

Professional Career Development

Where do we go from here!

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Lecturer: Mary March

Introduction:

My name is Donald Lewis and I'd like to share with you a very small part of my story I will also try to keep this within the limits of the assignment word count. There are a variety of reasons why I think now is the time for me to start enhancing my so-called academic skills notwithstanding the fact that it would be virtually impossible to achieve any form of credibility in the current workplace of today without it, let's just say that I believe some of my dreams to be a little bit **out there ahead of their time** and for me to even contemplate the chance of ever succeeding with any of them things had to change and fast!

This assignment was also supposed to include experiences that may have affected you in the past and played a role in the shaping of what's now and my future this is the reason why this part of my story must also be included.

A Small Snippet of the Past:

My story will begin in Aug/18/2003 which is the day that I left for an extended holiday with my sister and her husband who were then emigrating over to Thailand to build their dream home. I myself had just split with my ex-partner 3 years prior I had also just sold my old home, so I was also flush with cash and ready to explore a little more of the world I decided to tag along for the ride.

Our trip was planned to last three months little did I know that it would eventually extend to just over 11 months, of sun fun and amazement whilst living in absolute paradise.

Thailand Phuket Sunday 26/12/04: 9.50am

After four months into the trip by now I was staying in my own rented bungalow apartment in a place called Bangtao Beach, I woke up early on this day for some reason I did not go out the night before as usual, when I woke up it was already very hot outside. If only I had known in advance that in the next 15 minutes the whole world around me was about to drastically change.

It was now 10.05 am I was watching UBC, which is a Thai satellite channel that also transmits western news and tv shows, I then started to hear people outside screaming very loud screams, at first I did not take any notice, but the screams just kept getting louder and louder, It was time to go and investigate and see what the hell was going on.

The Whole World Changed:

I opened my front door and to my horror the first thing that I noticed was a naked man covered in mud walking down the middle of the street and struggling to stay on his feet.

The second thing that I noticed was the boundary wall of the hotel, that was located on the other side of the narrow street adjacent to my home, had now collapsed. I then noticed that what was obviously the sea, that was supposed to be washing up on the beach about 700 feet beyond the boundary wall, was now very close, and rushing towards me with a force that I have never witnessed before ever in my lifetime.

Run for Your Life If You Want to Live!

I've never had to run so fast in such small a space in my life I had just enough time to grab my phone and sprint to the back door. By the time I flicked those latches and stepped outside the sea water was already up to my chest and trying to take me with it. I somehow managed to cling onto the brickwork and pull myself behind the building where it was safer. I then managed to get up high onto my roof, pulling a few of my neighbours up with me. We were then able to gain a 360 wider vision of exactly what was taking place on the ground around us.

The wave came in from the sea and travelled at least a quarter of a mile inland, not long after the first wave had struck, it then started to recede. People were then walking around trying to get to higher ground, in water that was still at least waist high. It was then that I heard the people who were still on the upper floors of the hotel opposite shouting, its coming back, its coming back, everyone then scrambled to get to higher ground. Just as fast as those two waves came in and went out again, was the longevity and duration of the actual tsunami itself, it did not last very long but the destruction and devastation that it left behind, was something that you had to witness with your own eyes. I was eventually picked up I survived to tell the tale, but I will never forget that there were so many others who were not so fortunate or so lucky.

Lived to Tell the Tale:

I did not just leave or run away after that dreadful tsunami event I stayed on and continued my break for another five months, in that time, I then had the opportunity to really witness for myself the true spirit of the Thai people.

I loved to explore the island of Phuket and probably left no part of it untouched, but I also enjoyed travelling a little further out, whether it be by sea or by land. I visited many temples and places of interest,

The Monkey Cave in Phang Nga was one amazing temple to visit they have a long Golden Buddha inside lying on his side, this place is huge and was either carved, eroded, or honed out of the very cliff face itself. This place was also full of bats, millions of them, and they stunk, but never less it was still an amazing experience, they also have these little monkeys, that climb down from somewhere above the cave in the mornings, they come down looking for food or to be fed by the locals or the tourists.

Speaking Words of Wisdom:

It was during a second visit to a different temple that I had a conversation with a monk that I have never forgotten to this day.

I visited a temple located not too far from my rented apartment the temple's name was Wat Phra Thong, the only reason why I stumbled upon this place was because my rented scooter had run out of gas, I then visited this temple after refilling the tank and I'm so glad that I did.

