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**KALEAB GORFU** Though he grew up in the age of typewriters, Computer Science professor KaleAb Gorfu predicted the rise of computers and the internet.

"I read about [computer science], and then it came to me that this was going to be the future of typewriters," he said. "Every office has typewriters now," he recalled thinking, "but in the future people will have computers in their office. I could visualize that computers were going to be everywhere and could see the value."

Gorfu emigrated from Ethiopia to the United States. He earned a bachelor's and masters' in computer science from California State University, Long Beach and along the way learned five languages including his native Amharic, Tigrigna, German, English and Russian. Gorfu worked as a student assistant and went on to teach part-time while working in computer science for companies like Wal-Mart and Xerox Corporation.

He was inspired to commit to teaching full-time after witnessing the value of investing in others' education. In 2017, he joined West as an adjunct professor.

"Teaching is fun," he said. "I like when someone really gets a concept or an idea that I'm trying to communicate and when they see their code working, that's the moment that I really enjoy."



Gorfu strives to create the perfect balance of teamwork assignments and individual work in his classes. He also wants to learn from the students and encourages feedback to ensure that they have an optimal learning environment.

"I have to assess how well I'm teaching which depends on how well the students are absorbing and able to perform on the tests," he said.

Gorfu clearly made the right prediction in his youth and added, "Technology is still changing," he said. "It's never stopping, and the pace is just extremely fast. Back then, computers were expensive and they were not in your home. Now almost all of us have at least one computer. Everything is computerized nowadays, so you just can't get away from them." In other words, training in computer science / information technology is wise career move.

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