Greg Smith is an extraordinary mentor who has inspired and fostered the intellectual development of both the student and adult team members of Team 116. Greg, a hardware specialist, saw 116's need for software mentorship and willingly takes on the often overwhelming task of essentially teaching students a whole new language. "He's always working really hard but at the same time Mr. Smith is always willing to stop and help out or get other members involved with what he's doing" (Alex Little).

Always known to get the students thinking, Greg makes sure the students are involved in every step of programming. "The one thing that Greg does that most mentors don't do is he turns you loose with the code. He lets students be independent, and lets them learn from making their own mistakes. He always gives us a different perspective on perplexing problems without bombarding us with crazy jargon" (Kunal Sarkhel).   When students encounter problems, Greg first directs them to other students before stepping in, creating an environment of peer cooperation.

Many other students have been inspired by Greg's dedication to the team and by his enthusiasm to helping students learn. "Greg has helped me to understand many engineering concepts that I had never quite managed to grasp. He has walked through systems and problems with me, and he has taught me not only how to solve the problems myself, but how to teach others to solve them" (Dominic Napoleon).

Greg's widespread influence on the team goes beyond the bounds of the software group. He has made a noticeable impact on the team performance year by year. For example, when our team doubled in size in 2007, Greg developed a newer and more efficient electronic system allowing students to sign in and out quickly with a barcode id and scanner.

Not only does Greg provide immense leadership and guidance on the team, but he has also helped organize a controls workshop in the past. The workshop was geared towards teaching teams in the Northern Virginia Area the basics of new software. The passion, dedication, and exceptional abilities of Greg, help us learn and develop intellectually. This ability sets him apart. "He is a really nice guy who always has a really upbeat spirit about the team. He guides you to figure out the problem yourself" (Nick Fagan)

Kunal, Alex, Dominic and Nick are just a few examples of the students' whose lives Greg has positively impacted. He is always there when we need him, and Team 116 simply does not know what we would do without him. In our eyes, he's the perfect mentor because of the respect he offers us while guiding our adventure through the daunting worlds of software, hardware, and general engineering.