

I'm in charge of day-to-day operations and new product development at a small e-learning company.

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I was born in Montreal, but grew up mainly in various places in B.C. I attended the University of Victoria where I earned a BSc in Mathematics/Computer Science and a BA in Philosophy. I went on to earn an MSc and PhD in Mathematics at Simon Fraser University. Since then, in addition to holding an NSERC Post-Doctoral fellowship, I have worked as a sessional instructor in Mathematics and a full-time instructor in Computer Science. I also worked as a programmer on an online learning project, which led to my current position.

We develop complete university-level courses for delivery over the Internet. Our goal is to take advantage of this medium in ways that have not been done before, to provide truly interactive learning and assessment. You can find out more at our website at lyryx.com.

How does your Philosophy degree fit in with your interest in math? Do you see connections between the two disciplines?

I tend to think of math as a sub-discipline of formal logic, which is in turn a sub-discipline of philosophy. The appeal of math is that it asks questions which often yield satisfyingly complete answers, whereas the broader questions encountered in philosophy may be unanswerable, which can get on your nerves after a while.

A friend of mine once told me that Computer Science is a combination of Math and Electrical Engineering, and electrical engineering is just applied math. To me, every programming problem is really an interesting logical puzzle, unfortunately associated with a bunch of tedious typing. For these reasons, my interest in mathematics has always been combined with an interest in computer science.

Were you encouraged to study math?

The one person I should probably mention is my mother. She has a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education and before I was old enough to go to school I would pester her endlessly to make 'work' for me (math problems, reading and spelling tests, etc), which she did. That gave me a huge head start.