

## Eric Ferrell, SCA Class of 1987

As a Conservative with Libertarian leanings working in a left-of-center media outlet, class of '87 alumnus, Eric Ferrell, helps people of faith get a fair shake when their actions are reported by the news media.

"Being in the ideological minority at SCA, and still being respected as a person, helped me learn how to raise questions without being disagreeable," notes Ferrell. "The sense of humor teachers Bill Stark and Andrew Neillie showed when classmates differed on doctrine also helps me today."



Mr. Neillie

SCA Football Coach Neillie taught Bible, as well as history and economics. "He took me out for pizza to discuss questions I had about apparent contradictions in Scripture's accounts of The Resurrection, recalls Ferrell. "Further he was patient and kind with the many questions I had on how the Bible bears on public policy."

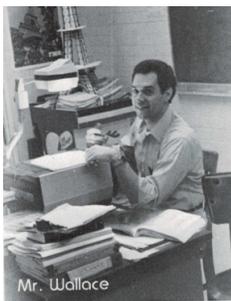
Wise coaching on life skills has paid off for Eric in personal relationships as well. Now, when Eric reads Ephesians 5:25, he thinks about Neillie's solid example of how a strong, gentle man loves his wife.

Along with Neillie, Stark co-led students in developing their personal, Bible-based, doctrinal statements. Bill Stark cared deeply for his students. "I sought him out after graduation for prayer and counsel," recalls Eric. "He made time to pray for me, talk on the phone and correspond over several weeks. He exercised the essential virtue of winning fact from feeling. I saw Christ's love in the man and miss him."



Mr. Stark

English teacher, Tom Wallace, challenged Eric to put forth his best effort in grammar, literature, and - surprisingly - geography. "I use what he taught every day,"



Mr. Wallace



Mr. Fredericks

recognizes Ferrell. "More importantly, I developed some grit and determination in his classes which would serve me later in life."

Coach Bob Fredericks was Eric's Civics teacher. "He took it easy on me when I asked a provocative question of our congressman visiting our class," acknowledges Ferrell. "Fredericks had responsibility to show respect to our

invited guest, the congressman, and to help students develop critical thinking skills. I'm impressed with how he did both."



Mrs. Disarufino

Other SCA community members who impacted Eric's life include SCA Board Member, Mr. Bud Fifield, and Home Economics teacher, Karen Disarufino. Fifield provided a fine example of a godly, hardworking man, who took care of his family. He was also Eric's first employer. Disarufino taught practical life lessons – how to cook simple

meals, how to pick a roommate, how to budget for and rent an apartment and keep one's room clean.

Speaking to his younger self, Eric recalls Bible verses which have had an impact. "But He gives more grace. Therefore; it says, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'" James 4:6 (ESV)



One of Eric's favorite Scripture verses is Mark 9:24, "Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, 'I believe; help my unbelief!' " (ESV) Eric concludes, "This father sought deliverance for his child. Christ honored even his WEAK profession of faith. When I have trouble asking God for humility, I fall back on, 'Help my unbelief! My walk with the Almighty is more often a Plea than a Profession."



Eric Ferrell is a Digital Media Coordinator for a worldwide news network. He attended Asbury University in Kentucky where he earned a journalism degree, with a broadcast production minor. Eric also holds a master's in Political Science from Auburn University. Eric resides in Georgia with his wife and daughter.