

Dennis Maust

Provisional Writer reflecting on Homeric balance, wisdom, and whatnot

Affectionately and much too flatteringly labeled a Renaissance Man by a spattering of 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 the truth: “As for me, all I know is that I know nothing” (Plato, *The Republic*, 354b).

Currently, Dennis is pursuing a passionate dream about which he will likely find himself all too soon reminiscing, fondly looking back on an abbreviated writing career. Yet, he desires to hesitate no longer. He must give it a go.

Prior to these recent writing efforts, Dennis devoted eighteen years professionally to search engine optimization, web and application development, and database management. His former position at [SearchDex](#) afforded him an opportunity to attend to such tasks using various programming tools, of which Java was primary. He continues to consult when needed.

During a brief downturn in development opportunities brought on by the dot-com bubble of the late 1990s, Dennis delightfully broadened his worldview with a three-year stint at [Bridwell Library \(Southern Methodist University\)](#). While there, wonderful colleagues and friends encouraged and refined his already solid love and appreciation of books.

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. Included in his DC experience was a short tour researching space, science, and technology issues as a member of the 1992-1993 Clinton-Gore Presidential Transition Team.

His DC experience followed thirteen years journeying as a commissioned officer and pilot in the United States Air Force. While in the military, Dennis accumulated 2500 hours as a Senior Pilot and flight lead in A-10 attack and T-37 trainer aircraft. In later assignments, 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 briefings for Pentagon procurement staff and commanding officers.

More recently, during summer semesters focused on Western Great Books and classics, Dennis completed and defended a master’s essay entitled “[The Return of Odysseus: Discovering the Homeric Wisdom of αἴσιμα](#)” – the genesis of his current writing endeavor. He continues to irregularly and inexpertly practice piano, thanks to his mother’s lovingly firm inspiration in his formative years. He also warmly relives public school and college percussionist days by sporadically picking up drumsticks and beating, rather unrhythmically, on his old practice pad. Dennis’s ever-present geeky nature additionally pushes him to maintain a [personal web site](#), although its updates and facelifts are becoming rare.

In the years since his bachelor’s degree from the [United States Air Force Academy](#), Dennis has earned master’s degrees from the [Air Force Institute of Technology](#), [Southern Methodist University](#), and [St. John’s College](#) (Santa Fe). Other institutions where he has engaged in coursework include the University of Southern California, St. Gregory’s Abbey in Oklahoma, and Oxford’s University College in England.

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