

Scatterday Sees Career Dreams Come True in Wheeling

By LINDA HARRIS

Ohio Valley Correspondent

For **Wendy Scatterday**, making a success of her life is as much about giving back as it is getting ahead.



Scatterday

Scatterday is a project architect with **Schamu Machowski Greco Architects** in Wheeling, her hometown.

“It really is what I always wanted to do,” she said. “It’s amazing to me that I could be a 10- or 12-year-old and have an interest in doing something and still have that interest into high school, go through college and still enjoy it.

“To have made it through college and still be interested, to not be burned out on the back side and to be doing something I enjoy very much — I feel very fortunate.”

Maybe that’s why she’s tried to do as much as she can to help her community and her profession: For more than 10 years she’s been involved with the **Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless**, an affiliation that she said “allows me to contribute to my community beyond the work associated with the business of architecture.”

She also serves on the board of the **Children’s Museum of the Ohio Valley**, is active in her church, **The Vineyard**, and volunteers her time and talents to **Habitat for Humanity**.

She volunteers her time to professional organizations as well: She formerly served on the board of the **American Institute of Architects** and currently chairs the design awards committee. She’s also served on several Architect Registration Exam development committees for the **National Council of Architectural Registration Boards**, helping to ensure the exam fairly assesses a young architect’s knowledge.

“I am sure a large part of why I am an architect is because no one ever said I couldn’t,” she said. “No one ever tried to sway me otherwise or influence me in any way other than the career/life direction I knew I was interested in.

“For that I am so very thankful, as I recognize young girls of an earlier time in history (didn’t have) the same kind of encouragement and support from either their family, teachers or communities in general.

“I also recognize not everyone has the same opportunity to grow up thinking that going to college is a definite. I am blessed to have had both in my life.”

Scatterday graduated from high school in 1990, and, because no West Virginia schools offer a full-fledged architecture major, she enrolled at the **University of Tennessee**, Knoxville.

Degree in hand, she returned to Wheeling five years later to mull the possibility of graduate school. Deciding against it — but unable to find

full-time work — she survived on part-time jobs with three different architectural firms. A year later, she moved to Pittsburgh, and a year after that she was working in Connecticut.

In 1999, ready for another change, she contemplated sending resumes out en masse to firms in larger cities, such as Boston, Chicago and Washington, “but it occurred to me that working with somebody I already knew would be a better option, and the people I already knew in architecture were in Wheeling.”

So she called SMG’s **Victor Greco**, for whom she’d built a model years before. Greco himself had joined SMG’s Baltimore office in 1987 and three years later founded the firm’s Wheeling branch. She said Greco has been a tremendous mentor.

SMG’s forte is its work on higher ed projects, such as the new media center at **West Liberty State College**, and historic renovations, though the firm also has done a host of schools, libraries, church additions and performing arts centers. It also designs commercial projects and research facilities and does residential work.

Currently, it is working on plans for a sprawling retail space at The Highlands, a fast-growing commercial development minutes from Wheeling, that will feature a theater and a 127,000-square-foot office and retail building, with a 20,000-square foot satellite college center.

