

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT *Theresa Michaud Thompson '00*

The Maine construction industry can be a tough and competitive market, but it presents minimal challenge for a woman-owned company in Waterville, ME—Standard Waterproofing, Inc. Theresa Michaud Thompson, president and owner of Standard Waterproofing, graduated from Erskine in 2000.

Theresa grew up in China, ME and entered Erskine from China Middle School. Her transition to high school was eased by the fact that she came with many friends from her years in the China school system. She has good memories of her four years at Erskine. She played soccer and joined clubs. She had several favorite teachers, including Marcia Tyrol, who taught Spanish. Theresa traveled to Spain in her junior year on a trip organized by Mrs. Tyrol, and her love for travel was forged.

Following her Erskine graduation, Theresa entered Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY, where she majored in international management and minored in sociology. She continued to take Spanish all through college and spent more than a semester abroad in Spain.

Theresa moved to Boston after college and worked for Wells Fargo as a loan agent. She spent a year there before getting a phone call from her father about taking over the family business, as he planned to retire within five years. She took less than 24 hours to decide to step into the world of commercial waterproofing.

Theresa's parents, Tom and Marie Michaud, bought the commercial waterproofing business in 1995, while Theresa was in elementary school. The company grew over the years, and when Theresa joined the company in 2005, it had become a leader in the waterproofing business in Maine.

At 24 years old, Theresa plunged into the business as a project manager to learn the ropes. She worked 12-hour



days for years before starting a family and becoming more involved in the upper management of the firm. In a male-dominated world, she ran into occasional biases but says those instances were few. Her philosophy was to know the facts, speak truthfully, and to find out and

get back to the customer if she did not know the answer. She says people like her and the company, and they have many repeat customers.

herself covers a very wide array of job tasks including meeting with architects, general contractors, manufacturers, and making sales calls, as well as running a thriving business.

Standard Waterproofing is familiar with New England's harsh weather, and as their website states, their services significantly help eliminate energy and monetary waste in commercial and residential settings. Standard Waterproofing offers a wide range of products and services designed to protect an entire building envelope from below grade to rooftop. Its waterproofing services include but are not limited to air vapor barriers, below grade waterproofing, building expansion joints, caulking, damproofing, cementitious waterproofing, masonry restoration,



LEFT TO RIGHT Shawn Brooks, Assistant Project Manager; Chad Bailey '96, Senior Project Manager; Theresa Michaud Thompson, President; Leon Van Horn, Estimator; and Kevin Nutting, Southern Maine Project Manager.

After purchasing the company and assuming the role as President, Theresa has focused on employee retention resulting in very little turnover in recent years. She is in charge of 30 employees including Senior Project Manager and Erskine alumnus Chad Bailey '96, who is Theresa's "right hand man." Theresa

sandblasting, spray foam, tuck point and under slab vapor retarders. It has a fleet of at least 20 trucks, vans, and box trucks, and two 80-foot and three 60-foot boom lifts and scissor lifts. Most of the equipment is moved continually between job sites.

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