



**Information & Decision Systems (IDS)
Alumni Career Paths and
Value Added from our Programs**

Department of IDS
College of Business Administration
Dr. Bruce A. Reinig, Chair

IDS Featured Alumni

- Provide examples of the types of career opportunities our recent alumni pursue
- IDS Programs
 - BS in Bus. Adm., Major in Information Systems
 - MSBA, Information Systems
 - MBA, Information Systems
 - MSBA, Operations Management
 - MBA, Operations Management

Note: Operations Management specialty is being changed to Supply Chain Management

IDS Featured Alumni

Types of Organizations

Vary from startups to Fortune 500 Companies
Predominantly in Southern California

Job Titles (from this presentation)

Manager of Prof. Services

IT Project Manager

Director of Contracts

President and CEO

IT Coordinator

Director of Operations

Business Systems Prog./Analyst

Senior Consultant

Project Manager

Operations Planning Mgr.

IT Auditor

Systems Engineer

Database Administrator



IDS Featured Alumni

Alumni were asked two questions:

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

Q2: How did the IS/OM program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

Christopher Barra



Education: BS Business Administration, 2005

Major: Information Systems

Company: [Terminal Business Velocity, Inc.](#)

Job Title: Manager of Professional Services & Technical Support

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

A: I initiate and support **the implementation and utilization of enterprise software** for a growing number of businesses in the service delivery industry nationwide. Through leading on-site meetings, trainings, and web conferences, I assist other companies in **streamlining their own business processes** by applying my company's integrated CRM, Contract Management, and Service Delivery Management software. In addition, I help direct the product road map by recommending and making decisions on topics such as project scope, product enhancements, and issue priority.



Christopher Barra



Q2: How did the IS program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

A: My participation in SDSU's IS program established the groundwork for my profession. **Technological and business concepts that I learned sitting at a classroom desk a year ago are the same tools that I use with executives in a conference room now.** Everything I have learned, from database relationships and diagrams to implementation methods, has proven useful during the course of my work. The **IS program provides balanced exposure to universal business processes and modern information technology,** and attaining this comprehensive knowledge has empowered me to achieve a successful and satisfying career in the Information Technology industry.

Brent Greenwood



Education: Masters (MSBA), 2005

Specialty: Information Systems

Company: [Eagle Investment Systems LLC](#)

Job Title: Senior Consultant

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

A: I help **implement our data warehouse and analytical applications** for use in clients' front, middle and back-offices. In a typical implementation, I wear many different hats depending on the stage of the project and the subject matter involved. Common tasks include **project planning**, **requirements gathering**, **solution design** and documentation, software configuration and testing, report development, user-acceptance testing and business user training.

Brent Greenwood



Q2: How did the IS program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

A: The broad IS curriculum exposed me to fundamental areas of knowledge that every IT professional is expected to be familiar with in today's marketplace. I gained an understanding of **standard project methodologies, industry best-practices and strategies for using IT to solve business problems**. The program's system development classes gave me the opportunity to experience the progression of a system project through an entire development life cycle, with actual involvement and contribution to the tasks and documentation required at each step along the way. In addition, the program helped me look at IT from a strategic perspective and understand the importance of **aligning business and IT and using IT for strategic advantage** instead of seeing it as merely a cost of doing business.

Maggie Lowe



Education: Masters (MSBA), 2003
BS Business Administration, 2002

Specialty & Major: Information Systems

Company: [Qualcomm Incorporated](#)

Job Title: IT Project Manager

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

A: In my role as an IT Project Manager I have the opportunity to manage a variety of projects including the development and support of in-house Information Systems, IT Infrastructure intensive projects that are Network and Telephony related, development and implementation of OLA agreements for our internal customers, as well as traditional core business tasks such as budget and headcount tracking, feasibility studies and internal assessments.

