Neilye Garrity, IST ’04
Co-founder of Candid Career, Annapolis, MD

Neilye Garrity is the co-founder of Candid Career, a video-based career exploration website that hosts informational interviews with industry professionals. Candid Career’s notion is that we can all learn from the experiences of others. The company is dedicated to providing the inside scoop on careers so viewers will be informed and ready for what lies ahead.

Neilye worked as an IT consultant for IBM in the Washington, D.C. area for six years prior to starting Candid Career.

“IST provided me with the interpersonal skills and technical knowledge to help me start my company.”

David Rusenko, IST ’07
Co-founder, Weebly, San Francisco, CA

The CEO and co-founder of Weebly, a tech start-up based out of San Francisco, California. Weebly is an extremely simple and powerful way for anyone to create a website, blog, or online store.

More than 10 million people have created a website with Weebly, and 12 percent of the U.S. population visits a Weebly website every month.

Weebly was named one of Time’s 50 best websites of 2007, and has been featured in Newsweek, The Wall Street Journal, Entrepreneur, and Inc. magazines, as well as on NBC and the BBC. Rusenko was named to Forbes’ “30 under 30” list in 2011.

Rusenko is the youngest recipient of the prestigious Penn State Alumni Achievement award.

“My biggest takeaway from IST was learning people skills through group work and presentations. IST develops really well-rounded graduates.”

Korey Wallace, IST ’09
Systems Engineer, BAE Systems, Wayne, NJ

Korey works as a systems engineer for BAE Systems, a global defense and aerospace company which delivers a full range of products and services for air, land and naval forces, as well as advanced electronics, information technology solutions and customer support services. Korey’s division specializes in building secure, high bandwidth communication equipment for the US Military.

Korey is part of a rotational program that has provided him the opportunity to write and test software code on radio devices, work in a lab environment, and manage databases that serve as a front-end deliverable to customers.

“IST provided me with the education and opportunity to learn the top technologies used in the industry, while also developing the communication skills and attitude I needed to perform the multi-disciplinary role as a system engineer.”
Prerak Patel, IST ’10
Systems Integration Analyst, Accenture, Philadelphia, PA

Prerak Patel is a systems integration analyst at Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services, and outsourcing company that collaborates with clients to help them become high-performance businesses and government entities.

Prerak’s role as a systems integration analyst entails project management, planning, forecasting, requirements gathering and issues resolution.

“At IST, I learned the latest technology and developed core writing and communication skills, making me a valuable asset to any corporation after graduation.”

Sydney Klein, IST ’09
Assistant Vice President, Global Markets Risk and Control, Citigroup, New York City

Sydney Klein is an assistant vice president in Global Markets Risk and Control at Citigroup in New York City.

Sydney started at Citi as an intern in 2008 in the Technology Leadership Program and has since worked in International Settlements as well as a project group called Global Strategy and Initiatives.

Sydney’s Risk Management role sits on the Trading Floor. Her floor focuses specifically on equities. Within two years, Sydney went from settlements and operations to holding a front office position. She always says that IST would help her in any career path that she chose.

“Penn State’s IST program taught me how to analyze data and manage real-world projects. On Wall Street, I use those skills on the trading floor every day.”

Jake Thorwart, IST ’07
Senior Sales Engineer, iControl Networks, Philadelphia, PA

Jake Thorwart is a senior sales engineer at iControl Networks, a venture-backed software and services start-up that enables home security companies, broadband service providers and utilities to offer next generation home management, security and connectivity capabilities to their customers.

Prior to joining iControl Networks, Jake worked as a management consultant for Pricewaterhouse-Coopers in Philadelphia, PA.

“Understanding IT trends and driving team-based results keeps me at the technology frontier, thanks to skills I gained in IST.”