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What is your favorite Madison/campus memory?
I can’t put my finger on any one thing – just that I really enjoyed my time at UW. When I was an undergraduate and then a Master’s student, astro-turf hadn’t yet been invented, so right behind the EE building were all these practice football fields. When the football team wasn’t practicing, my buddies and I could play whatever games we wanted to. Then astro-turf happened. Also, back then there used to be a cafeteria on the engineering side of campus called The Breeze Terrace cafeteria. My friends and I used to eat dinner at the Memorial Union, and lunch as Breeze Terrace. We had a hunch that unused food from the Union cafeteria was being served on the next day at Breeze Terrace, and we used to get a big kick when we could confirm this.

What has helped you achieve success in your career?
First of all, having a father who was himself a researcher. He was a professor of mathematics. Second, I had and still have a great deal of curiosity to learn new things. Once I myself became a professor, I realized that intelligence is in abundant supply – it is curiosity that is in short supply. So my willingness to step out of my comfort zone and learn new things has been a big advantage. Third, once I entered my thirties, I became quite disciplined. That also helped a lot.

Outside of class, what experiences did you find most meaningful?
Just talking to a wide variety of students from various disciplines and backgrounds was very beneficial for me.

What excites you about the future of Engineering?
The nearly infinite possibilities of using machine learning in all aspects of science. I did work on statistical learning theory during the 1990s, and during the past several years I have been working on the algorithmic and implementation aspects. Also, I believe that the integration of technologies is one of the most promising areas. Smart phones, tablets etc., are just the start I believe. During the past few years I have also realized the enormous potential of applying machine learning methods to cancer biology, and have published a few papers in the area. Unfortunately, the biology community has really grasped the potential, in my view; I hope that will change in future.

Besides engineering, do you have another passion you have pursued or would have liked to pursue given the time?
As a student I used to play every sport imaginable, and was fairly competent at them too (after accounting for the fact that I was much younger than my classmates). Then becoming a professor, then marriage, then fatherhood, meant that sports slowly fell by the wayside, and I just did jogging to stay in shape. I like learning foreign languages. During my undergraduate days at UW I studied French, and built on that, so that I actually taught a course in French in Toulouse in 1978. I also learned Japanese and can speak it reasonably well. My next project, though I don’t know when I will get to it, is to learn ancient Greek. Of course I know Sanskrit fairly well, and am hoping to improve my knowledge once I retire.

Who was an influential peer/professor from your time at UW-Madison?
My supervisor, Professor T. J. Higgins, was legendary. I didn’t gain much technical knowledge from him, but he was very instrumental in making me less impetuous and less impatient as a student. That was very
important for me. I also had the privilege of collaborating with Professor Hans Schneider of the Mathematics Department. As a Ph.D. student I took a course from him, and we wrote a paper together which continued to be cited over roughly a forty-year period.

**What are you most proud of in life? What is your greatest achievement?**
Without a doubt my family came and comes first: My wife, then our daughter, then her husband, and now their soon to be born son. Besides that, the fact that I seem to have gained the respect of my peer group (or should I say groups?) is a source of pride for me. The books I wrote thirty years ago still continue to be cited, which shows that if you take the time to do something well, it will have a lasting impact.

**What would be your advice to current students? What do you wish you had known?**
I find that today’s students have ultra-short attention spans. I firmly believe that, unless a student invests the time to learn a subject *thoroughly*, s/he is not going to be successful. It is difficult to get this message across when the peer group also consists of people with ultra-short attention spans, but I keep plugging away.