

# About Crystal



## How I Got Started

*During my 2<sup>nd</sup> year at VCU, I decided to look for a part-time job in the accounting field. I called a couple of accountants in the King William area, but no one replied. Months later in the middle of tax season of 1996, Cecil Schools called and my career began. After passing the CPA exam in 2001, we became business partners and started Schools & Barnette, PLC. Cecil has been an amazing boss & business partner. How many people can call their boss "Ole Bald Guy" and still keep their job? Fast forward to 2020---Cecil has retired and my college dream of having my own firm is a reality. I could not have achieved this goal without his support and willingness to go along with any idea I had.*

## Getting Personal

*I have 3 amazing boys who keep me young and on the go at all times. I am unbelievably lucky to have found my best friend and biggest supporter, Mason (& he cooks). I spend my free time playing Volleyball at RVC. I have started taking yoga & love it. I live in flip flops—if you stop by the office, you will probably see me in flip flops or barefoot—one of the benefits of being self employed. I have been parasailing, skydiving, & kayaking. I hope to bungee jump, swim with dolphins & learn to scuba dive in the near future. I love roller coasters. I will lie about my age, so no need to ask and I absolutely love tax season!! I love the challenge of looking for deductions and the rush of the deadlines. I love to help new business owners get started the right direction; to work with them and watch them grow & succeed.*

## Education

- Graduated in 1994 from King William, Salutatorian
- 1998 Magna cum Laude graduate from VCU School of Business.
- Inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma. Membership by invitation only. Top 10% of students in a bachelor's degree business program
- Inducted into Phi Kappa Phi. Membership by invitation only. Top 7.5 % of university juniors and top 10% of seniors.
- Inducted into the Golden Key Honor Society. Membership by invitation only. Top 15%
- Chosen by the head of VCU's accounting department to join VCU's Ambassador Program

