

# Telecommunications Systems Management Alumni Spotlight



**Name:** Kent Bohanon

**MSU Degree:** M.S. Business Administration 2005  
B.S. TSM 2002  
Options: Information Security & Business

**Home Town:** Paducah, KY

**Current Town:** Paducah, KY

**Current Job:** Business Owner & Agent, State Farm



## Previous Jobs held (since graduation):

- **Agency Intern, State Farm Insurance** - Completing business development and office setup to open a State Farm Financial Services and Insurance office in Paducah, KY on December 1, 2009.
- **Marketing Analyst, State Farm Insurance** - Assist in growing the Kentucky marketplace for State Farm by developing and guiding marketing activities across the state, as well as consulting for Kentucky's Vice President of Agency.
- **Security Analyst, State Farm Insurance** - Three years of experience developing security solutions for web based agency applications and related computing functionality. This time was followed by two years of focus on the security architecture arena, which was comprised of coordinating with multiple business partners and security peers to deliver quality high-level security solutions that shaped more granular designs.

## Family & Personal:

Kent Bohanon is a proud Paducah native. Kent is married to Tracy Perkinson Bohanon, from Serena, IL. Kent and Tracy are the proud parents of 1 year old Jayce. Kent is a member of the Paducah Chamber of Commerce, a member of Leadership Paducah Class #24 and is a Chartered Financial Consultant. Kent was one of the founders of MSU's Association of TSM, served as ATSM's first president, received the inaugural TSM Alumni Award (Bachelors) and was the first TSM alumni member asked to be on the TSM National Advisory Board.

**TSM Q & A:**

**What did you do for your internship and how did it benefit you?**

After completing an internship in Disney World following my sophomore year, I attended the MSU Fall Career fair. Of all the companies, I was most impressed by State Farm. They had one of the largest private computer networks in the US and were top Fortune company. My internship with State Farm consisted of network management at their corporate location in Bloomington, IL. This included cabling, hardware installations, and router & switch management.

**Since graduation, what is the most exciting thing you have been able to experience in your work?**

Without a doubt I would say the financial planning aspect of my current role. Myself and my team are able to have a direct impact on the lives of our clients each day. I am fortunate to work with families every week to help them build the wealth and the future they want, along with protecting that them from the unknown impacts that lay ahead.

**What class(es) were the most beneficial to your career so far?**

I would say this is twofold. My first full-time role was as an application security analyst. The security thought process I obtained from the TSM security course, taught by Michael Ramage, was critical in obtaining and being successful in that role. As I progressed in my career, I migrated toward the business side of State Farm. At that point I leaned more on the management and financial knowledge of the TSM program that had also lead me to my MBA.

**What activities outside your classwork were most valuable to your career?**

Without a doubt I would say my involvement with starting ATSM. It helped me to learn how initiative and teamwork can truly lead to a result that is greater than the sum of its parts. It was tremendous to start something that so many students and professors rallied behind!

**What is one piece of advice that you would give to current or future TSM students?**

Whether you are a business student that wants to make sure you have quality, well-paying job right out of college or a technology student that wants to ensure you have the knowledge to move up in a company, TSM is the ANSWER. When I began at MSU, I enjoyed both business and technology. However, had I chosen just one, I do not believe I would have been as mobile in my career. TSM allowed me to have an immediate, well-paying technology position right out of college. Additionally, the business knowledge provided by the program help to launch me into other roles with the company and ultimately into operating my own business.