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Why did you choose CIS as your major?

It was not until Freshman Orientation that I actually knew what degree program I wanted to pursue. As I evaluated my options between an Engineering and Business degree, my passion for computers combined with the growing IT industry led me to the CIS program. After looking into other majors, I realized that the CIS program would provide me with an understanding of both the technical and business sides, making it the perfect fit for me.

Did you do an internship? If so, how did that help you prepare for your career?

I did an internship for a telecommunications company in Monroe my junior year. The opportunity helped me gain a better understanding of the “corporate world” and validated my decision to make this my career. Interning helped me make a seamless transition from college to the work force. I still cherish the relationships I made and valuable lessons I learned, including working in teams and developing a professional network.

Describe your career path since graduating and what you are doing now.

I have been with ExxonMobil for almost 5 years. Since I started, I have worked on a couple of different teams within the company. During my first couple of years, I was an Analyst for an analytics group providing metrics and reporting data to assist my management in making informed decisions. The group also gave me the opportunity to provide a fresh set of eyes to issues that have gone unnoticed. Since then I have moved to more technical teams providing high level support of our virtual server infrastructure. This group has challenged me to learn new technologies rapidly as well as coordinate work among various groups located throughout the world to complete numerous upgrades and implementations. My favorite part of working at ExxonMobil is having the opportunity to progress my career by branching out and experiencing many different aspects that IT has to offer.

Looking back, what were some of the most valuable classes/experiences while you were at Tech?

CIS 450 (Systems Analysis and Design) has to be the most valuable class I took at Tech. It provided me with an opportunity to take everything I had learned over 3 years and put it all together in a real world scenario. The most valuable experience during the class was the emphasis on teamwork. With five years of experience, I have found that every major project I have been a part of has only been as successful as the team members assigned to work it. The same can be said for CIS 450... you are only as good as your team.

If you could go back and do your undergraduate years over again, is there anything you would do differently?

I accomplished most of my goals that I set out for as an undergrad, but the one thing I would have done differently is doing more internships. I learned so much from the people I worked with during my one internship, and I can only imagine how one or two more could have benefited me. There is also no discounting how good an internship or two looks on my resume!