

Stephen Wisnefski, a 1986 graduate of Xavier High School, is a devoted husband and father; an accomplished journalist; and a mentor to many. He credits his parents, the Xavier community, his Catholic faith and Wisconsin roots for instilling in him the values that have allowed him to experience personal joy and professional satisfaction every step of the way.

Stephen is thrilled to have the opportunity to return to Xavier, where so many fantastic memories were created. Stephen was a varsity basketball player, a member of the concert band and other music ensembles, and involved in countless other activities. His first foray into journalism was serving as sports editor for the school newspaper. He's also happy to share the experience with his parents, who were long-time and much-beloved teachers at Xavier. Donald (band director) and Gladys (Spanish teacher) are still close to many in the Xavier community.

Stephen followed an unconventional path to journalism. He received degrees in Sociology and Urban Studies from Northwestern University in 1990, and a master's degree in Urban Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1992. He worked as an urban transit planner at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in Madison for three years, and it was a friendship established in that job that paved the way for a move to Brazil, meeting his future wife and becoming a journalist.

Stephen has been married for 17 years to Patricia Villalon Wisnefski, of Port Clinton, Ohio. Stephen and Patricia met in São Paulo, Brazil in 1996 when both were working as translators at Gazeta Mercantil, a now-defunct-but-then-prominent Brazilian financial newspaper. Patricia likes to say that she had to move thousands of miles away just to meet a guy from Wisconsin.

Patricia and Stephen now live in Cranford, New Jersey with their two sons. Maximilian, a skilled actor, is 14 and Leo, an avid sportsman, is 11. While they love living on the East Coast, they relish every opportunity they have to visit friends and family in the Midwest.

Stephen is Deputy Managing Editor of The Wall Street Journal, one of the largest and most respected news publications in the world. In that role, he is responsible for all the news, analysis and data that the newsroom produces for business and financial professionals.

Stephen has worked for Dow Jones & Co, parent of the WSJ, for 19 years in a variety of roles as a reporter, editor and manager. He has had the opportunity to interview presidents and corporate chief executives; cover elections and the Olympics; travel the globe; and hire and guide extraordinarily motivated and talented journalists.

Stephen started as a correspondent for Dow Jones Newswires in Brazil and eventually became bureau chief. In 2000, he transferred to New York, where he served as a senior writer on emerging markets and then became chief editor for Latin America, running a group of reporters spread across eight countries.

In 2005, Stephen was appointed Chicago Bureau Chief, a role that involved overseeing Dow Jones's coverage of major Midwest manufacturers, airlines and the automobile industry, among

other beats. In 2007, Stephen and a colleague were recognized with a “Best in Business Award” from the Society of American Business Editors and Writers for exclusive reporting of billionaire Kirk Kerkorian’s bid to acquire DaimlerChrysler.

The Wisniewskis returned to the East Coast in 2009 as Stephen took on editing roles of increasing responsibility, culminating in his appointment as the senior editor for the Americas for Dow Jones Newswires, guiding the work of more than 300 journalists. In 2013, Stephen was appointed as the first-ever editor of The Wall Street Journal’s Global Real-Time News Desk, which is responsible for editing, publishing, and packaging content delivered over all digital platforms. He was appointed to his current role in early 2016.

Those who nominated Stephen noted that he is playing a leading role in guiding the Wall Street Journal through the forces that are reshaping journalism, and that he is widely respected and admired in the newsroom. They also pointed out that his professional accomplishments are all transcended by his innate kindness and the care he shows for others.

“Stephen has progressed far in his field, but maintains the same values he exhibited as a student at Xavier High School – intelligence, diligence, and, most importantly, devotion to his family, faith, friends and co-workers,” said one of the supporting letters. “Stephen exemplifies the Xavier tradition.”

As another nominating letter said, Stephen sets an example of what it means to be fully devoted to living an abundant life.