

Briefly describe your early experiences with science and/or technology.

I always liked science and math better than English, history, or social studies – it made so much more sense to me. Then, when I started taking calculus, I realized how remarkable it was that the physical world could be described and predicted with math -- it kind of all came together. The stories we hear about Isaac Newton lead us to believe that an apple dropped on his head and he suddenly discovered gravity. But he SHOULD be most famous for inventing/discovering calculus.

When did you know you wanted to be an engineer/scientist? How old were you?

When I was a sophomore in college (age 19). I had been taking an engineering curriculum in school as a “back-up” in case I didn’t get into veterinary college - since I thought I wanted to be a veterinarian. I did not at that time even know what engineers did. But I realized that I liked the engineering courses a lot more than the biology courses I had to take for veterinary medicine, and a summer spent working at an animal hospital cured me of my desire to be a veterinarian. I ended up getting a degree in Electrical Engineering with an emphasis on Bioelectronics.

Did your family and/or teachers provide encouragement? If so, how?

They encouraged me to study hard, and provided everything that I needed to do well in school and attend college. However, they did encourage me to take typing class “in case nothing else works out.” It actually came in very handy!

Have you had a mentor at any time during your career or life? What role did s/he play?

I have had many informal mentors and one very excellent formal mentor. They helped me believe in myself, to see the humor in life, and not take myself too seriously.