

## **Building for the Future**

*Wallace & Pancher, Inc.* (WPI) is a rapidly growing engineering, environmental, and construction firm located in Hermitage at 1085 South Hermitage Road. To accommodate the growing number of employees, WPI has just completed the addition of 4,800 square feet of office space onto their existing building. “The reason for the rapid growth in our company is fundamental, its quality work and customer service”, says Dan Wallace, co-owner of WPI. Along with his business partner, Brian Pancher, they share the same core values that have led to the success and growth of the company. “We give more than what’s expected to our clients and we make sure our employees understand that philosophy”, adds Brian Pancher.

Established in August 2001, WPI provides engineering and environmental design and construction services to developers, private and public institutions, and contractors. Dan and Brian place a special emphasis on environmental education by getting involved with school groups at all levels, elementary, high school, and college. “The need for environmental education and appreciation of natural resources at an early age is vital to the future health of our environment”, comments Dan. “It used to be the only way to obtain a career in the environmental field was through the PA Game Commission. That has changed over the years with the study and protection of the environment quickly becoming an integral part of the workforce”, says Brian. Dan is a Civil Engineer, earning a Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Civil Engineering at Youngstown State University, while Brian is a Biologist, earning a Bachelors Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science at Penn State University and a Masters Degree in Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. “Our mission is to bridge the gap between engineering and ecology, to help developers and project stakeholders create projects that result in the least amount of impact to the environment, while achieving their goals”, says Brian.

At the end of 2005, barely out of Dan’s basement, WPI employed 5 people, including Dan and Brian. At the end of 2006, WPI employed 16 full time professionals. WPI currently employs 28 people, already hiring 5 people this year. “The rapid growth has been a blessing and a challenge to manage in a controlled fashion”, says Dan with a smile. “We’re aggressive and we’re looking to the future to become a major engineering and environmental firm in the tri-state region”, concludes Dan.