

Darren Macer - Class of 1986

What were your favourite and least favourite subjects at SVC?

I enjoyed, math, physics, chemistry, computer studies, technology and technical drawing.

My least favourite were English and history.

What is your current job?

I am a technical fellow at Boeing in Seattle, USA. I specialize in health management and predictive maintenance, what this really means is taking vast amounts of data from the operation of aircraft, all of the onboard sensors that help it fly and many other sources of external data. We feed it into computers and with a combination of artificial intelligence, machine learning and engineering domain knowledge develop methods to understand the mechanical health of components, systems and aircraft such that we are able to predict what will happen in the future and subsequently schedule maintenance. To enable the in-depth understanding required to predict the future I am also leading the technical creation of operational digital twins for aircraft and components.



What pathway did you take to get where you are now?

When I left SVC I worked at Marshall Aerospace where I earned an engineering apprenticeship and attended college to get a HNC in aeronautical engineering. I worked at Marshalls for 10 years before moving to the USA and working as a Boeing engineer, providing technical support to the mechanics on the production line building 777 and 747 aircraft.

Watch a 777 being built in 4mins!!

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=108617362532499>

I then moved to a customer support role and worked to become the chief engineer in the Boeing Operations Center which is a cross between an emergency room and NASA mission control but just for customers that need help repairing their aircraft. Whenever an aircraft anywhere in the world had a problem and the airline did not know how to correct it and they needed help immediately they contacted the Operations Center. I then moved to the analytics group where I began working with aircraft data to extract actionable intelligence from it, which let me to my current position.

What did you want to do/what were your plans when you left SVC?

From a very small child I always knew that I wanted to be an engineer and I loved aircraft, I have been fortunate in that everything aligned such that I could follow my interests.

What advice would you give SVC students when they are deciding what to do when they leave SVC?

Follow things you are interested in, you have to spend a lot of time being an adult and it's a lot easier if you enjoy it. Find something that makes you happy.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you were 15 or 16 yrs old?

Your years at SVC are important but they are a stepping stone to your future, enjoy them and be ready for the next step