

Graduate Student Spotlight



Justin Goodson

PhD - Management Sciences

*BS, Industrial and Manufacturing Systems
Engineering - University of Missouri -
Columbia*

*MS, Industrial and Manufacturing Systems
Engineering - University of Missouri - Columbia*

MBA, - University of Missouri - Columbia

**Winner of 1st Place in the Social Sciences &
Education Division at the 2007 James F.
Jakobsen Graduate Conference**

Please describe your thesis project in a short sentence.

My thesis work focuses on solving vehicle routing problems faced by logistics and transportation companies.

How did you decide to go to graduate school?

I wanted to have a career in academia, so graduate school was a must.

What made you decide to go to graduate school at Iowa?

The Department of Management Sciences here at Iowa has a number of attractive features. Ultimately, though, I came here because of the schools I applied to, Iowa was the only one that accepted me.

What are your long-term goals beyond your graduate degree?

Professionally, I hope to have a successful academic career at a research university. Personally, I hope to be a successful husband and father.

What are some of your interests outside of school?

I enjoy playing the piano and having lightsaber battles with my children

How has being a graduate student at Iowa prepared you to achieve those goals?

The advising I have received from my thesis advisors has been top notch. Professors Ohlmann and Thomas have taught me what makes good research and how to effectively share it with others.

You are a winner of one of the top awards at the Jakobsen Conference in a previous year. What did you enjoy most about the Jakobsen Conference experience?

I most enjoyed the low-stress environment. The Jakobsen Conference is an excellent opportunity for graduate students to share their research without the pressures of a major conference.

Are there any particular challenges you've faced as a graduate student at Iowa?

My first semester was particularly difficult. The coursework was challenging and required me to think at a much higher level. In addition, my wife spent two months in the hospital due to complications with a pregnancy, thus making me the primary care provider for our children. As a result, however, subsequent semesters have been much easier, relatively speaking.

Hometown: *Kansas City, Missouri*

Advisor: *Jeffrey Ohlmann and Barrett Thomas*

Do you have a particular mentor who has played an important role in the development of your thesis or your career trajectory?

Near the end of my first semester, my advisors, professors Ohlmann and Thomas, invited me to work on a “short” project with them. The two month project has evolved into a full-fledged thesis topic. Professors Ohlmann and Thomas take time to meet with me on a weekly basis. During these meetings they provide valuable feedback, guidance, and ideas related to my research.

Please note any significant honors you’ve received .

I am the recipient of 11 national scholarships and fellowships. The Epsilon chapter of Delta Sigma Pi (a professional business fraternity) honored me for outstanding service as a teaching assistant to undergraduate operations management students. I received a grant from the International Institute of Business (part of the Tippie College of Business) to present my research at an international optimization conference. The Iowa chapter of the Association for Operations Management awarded me third place in a regional paper competition.