After browsing on my own for about 10 minutes I was then approached by a Buddhist Monk we then struck up a conversation. He was explaining about the Golden Buddha that they have on display there and why this Buddha was buried standing up (or waist high)

After he finished with that lengthy conversation I was then ready to leave, when the monk said to me, excuse me excuse me excuse me, after 1 million, Wat More, Wat More, Wat More!

I had to think for a minute as to why our conversation had just turned into one about money but then I mentally approached the question from another angle.

In Thailand their largest denomination bank note is the 1000 Baht note, the 1000 Baht note in Pounds, would be valued at roughly £14. 1 million Baht would then be valued at around £14,000 not all Thai people are born rich and wealthy, it would take most of them a very long time to even reach and achieve the millionaire status in their own currency, so I immediately got where he was coming from.

I then answered, after 1 million, you get one billion! The monk seemed to get all excited suddenly then quickly produced a pen and a piece of paper and said,

Write Write Write! **meaning can you write that down on this piece of paper for me please**

I obliged immediately and wrote on the paper 1000 million = 1 billion, the monk was smiling and still seemed quite excited he then asked:

Wat More Wat More Wat More! **meaning what comes next**

I then answered after 1 billion you get 1 trillion, still excited, the monk said

Write Write Write! **meaning can you write that down on this piece of paper for me please**

Again, I obliged immediately and wrote, 1000 billion = 1 trillion, the monk then asked again What More What More What More!

I replied, after 1 trillion you get 1 zillion, but before he could say write it down, I took the initiative to write the numbers down myself.

He then asked me one more time, What More What More! I simply replied, it's too much you don't need so much.

I was then just about to leave when the monk changed the conversation, he was now talking about the stars, the moon, and time itself. He asked me some very strange questions about western based time Greenwich Mean Time in particular,

I didn't know anything about Greenwich Mean Time other than the fact that it was our standard based time format, and by now I was wondering why would a monk from Thailand would be interested in such a topic anyway.

My personal analysis over time:

That conversation with the monk was so weird so strange that somehow, I had to form my own conclusions in order to move on from it. The conclusions that I came up with were as follows

When the monk was asking me about numbers figures of such great magnitude it was as though he was saying to me, never be afraid of numbers, figures, because that's all they will ever be no matter how high they rise, or how big they get.

When he started to speak about Greenwich Mean Time, it was as though he was telling me in some strange way, that it's not too late, and that you still have time, but use it very wisely!

Returning to the UK May 2005:

Upon my return after such a long time away I was not feeling like the same person that I was when I left, something had drastically changed. I started to see the things that were going on around me in a completely different light. I started to notice some of the bigger problems that were affecting many different people within our society. And the problem was, I was also now one of them, so the problems were now starting to affect me too. One of the first major problems that I ran into was just after returning from my break.

Everything is changing but this place is standing still!

It was during the summer of 2005 after returning from my trip one day I was using my computer and decided that I wanted to buy something online. The only problem was that I did not have a credit card at that time despite applying via many different companies and banks based in the UK. Back then most of the Central Banks of the world, were modelling and adopting the same policy, deny the lowest members of society the so called under privileged people, from gaining access to any form of credit unless they have a job to pay off the crippling charge fees associated.

During these times we were all witnessing the very beginnings of the new era of digital internet banking services that were taking off in a big way for many companies, it was the beginnings of the new boom time, but at that time, I was just interested in the newest fintech digital web based players in the marketplace, the biggest ones, who were now all telling me that I could not shop online, and I wanted to know why.

Always Read the Small Print:

After extensive research and my own personal perseverance, I succeeded in finding answers to all the questions that I was now asking myself. I found out that the biggest fintech digital financial services provider of that specific time was a company based on the United States called Pay Pal. But to understand why they were now the fastest growing in the sector at the time you had to delve little deeper into the way they operated at that time. In order to achieve this task, all I had to do was to read and fully understand the small print stated in their own internet posted company terms and conditions.

This company was also operating on a majoritively send and receive basis and not long after deciphering the first few lines into the reading of their posted terms and conditions small print notice, I ran into the first blatant problem, and this companies **first immediate mistake.**

Even I Can Create Better Than This:

It stated that in order for any of us to gain access to their site to make any form of transactions we would first need to register with them our credit card details, **that one stroke of the pen** ruled out just as all of the central banks were doing at that time, denying 35% of the population of every country in the world from gaining access and spending their own money on any of the newly formed fintech networks.

