



# Whatever Happened to Dennis Frailey

Then	Capsule Summary	Now
	<p>Born in: Tulsa, Oklahoma            Grew Up in: Ardmore, PA, Newburgh, NY;            Detroit, MI            High School: University of Detroit High School            Undergraduate Degree: BS Math, U. of Notre Dame, 1966            Entered Purdue: Fall, 1966            Purdue Degrees:            - MS CS May 1968;            - PhD CS January 1971            Lived/Worked in: Dallas, TX, Austin, TX, Richardson, TX, Plano, TX, Fairview, TX (current residence)</p>	
<p><b>Purdue Highlights</b></p>	<p><b>Career and Personal Highlights</b></p>	
<p>Dennis came to Purdue in Fall, 1966 to get a CS graduate degree. This was against the advice of his math professors, who thought CS was a passing fad. He ended up as the 25<sup>th</sup> Purdue PhD in CS and later hired a number of unemployed math professors.</p> <p>At Purdue he worked in the Computer Center, focusing on operating system enhancements such as a deadlock avoidance scheme. He also taught Fortran and Assembly Language programming. After an initial year in Grad House, he shared an apartment at 329 Pearl St. with John Berenberg and Rich Kovarik. In later years he served as president of the ACM student chapter, one benefit being that it enabled him to use the ACM office instead of one of the more cramped regular graduate student offices.</p> <p>Dennis may have been the first person at Purdue to use a word processor (the TEXTJAB program produced by John Berenberg and Toby Berk) to write his PhD Dissertation (for drafts, he printed it on 11 by 14 paper, as that was the only kind of printer available; for the final he punched it out on paper tape and fed</p>	<p>Dennis' first job after Purdue was as an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. He was lured there by Professor Robert Korfhage, a Purdue CS professor who moved to SMU in 1970 to chair the CS department. At SMU Dennis became deeply involved in distance education and the great majority of his courses at SMU have been taught in classrooms that also serve as recording studios.</p> <p>After progressing to tenured, Associate Professor, Dennis changed direction in 1977, deciding to work for Texas Instruments as a research engineer. He continued teaching on a part time basis at SMU (he's still doing it) and remained very active in computer science and software engineering education throughout his career. At TI his first assignment was giving a presentation to the chairman of the board, followed by writing speeches for the chairman and various other executives on the subject of computers. His big challenge was convincing them that software was important – they wanted to “replace software with hardware” so it would be easier to manage. At TI he engaged in computer design, operating system design, user interface design, software project planning and management, software process improvement, software quality and measurement, cycle time reduction, and teaching of internal courses on technical topics and project management.</p> <p>From 1980-1986 he worked for TI in Austin, Texas, then returned to live in Plano, Texas and then Fairview, Texas. While in Austin he taught on an adjunct basis in the CS department at the University of Texas. In 1996 his division of TI was purchased by Raytheon, where he continued in the same vein, being promoted to the position of Principal Fellow in 2001. He retired in the Summer of 2010 but continued teaching, consulting and engaging in professional activity.</p>	

that to a Teletype model 37 onto 8 ½" wide rolls of paper, cut them into 11" sheets, and assembled them into the final product, which the Purdue Dissertation office almost rejected because the page numbers were in the wrong place).

Dennis was famous for being the first person the "break the ice" and ask a question at symposiums. After he left, there was said to be dead silence at symposiums after the speaker was finished because everyone was waiting for Dennis to ask a question.

Dennis has been very active in the computing profession, having served as President of the Purdue Student Chapter of ACM while in graduate school, and later as ACM Regional Representative, ACM Council member and ACM Vice President. He has also been active in the IEEE Computer Society, serving on several boards and committees and later on the Board of Governors and as Vice Chair of the Society's Education Activities Board. He was President of the Dallas area Association for Software Engineering Excellence, has chaired over a dozen technical program committees, given several keynote speeches, and served as Computer Science editor for the Journal of Irreproducible Results (some view this as his crowning achievement). He's been a program evaluator for ABET accreditation of Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Software Engineering programs since 1986.

Dennis was a co-founder of the SMU graduate program in software engineering and taught numerous computing courses to industrial companies, including a comprehensive software engineering program for the technology division of the New York Stock Exchange. He's also been an ACM Distinguished Speaker and IEEE CS Distinguished Visitor for over 20 years. Dennis was named an ACM Fellow in 1996 and in 2004 he won ACM SIGCSE's award for lifetime achievement in computer science education. In 2013 he won the Nancy Mead award for outstanding contributions to software engineering education.