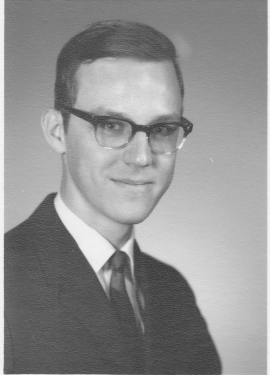



Whatever Happened to Ron Lancaster

Then	Capsule Summary	Now
	<p>Born and Grew Up In: New Albany, IN (near Louisville)</p> <p>High School: Providence HS, Clarksville, IN</p> <p>Undergraduate Degree: BS Math, Bellarmine College, 1968</p> <p>Entered Purdue: Fall, 1968</p> <p>Purdue Degree: PhD CS December 1972</p> <p>Lived/Worked in: Bowling Green, OH; Fairfax, VA; Canton, MI</p> <p>Significant other: Maorong Lancaster, wife, originally from Shanghai, China</p>	
<p>Purdue Highlights</p>	<p>Career Highlights</p>	
<p>In his senior year as an undergraduate, Ron wasn't sure what to do next. He had one fun programming class as an undergrad, but wasn't sure CS would make a good career. So he applied to six graduate schools (three Math, three CS) and decided to accept whatever was the best offer. He was offered a fellowship by NSF with the stipulation that he study CS, so he went to Purdue (the first CS program). This was during the 60's, a time for agitation. Shortly after he arrived on campus, the CS grad students decided we should have representation in CS faculty meetings. After some organizing and cajoling, grad students were eventually given two seats in faculty meetings. The grad students chose Ron as one of the first two reps. (I think the other was Mike Shapiro, but I'm not certain.) One thing we accomplished early on was convincing the faculty to reduce the PhD foreign language requirement from two languages to one. In addition to his work at Purdue, Ron was recruited by Dr. Korfhage to teach CS at two local high schools. That experience led to a lifelong interest in CS education.</p>	<p>Ron's first job after leaving Purdue in 1972 was as faculty at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where he worked until his retirement in 2011. He held numerous positions at the university, including department chair. For five years he was the director of an ambitious project to install a comprehensive ERP system at the university. As a result of that experience, Ron learned more about how a university functions than anyone should have to know. This position gave him the opportunity to get to know nearly every administrator on campus, from the University President to the Director of Campus Operations and the Athletic Director. Among other service opportunities, he was recruited to establish a "perpetual academic calendar" for the campus. After many months of negotiating with various campus constituencies, this calendar was approved in 1984 and is still in use.</p> <p>During the 1994-95 academic year, Ron took a leave of absence from the University to work at American Management Systems in Fairfax, VA. He worked as a developer on their "core software" that supported all AMS industrial and governmental systems. He gained a good understanding of object-oriented concepts, and the C++ language in particular, and was able to apply this new knowledge to curriculum development at BGSU.</p> <p>Ron worked part-time at H&R Block towards the end of his academic career. Having prepared taxes for family and friends since the mid 1980's, he found that he really enjoyed the challenge. He didn't care so much for the marketing that Block employees must do, so he ended up as a volunteer tax preparer for United Way of Greater Toledo, working mostly in Toledo's inner city. Ron retired and left BGSU in 2011, but he continues to work as a volunteer tax preparer for low to moderate income families.</p> <p>While at Purdue, Ron started the habit of planning one international trip each year and inviting friends and family to go along. The first of these trips was in 1969 and included nine European countries. CS grad students Michael Herman and Ed Dorr were part of this first trip. The trips have continued over the years to destinations throughout Europe as well as countries in Asia and Africa. This year our group of 32 will go to Turkey in May. Michael Herman is still part of these trips.</p>	