CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Sydney Kemme Nash
Key Findings

IT Consultant

- Bridging the gap between technology and business has become increasingly important as technology influences every aspect of our daily lives. As an IT consultant I would have the ability to combine my interests in technology and business with my desire to empower others to learn about the world around them. This makes IT consulting a great fit for me. Because consulting is often project based, career breaks are quite possible which would give me the time I desire to focus on my family and friends as well as having a good work-life balance. Like many guardian supervisors I enjoy the structure of a traditional work environment that offers a corporate ladder to allow me to measure my progress over time. The large abundance of IT consulting firms gives me an opportunity to thrive in a work environment I enjoy. However, as I become more experienced in the field of consulting, becoming an independent consultant would allow me to take a more entrepreneurial approach to my career with the possibility of even starting my own consulting firm.

Chief Sustainability Executive

- At the top of the sustainability corporate ladder is the chief sustainability executive. This unique role gives the executive the ability to partner with both vendors and customers to create eco-friendly products and decide how these products are developed and marketed. Because chief sustainability executive is an established position at the top of a corporate ladder, I would be able to measure my success at the position by climbing the established ladder. As a role in sustainability, it offers me the opportunity to influence the social impact of a company as well as start my own initiatives to educate others about the impact of their actions. This aligns closely with my interest in theory research and development, discovering new sustainability measures that interest me and developing them specifically for the company I work for would allow me to apply previously tested models in a new way. Additionally, I can leverage the technological skills I gained through studying Informatics to assist companies in improving their environmental and social impact.
Top Values

**Family & Friends** - to have a happy, loving family and close, supportive friends

From watching my mentors, I have observed that having a supportive family and friend system can be instrumental in allowing one to reach his or her full potential. Not only can family support you in your dreams and ambitions, they also help provide balance and a welcome distraction from a hectic work day. As an oldest child I have often used playing with my youngest sister as an excuse to take a break from a particularly difficult homework set. Taking these breaks allowed me to approach the problem with a new mindset. Not only have I benefited from the encouragement of my family, I have also been blessed to have a supportive friend group. I know these support networks will become increasingly important as I transition to new workplaces.

**Faith** - to seek and obey the will of your Higher Power

Undoubtedly, much of my life thus far has been directly influenced by my faith. For me, my faith has always been a choice. A choice to believe that my actions are guided by something bigger than myself and because of that, I can have a bigger impact than if I acted on my own. As a result, it is extremely important to me that my actions, and ultimately the company that I work for, not only are able to support and stimulate me, but that they also have a positive impact on those around me. It is not enough to simply have a job to pay the bills, in some way I would hope that my job, or the company I work for, would provide a good or service for the betterment of mankind.

**Empowerment** - to empower self and others to do their best

The two facets of empowerment, self and others, are equally important in my life. Throughout my life I have pushed myself to be my best. Much of this stems from a desire to be involved and engage with those around me. In the classroom, I strive to learn as much as can, regardless of subject in order to have a better understanding of the world around me. My innate desire to do my best also applies to my attitude towards others. Rather than competing against them, I try to help my classmates understand the material. Furthermore, I continually make a conscious effort to see the best in others and encourage them to reach their full potential. This has been instilled in me by my parents but as begin to develop my own unique set of values and interests it is a value that I desire to continually nurture and apply in my own life.
Interests Overview

Influencing Others

- The ability to influence others is one of the most fundamental skills in business and can be useful in any position from marketing a new product to inspiring a team of coworkers. People who enjoy influencing others thrive on talking to people individually, presenting ideas to large groups, or communicating new ideas in writing.

- As an eldest child I have spent much of my life convincing my siblings to follow my lead. In school I discovered that I could influence my classmates not only by talking to them, but also by my writing. Through sports and serving on various committees throughout high school, I have enjoyed seeing the impact that my influence has had. From planning prom to planning a multistate choir tour, I find that I get the most enjoyment out of events when I am directly involved in their creation.

- Through my college experiences, I hope to continue to refine my ability to influence the thoughts and opinions of others. Thus far, my experiences have shown me that understanding how someone approaches a new idea, product, or initiative is instrumental in being able to influence them.

Theory Development & Research

- Toddlers are notorious for becoming fixated on one book, one toy, or one problem that frustrates them endlessly. Whenever I became too focused on a problem, my dad would remind me to “not miss the forest for the trees”. This "big picture" mindset has shaped how I approach problems in all aspects of my life- from homework problems to picking a college and evaluating potential careers.

- This past year I interned at the Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation. There I assisted in current research projects, helped write proposals for new projects, and learned about the cycle or research. One of the aspects of the internship that I most enjoyed was helping to design surveys to get the most information from project participants.

- In a workplace setting, my interest in looking at the big picture means I will likely enjoy an analyst or consultant role. Additionally, I am interested in analyzing economic and social trends that influence the consumer.
Personality Type

The most common of all personality types, the Guardian, makes up 40-45% of the population with my specific personality type, the Supervisor, making up approximately 10% of the total population. In the workplace the Guardian Supervisors enjoy having direct control over situations they are responsible for and expect others to live up to their standards. This desire to help others reach their full potential relates directly to my core value of empowerment. Guardians typically enjoy being in a leadership role which gives provides them with a natural platform to nurture others.

