Stanley Dezern
By: Lyndsey Pender
VP of Global Relations,
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From Bowling Green, Ky., to Orlando, Fla., Stanley Dezern (’86) has embodied the Western Kentucky University mission to produce American leaders who have an international reach. The skills first learned in the classrooms of Cherry Hall continue to enrich Dezern’s professional endeavors as the Vice President of Global Relations at Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. This job entails “overseeing consumer PR” and providing guidance to international Disney public relations teams in Hong Kong, Paris, and Shanghai.

Although he currently resides in Florida, Dezern started his journey here on the Hill. This was a pivotal period in his life because the mastery of the English language, acquired at WKU, greatly contributed to his professional career development: “My dual majors of journalism and English have provided me with a strong skill set in communication.” Since graduating from WKU, Dezern’s educational foundation in the humanities has led to success. In 1991, he was accepted and enrolled at Yale Law School, where he received his Master of Studies in Law degree.

Switching gears, Dezern migrated to Orlando, Fla. Here he was given an opportunity to dip his feet into the waters of writing as a reporter and eventual editor at the Orlando Sentinel. Reporting provided the opportunity to write daily and to hone his craft.

Maybe it was the warm Southeastern weather or the Atlantic seas that enticed Dezern to put down roots in the sunshine state. After nearly a decade at The Sentinel, he began work at Walt Disney. Here, he rose in rank from Managing Editor to Director of Media Relations and eventually to his current VP position. Dezern encourages those wishing to pursue an English degree to do the following things: “Read as broadly as possible and challenge yourself to write, write, write!” We should all take Stanley’s advice.