It also stated that we must all register with them a second bank account **their second mistake** just in case that when they went to raid your first account, there were not enough funds in it. They always made sure that they got their money, but their rules were totally barbaric.

I thought to myself this is madness, I only want to shop online, I don't want all of the drama that was associated with it, if the banks were not going to all allow us credit cards to use as a form of payment then we would somehow have to create our own, **whether they like it or not.**

Necessity is the mother of all invention: 2006

I was then forced to take matters into my own hands this is what I created, and this is also what happened next. You must also be aware that everything that I developed or created from this point forward, was developed or created by my own personal deeds, and long before I knew anything about plagiarism and any form of so-called referencing techniques.

AW2P Another Way to Pay Concept March 2006 (Pre-Paid Card Concept)



AW2P-Another Way
To Pay 2006.pdf

As you can see if you would have skipped through to the end of this one, you can see that you cannot trust anybody these days even the people that you would hire to protect your own intellectual property. But I was not going to let this setback phase me or slow me down I was back the following year with an update.

More Power to The People: 2007

AW2P Version 2 We Just Click! (Contactless RFID Card Concept)



AW2P-Version-2-W
e-Just-Click.pdf

This version was entered into a competition to this day I still can't believe that they said that I did not win, within months we all started to witness the first tv advertisements launched by Nat West Bank, the man on the roller coaster travelling down the outside of the building until he eventually reaches the bottom and scans his contactless cash card, boy how things changed with that one and has come a very long way since those early days.

Protect Yourself at All Times: 2008

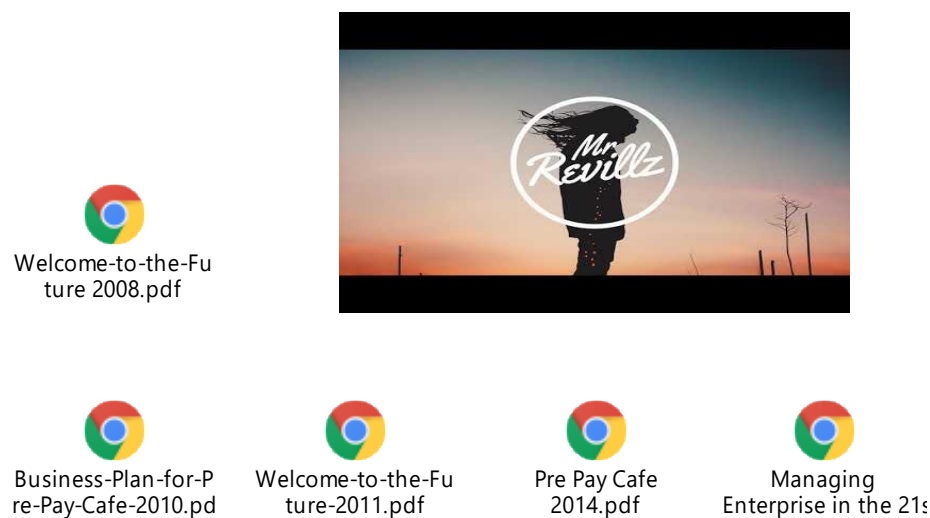
We were not done yet, I was kind of pissed that everything that I created then seemed to invite some other greedy person, to try and convince the world, that they did it first.

I then set about protecting all my future works as best I could:



I then set about the creation of some of my new ideas with the knowledge that these ones will not be stolen or borrowed by anyone I would rather share them with others give them away for free before I would let that happen again.

Welcome to the future 2008:



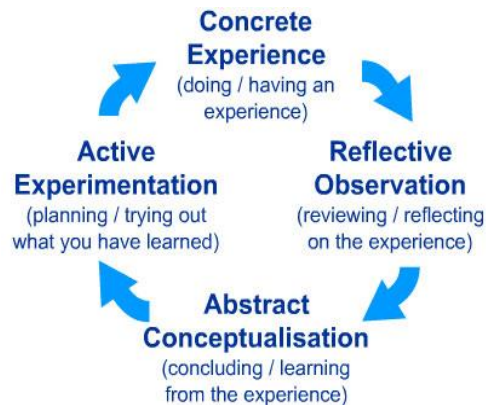
After all this I then decided that I would step back take a break and watch the game to this day many of them have yet to get anywhere near this level of service.

