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What is your favorite Madison/campus memory?
Being a part of the marching band comes to mind first. The marching band was, and still is widely loved. It was a lot of fun for me, and I especially enjoyed creating the fun atmosphere at UW football games that I remember so fondly. I am happy to see Mike Leckrone is still the Director.

What has helped you achieve success in your career?
I have always had a high level of excitement and willingness to learn more about new technology, inventions, business models, and the different ways of doing things that have been done before. I think having an inquisitive mind, a serious ambition, and the ability to have fun through it all, are assets anyone can use to help make positive progress in the world.

Outside of class, what experiences did you find most meaningful?
The friendships I established at UW-Madison have been most meaningful to me. I had the opportunity to form relationships with a diverse group of people who were studying different disciplines than me, and I actually met my wife at UW. She was studying in the agriculture disciplines. The fun part about being a student at a large university like UW is that you will the opportunity to interact with others who are having a similar experience to you, but also a completely different one too.

What excites you about the future of Engineering?
Due to technology innovations, I don't think we as human beings have ever lived in such a rapidly changing environment. The number of things changing right now, for example, self-driving cars, everything mobile, renewable/sustainable energy, 3D printing, drones, robotics, are going to dramatically change the way we live each decade. Because of these changes, there are and will be incredible challenges too. It will essentially change the way everything is done as we know it. In addition to the social and ethical implications that there are and will be, we will experience changing abilities we never knew could be done before by human beings. It’s completely open to the dreams of future engineers.

Besides engineering, do you have another passion you have pursued or would have liked to pursue given the time?
I love the intersection of engineering and business. Engineering enters every other discipline like the social sciences, healthcare, human interactions, and with the advances in technology, it is quite easy for an engineer to transition into a different role in their industry. While I wouldn’t trade my time as an engineer for anything else, without profitable business, engineering is not sustainable. Engineering needs support, and a successful business can provide that.

Who was an influential peer/professor from your time at UW-Madison?
Two names that come to mind immediately are Professor Chuck Kime, and Professor Donald Dietmeyer. Professor Kime was my master’s project advisor and we spent quite a bit of time together. Professor Dietmeyer was a great professor who I feel helped me learn more about engineering and computing than anyone else.
What are you most proud of in life? What is your greatest achievement?
My children who are adults now. Both of them have dove into their professions, and are demonstrating the same kind of ambition, fun, and excitement about their work, that I have.

What would be your advice to current students? What do you wish you had known?
Take away from your UW experience how to think critically and how to approach problems. We have to remember that all problems are solvable, and there is a methodology for solving it. Focus on your studies, and you will find the right one to for the current problem. Also don’t forget to work hard, and play hard. The comradery that is built at UW creates a community! This community is what will help you and others to have the confidence in yourself and others to achieve ones’ dreams. Your influence on others, and their influence on you is what will make your life satisfying. Do your best to build other others up, because this will be satisfying for both of you.