As e-mentoring partners go, Dawn Courrier and Byron Pike seemed made for each other. "Things just fell into place," says Courrier. "We both grew up in small towns, went to MSU, and were interested in tax accounting. We're just small town kids that wanted to make it in the big city," says the partner of KPMG of Minneapolis.

Courrier was Pike's e-mentor for the 2001-2002 school year. According to Corinne Dickey, Assistant to the Dean of the College of Business, Courrier and Pike made a connection even before they knew they would be e-mentoring partners for the rest of the school year.

"I was introducing everybody at the e-mentoring kick-off and when I got to them, they were already sitting together and talking. I said, 'Oh, I see you've already met,' but they didn't yet know that they were partners."

It turns out that each had sat down to talk with Professor Bruce Smith. "We really owe it to Bruce for bringing us together," Dawn laughs.

Courrier and Pike's mentoring relationship laid the foundation for Pike's easy transition into the professional world. Since choosing his major in accounting, Pike had been interested in working at KPMG. In the spring, when most e-mentoring students take part in a shadow day and mock interview at their mentor's business, Pike used the day for a real interview.

"We already knew we were going to make him an offer, based on my judgement. But we decided to have him interview, so everyone could meet him, and of course, they all loved him."

Before Pike started at KPMG, he completed an internship with Best Buy in the summer of 2002. While he was interning, Best Buy contracted KPMG as their primary tax accounting firm. Although Byron was supposed to start at KPMG in mid-August, Best Buy requested that he continue to work in their office until the first week of October.

Although Courrier was looking forward to having Pike in the office earlier, she was pleased that she had a very happy client. It was just another case of things falling into place for Courrier and Pike.

E-Mentoring Program at its Best

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