Maggie Lowe



Q2: How did the IS program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

A: The IS Program at SDSU provided a solid foundation in the core areas of Business as well as Information Systems. The program gave me a solid understanding of Industry best practices, practical experience in development of systems requirements and design, database design and programming. Although as a Project Manager my role is to manage projects, having these practical skills has allowed me to be more involved with both the user groups as well as the development team in all stages of the project. With my technical skills and ability to communicate with both groups, I have found that I am able to greatly influence the final product, and the success of the project.

Ivey Askew



Education: BS Business Administration, 2005

Major: Information Systems

Company: Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group

Job Title: Project Manager, PACS

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

A: I am responsible for **leading the implementation of daily operations for the Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS)**. I manage and coordinate new and existing PACS and digital imaging initiatives. I also communicate operating and capital budget requests for medical imaging equipment in conjunction with the Director of Imaging.

Ivey Askew



Q2: How did the IS program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

A: The Information Systems classes at SDSU exposed me to a **comprehensive view of systems analysis design, computer networking, and information systems management.** I am confident when managing the day-to-day operation of PACS equipment including image workflow, archiving, routing, pre-fetching, correcting broken studies, editing patient demographics, HIS/RIS interface. **The IDS classes at SDSU provided me with a valuable technical foundation.**

James R. Loisel



Education: Masters (MSBA), 2006

Specialty: Information Systems

Company: MAXIM Systems, Inc.

Job Title: Director of Contracts

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

A: As the Director of Contracts for a high-technology firm specializing in advanced engineering, software design, and technical services to military and commercial customers my responsibilities include **business development, proposal pricing, contract negotiation, contractual and financial management, and vendor relations.**

James R. Loisel



Q2: How did the IS program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

A: The Information Systems Program at SDSU provided me with the **critical technical and business skills** required to become a true "Systems Analyst" capable of efficiently and effectively analyzing and communicating the business impact of complex **technical issues** related to our current and potential software and systems development programs. This ability to better **communicate between the technical and non-technical employees, customers, and vendors** has played a key role in the successful negotiation, pricing, and awarding of many new high-technology contracts for the company.

Barbara Powels Bowen



Education: BS Business Administration, 2005

Major: Information Systems

Company: Hewlett Packard

Job Title: Operations Planning Manager

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

A: My responsibilities as a planner involve **managing over 213 worldwide media products for Hewlett-Packard's Media Organization**, including photo paper and other related paper and canvas products. I manage product availability with my suppliers, from raw materials to finished goods inventory, and on to the store shelves, **using various systems to manage the supply chain pipeline in order to ensure availability for customers.**

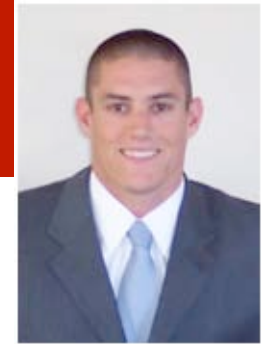
Barbara Powels Bowen



Q2: How did the IS program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

A: The IS program that I completed at SDSU gave me the technical knowledge and the ability to understand and implement different programs that are necessary to perform this job. **Working in teams, using IT tools** (such as databases, spreadsheets, and VB) **to effectively solve problems** are some of the skills I developed in IS. Today, I use a variety of supply chain management systems, and I'm a valued project team member when it comes to launching new projects.

Lance Larson



Education: Masters (Homeland Security), 2006
BS Business Administration, 2004

Specialty & Major: Information Systems

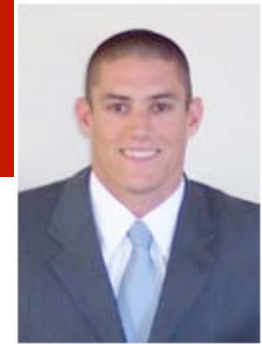
Company: [OC Hosting, Inc.](#)

Job Title: President and CEO

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

A: I supervise a team of 48 employees and managers at an internet solutions company called OC Hosting, a division of Velocity Networks. I started OC Hosting in high school; it was recently acquired by a much larger corporation. Our division provides web hosting, co-location, dedicated servers, and internet connectivity. Most of my time is spent answering hundreds of company emails, handling complex H.R. issues, and carrying-out strategic planning to carry the company into the future.

