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What is your favorite Madison/campus memory?
Time spent on the terrace. Advisors taking us to have a beer to celebrate a milestone. The weather and the beauty of being on the terrace.

What has helped you achieve success in your career?
Mentors are important. They provide great feedback and guidance. I was fortunate to find them at UW-Madison. They have been and continue to be important and influential in my life.

Outside of class, what experiences did you find most meaningful?
Our grad program did an annual symposium where researchers from industry came in and we presented our research. It was great getting feedback and having the opportunity to present our research. Most of the industry people coming in were alumni and I remember being excited by their enthusiasm for the university, the department and our research.

What excites you about the future of Engineering?
We’re on the edge of powerful innovations. We have easy access to computing power. We can ask new questions and get new answers. The collaboration to work between disciplines will be life changing to everyone.

Besides engineering, do you have another passion you have pursued or would have liked to pursue given the time?
Art. I considered studying art in college, but engineering was more practical. I did spend a bit of time painting and doing stained glass during my time in Madison. Given more time now, I’d love to pursue it more.

Who was an influential peer/professor from your time at UW-Madison?
My PhD advisor, Mikko Lipasti. He was a tremendous teacher and researcher. He is brilliant! He modeled what it meant to be a successful professor. He is also committed to life outside of work which has helped me learn to find that balance.

What are you most proud of in life? What is your greatest achievement?
I’ve had a lot of great things happen, but I’m only in my 30’s. There is so much left to do so there isn’t one specific thing that sticks out to me yet.

What would be your advice to current students? What do you wish you had known?
I wish I hadn’t stressed out so much about the little things. Grades are important, but a single bad test or quiz score isn’t the end of the world. The important thing is really learning the material, which doesn’t always come through on your test scores. In undergraduate life, making sure to have social interactions. They are just as important as the academic portion of your college years. Make sure you have balance.