

ANDREW HOPPENJANS

Designing Tanks and Towers: Andrew's Extreme Success

Graduate: Class of 2006 Occupation: Structural Draftsman
By Melissa Greulich, Spring, 2010

As a 2006 graduate of Forest Park, Andrew Hoppenjans dreamed of more than Ferdinand could offer. Moving to Evansville, Indiana, with more prominent hopes in mind, he was granted a job in Henderson, Kentucky. Throughout Andrew's high school career, he felt confident in his decision to study drafting in college.

With hopes of becoming a draftsman, Andrew pursued his dreams by attending college to receive a degree in computer drafting and design. He stated, "Without this decision, I would not be doing this today and that would be very disappointing because I really enjoy my career." Andrew attended college at ITT-Technical Institute from 2006 to 2008 and earned his associate's degree in computer drafting and design. Currently working toward his bachelor's degree in construction management, Andrew furthers his career.

Andrew-an employee for Pittsburg Tank and Tower Company-works as a structural draftsman. He has worked at this company located in Henderson, Kentucky, since 2007. Pittsburg Tank and Tower Company holds the responsibilities of fabricating and erecting steel ground storage tanks; these tanks hold anything from water to fuel oil. Andrew's specified job includes creating the drawings that the shop and field workers use to build the steel tanks.

As a structural draftsman, Andrew has numerous responsibilities. Arriving at work at 7:30 a.m., he either starts a new project or revises a previous one. He makes suggested corrections on an existing drawing that a customer has sent back. Andrew has to make detailed drawings using AutoCAD in order for the shop and field workers to easily build the tank.

After Andrew's high school career, he has had exceptional achievements. Andrew stated, "I would have to say that buying a house when I was twenty-one years old would have to be the biggest achievement that I have made since I have graduated. Also, graduating from college with an associate's degree and going to be getting a bachelor's degree this Thanksgiving is another achievement."

When asked if Andrew had any helpful advice for current Forest Park students, he gave this advice: “Really study what career you want to go to college for or for what you want to do after you graduate from high school. I have a lot of friends who changed their minds on their major and in turn it took longer and cost more to get their degree. Some of them still do not have their degree.”

Andrew has a positive outlook on life due to his achievements. Without these accomplishments he encountered, he would not be where he got himself today.