Scott J. Wilson graduated from Westminster College in 1974 with a degree in history. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta.

After spending the next few years working in sales, he joined the sales staff of the family company in 1984 and worked his way up to Director of Business Development in 1987. In 1990, he was named President of S.M. Wilson & Co. at the age of 38.

Founded by Wilson’s grandfather, S.M. Wilson & Co. has consistently ranked among the top contractors both nationally and in the St. Louis metropolitan area. However, when Wilson took over the reins, the company was facing financial challenges. Under his leadership, the company has grown steadily from $40 million in annual sales to $450 million. Today the firm has over 200 full time employees and operates from its corporate headquarters in St. Louis with regional offices in Kansas City and Indianapolis. The company’s clientele includes Anheuser-Busch, BJC HealthCare, Boone Hospital Center, Cabela’s, Circuit City, Columbia College, JCPenney, Kohl’s Department Stores, Lutheran Senior Services, Missouri Military Academy, Rendina Companies, Sunrise Senior Living, Target Corporation and Westminster College.

S.M. Wilson was recognized as St. Louis Business of the Year in 2006, and since then has ranked as one of the top three places to work as critiqued by the St. Louis Business Journal. Wilson was named 2004 Construction Man of the Year by the Building and Construction Trades Council of St. Louis.

Very actively involved in his profession, Wilson is Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Associated General Contractors of St. Louis and chairs the group’s Education Foundation. He is involved with the organization’s mentor-protégé group and its Stempel Plan which pairs disadvantaged and emerging contractors with an established construction firm to assist them in operating a successful business. Wilson also sits on the first executive committee for the Minority Contractors Association of St. Louis and is a member of the Regional Business Council.

At Wilson’s direction, S.M. Wilson & Co. annually increases its level of charitable contributions to organizations throughout the metro St. Louis area. Benefactors include the Ronald McDonald House, St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf, Central Institute for the Deaf, Linda Vista Catholic School and the YMCA of Greater St. Louis. S.M. Wilson has also donated labor, materials and supervision to build six homes for Habitat for Humanity.

Other civic involvement includes being on the Board of Trustees for McKendree College, a board member for the Central Institute for the Deaf, an Executive Committee member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Wilson has been at the helm of recent projects on the Westminster campus. His company partnered with Reinhart Construction to build the new Mueller Leadership Hall, the Mueller Student Center, the renovation and addition to the Coulter Science Center, the Reeves Library Hazel Wing, and the renovation of the freshmen dorms. The company is currently building both the new quad residence hall and the Beta House. Wilson received the Westminster College Student Government Alumni Service Award in 2000.

“Westminster taught me how to write, how to speak, and how to negotiate. I learned almost everything I bring to the business table or the family dinner table in equal measure from the classroom and fraternity experiences of four years.”

Scott J. Wilson ’74
2008 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD