

PHILLIP BECHER

From Forest Park to Eli Lilly: The Many Faces of Phillip Becher

Graduate: Class of 1991 Occupation: Development Engineering Leader

Passive people are content to live without change. Introverts see what needs to be changed, but choose not to speak. Phillip Becher walks through Eli Lilly and constantly asks himself, "How can I make this better?" According to Phillip, "Eli Lilly is a major pharmaceutical company, which discovers, manufactures, and markets medications in many medical fields with special focuses in oncology, diabetes, neuroscience, and animal health."

Currently, Phillip resides in Hillsdale, Indiana-near Terre Haute-with his wife and high school sweetheart, Amy Oser. Amy, a graduate of Forest Park, teaches at North Vermillion Elementary. Together, they have two children: Jessica and David.

Majoring in math and science, Phillip graduated from Forest Park in 1991. Physics, calculus, chemistry, and biology fascinated Phillip-as did Mr. Prusz. This showed when he was named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program; he placed in the top five percent of over 1,000,000 students tested. An active band member, he earned a first place finish for a trumpet solo at the state level, twice. Phillip accepted the Outstanding Senior Musician award. Regrettably, he declined an invitation to Boy's State; instead, he became a student ambassador for the People To People Youth Science Exchange. In 1990, he traveled to Novosibirsk, Siberia, to study chemical analysis at the (then) USSR Academy of Science Institute of Catalysis.

Phillip attended college at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology-near Terre Haute, Indiana-from 1991 until 1995. He enjoyed the Rifle Club and his fraternity, Lamda Chi Alpha. He pushed himself to earn a BS degree in chemical engineering.

Degree in hand, Phillip acquired a job at a branch of Eli Lilly-located in Clinton, Indiana. This facility focuses on producing antibiotics used for feed pre-mixes for livestock. At the Clinton lab, Phillip fills the title of development engineering leader. One of his major accomplishments has involved redesigning a recovery/finishing process. Fortunately, his idea saves Eli Lilly more than \$2,000,000 each year. He also has presented specifications for a possible process change and has asked for approval from the center for Veterinary Medicine, located in Washington, D.C. Eli Lilly acknowledged Phillip's accomplishments with an Individual Engineering Accomplishment Award and nominated him for an Outstanding Engineering Accomplishment Award.

To build friendships in his surrounding communities, Phillip belongs to the Sons of the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus, and the Lion's Club. In 2007, Phillip opened his own bar, Gasthaus zum Gebrochenen Becher in Newport, Indiana. As an inventor, he also spent many years designing an electric car. Phillip frequently drives his electric car to work; consequently, after much trial and error, it now runs great. To share his invention with others, he placed pictures of his car on the following website: <http://www.evconvert.com/article/woods-electric-240sx>. Currently, Phillip attempts to build a wind generator for his own home.

An accomplished man, Phillip remains determined to change his surroundings for the better. To encourage others, Phillip stated, "I would really like more people to know how easy it is to reduce the use of gasoline and reduce emissions."