

SOME NOTES

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I have read several of the memoirs that UMUC people have published. They are wonderful.

I spent my time in Europe; Germany and Spain mainly. Not in any of the exciting places with strange sounding names. Not in any of the places where there were shells landing not very far away. I had retired from San Diego State University in 1992 because they bribed me. After two years at Hope College in Holland, Michigan I arrived in Frankfurt with 23 other new professors in August 1995. I was thrilled to be there. I stayed until 2007 when it was time to leave.

I was expecting to teach mathematics and computer science at the lower level. My friend John Meinke had been there for two years and when he found I was coming he had me assigned to the graduate program in Management Information Systems. For which I was grateful. For various reasons I taught at UMUC's Junior College in Mannheim for three semesters half time. One day a student came to me and said "Dr. Deaton, what do I need to do to pass this course? I have failed this course twice and I am afraid I will fail it again." I said, "First you need to come to class." He said, "Oh I cannot do that. The class is at 10 am and I never get up before 1pm."

In August 1996, Joe Arden and Paula Harbecke traded positions as directors of the European division and the Asian division. In October 1996 I made an appointment to see Paula. I felt I should meet my boss. We chatted for a few minutes, then I said "I think you should open a master's program in Information Systems in Naples and send me down to start it." She said, "We are starting a program in Rota, Spain. Would you like to go down and start it?" I said, "Yes ma'am." The program started in January 1997. There were 16 students. When it became time for the comprehensive examination for the Masters degree twelve of the students took the examination. Eleven of the students passed. By now I had bought a condo on the beach in Rota and spent my summers there in addition to assignments. I met the student who had failed the exam and told him I would get two old exams and have the student "take them." I did. He did. I graded them very carefully and we discussed the results. The student passed the next time.

I had one assignment in Mildenhall, UK. When it ended I was sent back to Rota. I drove to Plymouth, and went to the wharf to get on an overnight ferry to Santander, Spain. I was in my red Miata convertible. They pulled me aside and I had to wait until almost all cars were loaded. Then they loaded all (20) convertibles!!! That made us last on and first off. Several were very fancy; others were like mine. Approaching Santander we convertible owners went down and took the tops off our cars. When we docked and the ramp was lowered, we shot off the ferry through the city on a street that had been cleared by the police and were off to our destinations. I assume the peasants followed.