



QRA

YEAR CLUB

Meet Jordan Kyriakidis!

Co-Founder & CEO, QRA Corp

Fascinated with predicting the future as a child, Jordan Kyriakidis had no idea this dream would actually lead to his career. A second-generation immigrant, born and raised in Toronto – Jordan is a self-described accidental entrepreneur. After receiving a PhD in theoretical physics and becoming a professor in physics and quantum computing, he started QRA Corp.

I really enjoyed my time in high school. It was a long time ago, but I still remember those days – sports, music, and I even acted in the school theatre. I was always good at math and I enjoyed it too, but it was in high school that I discovered my real love — physics.

Once, my high school teacher showed me how to predict something in the future by using mathematics and physics – it was spectacular and I was hooked, it was one of the most spectacular things I ever experienced. I had no idea at the time that predicting the future would become my career.

I had to make a big decision about university after high school – music or physics? Those were my two big choices, and it was difficult. Eventually, I decided to do physics. I figured if I went into physics, I could still do music, but if I went into music, I probably wouldn't be able to do physics.

I only started my career in IT a few years ago! After I received my Ph.D in theoretical physics with a pencil and paper, I eventually switched to using a computer. I really only started to use a computer so I could do research.

When I became a professor, my style was very analytical and creative. Now I run a software company, and build software products. I built this company out of necessity - I saw a problem and used technology to solve it.

Currently, I'm the Co-Founder, President and CEO of QRA Corp. We build enterprise software for early-stage engineering of safety-critical systems software and do design verification. Our team makes sure the robots don't kill us (Hahaha!). Today, self-driving cars and autonomous tools use software to control

machines, so we build tools to make sure machines do what they are supposed to do.

We do language processing, writing requirements, and we find faults and conflicting issues for safety-critical big projects such as aircraft and power plants. We analyze designs, blueprints and build simulations to ensure there are no errors. The technology and problem solving we are doing is still very new. Everyone is talking about autonomous systems, but there aren't many people discovering how to prevent issues before they happen.

The diversity in our company not only includes gender, ethnicity, and orientation – we also have cognitive diversity and people from many different backgrounds. One of our lead developers is a specialist in game theory, someone else has a background in comparative religion, we have a philosopher, and someone with a PhD in physics. This provides us with different ways of thinking and that helps us stay innovative.

It took us six years to become an “overnight success” – but we did it.”

Our culture at QRA Corp is honest and we trust each other. I'm the CEO, but if staff sees something that's not right, they will tell me. The people here keep me on my toes and keep me young. You can't be lazy in your thinking here – they will tell you. “You can do better than this.” I really like how close we are here. Eighty percent

of the company eats lunch together, it's like a family.

The other thing I like is the actual work we are doing. We are solving very important and necessary problems. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning are good things, they will make lives better, but it isn't easy - there will be accidents and mistakes, and we are enabling that to happen in a safe, robust way. It's brand new technology, and we are helping shape that – it's exciting.

Some people think that being in a tech company is glamorous. It's not true – it is hard work – you can't just do what's been done before, you need to keep learning. It took us six years to become an “overnight success” – but we did it. If you don't fail, you aren't trying hard enough in the tech industry - you always need to push the boundaries. If you don't fail, it means you've never made it to that boundary, and don't forget you can make every mistake once.

About QRA

QRA Corp was founded in 2013. QRA builds tools to help engineers in the early stages of systems development. QRA's platform detects errors in engineering requirements and designs. The main QRA focus is complex cyber physical systems like aircraft, automobiles and advanced naval ships. QRA has doubled in size each year since launching, and is poised for even more growth – the world's top 10 aerospace and defence companies spend nearly \$90 billion a year on testing their systems.