



# imprint



# Partners of the Illinois Leadership Center

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## Brian W. Young

*College of Engineering*

Mechanical Engineering, 1994



Engineering Team Leader, Caterpillar

Brian serves as an Engineering Team Leader and Senior Engineering Specialist for Caterpillar where he specializes in powertrain controls development. Before joining the Caterpillar team in 2004, Brian spent ten years in vehicle and engine development at Ford Motor Company in metro Detroit. Brian stresses experience in team projects, taking risks, a healthy regard for competition, technical writing skills, and presentation abilities attributing to career success. In addition, he completed the 2015 Bradley University Powering Up MBA-style program for select Caterpillar leaders. Brian also volunteers his time facilitating Values Based Leadership workshops, providing leadership tools, and coaching and mentoring his teams. Brian's Personal Brand is Achievement and he enjoys helping his peers excel in their roles. Brian has 101 hobbies and enjoys coaching soccer, modifying and racing cars, piloting drones with electric and nitro engines, maintaining salt water reef tanks, landscaping, maintaining machinery, completing building projects, and spending time with his family and two dogs. Brian and his family are also very active in the Celiac disease (gluten free) support groups. He is married to a 1992 Illinois grad and has one son about to enter college. This is Brian's 9th time supporting the Imprint program.

## Jay Yao

*College of Engineering*

Electrical Engineering, 2014



Technology Engineer, Wolfram Research

Jay began as a technology engineer at Wolfram Research in February '15, after graduating in Electrical Engineering at University of Illinois. At Wolfram, he assists clients on software and programming, and creates technical content for Mathematica users. He focuses on external devices and parallel technologies. University of Illinois provided him an invaluable and remarkable experience. He plans on getting a MBA in the future. On weekends, he likes to go jogging, play his saxophone, and connect with old school friends.

## Illinois Philosophy of Leadership

Leaders are individuals who work with others to create positive change. Leadership can be practiced by anyone interested in making a contribution, regardless of formal authority or position.

Leadership development begins with self-knowledge—understanding one's passions, motivations, strengths, limits, and personal values. Leaders are committed to continual self-discovery, reflection, and learning.

Learning to work with others is essential, since leadership never happens alone.

Leadership is exercised as members of teams, business, civic, and community organizations, and as global citizens. Leaders recognize and value the multitude of voices, opinions, experiences, and identities in our workplaces and communities, and as leaders, we work to promote greater inclusivity and respect.

At the University of Illinois, students learn and practice leadership in their academic coursework and out of classroom activities.

## **Lead Facilitator: Heather Horn**

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

Speech Communication, 2001

*School of Labor and Employment Relations*

Master of Human Resources & Industrial Relationships,  
2003



Assistant Director, Academic Labor and Employee Relations, University of Illinois

Heather serves as the chief negotiator for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on campus labor agreements. Her passion for the field evolved while pursuing a Master's degree through the School of Labor & Employee Relations from the University of Illinois. She has worked in this field for over ten years. She also has a passion for leadership development. Heather enjoys providing mentorship to young students and athletes alike as she was a setter for the University of Illinois' Varsity Volleyball Team during college. In addition to her full-time work, Heather enjoys coaching, being a wife and mother, and playing sports.

## **Nate Adams**

*College of Business*

Finance, 2001



Vice President, HSBC

Nate has worked in Financial Services for 15 years in a variety of roles including Commercial Banking, Equity Research, Corporate Development, and Risk Management. He started his career at Merrill Lynch and currently works at HSBC. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois and an MBA from the University of Cambridge.

## **Ralph Wakerly**

*College of Engineering*

General Engineering, 1980

*College of Business*

Master of Business Administration, 1982



President, C-Suite Resources, Inc. & Wakerly Partners, Inc.

Ralph is a consultant, entrepreneur, and educator with expertise in marketing, business development, healthcare, education, and career growth. He is President and co-founder of Wakerly Partners, an independent consulting firm, and C-Suite Resources, a market intelligence, education and executive advisory services firm for the healthcare industry. Earlier in his career, he served as a National Practice Director and Marketing Vice President for a \$275M healthcare Information Technology consulting firm. There he led and developed marketing programs contributing to 35% annualized revenue growth. He has performed more than 100 high-impact consulting projects for a variety of clients, including Abbott Nutrition, GE Healthcare, CDW Healthcare, and the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council.

