

LANCASTER

SCIENCE FACTORY

Lots of
FUN
to think about.

STEM IN ACTION

Profiles of STEM Professionals in our Community

Professionals in a wide variety of STEM careers are working during the COVID-19 outbreak to continue essential services in our community.

The Lancaster Science Factory is pleased to present profiles of these individuals and how they're putting STEM in Action right now.



Steven P. Maher, CPFA - Domani Wealth

What is your role at Domani Wealth?

I am a member of the Domani Wealth's Business Retirement Plan Group as a Partner and Senior Advisor. I help business owners and companies who sponsor retirement plans for their employees to create a plan that works for their organization and staff, make sure staff are educated and able to participate, and then help

manage the plan on an ongoing basis. I assist owners with making adjustments and changes to stay on track and meet their goals, always acting in the best interest of the company and its employees.

How has your role changed during the COVID-19 outbreak?

Most of my meetings are done in a workplace setting, so with social distancing, I am doing more conference calls and virtual meetings with plan sponsors and participants. I have never worked from home on a regular basis, so I have created an office in my basement. It has been an adjustment for my family since I have two young children and they sometimes do not understand why they can't play in their play area – except when I'm playing too, of course! Overall, it has gone well.

Math is a part of financial planning. What do you want the community to know? Or, what do you wish they knew more about that would come in handy right now?

When you hear "financial advisor" you may think mainly about investing in the stock market. And our knowledge and management of investments is important!

But even more important is our focus on financial planning. Understanding each person's goals can help a financial advisor identify the risks they'd like to take in their finances, and where they want to focus their legacy – which could range from anything including major philanthropic contributions to providing for future generations of their family, as well as enjoying retirement by traveling or being active in the community.

Understanding that total picture guides a financial advisor to use deep accounting and finance mathematics to help arrange and skillfully manage someone's finances to reach their goals.

Statistics is a major part of constructing and managing a portfolio of stocks and bonds. It's one of the best math classes you can take in high school and college. Having a good understanding of statistics is helpful to understand the global markets, which is useful right now.

As we look to scientists to provide us with the facts about this pandemic, we are reminded of just how essential STEM education is to our community. Could you share any reflections you've had on this topic recently?

It's a time of intensity and an overload of information, but some of the information I've been enjoying learning more about is how the scientific community has come together working both on possible treatments as well as future vaccines. Scientists from many different countries and backgrounds are coming together to help our communities worldwide. It makes me appreciate our STEM focus as a nation, so we can fight a challenge such as this.

What have you been doing to stay sane during this time? Do you have any media recommendations?

I have a family with two small children, so it has been fun to see them more often than I am used to, given I typically work in the office. To keep sane in our household, we try to have family activities outside or go for a walk. I have been trying to not watch much television during the stay at home, but I have enjoyed watching *Homeland* and *Westworld*.

I am more of a music fan, so I have been playing a bunch of old albums I haven't listened to in years. ■

Do you know someone working in a STEM profession during the COVID-19 outbreak? We would love to feature them in an upcoming interview. Please reach out to abakay@tlsf.org for more information.

For more information about the Lancaster Science Factory and how you can support our nonprofit mission visit:

www.LancasterScienceFactory.org

