

Staff Employee of the Week

Dave Simmons

JOB TITLE: Laboratory Instrument Supervisor

HOME DEPARTMENT: Engineering Science and Mechanics

COLLEGE OR VP AREA: College of Engineering

NOMINATED FOR: Staff Leadership Award

NOMINATED BY: Paul Siburt

VIRGINIA TECH HIRE DATE: June 1, 1999

SUMMARY

It would be hard to find any staff member who supports the university's missions of learning, discovery, and outreach more than Dave. He supports the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics' capstone undergraduate class, senior design, by assisting students as they create and fabricate their designs over the academic year. He helps them convert imagination into engineering. During Dave's tenure as manager of the ESM Machine Shop, the financial status of the shop has improved tremendously. When Dave assumed his current position, shop consistently ended the year with a negative balance and that was FY07. As a result of 4/16/07, the shop was closed for the rest of the fiscal year. For FY09, the shop will end the fiscal year with a positive balance.

Dave leads by example. He provides a quiet, reasoned approach which is often missing in today's world and is able to calm tense situations. In the immediate aftermath of 4/16/07, Dave was willing and able to do anything that was required and he did it without being asked. He went well beyond his normal duties and assumed responsibility for several activities which freed others time to deal with other pressing issues. Dave is a humble and unassuming person. Dave's can do attitude is truly refreshing and he is always willing to help anyone at anytime. To many of our students, especially the graduate students, he is almost like a father figure. He not only assists them with their academic/research activities but is always available to counsel and listen and be there for them if they just need to talk about a problem or concern. Many of our current graduate students were here on April 16, 2007 and Dave was their champion in many ways then and still is today. His first instinct was to help the students find adequate lab facilities when we were displaced from Norris Hall so they could continue to pursue their degrees. They have not forgotten his efforts on their behalf. For those who have graduated and have the opportunity to come back to campus and visit the department, one of the first people they look for is Dave.