Reach for the Sky

Double majoring in information technology management (ITM) and business management will take Delano Robinson an extra year to complete his degree, but this senior from Bloomington, Ill., is in pursuit of a dream. Robinson came to the University of Minnesota, Crookston on a basketball scholarship.

That scholarship and the program in ITM attracted Robinson to the Crookston campus. “It was an adjustment to come to Crookston, but as you can see, I have adjusted,” Robinson smiles.

At a conference sponsored by IBM and Eli Lilly & Company, Robinson won first place with a presentation of his research on Electronic Stability Control (ESC) System Benefits, focusing on increasing vehicle safety through computer technology. The National Black Data Processing Associate (BDPA) Technology Conference, held in August 2007, was the first time Robinson had showcased his information technology skills in a competition.

That evening after winning the competition, Robinson received an invitation to participate in an internship conference at the company’s headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind.

“When I went to the internship conference, I had interviews and learned more about Eli Lilly,” explained Robinson. “The treatment was exceptional, the people were great and students from all over the country were competing for these internships.”

By the end of the day, Robinson knew he had been selected for an internship. With the help of his advisor Associate Professor Martin Lundell, Robinson has chosen to intern on a project that will equip mobile devices to be used more effectively in training and sales.

Robinson plays guard on the Golden Eagles men’s basketball team.

A dedicated and hard-working student, Robinson deeply appreciates the support he has received from Lundell, “He knows his stuff, and he is there to help you whenever you need it.”

Lundell, who teaches software engineering, recognizes Robinson’s achievement. “Delano’s hard work and determination have paid off,” Lundell says. “He not only has an opportunity to intern at Eli Lilly, he is paving the way for future success.”

When Robinson leaves the U of M, Crookston, he plans to continue his education by pursuing a master’s degree in business administration.

“My education is really important to me,” Robinson states. “As a first generation college student, I wasn’t sure if I would even go to college. It took the support of the people around me, believing in me, that made the difference. Now, I believe I can do it, and that means the sky is the limit!”