



# Jan Tooke

## Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System | IS Programmer II

### 1999 Graduate, Computer Information Systems



#### **Why did you choose CIS as your major?**

I began my college career at Louisiana Tech as a Finance major. Quickly I realized that I wasn't passionate enough about the field of finance to continue pursuit of a career in finance. My father built a successful career in Information Technology working for a large company in Northern Louisiana and encouraged me to investigate a career path in CIS. It didn't take many CIS classes for me to realize this was the right path.

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

After graduating, I began my career with St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe, LA as an Application Tech/Analyst. In 2008, our IT Department transitioned to a corporate-centric model at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System. This provided me with the opportunity to transition into the role of a System Administrator for our Electronic Medical Records system where I was responsible for maintaining the system's servers as well as installing the necessary software updates required. My job then transitioned to be being an IS Programmer II on our Interface Team. Our team services all HL7 interface activities of the entire health system. HL7 stands for Health Level 7 and refers to a set of international standards for transferring clinical data between hospital systems. My responsibilities now include building maintenance for all HL7 interfaces as well as composing and maintaining documentation describing program development, logic, coding, testing activity, edits and corrections, and the development and implementation of data-driven performance improvement methodologies.

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

The programming class proved to be the most beneficial to me while at Tech. They offered me the opportunity to develop an understanding of the fundamentals of general programming and technical writing, as well as the ability to analyze and troubleshoot my programs. This laid the foundation upon which I would spend the next fifteen years building my knowledge and expertise in a challenging and competitive field servicing information technology infrastructure utilized by healthcare professionals throughout Louisiana. In addition to the College of Business curriculum, I invested much of my spare time as a member of the Louisiana Tech University Band of Pride Marching Band, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and the Hoop Troop. These activities provided me avenues for developing skills including creativity, teamwork, discipline, sacrifice, and time management. Also, my senior year, I worked on campus in the Tech Computing Center. This experience gave me hands on experience as well as allowed me to begin developing strong customer service skills which I utilize daily.

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

The first two years of my college career were mostly spent completing basic core requirements. Ideally I would have identified my chosen course of study much earlier than my junior year. Completing all requirements necessary for a CIS degree in under two years, to ensure my graduation in four years of study, was not ideal, but it did teach me time management, discipline, and prioritization skills.

#### **Tell us a little about your life outside of work.**

I am married to Landon Tooke, a 2001 Louisiana Tech graduate. We have a 10-year old daughter named Emily, a 5-year old son named Andrew, and a bulldog named Bella. We have season tickets to Louisiana Tech Football and Men's Basketball games, and rarely miss a home game for either sport. We are both actively involved with our church, and both perform with our church orchestra. I serve as the Chairman of our church's Nominating Committee and am finishing the final year of a three year term. I also enjoy the opportunity to be involved with the LA Tech IS Council, which meets annually.