

Alumni Hall of Fame 2019 Bio

James Russell '56

James (Jim) Russell was born in Sandpoint, Idaho in 1933 and grew up in North Idaho as one of six children of Alex and Mae Russell.

In 1952, he enrolled at the University of Idaho was actively involved in student organizations, ROTC and his living group. Upon graduation he received an Army commission and accepted an engineering job at Research Analysis Corporation (RCA) in Lancaster, Penn., where he worked for one year and obtained a patent for the company in power tube design and manufacturing.

Russell married Virginia (Ginny) Kelley in Sandpoint before moving east in 1956. The couple raised two children, James and Debra.

He served as a U.S. Army officer at the Redstone Arsenal Guided Missile School in Huntsville, Alabama, where he established the first military course in transistors and directed 75 instructors on missile guidance and propulsion courses for U.S. and foreign military personnel.

From there, Russell accepted a position at Johns Hopkins University's Operations Research Office, which later transitioned to Research Analysis Corporation, developing skills in operations research methods and improving security and efficiency. He published over a dozen reports on military communications and presented briefings throughout the Pentagon up to the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Russell spent the bulk of his career as senior vice president of Science Applications International Corporation, helping grow a startup of 90 people into an employee-owned science and technology company with 42,000 employees and over \$6 billion in annual revenue.

Russell has since worked as an independent consultant, corporate board member, senior advisor and private investor in helping over 100 technology companies develop and grow.

In recognition of his accomplishments and many technical contributions to the College of Engineering, Russell was inducted into U of I's Academy of Engineers in 2012. Inspired by Janssen, Russell "paid it forward" by giving to the Engineering Student Success Center and the Grand Challenge Scholars Program. He is a Loyal Donor to U of I with 29 years of generous support. During his career, Russell has served as a director on corporate boards, senior corporate advisor, information technology consultant for universities, private investor and a member of several professional and military technology committees. His private foundation provides charitable support to U of I and non-profit organizations fostering science and technology initiatives in the U.S. He has enjoyed a lifetime in sports as a player, coach and commissioner and his ongoing favorites are tennis, golf and fishing (especially in Idaho).

The Russells currently live in Rockville, MD and have a vacation home on the Pend Oreille River near Sandpoint where they enjoy gathering with family and friends.

For his leadership and many contributions to advanced technology applications, the University of Idaho Alumni Association proudly inducts James Russell into the Alumni Hall of Fame.