

Dr. Parazak grew up in St. Louis. After High School, he joined the U.S. Navy Seabees and worked in a materials testing lab, testing soils, concrete and asphalt for construction, while also working as a construction site Quality Control Inspector. After leaving the service in 1975, he worked for a local drilling/civil engineering company (Layne Western) doing similar work. In 1977 he enrolled at Meramec Community College, eventually transferred to and obtaining his B.S. in Chemistry at UMSL and landing a job at Petrolite Corporation in 1982, learning surface and colloidal chemistry from Charles Burkhardt Sr., the father of the former UMSL physics professor of the same name. Continuing his education in the evenings at UMSL, Dr. Parazak obtained his M.S. in the Spring of 1987. In 1992 Dennis left Petrolite to enroll in the Ph.D. program under the direction of Dr. Keith Stine, studying phase transitions of insoluble monolayers of enantiomeric fatty acid amino acid adducts, graduating in 1996. While still writing his dissertation, he also landed a position as an ink chemist at Hewlett-Packard in Corvallis, OR, eventually transferring to HP San Diego, working on many printer projects, ranging from home & office products to wide format graphics printers, grand format latex ink printers for printing on vinyl (up to 10 ft. wide) and finally, high speed industrial printers printing roll-to-roll at up to 400 ft./min. He took an early retirement from HP (a whole 3 weeks), before moving to Boulder, CO where he currently works for Ricoh USA doing Ink Quality Assurance work for the InfoPrint 5000 series high speed industrial printers, interfacing with their manufacturing partners and monitoring ink quality with statistical process control tools.