## **Pamela York**

*College of Engineering*

Electrical Engineering, 1984

M.S. Electrical Engineering, 1985

PhD Electrical Engineering, 1990



General Partner, Capita3

Pamela York is an entrepreneur, investor, and advisor with operational and executive experience in both startups and corporations. She began her career inventing lasers for optical networking, and on discovering her passion for business, she transitioned to building companies. Pam has been a co-founder in four startups - two in investment (Atasi Ventures, Capita3) and two high tech venture capital financed companies (Orchid Cellmark, Princeton Lightwave.) Prior successful exits from startup ventures are Orchid Cellmark (acquired by Labcorp) and New Focus (acquired by Newport.) In addition to building individual companies, Pam also built a technology startup pipeline at the University of Iowa, where she oversaw investment in a 1000 technology portfolio concentrated in life sciences, creating dozens of new startups that raised tens of millions in follow-on capital.

## Melissa Skoog

*College of Fine and Applied Arts*  
History of Art, 1995

Founder/Owner, SKOOG Productions LLC



Melissa Skoog has had a multi-faceted career in the fashion industry for the past twenty years, having worked in publishing, public relations, and merchandising. Melissa began her career as the assistant to the Editor in Chief of Vogue magazine and continued her editorial career as the Accessories Market Editor of Vogue and Marie Claire magazines. In 2000, Melissa moved to San Francisco where she was a Merchant for Banana Republic's women's division for four years before moving back to the east coast and ultimately serving as Vice President of Public Relations for Prada USA, where she oversaw communications and events. In 2012, Melissa founded SKOOG Productions, a Chicago-based brand strategy and communications firm with a roster of clients in fashion, hospitality and lifestyle. Melissa's passion for early education and women's issues drives her participation as a member of the Parent-Child Home Program's National Board, Executive Board Member of Bright Pink and Advisory Council member of 1871's WiSTEM Program, which connects women to capital, community, and technology resources. Melissa is also a member of the Rush University Medical Center's Woman's Board, the Chair of the Woman's Board Community Outreach Committee, and serves on Choose Chicago's Cultural Tourism Commission. In 2012, Melissa was named to Crain's Chicago Business' "40 Under 40."

## Carol H. Stanek

*College of Business*  
Marketing & Commerce, 1984

Retired; Former Global Sales Director, Hilton Worldwide



Carol has served in the hospitality industry for the majority of her professional life. Her most recent role with Hilton Worldwide was a Global Sales Director. This position was a culmination of 30 years of hotel sales and client management. She spanned eight cities, worked every market segment, progressively managed local, regional, national then global markets. She also opened a Hilton Garden Inn in Indianapolis, an exclamation point in her journey. As she devoted the first half of her life to her career, she is focusing now on her personal life and passions. She got married last year, not once but twice! With her husband's support, she can volunteer for the causes that she cares for deeply. The goal is to return to the marketplace in 2017 serving one of these fine organizations.

## Frank Barciak III

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Psychology, 2001  
*School of Labor and Employment Relations*  
Master of Human Resources & Industrial Relations, 2004



Executive Coach, The American Institute of Management and Strategy

Frank studied Industrial Organizational Psychology and Human Resources and Industrial Relations during his six years at Illinois. He went on to study executive coaching at Northwestern and spent time in the security, airline, education, retail, and consulting industries. Frank lives in Chicago and Atlanta.

## Gregg BeVier

*College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences*  
Agriculture, 1975  
*College of Veterinary Medicine*  
M.S. Animal Sciences, 1977  
Veterinary Medicine, 1980  
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, 1982  
*College of Business*  
Master of Business Administration, 1992



COO, Sexing Technologies

Dr. Gregg BeVier has over thirty-five years of experience as a business executive and is currently based near Atlanta, GA. He is the COO of Sexing Technologies and the CEO of Fast Genetics. Most recently he managed the livestock portfolio at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as a Senior Program Officer. Prior to the foundation he held various positions including the President of PIC, the Senior Vice President of Livestock Operations for Premium Standard Farms and the Head of the Production Animal Global Enterprise for Merial. Dr. BeVier is originally from a suburb near Chicago, Illinois and has traveled extensively throughout the world. He and his family have also lived in England and Spain. He has moved 14 times in the past 40 years. He enjoys helping others achieve their dreams and advocates servant leadership. In 2004 he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine. He has been a lifetime member of the American Veterinary Medicine Association and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians.



