Ferrel Stremler
Retired

What is your favorite Madison/campus memory?
Football games. I had a joint appointment at the Space Science building. We had a dish on top of the building we were working on. It also happened to have a GREAT view of the football games.

What has helped you achieve success in your career?
Setting goals. In the first faculty meetings, there were always discussions about how the department could enhance its reputation and become better known. I set goals and achieved things like writing a textbook, getting teaching awards and working with national programs like ABET.

Outside of class, what experiences did you find most meaningful?
My work at space science. I worked on high altitude balloons for monitoring weather. We used to launch them from the roof for trials.

What excites you about the future of Engineering?
Rapidly expanding knowledge and the ability to interface with other disciplines. There is so much more to offer when we all work together.

Besides engineering, do you have another passion you have pursued or would have liked to pursue given the time?
Golf and bible study and I currently volunteer one day a week as an instructor to incarcerated students.

Who was an influential peer/professor from your time at UW-Madison?
Ray King, an ECE professor. He took me under his wing. He’s the one who got me interested in teaching and different teaching methods.

What are you most proud of in life? What is your greatest achievement?
Writing a textbook that went through three editions. I received worldwide recognition. Also my work at Michigan in advanced radar methods.

What would be your advice to current students? What do you wish you had known?
Set your goals! Find things that really interest you. Make sure you worry less and enjoy more. I was at Madison for 29 years and it went so fast.