

## Beyond The Homeschool Years

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### High Flyer

Anderson Sebastian Ott shares a sense of humor and honesty when asked about his life. "My father's two grandmothers' maiden names were Anderson and Sebastian, but you can call me Andy," clarifies Ott. "I can juggle. I am a pilot. I play piano and viola. I'm a passionate believer in cryptocurrencies and their potential to change the way finance works in the world. If you, dear Homeschool Magazine Reader, haven't heard of Bitcoin, please go and look it up."

Ott claims he makes a perfect cup of hot chocolate and will win all nap championships. He and Mackenzie, his wife, are raising their young children in Wisconsin. "I work a 24.5-hour shift every third day as an Airport Operations Coordinator at the La Crosse Regional Airport. I perform FAA and TSA-required inspections on my shift. I am also the firefighter on the field."

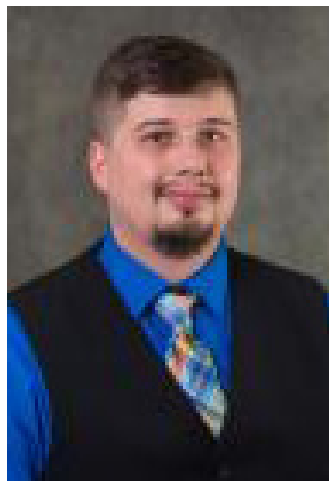
Following his homeschool graduation in Iowa, Ott enrolled at Calvin College in Michigan to major in physics. "I realized that I didn't want to continue with that major, because most of the physics-related careers were either teaching, researching, or becoming an engineer. None of those interested me. I dropped out during what would have been my sophomore year and worked full time at Village Creek Bible Camp. My junior and senior years of college were at the University of Dubuque. I graduated from UD in May of 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management. I chose UD because I had always been interested in aviation and because it was in my hometown, which meant I could live with my parents and not pay rent. (My parents did offer up a few complaints about me returning home, but on the whole, I don't think they minded having me around)."

Faith filled Ott's home and as well as his educational years. "My parents were my primary spiritual teachers. I fully reject the public opinion that homeschooling creates socially inept people. Most of my friends in high school were homeschooled, simply because they were the people I had the most interaction with on the cross-country team, the theater groups, dances, and spring senior banquet. I was also in the Dubuque Youth Symphony and volunteered in community theater over the years. A favorite memory from high school was my two-year study for English using the Lord of the Rings book series."

"I took a year off college to do some soul-searching, but the coursework I completed at the community college while in high school was credited. My parents did a really great job getting me the proper social contact with all sorts of people as they supervised my education."



**Andy Ott**  
AIRPORT OPERATIONS  
COORDINATOR



### Future Decision Maker

Meet David King, homeschooled from third grade through his high school graduation, is a self-described hiker and traveler. "I work as an Admissions Advisor at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. My job requires me to be on the road visiting high schools and community colleges in eastern Iowa and western Illinois meeting with students who may be interested in attending UW-Platteville. I enjoy my job and the territory I cover."

## David King

ADMISSIONS ADVISOR

King's educational background is as diverse as his job. The traditions and experiences his parents

provided formed the framework that has guided him to other countries and back to Iowa.

"My mom used unit studies for our schooling and added things she thought would enhance our education. We compared volcanic activity in Yellowstone and Iceland. The homeschooling group made and ate Icelandic food, studied its history and culture, and studied the geology. Another year we made a working shark target and sent it to a research facility in Florida. I remember using a stylus that we carved to do math in the Mesopotamian tradition."

These early international studies ignited David's desire to travel. "I was born in a suburb of Chicago. And each time our family moved, it was to own more land. Our family finally ended up with a 30-acre hobby farm in northern Illinois. We had horses, cattle, llamas, goats, and chickens. I learned the value of challenging work and the responsibility that comes from caring for livestock. I showed cattle at the World Beef Expo and won several Grand Championships. I met with national and state leaders to discuss importing and exporting beef. Those years of traveling and geography lessons sparked my interest to visit the world. After high school, I choose North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, because of their highly-rated international studies program. Studying in China and Japan provided opportunities to meet friends that I still have today. We had 12 international friends over for Thanksgiving Dinner last fall."

Students don't live in a vacuum. "My home education included biblical character development. We did a lot of group activities for 4-H and other social groups. My friends come from all walks of life. My family helped shape my faith as a child. My Christian worldview is based on living a Christ-like life, knowing it is impossible to do, but I must try. I will never have all the answers, but my journey is one of growth."

Mr. King earned a Master's degree in Adult Education from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and offers these words to homeschoolers, "I encourage any student to reach outside their comfort zone and explore areas of interests they may not be familiar with. Gain confidence in acquiring new skills. Reach out and meet new people. Everyone has a purpose. Find yours."

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