



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT...

Thomas Kephart Newton High School Class of 1990



Thomas Kephart was little more than a year old when he became a lifelong resident of Newton County, Georgia. Thomas is a proud graduate of the Newton County School System and is currently the President of United Bank's Covington division.

Mr. Kephart attended Porterdale Elementary School and Cousins Middle School before graduating from Newton High in 1990. "NCSS encouraged me to balance academics, athletics, and the arts. This allowed me to be well-rounded as I entered the collegiate world," said Kephart. "The high school curriculum provided a tremendous knowledge base to build upon, and it encouraged proper time management and proper study habits."

While in school, Mr. Kephart said he had the opportunity to learn from numerous outstanding teachers including Mrs. Hood (English), Mrs. Aldridge (science), Mr. Honeycutt (physics), and Mrs. Phillips (calculus). "My favorite two teachers of all time were Mrs. Betty Robertson, who taught me in the fourth grade

at Porterdale Elementary and Mr. T.K. Adams, who taught me middle school band," he recalled fondly.

Mr. Kephart made the most of his Newton County High school career as he was an active member of the Blue Rambler Band, Newton Rams Baseball team, Beta Club, and Key Club. Even with his full schedule, Mr. Kephart was able to maintain excellent grades. He graduated in 1990 with honors. He was also involved in numerous other extra-curricular activities.

After graduation, Mr. Kephart attended Georgia State University to pursue a Bachelor of Business Administration. "I chose GSU because it had an excellent business school reputation, and the cost allowed me to finish up debt free," he explained.

While in college, Mr. Kephart was a member of the Baptist Student Union, Pi Sigma Alpha-Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society, Golden Key Honor Society, and he was awarded the distinguished President's Plaque.

Upon his graduation from GSU in 1994, Mr. Kephart returned to Newton County where he accepted a position as a Management Trainee at the First National Bank of Newton County (FNB). Because of his hard work and dedication, he quickly progressed in his banking career to be named the Chief Financial Officer. While working at FNB, Mr. Kephart still found time to continue his education. He earned his

Master of Business Administration degree from Mercer University in 1999. He then graduated from the prestigious Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University in 2004.

When FNB was sold to Synovus in 2003, he became the Community Executive of the acquiring bank for Newton, Rockdale, and Henry Counties. In 2011, Mr. Kephart transitioned to United Bank as the Covington Division President. United Bank is a \$2.3 billion bank headquartered in Zebulon, Georgia.

As an active member of the Covington/Newton County community, Mr. Kephart is a member of several clubs and organizations. He has served on the boards of the Covington/Newton Chamber of Commerce, Rockdale Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Wildlife Federation, Covington Rotary Club, Covington YMCA, Friends of Newton County Miracle Field, and the Arts Association of Newton County. He is a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, the National Rifle Association, and First Baptist Church of Conyers. He is a proud graduate of Leadership Newton County, Class of 1996. His personal interests include music, hunting, fishing, hiking, and boating. Mr. Kephart has been happily married to his wife Amy for 27 years. Their son Garrett is a senior at Kennesaw State University, and their son Weston is a junior at Georgia State University.

When asked if he would recommend the Newton County School System to families with children considering a possible move, he did not hesitate in his answer: "Absolutely! Newton County has a tremendous school system that can meet all academic and non-academic needs of developing youth. I feel that I received an excellent education in our school system. It allowed me to explore diverse talent tangents and allowed for both academic and social skill building." He added, "I really enjoyed the diversity with honors classes coupled with top arts and athletics. I was fortunate enough to participate in all three as well as several civic organizations."

Mr. Kephart noted his goal for the future is to remain in his hometown and continue to serve in the highest leadership positions available in the local financial sector. He will also continue to support his alma mater, Newton High School, and the community in which he was raised.

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