

The Sheibleys

For decades, Lehigh and the ISE department have seen many members of the same families come across campus. Fathers, sons, mothers, daughters, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, grandchildren – you name it, we see the same last names appear over and over again. This clearly shows what the department and Lehigh have meant to these families.

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to ISE legacy families and the impact that the department and Lehigh have made on their lives.

JOHN SHEIBLEY '41



“My father, John Sheibley, was a 1941 Lehigh graduate,” explains Philip Sheibley. I wasn’t particularly aware of his Lehigh background or the fact that he was a

Metallurgical Engineer however.” John got a job with Bethlehem Steel right after graduation, but was drafted six months later into the Army Air Force (he had a pilot’s license). He left the military at the end of WWII as a Captain, and immediately enrolled in Princeton Theological Seminary, getting an M-Div (Masters of Divinity), and later a Doctorate. “So, he was ‘Dad the minister’ when I was growing up (and probably the only minister in America with a Metallurgical Engineering Degree),” says Philip.

PHILIP SHEIBLEY '81



Following his father’s footsteps, Philip, with his love of math and science, ended up looking at engineering schools/ programs. “My dad didn’t

push, but suggested I add Lehigh to my list of colleges,” says Philip. With the last two finalists being Lehigh and Cornell, it was Lehigh’s reputation and campus that sold it for him.

Philip thoroughly enjoyed his experience at Lehigh, admitting he greatly appreciated the intellectual challenge of working with top students and dedicated faculty, such as Professors George Kane, who was his academic advisor, and Mikell Groover, “who always had great real-life stories due to his outside consulting,” which Philip says probably influenced his career decision. His fraternity,

Delta Phi, “was a great opportunity in developing my leadership skills, which helped me understand group dynamics while creating some of my most lasting friendships.”

Upon graduation, Philip started working with the consulting division of Arthur Andersen (which became Andersen Consulting, and eventually Accenture). He rose through various levels to become a Partner in the firm, and before “semi-retiring” (after 29 years) he became the Industry Director for Accenture’s Global Life Sciences practice. After leaving Accenture in 2010, Philip joined several of his similarly “retired” Accenture Partners in a venture capital investment group. He explains, “We take positions (or ownership) of early-stage companies in a number of industries (e.g. renewable energy, life sciences, nutrition) and are highly active in helping the founders/management of the companies to develop scalable models for success. I’ve also been able to involve some of my Lehigh colleagues in several of our venture companies which has been great.” Philip notes that his Lehigh education was perfect for both his consulting and VC endeavors in that he had the structured analysis, problem solving, and creative solution-development skills, combined with effective teaming and economics, which were critical to the roles he played.

In addition to Philip’s other responsibilities, he also has been on the Lehigh University Board of Trustees for six years. “It has been an amazing opportunity to reconnect with my Alma Mater, and make a modest contribution as a steward of the institution.” He notes that with the challenges facing our world today, “the skills Lehigh graduates obtain are more critical than ever. The board is made up of some of our most dedicated alumni, so it’s an inspiring group to work with, and I think we have a great relationship with the administration and senior faculty. With the exciting plans President Simon and the board have in store for Lehigh, it’s a great time to be involved with the university!”

MALLORY SHEIBLEY '19



Mallory Sheibley admits that she was a little against the idea of coming to Lehigh, based on her father’s involvement. “I wanted to do my own

thing,” she says. Although not knowing where she wanted to go, she did know one thing for sure - she had a love of engineering. “I ended up applying to the most random group of schools that were anywhere from Florida to California. I visited Lehigh and ended up going on an engineering tour.” Although Mallory had been on campus countless times before, seeing it from a potential student’s standpoint convinced her that this was the school for her. “It was easy to pick Lehigh not only for its environment, proximity to both New York and Philadelphia and social scene, but also because I was choosing between Lehigh’s engineering school and a school with a three-classroom hallway dedicated to my major of choice. As much as college is about the experience, I was going first and foremost to learn, and I ended up having the best experience with all aspects of it. After that, it was really clear that this was the place for me.”

Mallory didn’t initially like the idea of being a third-generation student, especially with her father’s continued involvement with Lehigh as a trustee. Now that Mallory is a student, she admits that there’s a very good reason why there are so many legacies. “Once someone is exposed to Lehigh, they don’t want to go anywhere else.”

Mallory has always had a knack for math and physics due to their having concrete answers and clear explanations. “I like things that are logical and calculated. I excelled in those areas in high school, and I knew that these would be the subjects I would want to study further in college. I also realized that a degree in engineering would take me the farthest in terms of a career that I’d like to pursue - and Industrial Engineering would give me the widest range of possibility (along with a business minor).”

Mallory is a member of the sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta, for which she is the Social Chair. Through Alpha Gamma, she’s part of a group that does community service with the Broughal Middle School (running an after-school cooking club for the kids). She’s also part of the Society of Women Engineers and club volleyball on campus.

Mallory is in the Engineering Co Op program, so she is currently in Erie, PA for the semester working as an Industrial Engineering intern for GE Transportation.