WHEN A FATAL HEART ATTACK CLAIMED DEREK MOHAMED’S ’98 FATHER DURING THE FALL OF HIS FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE, THE WORCESTER NATIVE AND ONLY CHILD TRANSFERRED TO ASSUMPTION TO BE CLOSER TO HIS MOTHER. “WHILE THE PASSING OF MY FATHER WAS A TRAGIC EVENT IN MY LIFE, I BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS A PLAN FOR US,” HE SAID.

At Assumption, Mohamed joined the hockey team, found his passion for economics and finance, and met his wife, who was studying nursing at Worcester State at the time.

Today, Mohamed is senior vice president of the Mohamed-Penta Wealth Management Group at UBS Financial Services, Inc., in Wellesley, and remains active through CrossFit training and competitions.

It was Professor Demitri Kantarelis who helped Mohamed find his calling. “Prof. Kantarelis is an inspiring, engaging professor and encouraged me to pursue economics and finance,” Mohamed said. He excelled in the classroom, earning the George A. Doyle Merit Award. His academic prowess and his four years of hockey earned him an NCAA postgraduate scholarship.

He pursued a Ph.D. in economics at Clark University for a year, before deciding to build a wealth management practice. “I knew I wanted to do something where I could help people,” said Mohamed. “What I do combines my passion for economics and finance with my desire to make a difference in people’s lives.”

As a wealth advisor, he serves clients primarily in and around greater Boston. “We help simplify and organize our clients’ financial lives, many of whom are busy, successful entrepreneurs,” Mohamed explained. “We act as the family’s personal CFO, helping integrate their advisors (accountants, attorneys, insurance agents, etc.) into a team so the family can make informed financial decisions—about investments and advanced planning issues like wealth enhancement, wealth protection and transfer, as well as charitable giving.”

Mohamed, wife Nicole and children David (12), Bella (9) and Zach (3), reside in Westboro. Derek and Nicole were involved in bringing a before-school activity and fitness program called BOKs (Build Our Kids’ Success), to two of the town’s elementary schools. About 100 children participate twice a week, playing games, exercising and learning about healthy lifestyles. He also coaches his son’s hockey team.

Mohamed has continued his athletic career by competing in the growing sport of CrossFit, which is labeled as “the ultimate test of fitness.” He has competed in the world CrossFit Games since its inception in 2009, winning the world championship with his team, CrossFit New England, in 2011.

“I have truly been blessed in so many ways in my life, and my Assumption College experience was a critical part of my development,” said Mohamed. His father would be proud. ♦