Michael Tomars ’87

Michael Tomars ’87, is a man of vision, passion and strong moral fiber, going all the way back to his time at Menlo College. He identified his career path at the age of 12 when he visited the Pacific Stock Exchange (PCX) with his uncle and witnessed the frenzy and excitement of the trading floor.

Graduating from Menlo ten years later with an inquisitive mind, an unwavering ethical core and an unwillingness to accept the “status quo,” Michael wove his way through a number of opportunities within the financial services industry until he accepted an offer from the PCX in 1989. Over the next 16 years he received six promotions, and eventually served as a corporate officer of the PCX. Among his responsibilities in various management roles, Michael developed and managed a private equity market, which facilitated PCX’s demutualization and eventual acquisition by the New York Stock Exchange.

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In 2005, Michael joined the SEC, and following another series of promotions, he currently serves as a branch chief with the SEC in San Francisco, where he manages all phases of the examination process for registered entities, including investment companies, advisers, and transfer agents. He has lead examinations that facilitated recoveries of over $225 million to investors harmed by violations of federal securities laws.

Michael is deeply grateful to Menlo College for the great foundation he received that has so powerfully shaped his life, both personally and professionally. “Menlo is about turning a good student into a great student,” says Michael, citing small class size and devoted faculty as keys to his education. “You knew you were going to be called on, so you had to do the work.” As a graduating senior, he received the College Medal, recognizing his achievements as a peer advisor and friend to the Menlo community.

In between his management responsibilities with the SEC and his many hobbies that include international travel, piano, organ, musical theater, and photography, you will find Michael donating his time as a valuable member of Menlo’s SBA Advisory Board, helping to guide Menlo’s trajectory in becoming a world class, Silicon Valley business school.

Michael has just named the Finance Faculty Office space in the newly remodeled SBA building. “I can’t think of a better way to give back to the College that gave so much to me,” he said.