Whatever Happened to Robert Noonan

Then	Capsule Summary	Now
	Born and Grew Up in: Westfield, NJ Undergraduate Degree: BA Mathematics 1966 Entered Purdue: Fall, 1966 Purdue Degrees: - MS CS May 1968 - PhD CS May 1971 Lived/Worked in: • Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD • College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA Retired: College of William and Mary, June 2012	

Purdue Highlights	Career Highlights
I came to Purdue in Fall, 1966 to get an MS graduate degree in CS. I had discovered computing in my junior year of college, and was convinced that I did not know enough computer science. So my roommate and I divided up all the CS programs we could find in the US. In the summer of 1967 I got a summer job programming for Merck. This reinforced my decision to just get an MS in CS and leave. However, my plans went awry and I wound up staying for my PhD. I remember (in no particular order): • Dennis Frailey doing his dissertation on the computer (and knowing this was the future). • Mike Shapiro in class working on listings; suddenly he would look up, point to the blackboard, and ask a good question. • Jim Iverson and I being an island of CS teaching assistants up on the 9th floor. • *Conte's hole*, and the reason for it. • Hal and Ruth Hart and their heart shaped pizza parties on Valentines Day. • Delivery of the CDC 6500. • Crashing the PUFFT translator on the IBM 7094; getting called in about it; explaining how a simple sytax error caused the problem. • Prof. Halstead assigning us a Neliac compiler at a late date, when we could have been working on it all semester. • The railroad tracks and trains in the middle of 5th (?) street. • Waking up in January to -20 degrees. • Knowing that CS was the future! • The interdisciplinary information retrieval group meetings.	My first job after leaving Purdue was at the University of Maryland, where I stayed for 5 unhappy years. Toward the end I was interviewing Federal agencies. However, my wife convinced me that to stay in teaching. One of the places I interviewed was SMU, where I caught up with Dennis Frailey again. However, I eventually went to the College of William and Mary, joining a math department (where Norm Gibbs was). As enrollments started to climb in the late 70's, the math department was under great strain to cope. So in 1984 CS split from the department with our BS and MS programs. In 1986 we started a PhD program, becoming only the 3rd such program at William and Mary. I remember discovering OOP in the early 1980's and teaching it using Smalltalk V on our PC AT machines. One student (of many) wrote me the worst evaluation ever. About 10 years later, he was in Carrer Services interviewing students for jobs and noticed that my office as Acting Associate Provost for Information Technology was right next door. So he stopped by to apologized for the earlier scathing course evaluation. He was at that time the head of OOP programming for Bell Atlantic (now Verizon). I was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease (PD) in 2002 and lymphoma in 2010. Although I have been cancer-free since November 2010, chemo therapy accelerated my problems with PD. So I retired in 2012, but am unable to attend.