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Virginia Tech Staff Employees of the Week

May 28, 2007

Name: Robert A. Simonds

Job Title: Mechanical Engineer

Employee's Home Department: Engineering Science and Mechanics

Employee's College or VP Area: College of Engineering

Nominated For: President's Award for Excellence and Governor's Award for Career Achievement

Nominated By: Ishwar K. Puri, Department Head, Engineering Science and Mechanics

Virginia Tech Hire Date: August 25, 1981



Summary

Bob is an invaluable member of the Engineering Science and Mechanics (ESM) Department and the university community. His primary role is supervision of the maintenance, operation, and renovation of our teaching laboratories in many areas such as materials testing and fluid mechanics. Within ESM, Bob assists students during their senior projects and serves as a substitute instructor in laboratory courses.

Bob is supportive in recruiting from groups underrepresented in engineering, including women and minorities. In past summers, he helped teams of high school students during College of Engineering sponsored "toothpick bridge" competitions.

Bob also works outside ESM: assisted a doctoral student from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department set up equipment that would have important implications for earthquake research and strengthening buildings; assisted a professor in the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine; in Building Construction, assisted students with classes taught by two professors of Industrial Design; and mentored graduate students from Materials Science and Engineering.

In outreach to industry, Bob has worked with Rad-Shield, Luna Innovations, and Danaher Motion Technologies.

Bob's experience, expertise, and willingness to help students, faculty, and staff make Bob indispensable to ESM, the university, and the community.

About the ["Staff Employee of the Week"](#) Program

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