

## *Staff Employee of the Week*

### **Brian E. James**

**JOB TITLE:** Assistant Director for Technical Services

**HOME DEPARTMENT:** University Unions & Student Activities

**COLLEGE OR VP AREA:** VP for Student Affairs

**NOMINATED FOR:** Governor's Star Award

**NOMINATED BY:** Julie Walters-Steele, Director of University Unions, University Unions & Student Activities

**VIRGINIA TECH HIRE DATE:** July 10, 1995

### **SUMMARY**

During the aftermath of April 16, the Blacksburg community desired opportunities to gather and grieve, and later to heal. All major events following the April 16 tragedy were made possible by the selfless dedication of Brian James, Assistant Director for Technical Services with University Unions & Student Activities, and his Technical Services staff.

As the healing process unfolded, the university marked its progress with several large events-each requiring coordination, stage set up, sound engineering, lighting, and seating. These included the convocation with President Bush; the candle light vigil on the Drill Field; commencement ceremonies throughout campus; the dedication of the April 16 memorial; the Concert for Virginia Tech; and the kickoff for VT Engage. Each event marked a point in the journey of healing, and Brian James and his staff made sure that each event became a meaningful experience for the Virginia Tech community.

Brian James has worked at Virginia Tech for 13 years and is a leader in the field of university campus production nationwide. Brian and his production staff were recently honored with a special resolution from the SGA in recognition of their hard work and professionalism during events related to April 16.