Too often, great work in mathematics is consumed only by other mathematicians. At the same time, the mathematical foundations of many areas of finance are light years behind current theory. In bridging this divide lies great opportunity.

Throughout his career, Shane Chalke has built strong businesses by applying mathematical concepts to complex, and sometimes simple, business problems. He has found that the analysis used in business can be so steeped in tradition and inertia that over time the analysis is faulty. By updating the mathematical foundations of business, and “packaging” this analysis for non-mathematicians (mere mortals), significant economic gains can be achieved. Chalke will speak about his experience in the intersection of mathematics and business, and what mathematicians can do to make an impact on the economic world.

Chalke earned a BS in Actuarial Mathematics from WPI in less than three years. Soon after graduating, he founded Chalke Incorporated, a consulting and software development firm serving the financial services industry, which included among its clients the majority of the top 50 life insurance companies in the United States. In 1995, Chalke Incorporated was merged with SS&C; the resulting firm was successfully taken public on the NASDAQ in 1996. Convinced that annuities were an excellent and under-utilized retirement vehicle; Chalke founded Finetre in 1997 to develop an entirely new technology approach for the sale and servicing of annuity products. Today, many of the nation’s most important financial services institutions employ Finetre’s Internet technology to automate and streamline their annuity operations, including over 30 of the largest annuity underwriters, the majority of the largest full service brokerage firms, and a number of banks and regional brokerage houses. The data business of Finetre is now owned by Morningstar, and the exchange business owned by eBix.

Chalke was a vice president of the Society of Actuaries and the youngest person elected to its Board. He was awarded the SOA Triennial Prize in ’83 and the SOA Annual Prize in ’86. He has also taught financial mathematics at George Mason University.

Entrepreneur, actuary, and business engineer aren’t descriptions often found in the same sentence, but Shane Chalke ’73 has made a career out of combining these qualities into successful businesses.