



ETA KAPPA NU

Electrical and Computer Engineering Honor Society

Grant Erickson

Principal and Founder

Nuovations

Omicron chapter, University of Minnesota



Career Synopsis

Prior to founding Nuovations, Mr. Erickson was a senior engineer and project manager for Apple, Inc. in Cupertino, CA, working on its mobile entertainment products, including both the iPod and iPhone. Prior to joining Apple in 2004, Mr. Erickson was an early member of the software team at Brocade in San Jose, CA, working in various engineering capacities across their entry-level, mid-range and enterprise storage networking product lines. In addition, Mr. Erickson held positions at Ciprico and Control Data Systems. Mr. Erickson holds both an MSEE and a BSEE Magna Cum Laude from the University of Minnesota.

Mr. Erickson also currently serves on the board of directors of DentBetty, Inc.

Career Highlights

It is said that luck occurs where opportunity meets the prepared and in my case, my career has seen a good measure of that fortune and along with that, great professional satisfaction. I enjoyed and will never forget the tremendous opportunity to work right out of college for then nascent start-up Brocade and during my years there, directly participate in its growth into a dominant player in its industry. Following that, I had the pleasure of being part of the world-class team of people at Apple working on and delivering the iconic iPod and iPhone products, which are recognized the world-over. Finally, most recently, I have had the tremendous privilege to have spent the last couple of years launching my own company and its first set of products and all the challenges and rewards that come along with that.

Education and Career

Perhaps surprisingly, the educational opportunities that have afforded me the greatest career successes have been those outside the core engineering curriculum. Whether learning to work well as part of a team through group project work, learning how to be an effective and persuasive writer and communication through liberal arts coursework or learning how to speak the language of commerce through economics and business coursework, all these have served as highly-effective force multipliers of my engineering education and training.

Advice to Engineering Graduates

The old saw that it is not necessarily what you know but who you know that will land you that next great job typically rings true. Toward that end, while it is important that you excel in the classroom, it is equally important to achieve and excel outside it. Take that summer internship. Talk to those graduate students and figure out how you can help contribute to their research efforts. Volunteer. Attend cross-functional and cross-disciplinary symposia and lectures. Network. Get involved in your local HKN, IEEE or TBP organizations. In short, get involved and you will marvel at the doors that open before you.