## Ester Cha

*College of Engineering*  
Computer Engineering, 2006  
*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Linguistics, 2014



Senior Application Specialist, University of Illinois

Ester graduated from the University of Illinois in 2006 with a degree in Computer Engineering and has been working at the University in the area of Identity and Access Management for the past nine years. She also has a Master's in Teaching English as a Second Language, specializing in phonology, and coaches second language learners from time to time. She enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors, and likes to stay active.

## Bhibha M. Das

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Molecular & Integrative Physics, 2003  
*College of Applied Health Sciences*  
Ph.D. Kinesiology, 2011



Assistant Professor, East Carolina University

Bhibha is employed currently at East Carolina University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology. Prior to her academic career, Bhibha worked in the field of public health, first at the Illinois Department of Public Health and then at Human Kinetics Publishers, Inc. As a life-long Illini, Bhibha is excited to share her experiences with fellow Illini to help them develop and maintain the skills needed for personal and professional success.

## Julissa Ruiz

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Political Science, 1997

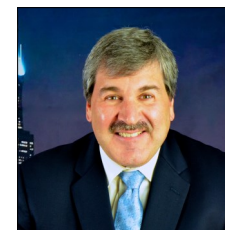


Attorney, Law Office of Julissa Ruiz

Julissa is currently practicing law in the areas of immigration and family law. Before practicing law, she was an organizer and lobbyist for a consumer advocacy group. She has advocated both in Springfield and D.C. on consumer and immigration issues.

## Joe Shake

*College of Business*  
Accountancy, 1982



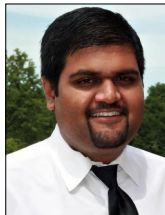
President, JS Consulting

Joe Shake is a leader with a strong record of accomplishments in profile & loss management, business development, supply chain management, and high impact negotiating. He is an independent consultant specializing in generating top line revenue and margin improvement via operational efficiencies. Joe has extensive experience in various industries including distribution, food and beverage for the non-commercial sector, construction management, and industrial coatings and cleaning. He served as General Manager for the Chicago branch of Compass Group, overseeing \$30M in annual revenue, 60 trucks on the road daily, 1,200 plus clients, and 7,000 pieces of equipment. Joe planned and managed the renovation of a 120,000 square foot building for Canteen to move from their original 35,000 square foot building to handle their growth. Prior to that he served as Sales Manager for Vistar distributing candy, snacks, and beverages into a five state territory and over \$200M annually through several industries. Joe also served as Chief Financial Officer and General Manager in Anaheim, CA for an independently owned, \$15M company, where he engineered an 8% age point turnaround in profitability within one year. He also has extensive experience in supply chain management and contract negotiations for several union trades. He has an MBA from Lewis University. He was active in the vending industry and has served as an Executive Board Member for the California Automatic Vendors Council, advisory board member for the National Automatic Merchandising Association One Show, and was a member of the Illinois Automatic Merchandising Council.

## Mitul Patel

*College of Engineering*

Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2007



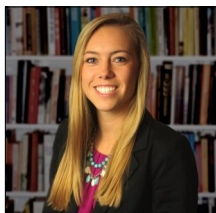
CEO/Founder, MP Consulting LLC

Mitul Patel is an Electrical Engineer, consultant, product developer, entrepreneur, and innovator with 11 technology patents submitted to date. Prior to founding MP Consulting (MPC), Mitul started his career at Motorola Mobility where he worked for over nine years through numerous acquisitions from Google to finally Lenovo. After exiting Motorola, Mitul ran the electrical engineering team for a small Bay Area start up called Cuff, which made smart jewelry. Upon transitioning from Cuff to a journey of entrepreneurship, many of the skills discussed at Imprint went into immediate practice. From networking to building meaningful relationships, MPC went from a company of one employee working out of a home office to over 10 employees with a commercial office in just one year. Utilizing relationships built over the last 15 years from Champaign to Motorola, MPC has carved out a niche as a boutique development firm focusing on the Internet of Things, Wearables, Smart Home, and other smart industrial devices. Mitul is an avid backpacker, scuba diver, nature enthusiast, and photographer.

