

Curtis Bonk '81 | TECHNOLOGY FAN INSPIRES ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

Curtis Bonk learned firsthand how new technology for teaching can help students.

"I took television and correspondence courses and it changed my life," he told an audience of educators eager to learn about how today's technology can promote learning.

He was referring to technology of the 1980s, when Bonk decided to expand his career from the accounting path he had taken at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He needed courses to qualify for graduate school and he found them through UW-Extension and UW-Waukesha outreach programs.

Since then, technology for teaching and learning has exploded to include the Internet, YouTube, wikis, online videos, simulations and social media. Bonk has built a career embracing the new tools and helping others use them.

"Today you can learn anything from anyone else at any time," Bonk told his audience of nearly 100 at a regional learning technology conference earlier this year at UW-Whitewater.

He is a professor of instructional systems technology at Indiana University and an adjunct faculty member in informatics. A popular speaker, he enlivens academic presentations with props like a light saber to emphasize his R2D2 framework, which stands for read, reflect, display, do.

Bonk, who grew up in West Allis, met his wife, Mary, during their second week on campus. They married in 1980, at the end of their junior year. Their children, Alex and Nicki, are young adults.

Bonk worked as a CPA and controller at Milwaukee-area companies, but found himself increasingly interested in the intersection of business, education, psychology and technology. He earned his master's degree and Ph.D. in educational psychology at UW-Madison.

Word processing arrived as he was doing research on learning technology and he found himself an early arrival in the new field. "By being ahead of the curve I can help others," he said. "I'm experimenting all the time with something new."

He writes a popular blog, *TravelinEdMan*, and his most recent book is "The World is Open: How Web Technology is Revolutionizing Education."

His accounting degree helped him build vital skills in organization, strategic planning and coordinating research teams. He's comfortable



Curtis Bonk

with the statistics and data of research findings, and business skills helped him create two software companies, one of which he still owns.

"Your skills in anything you're learning are going to come into play somewhere along the line," Bonk said.

- Anita Clark

CLASS NOTES

1960

Robert Albrightson received an Outstanding Lecturer Award from the College of Education at Marquette University.

1963

Jerry Golembiewski received the Dave McClain Distinguished Service Award from the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

1967

Thomas Thaney of Wauwatosa East High School was inducted into the Theatre Directors Hall of Fame by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association.

1968

Phil McMahon retired after a 31-year career in education, including 29 years at Woods School in Lake Geneva as a history teacher, assistant principal and principal.

Tom O'Connell was named National Baseball Coach of the Year for 2011 by the National High School Coaches Association. He coaches at Burlington Catholic Central High School.

1969

Daniel Leonard has been named a director of Oak Valley Bancorp and Oak Valley Community Bank in Oakdale, Calif.

1970

Mike Doyle has written "Boone County Originals: Remarkable People and Curious Incidents," a collection of his historical columns about Boone County, Ill.

Richard Kalinoski, a playwright and professor of theater, was awarded an endowed professorship at UW Oshkosh.

1971

Greg Carlson is controller at West Coast Customs in Corona, Calif., known to car enthusiasts from the television show "Inside West Coast Customs" on the Velocity channel.

Alex Falcon of Alexandria, Va., is retired from a career as a U.S. Marine

Corps pilot.

Lynn Kaszynski retired from the Big Walnut Local School District in Galena, Ohio, after 41 years in education.

1973

Kevin Keen was inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He retired from teaching and coaching at Monroe High School.

1976

Joe Kluber retired after 33 years with the Milwaukee Public Schools and now works at VIP Services in Elkhorn, a nonprofit for people with disabilities, and coaches freshman football at Whitewater High School.