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What is your favorite Madison/campus memory?
Since I went to a small high school in a small town, and Madison is much larger, the campus life at UW-Madison is a favorite memory. Specifically, living in the dorms, large parties than I had experienced before, spending time at Memorial Union, and campus life in general provided many opportunities for fun.

What has helped you achieve success in your career?
Being an engineering student at UW-Madison teaches you how to survive. There wasn’t much coddling, which forced me to solve problems on my own. Also, being a GM Scholar allowed me to gain practical experiences as an intern, which then guided my course work as I learned new skills in the work force. I learned that you can’t always rely on others to tell you what or how to do your work.

Outside of class, what experiences did you find most meaningful?
The variety of activities the Madison offers allowed me to establish many friendships, and participate in activities like club and varsity soccer, Hoofers, and sailing. The amount of University and non-campus related events made it a fun place to be.

What excites you about the future of Engineering?
Technology continues to evolve so quickly. When I was at UW, Wi-Fi technology hardly existed! I am excited about the research being done by top universities like UW, who are already underway with research that is way ahead of its time.

Besides engineering, do you have another passion you have pursued or would have liked to pursue given the time?
I have always been interested in teaching. I would like to teach at the university level given the time.

Who was an influential peer/professor from your time at UW-Madison?
Three Professors immediately come to mind. Professor Donald Dietmeyer because he taught me how to think critically about circuit level design. His teaching can only be compared to what it must be like to learn about music from Mozart. Professor Richard Marlow taught a computer design course in a lab, which helped me understand the practical nature of engineering and what engineering is. Finally, Professor John Wiley had a superb knack for making the theoretical, applicable.

What are you most proud of in life? What is your greatest achievement?
I am most proud of my wife and three kids. I can’t imagine my life without them in it. Other than my family, I am quite proud of having started several companies including, Brocade Communications, Tasmania Network Systems, and Ingrian Networks, all of which provided a great number jobs and changed the industry forever. In each of these cases, I was able to do something I loved and also bring change to the world.

What would be your advice to current students? What do you wish you had known?
Be sure to experience classes and activities outside of the engineering school. I wish I known more and taken more classes in the business school. A broad education outside of engineering is critical in the world we live in. After graduation or soon thereafter, many engineering students will move into roles like management, product marketing, business development, and more, where a broad knowledge will be critical.