



**RUD MASON**  
**Age:** 37  
**Title:** President  
**Company:** Princeton Scapes  
**Company location:** Sterling  
**Residence:** Princeton

**Career highlights:**

I started landscaping as a high school student. I loved it and as I moved on to college I felt like I could make a business out of it. With that, Princeton Scapes was started. For 10 years our company was very small. About seven years ago I felt stuck and made the decision to grow. Since then we have grown about 800 percent. But what I am most proud of is the group of professional people who now make up Princeton Scapes. They are licensed, certified, knowledgeable and experienced at what we do. But most importantly they care about our business as much as I do.

**Community involvement:**

I have spent time on various boards for the Town of Princeton, most recently on the capital improvement committee. Most of my involvement revolves around my three children. I have coached all three of my children's T-ball teams. I have served on the board of Wachusett Pop Warner as the football director and also as a coach. I am on a board of a sailing club that my children attend. Working with and for the

kids is by far some of the most enjoyable time I have spent.

**Biggest professional success:**

I hope to look back after my career is through and feel as though I have helped the people who have worked with me accomplish their goals. I am proud of the organization that we are building, but in terms of success I think that it will be measured as we go along.

**Businessperson you admire most:**

My father. He has operated a small excavating company in Princeton for well over 40 years.

**If you weren't doing the job you're doing now, what would you do?**

I would be trying to figure out how to create my job. I am an entrepreneur to my core and I love enhancing people's experience around there home. If I were told I could never have this job, I would probably go back to how I started the business and be in the field building walls and caring for plants. It is what I love.

**If you were stuck on a desert island what book would you want to have with you?**

I love reading about the American Revolutionary times. So I guess a 1,000-page historical account of the life and times of that era would do. ♦



**SHYLA MATTHEWS**  
**Age:** 37  
**Title:** Vice President Community Development  
**Company:** MassDevelopment  
**Company location:** Worcester  
**Residence:** Worcester

**Career highlights:**

I am a member of a team in Central Massachusetts for MassDevelopment. We help stimulate economic development by providing financing for virtually all phases of projects. To get to where I am now, I have spent my career going between public service and private sector experience, which I think is vital in administrating effectively state economic development initiatives.

**Community involvement:**

Because of my intense interest in public policies, respect for public service and belief that all should be as involved as they possibly can be in our political processes, I dedicate much of my volunteer efforts within the Democratic Party. I serve on the Ward Nine Democratic Committee and am a member of the Worcester Democratic City Committee. I am also a member of the parent's organizations for my children's schools and volunteer regularly.

**Biggest professional success:**

In 1998, I temporarily left commercial real estate and joined a legislative staff to

help progress efforts to change the environmental laws with regards to contaminated property in the commonwealth. After the bill was signed into law, I then worked to help progress a new effort now known as the Cultural Facilities Fund. I spend every day implementing the hard won reforms and witnessing the rewards of those efforts.

**Dream job:**

Caribbean real estate mogul, the dividends of which would allow me to be a stay-at-home mom.

**Businessperson you admire most:**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel. She is Germany's first woman chancellor, let alone the first chancellor from the East since unification. I admire her, not only for those records, but also because of her reliance on competence and consensus building.

**If you weren't doing the job you're doing now, what would you do?**

International lawyer. I am a person who admires diplomatic skills and likes to investigate the nuances of situations.

**Favorite movie:**

Draw between "Sabrina", "North by Northwest" and "ARiver Runs Through It" ("Batman The Dark Knight" needs to be included too!). ♦



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