

## Spring 2021 Alumni Spotlight

### James Flissinger



James Flissinger was born and raised in Southern California. He made the intrastate journey to Northern California to start his academic career at San Jose State University (SJSU), where he earned his B.S. in Industrial & Systems Engineering. After graduation, he started his professional career in the Aerospace & Defense Industry with Lockheed Martin as an engineering planner. His next career move was to BAE Systems as a logistics engineer, where he was exposed to more business elements; this is when he decided to further his academia concurrently at Santa Clara University (SCU) to pursue his M.B.A. His focus there was in the areas of marketing and finance, which he had realized was in the direction of his career passions. After completing his degree at SCU, he made the move to Northrop Grumman where he obtained a position in program management. With the balance of engineering and business under his belt, he advanced quickly to become a senior division manager over a large organization. His current position is with Science Application International Corporation (SAIC) as a consultant supporting our country's newest military branch, the United States Space Force.

James looks back on his BSISE experience with substantial respect for the curriculum's projects, presentations and teamwork experiences. As his career got underway, his "first job involved team interactions"; he was able to build on his experiences in the curriculum and other "hands-on" features of the ISE program to successfully navigate and grow in his career. As his experience broadens in successive positions, he looks forward to becoming involved in corporate acquisition strategies and financial management to support his future career move into Program Management.

Aside from the heavy demands of his career, James is a member of the ISE Department Advisory Council (DAC), where he provides much appreciated advice and counsel regarding curriculum, mentoring, and program plans. He also responds quickly to providing advisory support to his wife's business and engaging as much as possible with his family to fill up whatever "hobby" time he may have. An interesting fact about James: he's also into men's clothing styles (stemming from an early job at a men's

clothing retailer), and routinely is viewed as being “overdressed” for every occasion – but, as he says, it keeps him feeling great about himself as he goes about his day.