Lance Larson



Q2: How did the IS program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

A: **Contacts, Contacts, Contacts!** I met an incredible amount of **students, faculty, community,** and high-level **government** members. In fact, I work directly with many of the students I graduated with on projects for their company's web strategy.

Khang Nguyen



Education: BS Business Administration, 2005

Major: Information Systems

Company: Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)

Job Title: IT Auditor

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

A: As an IT Internal Auditor at SAIC, my professional work responsibility currently is to **ensure compliance with SOX 404 (Sarbanes-Oxley 404 act)**. This has exposed me to different areas of IT infrastructure, including **auditing security controls** in SAP Oracle database and PeopleSoft HR Application, as well as testing business process workflows, SOD and restricted access. Routinely, I work with IT and Business Unit professionals to evaluate key IT general and application controls, and **develop tests to determine whether these internal controls are appropriately designed and implemented** for continued effectiveness.

Khang Nguyen



Q2: How did the IS program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

A: The IS program at SDSU provided me the **fundamental skills and knowledge in information technology and business**. This has allowed me to grow professionally in the fast-paced IT industry where alignment of IT and business processes is vital. Through exposure to **systems analysis and design, relational database design, application programming, and network security**, I feel that the IS program has given me the tools I need to form a foundational understanding of auditing enterprise information systems. On top of that, a business background has given me an understanding of the consequences that an organization may face if internal controls are not properly regulated, and helped me carry on effective business relationships to perform my audit work.

Aaron Elkins



Education: BS Business Administration, 2004

Major: Information Systems

Company: AVID

Job Title: Information Technology Coordinator

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

A: As Information Technology Coordinator my responsibilities include departmental management, **budget creation**, **hiring**, **hardware/software acquisition**, **vendor relations**, and **project management**. I am also responsible for developing new systems and **managing the security and training** for those systems. I administer support for all of our systems including LAN/WAN Network Services (including Internet), telecommunications, database administration, and help desk operations.

Aaron Elkins



Q2: How did the IS program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

A: The Information Systems Program has provided my **foundation in querying, analyzing and developing data structures in relation to business processes throughout an organization.** This fundamental understanding of data has proven invaluable throughout my career. Upon completion of the program I was very confident in determining my eventual career path. This resulted from my direct exposure to the expanse of Information Systems. The areas of study included Networking, Database Querying and Design, System Analysis, and Programming. All of these courses have greatly informed my work as an Information Technology Coordinator.

Robert Sehlhorst



Education: BS Business Administration, 2004

Major: Information Systems

Company: [BAE Systems NSS](#)

Job Title: Systems Engineer

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

A: Currently, I am conducting requirements development, integration analysis, and architecture design in support of a multi-million dollar enterprise class project for the U.S. government.

Robert Sehlhorst



Q2: How did the IS program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

A: The IS program at SDSU exposed me to the **current standards, best practices, and emergent technologies at the leading edge of business and academia**. The instruction offered by the program introduced me to the techniques and methodologies employed in the real world of business. Overall the curriculum presented in the IS major; based on a business core with an emphasis on information sciences, **provided me with the fundamental skills needed to succeed in today's dynamic information technology industry**.

Bob Novak



Education: Masters (MBA), 2003
Specialty: Operations Management
Company: [SeekTech, Inc.](#)
Job Title: Director of Operations

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

A: As Director of Operations at a medium-sized manufacturing company, I'm responsible for **production, purchasing, inventory, repair, shipping, receiving, and QC**. In addition, I directly manage the demand for our products from our key customer **using a B2B web portal**. I also serve as an in-house ERP expert user, and work with our IT department to integrate third-party software to solve specific problems our ERP system doesn't.

