

Subject: Acceptance Speech

Date: Monday, June 21, 2021

I am honored to be awarded the National Engineering Technology (ET) Teaching Award and want to thank ASEE, the Engineering Technology Division (ETD), and the selection committee.

I believe that it was junior year, most likely while sitting in a Dr. Bert Siebold's class, that I knew I wanted to be a college professor. I am sure it was God's plan all along and I give thanks for all He does, but I know that the challenging project-based courses and passionate, energetic, and student-centered faculty at Murray State University (MSU) only made my passion stronger. I want to thank all my past instructors and professors at MSU and at the University of Alabama at Birmingham for showing me how great teachers teach. However, special thanks must go to Dr. Bert Siebold and Dr. Danny Claiborne, who taught me so much more. These two men showed me a teaching style inside and outside the classroom which placed the student first. Without their mentoring and friendship, I would not be receiving this wonderful award.

I spent almost a decade in industry prior to academia and without it I would not be the teacher I am today. A company like Intuitive Research and Technology gave me the opportunity to grow as an engineer and as a leader. The technical and professional skills I gained while working with my friends Jeremy Clark, Paul Collins, and Ryan Manning have been invaluable as a teacher. Special thanks also go to some of the best managers and people I have ever worked for: Vergenia Shelton, Dr. Al Killen, and Alen Segrest.

In six short years I went from a visiting assistant professor to receiving this award and I know that this would not be possible if I had not been graced with the opportunity to work with some amazing professors and researchers along the way – I thank you. I would especially like to thank Joe Dues, Dr. Matthew Turner, and Richard Kopp for not only their mentorship but for their friendship. Teaching is hard and the best teachers do not try to do it alone. You must surround yourself with individuals who challenge you to be better inside and outside the classroom. I have also had the pleasure of having Dr. Ken Burbank as a Department Head who always encouraged me to strive for more and never lets his faculty forget that students come first.

Finally, I must thank my family and friends as nothing is possible without their love and support. My wife and two daughters, Eliza and June, push me to work harder, care more, and give thanks every day.

I am truly blessed to be a teacher and I will continue to strive to create and foster diverse learning environments that intrinsically motivate, challenge, and inspire my students while helping my students learn in an environment built on trust, openness, and collaboration. I promise to place my students first, value diversity and inclusivity of all forms, aspire for excellence, prepare tomorrow's engineers, bridge theory and practice, aim for positive change in the world, and be accountable for my actions.

Thank you once again for honoring me with the 2021 National ET Teaching Award.