Telecommunications Systems Management Alumni Spotlight

Name: **Drew Perry '08 '10**

MSU Degree: B.S., Information Security & Wireless Options
M.S., TSM

Home Town: Benton, KY
Current Town: Lexington, KY

Current Job: IT Auditor II, Ashland Inc.

Current Job Description:
My primary responsibilities include performing risk analysis for the company's IT resources. This includes identifying risk and evaluating the effectiveness of any existing mitigating controls. A big part of auditing is ensuring all procedures are followed and all documentation is up-to-date. If I find any area to be lacking, I will make recommendations for improvement to further reduce the corporate risk. There is quite a lot of documentation involved, and proficiency in technical writing is a must.

Previous Jobs held (since graduation):

- Adjunct Faculty, Murray State University
- Wireless Network Engineer, Murray State University
- Security Analyst, Murray State University
- Network Analyst, Murray State University

Family & Personal:
Drew is married to Melissa Perry, Murray State '03 with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. He is the father of two: one boy and one girl. Before his recent relocation to Lexington, KY, Drew was active with Cub Scouts, serving as a Den Leader and in the Children's Ministry at First United Methodist Church. Drew was actively involved in Murray State University's CyberCave and TSM program. Drew is a member of The Information System Audit and Control Association and the Institute of Internal Auditors. Drew holds the GCED Certification from GIAC Sans Institute and his A+ Certification from CompTIA.

TSM Q & A:

1. **What did you do for your internship and how did it benefit you?**

   I interned at Kenlake Foods in Murray, a Kroger company. It exposed me to large-scale enterprise networks, with a wide assortment of telecommunications technologies, from Voice-over-IP and email to industrial and Wide-Area-Networks. It was an amazing learning experience that prepared me for many different career options.

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2. **Since graduation, what is the most exciting thing you have been able to experience in your work?**

   As an IT auditor for a fortune 500 company, I get to analyze and review the technology in place for not only my Lexington location, but our offices in other US states as well as Shanghai, the Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, and Brazil. World travel on the company dime!

3. **What class(es) were the most beneficial to your career so far?**

   All of the classes I took were beneficial in some aspect or another. It's important to have a very well rounded education to prepare you for any and all available career choices. But the courses I'd say are the most beneficial in every aspect of Information Technology are "CIS 317 – Information Systems Analysis and Design" and its follow-up class, "TSM 530 – Systems Planning." All business initiatives, regardless of the field, require project development. This includes planning, budgeting, implementation, documentation, and maintenance. These two courses help students learn real project development and how each player fits in to the whole. They are truly priceless.

4. **What activities outside your classwork were most valuable to your career?**

   I think it's very important to have experiences outside of your chosen field. It goes without saying that IT professionals often earn that negative stereotype we're all saddled with, the IT Geek. Trying new things and expanding your comfort zone almost always helps your personal brand. Branch out in your social life to help develop your professional one.

5. **What is one piece of advice that you would give to current or future TSM students?**

   Information Technology changes at a pace no educational curriculum could ever keep up with. Stay informed of the developments in your field through respectable news outlets, web sites, and professional organizations. Always keep learning. And network IRL, not just in the ether. J Companies will do their homework when hiring you, and the better you are known and respected, the more likely you are to be hired and eventually promoted.

your world to explore

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