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/81846601/2012-Pre-Pay-Cafe-Public-Version>

Understanding My Learning Style:

According to David Kolb's learning style theory published in 1984 learning is the process whereby knowledge is created by the transformation of experience.

By adopting the use of this method effective learning can then be measured as an individual's pass through the four-cycle stages of this theory.



This theory also includes four cycles of learning Diverging (feeling and watching) Assimilating (watching and thinking) Converging (doing and thinking) Accommodating (doing and feeling)

Effective learning is seen when a person progresses through a cycle of four stages: of having a concrete experience, followed by observation of and reflection on that experience, which leads to the formation of abstract concepts analysis and generalizations conclusions which are then used to test hypothesis in future situations, resulting in new experiences. (Mcleod, 2017)

According to my VAK learning style, my style is Visual, Kinaesthetic, meaning that I am someone who has a preference for the observational learning of things that would include diagrams charts and demonstration displays I am also the type of person who enjoys the preferential hands-on experience of getting stuck in and trying things out for myself.

What Motivates Me:

Well as you can see if you have opened any of the files that I've added to this assignment there are many different things that motivate me, It started off as simple necessity but has since taken on its own life force of the never ending exploratory thirst for knowledge. What motivates me always resides somewhere above me that elusive place where we would all like to go that almost impossible dream that we would all hope to achieve.

What motivates me is the chase the thrill of starting something totally new, very much outside of your normal comfort zone climbing each rung of the learning ladder scale as I proceed until I reach the place where there is no more work left to do.

What Employers Want:

Employers of today and yesterday are all still looking for staff who possess these basic specific traits as a minimum, Trust, Honesty, integrity, someone who is also able to integrate quickly into any organization or situation, demonstrate attention to detail in all areas of their work present idea's effectively and with confidence, someone who can listen to others take orders from others working safely at all times, plan projects and manage teams, in an effective orderly and harmonious way, a serial winner, someone who will always go that extra mile for the sake of the team.

Review of Employment:

My job search aspirations at this point to be honest may have kind of stalled for the moment, notwithstanding the fact that I am constantly studying something, also currently working on my own projects, I am developing a few websites, that I plan to make public in the not too distant future. A lot of my time is therefore spent reviewing making all necessary changes associated with my own project concepts. I also have a close working relationship with a career management advisor with the Work Routes Team based at Reed in Partnership Recruitment Services. We have frequent hourly meetings roughly once every three weeks and discuss many various options of how to better prepare myself for finding starting and maintaining a decent rewarding job. Unfortunately, in the last few weeks my personal advisor with the team Priya Veerasami has now moved on to another department I'm now awaiting to see who her replacement will be.

My Career Aspirations:

My current career aspirations as you may have noticed are a little bit **outside of the normal box** that ordinary people are supposed to reside in and be contented with and are probably even delusional in the eyes of many. My current career aspirations far exceed anything that existed when we were growing up as a child. These days things are more technologically driven within our society it is a space where we can all be collectively creative in ways that would have seemed futuristic, alien, and out of reach just five years ago. Now we have a world full of entrepreneurs all vying to solve their own little problems and trying to make our world a better place to live and love for all in the process.

My attitude is simple if I encounter any problems out there in society that somehow affects me then I'm going to somehow find a way to fix it or change it. I've already created my own motto

Fear No Man - Fear No Machine - Your Pinnacle - Is My Starting Point.

With a motto like that and the total belief that I possess within myself and my own abilities the only thing that can stand in the way of my inevitable future success, is myself.

I may have the need, but I do not possess the burning desire to work for anyone but myself.

I am a very strong believer in my own abilities to succeed. My short-term goals would then be to finally complete the websites that I'm currently working on and to make them go live.

These new sites will also require partners or suppliers of goods and services in order to evolve and grow in the way in which they were intended, this will then obviously be the next phase of my new plans **depending on which site and for which business we start to develop first**

My longer-term goals would then be to expand upon the new business into what I currently recognise as an untapped market space, which if achieved according to plan will then once again have all the big guys running scared rethinking their own business operating strategies.

My Personal Development Plan:

My SMART plan goals for the future would first start with the structured plan of all the goals that I hope to achieve and surpass coupled with the efficient and wise management of my time.

