercial close of that deal last December, he took over national operational leadership of Skanka’s design/build projects. It was a natural transition, based on his experience and knowledge of law. “At the end of the day, I am negotiating opportunities and resolving issues, and I do so with a holistic perspective. While I love wearing my commercial hat, as a trained attorney, I will always enjoy wrestling with the contractual considerations and legal implications of the deals.”

Farland realizes that his success is based on many factors. “The ability to think critically and argue effectively – with the pen and orally – are skills that have proven invaluable throughout my professional career. These skills were developed, challenged and refined at Assumption,” said Farland.


While his professional accomplishments are impressive, his family is the heart of his world. “My wife Jennifer and I celebrated our 15th year anniversary earlier this summer, and I am blessed with three exceptional children, Gillian-An, Quinn and Elizabeth Mai,” said Farland.

“My wife and I don’t contribute to causes, we invest in things we believe in,” he explained. “We believe in Assumption as a special place of higher learning and as an ideal of what great academic institutions should strive to become. I am fortunate and proud of the experience I had at Assumption and together with my family we want to see Assumption carry and expand its mission for generations to come.”

Farland has a clear vision of what he hopes his future will bring. “I look forward to continuing on my journey with Skanska, leading the company in new directions to improve the communities in which we operate,” he said. Most importantly, striving to be the best husband, father and person I can muster.”
FROM THE COURTRoom TO THE BOARD Room