

# Profile BOB DASCOMBE



By JAY PRICE  
STAFF WRITER

Early on, Bob Dascombe planted his feet firmly on the path to a business career. If he hadn't, it seems likely he would have wound up in front of a television camera somewhere.

After all, he's got a look and well-modulated speaking style that seem tailor made for, say, the local news broadcast. And he admits to an affinity for standing in the spotlight.

But instead — after briefly following his father's example by working in the insurance business — Dascombe, 34, now finds himself running South Hills Mall and Plaza, and managing a portfolio of other commercial property owned by Cary proto-developer David Martin and the Martin family.

And that family includes Dascombe: He is married to Martin's daughter, Dale. Martin offered him the job after getting to know him as a son-in-law, and coming to the conclusion that he was a good fit for the company.

In fact, Dale had the job first, and hoped to return to it after they had their first child. But after the child was born, the couple decided the best plan was for her to stay at home.

"I joke sometimes that first I got my wife pregnant, then I took her job," Dascombe quipped.

Which is not strictly true, as the job has evolved so that it makes better use of his particular talents and experience, evolved to the point that it's not really the same position.

David Martin is something of a local legend, known for being a visionary. He

built the mall roughly 30 years ago, when much of the surrounding land was covered with trees and Cary was little more than a tiny village. Now the mall is right in the middle of one of the busiest regional shopping areas in the state.

Dascombe sees his role as being Martin's right-hand man, handling the day-to-day "details" so that his mentor can be freed up to do the things he is good at — building and developing.

Dascombe's mother is a teacher at a Raleigh elementary school. His father retired last year from his job as a commercial underwriter for Nationwide Insurance.

For awhile, Dascombe seemed fated to follow in his father's footsteps, after taking a job with Nationwide in Fayetteville

**Bob Dascombe adheres to  
Christian ethics as he runs  
South Hills Mall and Plaza  
and other businesses that  
belong to the Martin family,  
which he married into.**

SEE DASCOMBE, PAGE 3B