

JAMES FETTES

From Working in the Snow and Rain: To Bright Horizons and Opportunity

Graduate:Class of 2003 Occupation: Construction Technology
By Adam Fettes, Spring, 2010

James Fettes, my brother, Construction Technologist and great outdoorsman agreed to an interview. I chose to interview James because the career that he has chosen is extremely interesting and rewarding. From day one, James knew he wanted to be a Construction Technologist. It involves hard work, but the results are great.

James became involved with construction right after high school with a local construction company. When he arrived at work, he was limited on his knowledge of the construction trade. His previous job did not provide an opportunity to learn construction skills. He started on the concrete crew his first day and learned how to pour footers for houses, driveways, and sidewalks. After mastering this skill, the company promoted him to the framing crew where he learned how to frame a house. James wanted to learn more and felt he was at a dead end with this company; therefore, he decided to quit his job and return to school.

He attended Vincennes University and enrolled in the construction technology program. The knowledge he gained with attending Vincennes University went beyond pouring concrete and framing a house. He learned everything he needed to know to build a house. Now, after graduating with a degree after 18 months, James works full-time for Deig Brothers Construction in Evansville. His salary has doubled, and he has great benefits. He told me he loves his job now and may be promoted to foreman or supervisor sometime in the future.

Recently, James purchased a duplex and was able to totally remodel it himself, saving a large amount of money, but mostly it was the feeling of accomplishment by being about to do it himself. He plans to build his own home someday and not pay somebody else to do it. From the knowledge he learned and Vincennes, he is capable of building his own home.

Responsible at whatever he does, James will continue to be successful in the future.

He loves what he is doing in life. However working a full-time job (60 plus hours a week), limits him on what he can do. With the little free time he has, he makes every minute of it enjoyable. Some of his hobbies are riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, hunting, and fishing when he has free time. I have really enjoyed interviewing James and have learned that sometimes a person needs to step out of their safety zone and follow their dreams. I hope someday to have a fulfilling career like James.