



Angus Kingon

Professor of Engineering
Barrett Hazeltine University Professor of Entrepreneurship and Organizational Studies
Director, Program in Commerce, Organization and Entrepreneurship (July 2008)

Angus Kingon is a physical chemist, engineer, materials scientist, inventor, management professor, entrepreneur ... and Brown parent. All those hats will come together next January when he begins his service as the Barrett Hazeltine Professor and professor of engineering at Brown.

He had heard of Brown's legendary engineering professor decades ago. "Barrett preceded most of the non-business entrepreneurs," Kingon said. "Engineering schools began studying entrepreneurship in the 1980s, but Barrett was already doing it during the 1970s."

Kingon's son Ashley, a 2006 Brown graduate, took classes with Hazeltine, and it was as a Brown parent that Kingon first met Hazeltine – and was immediately impressed.

As an academic field, entrepreneurship usually finds a home either in business and management or in engineering, but it does not fall cleanly and entirely into any single discipline. Business schools, Kingon said, understand how to run a business and how to draw on the expertise of social sciences to study the practices. Engineers, on the other hand, often begin with a technology, figuring out how a patent or a process might be commercially viable, where a given technology might lead and how it might prove useful.

"You want to bridge that gap and use the best each area has to offer," Kingon said.

Kingon's CV effectively closes that gap. It lists 14 U.S. and international patents for technologies employing ferroelectric thin-films, lanthanum oxide-based dielectrics, perovskite dielectric layers and others. He holds concurrent professorial appointments in both materials science and business management, and his professional writings – 290 refereed papers, seven books and six book chapters – cover both technology and management.

He is a graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand (B.Sc., 1974; B.Sc. with honors in chemistry, 1975) and did his graduate work at the University of South Africa (M.Sc., *cum laude*, in physical chemistry, 1977; Ph.D., in physical chemistry, 1981). He served as senior chief scientist at the National Physical Research Laboratory in South Africa from 1977 to 1983 and was a founding member of South Africa's National Institute for Materials Research from 1983 to 1987.

After postdoctoral research at Penn State and North Carolina State (1981-82), he joined the North Carolina faculty in 1987.

In July 2008, Kingon will begin a three-year appointment as director of Brown's Program in Commerce, Organization and Entrepreneurship (COE), a program, he said, that is well-positioned to engage people across many disciplines.

"Brown is ready; Brown is a good place, a stimulating environment in which to do new things," Kingon said. "In my meetings, I have been impressed at the degree of support from senior administration. President Simmons seems very open to new combinations that cross disciplines, that combine traditional strength in the liberal arts with engineering and entrepreneurship."

– Mark Nickel