

Kirschner Receives 2014 McCormick Distinguished Staff Award

By: Desiré Bennett

Roger Kirschner, CEAS Department of Electrical Engineering and Computing Systems Senior Instrumentation Specialist, receives the CEAS 2014 Mary McCormick Distinguished Staff Award for his dependability, dedication and consistently going above and beyond ordinary job duties in supporting the college's faculty and staff.



*CEAS 2014 Mary McCormick
Distinguished Staff Award winner
Roger Kirschner.*

Each year the McCormick Staff Award honors one member of the College of Engineering and Applied Science staff. In the committee's judgment, the winner will have demonstrated exemplary service that has significantly contributed to and furthered the mission of the College of Engineering and Applied Science by demonstrating dependability, dedication, supporting and encouraging community spirit, consistently going above and beyond ordinary job duties, demonstrating initiative and innovation in work.

This year's recipient, Roger Kirschner, is lauded for demonstrating each of these qualities and more. "[He is] one of our finest staff members [and has made] enormous contributions to the mission of CEAS," said associate professor of electrical and computer engineering Jason Heikenfeld. "I can think of few individuals to pass through our college who will be more fondly remembered by generations of students."

Kirschner, who is slated to retire this year, has worked at the University of Cincinnati for 44 years. He joined the university's ECE Semiconductor Fabrication Laboratory in the College of Engineering in 1978 as an Instrumentation Specialist and has spent 35 of those years supporting the Electrical and Computer Engineering programs.

Since his promotion to Senior Instrumentation Specialist in 1987, Kirschner has maintained undergraduate labs, assisted in lab instruction, managed the electronics stockroom (affectionately

called “Roger Shack” by students), and advised undergraduate and graduate students and faculty on projects, equipment, and instructional matters.

Kirschner is praised for his strong advocacy for CEAS students. “Roger is both knowledgeable and patient, and our students greatly appreciate him,” said CEAS Emeritus Professor Tom Mantei. “What has particularly impressed me is that Roger will consistently go beyond his job description and formal duties in order to help our students and the Department.”

Electrical engineering junior Thaddaeus Voss agrees. “Roger Kirchner’s passion for educating is matched only by his willingness to help and his patience for every single student in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computing Systems and abroad,” he said. “Students feel comfortable going to Roger for help, and that is by far the most impactful attribute an educator can have. Roger is always found helping students late at night, way later than the normal 8-5 – Roger Rules!”

CEAS student Cameron Tolliver describes Kirschner in three words. “Kind. Helpful. Experienced,” Tolliver said. “Whenever we would get stuck or confused, he was always there and willing to help us struggle through the sometimes arduous task of figuring out what, of the many possibilities, could be wrong. It is certain that Roger’s participation in our classes has been instrumental in our success and growth, both scholastically and as growing engineers – he was absolutely invaluable.”

Kirschner continues to exhibit dedication to UC-CEAS and to the essence of the college. “I have enjoyed the challenges this job has offered me, and the interaction with students.”

Please join us in congratulating Roger Kirschner on a superb career as recognized by the CEAS 2014 Mary McCormick Distinguished Staff Award!