

Who Is Jim

by Jim - <https://jimluke.com/about/>



I'm Jim Luke and this is my teaching website. It's where I keep stuff related to my teaching: class materials, syllabii, pages of links, my teaching portfolio, my academic vitae, and presentations on teaching I've made. I also have a blog on economic issues, but that's at econproph.com. I also have a business/technology professional website at plansolutions.com and I'm involved in starting a non-profit organization called Malartu Inc. Malartu is attempting to improve teaching effectiveness and efficiency by helping build a tools and networks that support professors. For more information on Malartu, see their website at Malartu.org read this interview from Converge magazine.

My Educational Background:



After taking some time off after high school (and deciding I didn't really want to work in a warehouse my whole life), I attended Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio for my undergraduate and master's degrees. I attained:

- B.S. Business Finance (1977)
- B.A. Communication (1977)
- MBA with major in Marketing (1982)
- M.S. Social and Applied Economics (1989)

After I moved to Michigan in 1985, I started at Wayne State University in 1987 and started working towards my Ph.D. in Economics. I completed all the course work towards a Ph.D. except for dissertation when my studies got interrupted in the early 1990's. My fields of specialization in economics are: the history of economic thought, economic history, labor/human resource economics, industrial organization, and the economics of intellectual property & innovation.

My Work Background

I've had a diverse work career. Academically, I've taught full-time for over 12 years. Five years were at Madonna University in Livonia, MI in the late 1980's-to early 1990's. I took a full-time appointment as professor of economics at Lansing Community College in 2002, where I've taught ever since. In addition to full-time teaching, I've taught as an adjunct since 1984 at schools including Monterey Peninsula College (California), Henry Ford Community College, and Walsh College.

I've also had extensive corporate experience. I have worked for the NCR Corp and the Mead Corp. in Dayton, Ohio as both a software/process analyst and as the director of business & market planning. I also started and operated my own business planning consulting firm called Planning Solutions Group. In 16 years of business, Planning Solutions developed business plans, market analyses, technology plans, and strategy for clients which included Mead, Kraft, Georgia-Pacific, Avenor (Canada), A.O.Smith, and Covisint. All of these kinds are work are,

in fact, nothing more than applied micro-economic analyses.

From 1996-2000, Planning Solutions was involved in attempting to start and develop an Internet-based industrial marketplace start-up. We ultimately didn't succeed, but we did develop some new, innovative technology, including a U.S. Patent ([US Patent #6131087](#)) It may not have succeeded as a business, but I learned a lot about investment banking, venture capital, and technology in the process.

I'm now applying what I learned in all those years doing strategic and technology planning to higher education. In addition to my teaching, I'm working with Lansing Community College to develop a new strategic plan/planning process and I'm developing new technology through the start-up non-profit I mentioned earlier, Malartu Inc.

My Personal Life & Interests

I live with my wife in Dearborn, Michigan. (it makes for a long commute to Lansing, but thanks to the technology of teaching online, I don't need to do it every day). My son attends the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada. I have a pretty good sense of humor, although it tends toward the bizarre, absurd, and satiric.

Between teaching and research, there's not much time for recreation and hobbies, but I do the best I can. The types of things that I'm interested in include

- *Open-source & free software* (Linux, Firefox, OpenOffice, etc) – I'm a bit of evangelist for free software! I'm even thinking of starting an open-source software project of my own targeting productivity software for professors (there isn't much right now).
- *New technologies for Teaching and the Web.*
- *Cooking, Grilling, and Barbecue*
- *Computers* – amateur geek that likes to build his own machines (my house has seven machines all connected in a LAN)
- *Cleveland Browns football* – I grew up in Ohio in 60's!
- *Detroit Red Wings and Tigers* – hey, I've lived in Detroit since 1985!
- *Economic history* – oh heck, history of just about any type!
- *Music* – mostly rock stuff from 60's, 70's, and 80's. But I like some newer stuff, too. A few rap/hip-hop artists and some country, appeal too. IMHO, **The Who**, **Dire Straits**, and **Pink Floyd** are the greatest bands ever. (I know, that makes me ancient to most of you, but we used to listen to them on stone, hand-crank phonographs) I don't really buy much new music because I can't stand the price-fixing of the Hollywood studios cartel. MP3 & Ogg are important formats for me.
- *Auto Racing* – I dabbled a bit in some road-racing when I was much, much younger (and in much better shape!). I loved every second of it, but alas race cars run on cubic dollars and I ran out. I still love driving though. And they'll get my stick-shift manual transmission away from me when they pry my cold dead fingers from it.
- *Natural health remedies* such as vitamins & supplements
- *Walking and Bicycling and Rowing* – Recently developed interest, largely as a result of needing to get back in shape.