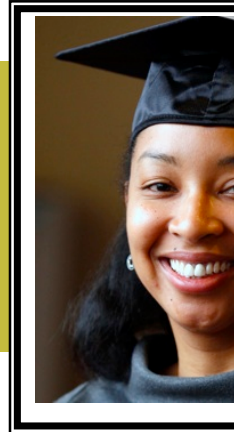


**DR. RENÉE PRATT**  
**Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems**  
**Washington and Lee University**  
**Ph.D: Florida State University**  
**Previous career: Sr. Consultant;**  
**Information Officer; web design/developer**



My parents always told me, if you are not happy with something – just change it!

I was working in a corporation, when I realized that many managers in charge of Information Systems had MBAs and business degrees, but didn't understand what managing an IS group was about. They didn't have an understanding of systems development. They were more salespeople than anything else.

I wondered, how can you find an individual who can speak the languages of both business and IS? I wanted to make better managers for IS, and show them what they need to know. Then I thought, what better way to do that than in the classroom, where I could share my experiences? I had earned my Master's, and my company was going through restructuring, so I decided there was no better time than the present to make my move.

I became very involved in the Doctoral Students Association once I entered my program. It helped me immensely. I served as secretary, vice president and president. This tremendous support system offered by the DSA family made it much easier to cope with strenuous work load and tasks given. Thanks to the DSA, I was prepared a little more than other classmates, who weren't members, for the work ahead of us.

The DSA was a family support unit. I always had someone I could call. At one conference some of us started talking about our interests, and we realized there were overlaps. We said we could do a paper together. I did one with two other members of my DSA family and it is now in review at a top tier journal. It's about healthcare and IT outsourcing.

I really enjoy where I am today. My life experiences and choices have allowed me to bring real world experience into the classroom. I enjoy my research and by doing that I can say, "I helped create a bridge of understanding for managers in IT."