

Reed City Area Public Schools Graduate Highlight June 2007

**Jason P. Mitchell, CPA
RCHS Class of 1993**

submitted by Steven Westhoff, Superintendent



At the early age of four, Jason's most popular phrase was "Jason can do it!" Although he did not realize it at the time, those words seem to have become the motto of his life.

While a student at Reed City Area Public Schools, Jason was actively involved in the Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Yearbook, and also worked as a principal's office assistant. After graduation from RCHS in 1993, he went on to Ferris State University and continued to develop his business and leadership skills by working as the Student Office Manager for Tutorial Services, as a student orientation leader and President of the Accounting Association. Upon graduation in the top of his class in 1997 with a B.S in Accountancy and a Minor in Computer Information Systems, he knew he wanted to work in the public accounting profession. Jason took a job with BDO Seidman, LLP (the 5th largest international public accounting firm) at the Grand Rapids office where he has received numerous promotions and is currently a manager in the audit department. Jason has been involved in coordinating and performing the audits in a variety of industries including not-for-profit, local governments, employee benefit plans, federal programs, and most importantly, school districts. Reed City is very familiar with Jason since BDO conducted the annual audit of the district for many years, during which Jason was the lead auditor. Within the last year he has become more involved in auditing the insurance industry and as a result has been doing a lot of travel to warmer climates including the Cayman Islands!

Aside from his fast-paced career, Jason still manages to find time to volunteer for an unbelievable number of business- and charity-related functions. Some of the most notable long-term affiliations include serving as a board member of the Ferris State University National Alumni Board of Directors, the chair of the FSU Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee and the chair of four different committees where he lives at Plaza Towers Residential Condominiums. If you have ever been to Grand Rapids, you certainly have noticed Plaza Towers since it is the largest building in downtown. One of Jason's recreational passions is riding his Italian sport motorcycle. It is no surprise, though, that he is a Board member of the locally-based Reed City Sport Riders motorcycle club!

Jason serves as a mentor for Ferris students and work colleagues by conducting leadership presentations and providing advice for career success. He often says "The only time success comes before work is in the dictionary!" His formula for success is to (a) set realistic goals and (b) pursue those goals through faith, initiative, integrity, accountability and informed decision making.

Jason's parents, Paul and Suzanne Mitchell, are lifelong residents of the Reed City area, and he is extremely appreciative for all they have done to contribute to his success.

Reed City is truly proud of Jason P. Mitchell for his accomplishments and all that he does to contribute to his communities.