

JEFF WOLLENMANN

A Click Now Saves Memories Later: A "Behind the Flash" Glance at Jeff Wollenmann's Career

Graduate: Class of 1985 Occupation: Photographer & Business Owner
By Collin Wollenmann, Spring 2010

“Our mission is that we provide the best image that represents both quality and integrity,” says Jeff -owner and head photographer at Jeff Wollenmann Photography. Jeff learned many of his techniques while attending Ivy Tech Community College, where in two years he earned his associates degree in commercial and industrial photography. On a typical day, Jeff photographs weddings, senior pictures, or family photographs. Soon after the pictures are taken, he edits the images. With the new technology of the digital camera, all of his pictures are easily downloaded and transferred to the printing company. Jeff concludes his day by billing out sales and placing orders. His work ethic and positive attitude contribute to his success.

Jeff's interest in photography did not begin in college. In high school, being a member of the yearbook and newspaper staff stirred a desire for photography. In addition to taking pictures for the yearbook Jeff also wrestled during his junior and senior year. During his senior year, he won a sectional title and advanced on to regionals. Although Jeff fell short in regional, earning a sectional title became a great accomplishment. Jeff said, “I feel that being in wrestling helped me because I would always set a goal and try to attain it with my business.” As a committed athlete, Jeff's will to succeed in the workforce strengthened his business in relevant ways.

After high school and college, Jeff eventually established his own business in Ferdinand in 1995, and has thrived for sixteen years. Becoming a member of the Professional Photographers of Indiana and a member of the Professional Photographers of America were immense accomplishments that Jeff has received.

Photographing weddings, senior pictures, and children's photos are not just money-making opportunities for Jeff, but are also gratifying experiences. Jeff finds fulfillment in preserving family memories for years to come.

Major highlights began to occur in Jeff's career sometimes without his knowing it immediately. Taking photographs at a St. Jude Fundraising event where Randy Owen (lead singer of the band Alabama) and many other famous songwriters attended became major stepping stones in his career. Jeff also took Chicago Bears quarterback Jay Cutler's senior pictures. These were very special moments for Jeff.

Living in St. Anthony, Indiana, Jeff enjoys raising three children with his wife, Kelly (Haas) Wollenmann; the two of them have been together for 21 years and counting. Jeff received a double dose of children when he found out that Kelly was pregnant with a set of twins. Jeff states, "My favorite pastime is attending all activities that my children participate in." Each of his children has specific talents, ranging from singing to playing sports. Alexa competes in singing contests and variety show, and Collin participates in baseball and soccer. Karissa the youngest uses her height advantage in basketball to grab rebounds and put back easy points. "My children help me with my job by answering the phones or simply being models for my business. I enjoy what I do for a living. The rewards are endless," Jeff says.