

25-year-old Gainesville High Grad Proud, Focused with Daleco Group

Matthew Magnus is a focused 25-year-old with a humble and sincere smile and a handshake that shows great confidence.

He always knew he wanted to work in construction.

Today, he is realizing his dream, working as a project manager with Daleco Group, Inc., a full-service general contracting firm specializing in commercial, industrial, multi-family and retail construction.

Magnus' confidence started at a young age. At 11, he started working with his dad and grandfather (both worked over 60 years for Lawson Heating and Air in Gainesville). His father then started his own company, in which Magnus was his shadow from day one. Magnus stated that he "was always interested in the bigger picture and wanted to be able to control every aspect of a construction job".

Mr. Magnus is very proud of his son and is glad that one of his children ventured outside the family business. He stated that "it just feels comfortable to him" and he's been able to give his dad pointers on the business.

Darrell Lucas, his construction teacher at Gainesville High School, encouraged him to go to college at Western Carolina University. Magnus graduated in 2004 with a degree in construction management, graduating with honors. Magnus spent three years in Mr. Lucas' classroom and lab and he also received extensive training by working on residential projects with Mr. Lucas during his school year.



Matthew Magnus (right), project manager with Daleco Construction Group, talks with Sonny Styles – a superintendent with the company. Magnus got his initial training with Mr. Darrell Lucas – a construction teacher at Gainesville High School.

Through his extensive training in high school and being a co-op for Centex Rooney on an \$80 million prison, Magnus brings to Daleco great skills in being able to implement classroom education into working in the field. He's learned the great skill of gaining the superintendent's respect on any given project he's working on. Some of his current projects include:

Old Peachtree Commons Shopping Center – 2 Shell bldgs. – 25,000 SF

Sugarloaf Commons Shopping Center – 1 Shell bldg. – 14,000 SF

Kim's Retail Center - 1 Shell / Interior Project – 7,200 SF

Gwinnett Place Commons St. 1200 & 1300 – 11,000 SF Office Build Out
Mercy Animal Hospital – 3,200 SF Build Out for a vet clinic

Playing golf is one of Magnus' favorite pastimes. He also enjoys volunteering and building habitat for humanity homes.

Some of Magnus' proudest accomplishments have been being part of first gradating class in construction management at Western Carolina University. He was instrumental in starting the first construction club, NCCA sponsored by Carolinas AGC. He also enjoys being a member of Sigma Lambda Chi , a national construction honor society.

Magnus enjoys “seeing the owner’s face happy” once a project is complete. His supervisor, company owner Dale Gross, stated that he is “very excited about Magnus taking care of things. He’s learning everyday and I’m tickled he’s here.”

Magnus wants young people to know that “you can make more in construction coming out of college than any other field.” He feels strongly that what he makes now, he could not make in any other field. He proudly notes he’s making “more than a friend of his who graduated from law school.”

The future looks bright for Magnus. He plans on staying and growing with Daleco. He has dreams on one day being the owner of his own company.

What makes Magnus special? He works hard and it is paying off. According to Magnus “it does not take book smarts only to succeed. The person who sets goals for himself and works hard will achieve true success.”

CEFGA – the Construction Education Foundation of Georgia – is a nonprofit organization supported by leading construction companies and trade associations, working to promote careers in the construction industry. This success story was written by CEFGA staff member Nicole Scott. For more information contact Nicole at 678-889-4445, ext. 304, or visit www.cefga.org