## Stephanie Richartz

*College of Engineering*

Industrial Engineering, 2015



Business & Systems Integration Analyst, Accenture

Stephanie Richartz is a recent University of Illinois graduate who studied Industrial Engineering and earned a minor in Communication. While on campus Stephanie was a pole vaulter on the track and field team, a Graf Intern at the Illinois Leadership Center, and a member of Chi Omega Sorority. Today she works in Chicago in technology consulting for Accenture. Stephanie works with a team daily to implement new technological systems for energy clients all over the nation. Stephanie remains involved in track and field and enjoys staying involved with the University of Illinois and learning from others as she travels around the world.

## Pat Doyle-Grace

*College of Education*

M.A. Teaching of English, 1970



Donor Relations/Development Officer, MacMurray College

Currently Pat works in the Institutional Advancement Office of MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois. Prior to this she was a Corporate Training Specialist for Cejka Search, a nationally recognized search firm that recruits executives and physicians for the healthcare industry. She joined the firm at its inception in 1982 as a senior consultant and moved into corporate training in 2001. While focusing on devoting and implementing corporate training programs, she became a certified Franklin Covey facilitator and also was trained and certified by Employment Learning Innovations to conduct training programs in civil treatment in the workplace for both managers and employees. She was president of the National Association of Physician Recruiter's, a faculty member of their training school, and a member of the Board of Directors.

## Dan Duster

*College of Business*

Finance, 1991



President, 3D Development Group

Dan Duster, president of 3D Development Group, is a motivational speaker and trainer. He's known as Dan Duster - The Barrier Buster...helping people Obliterate Obstacles on their Path to Prosperity. Dan impacts leaders across the nation through his workshops and speeches, showing you how to set & achieve goals, communicate effectively and "Achieve Your Amazing." Dan just published a book for entrepreneurs called Peaceful Selling – Easy Sales Techniques to Grow Your Small Business. One of his most requested speeches is Success Starts Now, showing college students what it takes to be successful on campus and immediately after graduation. Dan has worked in sales for companies that include IBM, Coca-Cola, and Verizon. He's owned his own company for the past 15 years where he has worked with small businesses as well as corporations to increase sales, improve productivity and create high performance teams.

## Jim Fessler

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Speech Communication, 1985

Chief Administrative Officer, General Counsel, Dhaliwal Laboratories, LLC



Jim Fessler earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1988 from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, and his Master of Law (LLM) degree in Real Estate Law in 2008. Upon graduating from law school, Jim served as a Judicial Clerk to the Honorable Thomas J. Moran, Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court. Since completing his clerkship, Jim has practiced law in Chicago, specializing in appellate advocacy, commercial litigation, local government law, insurance coverage law, and real estate law. Jim has served on the Student Affairs Advisory Committee, the Chicago Illini Club Board of Directors, the Urbana-Champaign Campus Alumni Advisory Board, the University of Illinois Alumni Association Board of Directors, and as a member of the University of Illinois Foundation, among others. Jim also enjoys travelling, golf, wine, Illini athletics, the Chicago Bears, Chicago Blackhawks, Chicago Cubs, and Dunkin Donuts coffee.

## Scott Fisher

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Psychology, 1972  
*College of Engineering*  
Computer Science, 1976



Program Manager, Ecolab

Scott has held a variety of titles including computer engineer, software developer, teacher, and manager. In his free time, Scott serves on nonprofit boards, mentors at the University of Minnesota, is a member of the University of Illinois Math Department Board, and gives computer science guess lectures.

