

What do you do as an engineer/scientist?

I currently work as an engineering manager. I manage the Main Storage Development Department, a hardware development team that is part of IBM Systems Group. In this role, I manage a team of electrical simulation engineers, characterization engineers, physical designers and ASIC logic designers who design and characterize the main memory subsystems for IBM eServers.

How do you use your technical training and/or degree today? How has it helped you?

As an engineering manager, although I am not responsible for doing design, simulation, test development, etc., I still find that I use my engineering skills every day. I still “think like an engineer,” so to speak, because I work hard to develop effective and efficient processes and procedures for my team. When I communicate with my employees, determine project schedules, make decisions, and determine new opportunities for my team to explore, I use my basic knowledge of electrical engineering and the experience I gained during the 17 months I worked as an engineer. I also use the logical reasoning, critical thinking, analytical, and problem-solving skills that were key parts of my degree. In my job, I apply these skills when I assess a technical problem and propose potential solutions. I also use these skills when working with the engineers on issues such as resources, schedule, customer requirements, etc. This job as an engineering manager has been as challenging as I anticipated, and I rely heavily on the skills that I learned in my engineering degree to help be successful and continually improve.

Additionally, I believe that it is very important for the managers of technical teams to be technical people themselves. This is one of the key reasons that I am working on my Masters Degree from RPI. By staying abreast of current technology and continually updating my technical skills, I believe I will be a more effective manager and will be better able to relate to my team and to the technology we develop.

What do you find most satisfying about your work?

In general, I really enjoy my job. There are certainly days when my job is challenging and I wish I didn't have to come to work in the morning,

but all jobs have their good days and bad days. However, IBM has been an excellent company to work for, and I have had the good fortune to work with some outstanding technical professionals during my three year career at IBM. I look forward to working with new and exciting people on new and exciting technology as the company moves forward. The most satisfying aspects of my work are:

- developing both technical and leadership skills and applying them to my job
- developing people in their jobs and advancing them to new opportunities
- being involved with cutting- edge technology
- working with insightful, inventive, intelligent engineers to help set the direction for the future