Michael A. Aimone  
Retired Professional Engineer

What is your favorite Madison/campus memory?  
Teaching, for over 10 years, numerous week-long engineering professional development short-courses at the Pyle Center, and introducing 30+ classes of graduated engineers the vibrant night life in around the UW Madison Campus.

What has helped you achieve success in your career?  
First, my family who provided me a grounding in what is really important in life, and second through the engineering coursework – both at the undergrad and graduate level – which taught me to better recognize and visualize the nature of the interconnection natural world through math and science principles. Finally, I had the great fortune to travel to over 20 countries as part of my duties at the U.S. Department of Defense – and these postings gave me a new appreciation of how engineers from other nation’s solve some of the most wicket engineering problems across the globe.

What excites you about the future of Engineering?  
The rapid advances in Nano machines and devices and how they are revolutionizing biomedicine, and how MEMS might improve the quality of health care for older generations.

Besides engineering, do you have another passion you have pursued or would have liked to pursue given the time?  
Besides mentoring my grandkids, I have re-gained interest in my childhood hobby of amateur radio. I have rebuilt my “ham shack” and use shortwave radios to talk to other “Hams”, including bouncing radio waves off the moon to talk to likeminded “Hams” half-way around the world. And let’s not forget Wisconsin Football!

Who was an influential peer/professor from your time at UW-Madison?  
Professor Willis Long, who taught in both the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, as well as in the UW-Madison Extension program of professional continuing development short-courses. I particularly enjoyed his courses in high voltage direct current transmission.

What are you most proud of in life? What is your greatest achievement?  
Managing the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse. My office was tasked by Congress to review over 10,000 utility-scale wind turbine projects within the U.S. in order to assess the potential impact of these tall structures on the Department of Defense test, training and operational missions. These evaluations included the Doppler Shift impact generated by military ground and air-based radar and radio emissions.
What would be your advice to current students? What do you wish you had known?
Don’t learn for the test, but rather take the long-view and truly learn the art and science of your engineering profession. Don’t be afraid to ask questions! Understand that exactly what you learn today may become outdated or superseded by invention and innovation over a career, but that the engineering principles won’t change.