## Ron Lloyd

*College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences*  
Agriculture, 1994  
M.S. Crop Sciences, 2001



National Director, Land O'Lakes-Winfield United

Ron was raised on a grain farm near Girard, IL. He worked for a few years as a sales agronomist in agriculture retail, then joined Monsanto in 1996. He spent over 18 years with Monsanto in various roles from a Tech Development Representative, U.S. Agronomy and Learning Center Lead, and most recently U.S. Agronomy Lead. He is an alumnus of the Illinois Agriculture Leadership Program and former College of ACES alumni Director. He then joined Gregg Sauder to start 360 Yield Center almost three years ago to bring new tools and solutions to farmers. He has recently decided to get back to his agronomy roots and has accepted a National Director position with Winfield United (a subsidiary of Land O'Lakes) to help focus on business and large customer strategy. Ron has a passion for agriculture and working with growers to continue to improve productivity and profit in their operations. He also enjoys working with people to help them develop and progress in their careers and passions.

## Colleen Malany

*College of Applied Health Sciences*  
Physical Education, 1974



Founder/Executive Director, JKB Experiential Education Foundation

Colleen taught and coached for four years in Dade County, FL before working in the field of Dentistry for 10 years. In 1994 she and Ken Braid founded The J. Kyle Braid Leadership Foundation in memory of their son. She was the CEO/Executive Director for 20 years. In 2014, Colleen founded and launched the JKB Experiential Education Foundation to continue her son's legacy and is currently the CEO/Executive Director of the comprehensive leadership program for rising juniors in high school. She is a certified ROPES course facilitator which is included in her operation duties for the foundation. Past and present affiliations include: Delta Gamma Fraternity, American Association of Respiratory Care, Florida Society of Respiratory Care, American Association of University Women, Advisory Board of the National Institute of Steroid Research, and M&M Orthopedic steroid presentation panel. She was presented the Brevard County, Florida Citizen of the Year Award by Florida Today and in 2007 the Illinois Humanitarian Award. She currently is a Rotarian in Las Vegas and Paul Harris Fellow.



## Krista Hopper

*College of Engineering*  
Electrical Engineering, 2004



Engineering Career Foundation Program Manager,  
Boeing

Krista has been with The Boeing Company since 2004 and has held numerous roles over that time. She has worked as an electrical, systems and project engineer on Army program Future Combat Systems, Air Force and International F-15 fighter jets, Navy F/A-18 fighter jet. She was also a Customer and Program Manager for International customers for Boeing's Weapons programs. Krista has worked outside of engineering as an auditor in the Enterprise Auditor program. She was an inaugural participant of the St. Louis Engineering rotation program and was active in REACH leadership positions early in her career and has remained involved with internal and external engineering organizations and societies, including Women In Aviation and Society of Women Engineers. Krista is currently the Program Manager for the St. Louis and Charleston Engineering Careers Foundation Program. Prior to Boeing, Krista was a project manager for Integrated Project Management Company in Chicago where she oversaw facility upgrades for a Pharmacia client. Krista holds a Systems Engineering masters degree from the University of Southern California. In her free time, Krista enjoys activities with her husband and 18-month old daughter, traveling to new places, skiing, and binge watching Netflix and Hulu.

## Ashley Johnson

*College of Media*  
News Editorial, 2006



Communications Specialist, Finance, Boeing

Ashley Johnson is an award-winning communications professional who seeks to educate and empower people with her words. She currently works in Finance Communications at The Boeing Company, where she leads change management communications and partners with communicators across the company to improve employee understanding of business and financial realities. Previously, Johnson worked at the National Safety Council, producing magazine articles and blog posts about workplace safety for Safety+Health, a leading magazine for safety professionals. Her work has appeared in the Chicago Sun-Times, Naperville Sun, Beacon-News, and National Journal magazine. She earned her master's from Northwestern University.

## Brian Folkerts

*College of Agricultural, Consumer, and  
Environmental Sciences*  
Agriculture, 1982



Vice President, Public & Government Affairs,  
Mondelez International

Brian Folkerts has more than 30 years of experience leading and managing staff, budget, public policy, and advocacy for three global Fortune 100 consumer products companies, the largest U.S. food industry trade association, the U.S. Executive Branch and Congress, and a Midwestern Governor. After graduating from Illinois in 1982, Brian joined the Farm Credit System in northern Illinois, but his interest in politics and public policy soon lured him to Washington, D.C. He did stints in government and the non-profit sector before joining the Philip Morris family of companies where he led U.S. and global government affairs programs for Kraft Foods and Mondelez International. Brian and his family live in northern Virginia, but he returns frequently to the family farm in north central Illinois. He splits his baseball allegiance between the Chicago Cubs and the Washington Nationals.

