Professional Bio

After eight years of evening classes, I finally received my BS degree in chemistry from Temple University. During that time, I had an interesting combination of day jobs, including five years as a lab technician at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, and three years selling audio equipment in local record shops. I loved music and enjoyed sales and briefly found myself at a career crossroads. My more mature instincts won out and I chose to work with chemistry and make music a hobby- but it was close.

I worked for the next five years in the research department of Leeds and Northrup, an analytical instrumentation company. During that time, I spent my evenings earning a MS degree in Physical Chemistry from Temple University.

My next job combined lab work and marketing at an electrochemical instrumentation company called EG&G Princeton Applied Research. I worked with a fun stable of what my first wife referred to as “travelling chemists”. Although I got to see the world while Marie took care of the kids and house, the heavy travel took its toll on my marriage. Over sixteen years, I progressed from tech support to marketing management to division management. The applications of electrochemistry span a wide range of technologies from corrosion research to neuroscience. This experience broadened my background and gave me an appreciation for how different areas of science often overlap and interact. It also provided me with an outlet for my sales/marketing tendencies and taught me the business development skills needed to start a company of my own.

Together with my brother David, I founded Prime Synthesis, a biotech-ish company involved in the rapidly emerging genetic engineering industry. We manufactured a nano-porous glass powder used to make synthetic DNA and RNA. This final twenty-five-year phase of my career was the most exciting and fulfilling. The roller coaster crawled up a painfully slow start-up hill, followed by the rush of many exhilarating projects with global laboratories engaged in the Human Genome Project and its many biotech spin-offs. The ride finished with a five year, bitter-sweet quest to find a good home for our baby. Fortunately, we found a buyer big enough to keep pace with our skyrocketing market. Unfortunately, I lost David to a sudden heart attack along the way but I know he’d be pleased.

Over the years I’ve done lots of technical writing, including research publications, marketing literature, business proposals, and grant applications. Now, in retirement, I’m able to pursue a closet desire to be a creative writer. My first attempts have been fun, if not successful. My wife, Dianne, claims that she married me because of my sense of humor (or was it because of her sense of humor?) Hopefully, my attempts at humorous writing will be appreciated. It sometimes got some strange reactions from my more lab-like friends.