Bob Novak



Q2: How did the OM program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

A: The operations and other classes I took through the IDS department gave me a **breadth of exposure to problems and how to solve them**, complementing what I had learned through my career. **Business Communication taught me new ways to present data to hold listeners' attention.** In Operations I learned how to analyze and value different decision outcomes. The case studies in **Supply Chain Management taught me how larger companies utilize decision-making processes.** Although data-related courses are the foundation of this department, just as important are the classes that teach you **how to analyze, manage, and present data so that it becomes useful information** to the end user, whether that is yourself, your boss, or your client.

Carol Gasaway



Education: Masters (MSBA), 2005

Specialty: Information Systems

Company: [GMAC Residential Capital Corporation](#)

Job Title: Database Administrator

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

A: My responsibilities include **ensuring the availability and integrity of physical data** by managing backup and recovery, access controls, security and performance of database systems. On a more strategic level, I **manage business resiliency and disaster recovery initiatives, analyze and implement enabling technologies**, and sponsor, manage and plan long-term internal projects.

Carol Gasaway



Q2: How did the IS program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

A: Working at a company with world-wide presence makes data disparity and distribution an onerous problem. The flexibility of the MSBA Information Systems program allowed me to focus on leadership skills and global awareness in a distributed environment and how to manage strategic data initiatives and data governance.

Marc Pease



Education: BS Business Administration, 2006

Specialty: Information Systems

Company: [BD Biosciences](#)

Job Title: Business Systems Programmer/Analyst

Q1: What are your professional work responsibilities?

A: I am currently the **lead programmer for a system that helps manage the Research & Development process for the Cell Analysis unit of a major biotechnology company.** The analyst portion of this role entails interfacing with non-technical business users, requirements development, architecture design, and project management

Marc Pease



Q2: How did the IS program at SDSU help prepare you for your career?

A: The curriculum in the IS program that focused on technology helped strengthen my knowledge of the scientific aspect of computing, and it gave me exposure to the tools and concepts that are prevalent in the world of Information Technology. A key aspect that was stressed in this program is the idea that **one must know more than just how to write code or configure a network; today's professional environment requires the ability to expand your core skills and develop business acumen.** The courses at SDSU that dealt with management of Information Systems, analysis, design, project management, business strategy, and communication helped to lay the groundwork for success in the business world.

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The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website for the Information & Decision Systems (IDS) Department at San Diego State University. The page features a navigation menu on the left with categories such as 'ABOUT THE COLLEGE', 'UNDERGRADUATE', 'GRADUATE', 'EXECUTIVE MBA', 'ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES', 'INSTITUTES & CENTERS', 'INTERNS & CONSULTING', 'ACADEMIC AFFAIRS', 'FACULTY & RESEARCH', 'STAFF', 'ALUMNI', 'GIVE TO CBA', 'ASSESSMENT', 'EVENTS', and 'NEWS'. The main content area is titled 'Academic Disciplines' and 'College of Business Administration'. It includes a section for 'Information & Decision Systems' with a sub-section 'Information Systems in Business Today'. This section contains text about the challenges of modern business and the role of information systems. To the right, there is a profile for the Department Chair, Dr. Bruce A. Reinig, with his photo and contact information. Below this, there are sections for 'IDS Dept. Office', 'Mailing Address', 'IDS Dept. Phone', 'IDS Faculty', 'IDS Featured Alumni', 'Program Overview', 'Graduate Programs', and 'Student Organizations'.



Information & Decision Systems

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IDS Faculty



Back, left to right: John Penrose, Theo Addo, Jim Beatty, Marie Flatley, Alex Koster, Gretchen Vik, Fred Raafat, George Easton. Front, left to right: Helio Yang, Annette Easton, Murray Jennex, Bruce Reinig, Robert Plice, and Bongsik Shin. (Not pictured: Richard Dalbey, Martha Kennedy, Max Lund, Ron Lycan, Kelly Shaul, Clay Tyler)



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