## Chris Garcia

*College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental  
Sciences*  
Agriculture & Commercial Education, 2004  
*College of Business*  
Master of Business Administration, 2005



Brand Manager, Johnson Controls

As an Illini with over a decade of marketing experience, Chris has had the fortunate opportunity to work on both the advertising agency and client-side of the business with various brands and industries. Currently, he utilizes his leadership qualities as a marketing manager at Johnson Controls, Inc. and influences the channel of distribution within the US HVAC market. He is looking forward to returning as an I-Program facilitator again to pay it forward to future leaders of tomorrow by sharing his successes attributed to his Illinois Leadership Center program experiences.

## Maureen Garnett

*College of Engineering*  
Electrical Engineering, 1992



Engineer, Rockwell Automation

She obtained a Masters from Case Weatherhead School of Management. She has worked for three Fortune 500 companies. Her career spans the semiconductor industry to the automation. Awards during that time include receiving the University of Illinois Electrical and Computer Engineering Young Alumni award. She enjoys volunteering, and for her efforts she has received a Presidential Volunteer Service award several times. She is currently the NorthEast Ohio Regional Vice President of the Society of Women Engineers. She also has mentored several teams for FIRST Robotics and was selected to serve as a judge at their international robotics competitions. She currently resides with her family in Ohio and enjoys sports, arts, nature, and reading. She has supported non profits in various leadership roles that have aligned with those interests. She also volunteers with student programs at local universities and schools. While on campus she was selected as a state semifinalist for Miss Illinois-USA . She also was selected campus wide Big Buddy of the Year for a student services program.

## Mike Harden

*College of Business*  
Business Administration, 2005  
Master of Business Administration, 2009



Owner/Operator, Caribbean Grill

Mike Harden worked professionally in Information Technology for seven years. In 2009, Mike received his MBA in General Management, also from the University of Illinois, and it was at that point he began to take entrepreneurship, food service, and the concept that would become Caribbean Grill seriously. In 2012, Mike quit his Information Technology Management job — in the midst of a depressed economy, and planning a wedding with his now wife, no less — to fully commit his energies towards the growth potential of Caribbean Grill. Plans for the future include further establishing the recently launched Caribbean Grill Food Truck, growing the business's catering operation, and the spring 2017 opening of a brick-and-mortar restaurant location in Champaign.

## Matt Helms

*College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences*  
Agriculture, 1996



Global Ag Productivity Technology Lead, Monsanto

Matt leads the Ag Productivity Technology (R&D) Team and partners with various Technology, Commercial, and Strategy functions to develop and coordinate the global strategy and pipeline portfolio. His team focuses on new business opportunities for synthetic chemistry and biological areas of weed, insect, disease, and nematode control for crops via seed treatment and foliar solutions. Matt grew up on a family farm near Belleville, Illinois and obtained a Masters in Business Administration from Washington University in St. Louis. Matt has 20 years of professional experience in agriculture positions with the vast majority of that in marketing, product management, new product launches and sales. Matt serves on the University of Illinois Student Affairs Advisory Council, and also has been a member of his fraternity's local Foundation Board. Matt lives in Webster Groves, Missouri and is a fan of the University of Illinois and St. Louis Cardinals. He enjoys photography, pickle ball, and spending time with his wife, Michelle, and daughter, Lily.

## Jim Hickman

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*  
Physics, 1967  
*College of Engineering*  
M.S. Theoretical & Applied Mechanics, 1967  
Ph.D. Theoretical & Applied mechanics, 1970



Project Manager, Systems Consultant, Independent Consultant  
(Department of Energy), Sandia Labs

After grad school, Jim taught two years at the Engineering School of West Virginia University. Next, he worked 13 years in the Research Department of Caterpillar Tractor Co. Then, he spent 24 years at Sandia National Labs working for a variety of federal government agencies at various locations in the U.S and Europe. Before retiring he spent two years consulting for the Department of Energy at various U.S. locations.