Focus

I will always maintain focus and never lose sight of what I am trying to achieve regardless of anybody's criticism. I will always keep notes backups and details regarding all modifications or changes to the body of my work. I will always keep evolving and upgrading the business process as I proceed. I will always eliminate all distractions constantly reminding myself why we started to develop all of this in the first place. I will always remember where we are going and why we must reach our destination. I will always break my goals down into bit sized chunks rendering them more easily achievable.

Planning

The goal of my development plan would be to build manage maintain enhance and expand upon all the new business experiences that I will create for all partners associates and end user customers alike. The problems that I am encountering right now are qualification issues and funding opportunity issues although they are both now currently improving.

Assessing Career

The career path that I have chosen for myself is not one that I expect will just appear within the next few weeks months or even years based on my current location. But I will never give up on any of my own hopes and dreams in favour of the work or the dreams of somebody else.

Core Competencies

Do I have the all of skills required to achieve any of my goals the answer to that question would probably be no at this moment in time. I would need to gain the so called experience in a multitude of areas of business first but looking at it from another angle, anybody and everybody has the power to create a dynamic team, constructed and inhabited, by the most unique work force in the world this is also another possible route of entry into the marketplace for many businesses.

List Attributes

My role would then be to highlight and list all the gains benefits and efficiencies that can be generated via the new business opportunities we create and then convey the message in such a way that even the so-called one percent themselves will have wake up to pay full constant dedicated attention.

Set Career Goals

Career goals will be a process designed to follow a step by step curriculum based on a set of measurable and accountable timebound rules we will not try to run before we can even walk.

Career Stage Curriculum

I will always assess my progress as I move along my journey making all necessary adjustments as they arise

I will then develop my overall business plan, I will then execute the plan, I will then monitor the plan, I will then further enhance my plan, and take it to the higher next level.

Political Analysis.

The political environment in the United Kingdom today is almost akin to a no-go area in a third world country rendered totally unsafe for engagement of its inhabitants. Personally, I would not go anywhere near it until this country grows some form of backbone and cleans up the mess that it has created all by itself. I can't see anything of any true significance taking centre stage whilst we are all still embroiled within this brexshit conundrum.

Economic Analysis

The economic world that we currently reside in still needs a lot of help, we are constantly hearing stories about the fourth industrial revolution that's taking place all over the world. We hear tales of all the jobs that will be lost to the robots of the new revolution. We are now also witnessing the big corporations folding, retreating, not expanding. Closing operations rather than creating new ones, buying back stock rather than expanding their own workforce. Are we really all in a good place right now?

My preferred strategy would be to put people first, investing thought time and resources into true talent, and leadership development, we believe that this may ultimately be the single most important strategy to pursue. (Education, 2010)

Sociological Analysis

Now is the time, the world is ready for change, innovation, and the creating of new services level experiences that were not previously available for any of us. The people are ready they have already fully embraced many of the latest new economic and socioeconomic trends.

Technological Analysis

We are all adapting changing our habits embracing the latest new technological advancements in almost all current sectors of the marketplace I do not believe that there is an existing sector of the marketplace that has not been disrupted or dramatically changed over the last ten years.

We are all witnessing the rise of Blockchain, Crypto Currencies, 5g Network Technology, EV Propulsion Tech, Drones, Cloud Services, ERM Enhancements, Advanced POS Capabilities, Enhanced 4k Digital Signage Distribution, Quantum Computing Chips, Space Travel, and many more innovations that will shape the course of our world for many generations to come.

Legal

One must always stay up to date with what's current and changing in terms of new laws and also the legal structure of my own business, we already have many of the correct basic component business aspects securely in place and fully up to date although my company has yet to start trading publicly. We will make sure that we are always fully aware and in tune with the current crop of basic foundational laws.

Consumer Protection, GDPR, Discrimination, Copyright, Health, Employment, Fraud, Import and others.

Environmental

The environmental aspect of any of my projects will have no impact until they are fully developed and operational, only then will I need to have a full and thorough understanding of the analysis that would be required to evaluate the overall impact that my business would play upon society.

Conclusion.

So glad we got to the end of this one I think that I've done everything that I was supposed to, but I will not be surprised if I haven't also made a few mistakes we will just have to wait and see come judgement day.

References:

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