Like most Guardian Supervisors I have a tendency to resist change and not understand why people choose to question authority. However, I have tried to actively recognize when I do this in my life and go out of my way to try to understand the big picture and why people approach problems different ways. Through my life thus far I have thrived on fully dedicating myself to a problem and as a Guardian Supervisor it is likely that this will continue to serve me well in the workplace. However, it is most important that I fully recognize my strengths and weakness so that I can improve how I interact with others and place myself in the best position to succeed.

Guardian Supervisor:

Expressive – I enjoy expressing myself in a wide variety of formats from written to communicating one on one
Observant – I prefer to observe a new situation and do my own research on a subject before forming an opinion
Tough-Minded - As a supervisor I call things as I see them and my blunt communication style may come across as being unsympathetic towards others
Scheduled – When completing a project I prefer to have a set of expectations to meet and appreciate coming up with a written plan for completing the task
Entrepreneurship & Corporate Innovation

For the past nine years *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked the Kelley School’s Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation as the #1 Undergraduate Business Schools for Entrepreneurship (Public Universities). Currently ranked #3 out of all schools in the nation\(^1\), the JCEI major of Entrepreneurship and Corporate Innovation was created for students interested in created or managing small businesses. It focuses specifically on the skills needed to manage small or medium sized businesses\(^2\). To support IU’s budding entrepreneurs, the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization was founded in 2001 and hopes to provide a support system and a network of mentors and business leaders to give undergraduate entrepreneurs more opportunities\(^3\). Additionally, the B-Start pre-accelerator program helps launch new businesses in Bloomington and encourages involvement from students with innovative ideas\(^5\). The program especially hopes to encourage women and minority groups to apply and experience the benefits of having a coach and consultations with local business experts.

- Graduates with a degree in Entrepreneurship & Corporate Innovation often are self employed or work as managers in small firms. Because I enjoy *influencing* others, a role as a manager in a small firm makes sense for me as it gives me an opportunity to work on leading small groups of people.
- Another popular career for Entrepreneurs is *consulting* for larger corporations. This aligns with my desire for *research and development*. Working within a larger corporation allows me to build off of preexisting ideas.
- Because of my personality type as a *guardian supervisor*, it seems unlikely that I will start my own business venture. Instead, I will leverage my ability to create a streamlined work environment to improve the productivity of my workplace.
- In an effort to move outside of my comfort zone it would behoove me to understand how people come up with new ideas and find constructive ways to question authority.
The Sustainable Business Co-Major allows companies a unique insight into the triple bottom line of business, people, planet and profit. At IU, the Net Impact club works to educate students about careers in sustainable business as well as work with sustainable business in the Bloomington area. One aspect of this major that particularly appeals to me is its interdisciplinary approach which will allow me to combine my interests in technology with an interest in sustainability.

The desire to work for a company that has a positive impact both financially and socially is closely aligned with my top value of faith. As part of my faith, I hope to work for companies that focus not only on profit but also on their social impact and how their actions affect the environment. A degree in sustainability will give me the tools I need to assess how well a company determines its triple bottom line as well as the ability to work with that company to improve their social and environmental impact.

As companies become increasingly concerned with their triple bottom line, they have come to realize that caring about sustainability can pay off financially as well as better society. Many companies have special chief sustainability executives who develop and implement sustainability measures. This position would be ideal for me because it is within an established corporation, a key requirement for guardian supervisors.

Another potential job would be working for the community on a conservation committee. Although less influential than other positions, I would still be able to serve in a leadership role to bring about positive change.
Informatics

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS, COMPUTING, AND ENGINEERING

- Home to one of the top Informatics programs in the country, the IU School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering (SICE) offers numerous opportunities for students to distinguish themselves from competition when it comes to securing job offers and internship opportunities. 96% of Informatics students found employment or continuing education opportunities within 6 months of graduation in 2016 and 76% of them had previously completed an Internship. Additionally the average full-time starting salary was $56,000 with an average signing bonus of $5,000.

- Technology is constantly evolving to meet the ever changing needs of the world. Informatics interests me because of its ability to apply technology to solve a myriad of problems from business to healthcare. Combined with my top interest area of theory research and development, Informatics gives me an opportunity to apply my big picture problem solving skills while also improving the way people interact with cutting edge technology.

- Many people today tend to shy away from technology that they don’t understand. This mentality is dangerous because it often means they don’t recognize the potential that technology has to improve their lives and make their jobs easier. Informatics gives me the tools I need to empower people to be more open to embracing the positive impact that technology can have on their life.

- Because of its versatility and the far reaching influence of technology in today’s workplace, a B.S. in Informatics can be applied to a wide variety of jobs. One of the jobs is as an IT consultant. Leveraging the technical skills developed with an Informatics degree as well as the soft skills nurtured in my business classes, this job offers a good balance of both of my interests.

- One of the most popular careers stemming from Informatics is working as a human-computer interface designer. A job in this field would allow me to focus on how humans interact with programs and empower workers to be actively involved in making their experience the best it can be for themselves and others.
Sources

8. https://kelley.iu.edu/netimpact/