

Dennis Maust

Provisional Writer (compelled to ponder Homer, Odysseus, and αἴσιμα)

Affectionately labeled Renaissance Man by a spattering of close friends and relatives, Dennis (Denny) Maust more candidly considers himself an unenlightened, amateurish generalist. He enjoys a wide range of interests but disavows any consideration as an expert in multiple areas, the proper mark of a Renaissance Man. Socrates gets closer to Dennis's personal truth: "As for me, all I know is that I know nothing" (Plato, *The Republic*, 354b).

Currently, Dennis pursues a budding passion: writing. It will likely be short-lived, surviving only as an unsuccessful but fond memory. Yet he desires to hesitate no longer. He must give it a go.

Prior to his recent writing efforts, "professional" Dennis devoted eighteen years to search engine optimization, web and application development, and database management. His former position at [SearchDex \(now Altezza\)](#) afforded him opportunities to attend such tasks using various programming tools – primarily Java mixed with ever-evolving HTML, CSS, and Javascript. (His currency has faltered.)

In the midst of those eighteen years, when the dot-com bubble burst in the late 1990s, Dennis delightfully detoured for a short time at [Bridwell Library \(Southern Methodist University\)](#), where wonderful colleagues encouraged and refined his already solid love of books.

During his Dallas bytes and books years, Dennis spent summers in Santa Fe conversing on Great Books of the Western Canon. He capped his semesters with a master's essay entitled "[The Return of Odysseus: Discovering the Homeric Wisdom of αἴσιμα](#)" – which sparked his current writing endeavor.

Before his affiliations with bytes and books, Dennis spent an intense and fun year in Washington, DC, working with several non-profit organizations, lobbying Congress, and making public appeals for social progress. Included in his DC experience was a brief stint examining space, science, and technology issues as a member of the 1992-1993 Clinton-Gore Presidential Transition Team.

His DC transition to civilian life followed thirteen years as a commissioned Air Force officer, rising from second lieutenant to major as a fighter pilot, instructor pilot, flight safety officer, and Space Command staff director. While serving in the military, Dennis accumulated 2500 hours as a Senior Pilot and flight lead in A-10 attack and T-37 trainer aircraft. In his ultimate assignment, he managed Department of Defense satellite systems and programs, co-designed a Space Shuttle experiment, coordinated astronaut activities from Houston Mission Control Center, and organized presentations to Pentagon procurement personnel and commanding generals.

Thanks to his mother's loving yet firm support, his formative years were filled with pop, classical, and jazz piano work. Interspersed between practicing the 88s, school days also revolved around band activities, mostly as a percussionist. Music remains close to his heart; his is even attempting some self-taught classical guitar. Dennis's ongoing geeky nature still surfaces through sporadic maintenance of a [personal web site](#), its rare updates and facelifts turning into day-long coding sessions at times.

In the years following his [United States Air Force Academy](#) bachelor's degree, Dennis earned master's degrees from the [Air Force Institute of Technology](#), [Southern Methodist University](#), and (the Santa Fe campus of) [St. John's College](#). Other schools through which he has enjoyed coursework include the University of Southern California, St. Gregory's Abbey in Oklahoma, and Oxford's University College.

Email Dennis at dmaust1979@yahoo.com.