

Staff Employee of the Week

Tom McAvoy

Tom McAvoy, laboratory specialist in the Department of Entomology has served the university for over 37 years, and is known by his colleagues for his tremendous and enduring contributions to the department and university as a whole.

In his department, McAvoy has played a lead role in several research projects, including the planning of trips to China, Japan, and western North America to study potential biological control agents that could solve nonnative insect and plant pest problems in the Commonwealth. He has also coauthored 37 peerreviewed journal articles, 15 of which as a senior author, and currently serves as a mentor and role model to several graduate students.



"McAvoy contributes to almost all of the graduate students projects, assisting them in the field, buying supplies or building cages, getting equipment fixed, and advising them on experimental design," said Scott Salom, professor for the Department of Entomology. "His contributions continue to impact our advancement in knowledge at the university and on a larger, state wide level."

In addition to his typical work responsibilities, McAvoy is also the cofounder and chair of the Employee's Spouse and Dependent Scholarship Program, which provides financial support to employees' spouses and dependent children who enroll at the university. Since its inception, the scholarship has helped almost 200 individuals and families over the last 15 years.

"McAvoy effortlessly exhibits all of the positive attributes that one could want in both a colleague and a friend," Salom said. "He works tirelessly to serve others and is a shining example of how great the university and its employees truly are."