



# Global Citizen

## ALUMNUS MATTHEW COSTELLO'S CAREER INCLUDES TOP POSITIONS WITH WORLD'S LEADING TECH COMPANIES

*By Megan Tressler*

When Matthew Costello, A'95, graduated from Duquesne, he had no master plan for his life. But, he had words of wisdom that guided him: "I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle—victorious."

Those cherished words from legendary Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi have sustained Costello through a successful career crisscrossing the globe in executive positions with some of the world's best-known companies—including Apple and Beats, raising a family in different countries and even a battle with cancer.

Lombardi's words aren't Costello's only inspiration—he was greatly influenced by the Spiritans from an early age.

"I think I learned about the Spiritan values through the Congregation members that have had a huge impact on my life—Fr. Jim McCloskey, Fr. Sean Hogan, Fr. John Sawicki and (the late) Fr. Norm Bevan, to name a few," says Costello, who grew up in Philadelphia and attended Holy Ghost Preparatory School, a Spiritan secondary school there.



Matthew Costello, A'95, gave the commencement address at the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business diploma ceremony in 2016.

**“I think Duquesne, and Holy Ghost before it, gave me a few key skills that I have always taken with me: the ability to think through and solve problems, a strong moral and ethical compass, and the confidence to feel like I could always figure things out, no matter how challenging.”**

At Holy Ghost Prep, he was encouraged to cross the state to spend his college years at Duquesne. One of the first things he remembers about arriving on the Bluff was meeting Fr. Hogan, who, knowing which Holy Ghost students were coming to Duquesne, jokingly greeted the freshman by saying: “Oh, Costello, I hear you’re big trouble.”

“Fr. Hogan has been greeting me the same way for a quarter of a century,” says Costello.

While at Duquesne, he was academic vice-president for the Student Government Association, a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and part of the track and field team. It was a study abroad opportunity at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium during his junior year that sparked the possibility of forging a career outside the United States.

“It was a trajectory-changing experience due to the confidence it instilled in me to be able to figure things out on my own, and, perhaps more importantly, for expanding my worldview to an extent that I never thought possible,” says Costello.

His time abroad dovetailed with the discovery of a possible career path.

“As I was exploring career options, I stumbled across a growing field called ‘management consulting,’ which seemed to call out to me: fast-paced, diverse, oriented toward problem-solving and global,” says Costello.

He decided to pursue the consulting field and after graduation, joined Andersen Worldwide as a management consultant.

“I started my career in consulting, which I believe really equipped me with several key tools—problem-solving, oral and written communications, an inquisitive mind and a drive to become an expert in something,” says Costello. “Also, it allowed me to see a number of industries and types of companies. It also allowed me to work globally from a young age.”

His globetrotting career took a turn towards the technology sector and he transitioned from consulting into jobs with Sony Ericsson (where he was corporate vice president) in Stockholm and HTC Corporation (where he was COO) in Taiwan.

“As one of the few Westerners based in Taiwan, it was necessary to try to understand my colleagues—where they came from, their educational system, their way of life, their values,” says Costello. “I realized during this phase of my life how much power can come from understanding the strengths of different cultures and how individual strengths can be combined to form an incredibly powerful and balanced team.”

His HTC responsibilities included sitting on the board of Beats Electronics when HTC acquired Beats in 2011. Beats founders—the legendary artist and record producer Dr. Dre, music industry mogul Jimmy Iovine and former music industry executive Luke Wood—persuaded Costello to join their company full time as COO in 2013. Costello was soon part of history when Apple acquired Beats in 2014.

“It stands as the biggest acquisition that Apple has made to date,” says Costello.

He now serves as a vice-president of hardware engineering and operations within Apple, and continues to run Beats as its COO.

“I’m really happy with what I do at Apple. We talk about how you want to do the greatest work of your life—I really believe I found a place I can do that and really contribute,” says Costello, who notes he is grateful for his employer’s support as he continues to recover from cancer treatments.

Though he spends much of his time on the West Coast, or in Asia or Scandinavia (his wife, Liselott, is Swedish and they own a home outside of Stockholm), he still has close ties to Duquesne: he serves on the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business Advisory Council; his sister Dr. Maureen Costello-Yacono, HS’03, and daughter Ellinor, A’14, are Duquesne graduates; and he is regularly in touch with Fr. Hogan and Fr. McCloskey.

And he remembers his formative years on the Bluff when his life’s path started to take shape.

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