

Greg Smith is an extraordinary mentor who has inspired and fostered the intellectual development of the team members of Team Epsilon Delta. Greg, a hardware specialist, saw the team's need for software mentorship and regularly uses his skill to aid the team. "Mr. Smith is always available to help with software, even if it means dropping what he's doing at the time. He is always calm and attentive" (Jayanth Prathipati).

Always known to get the students thinking, Greg makes sure the students are involved in every step of the process. "Working in the software subteam, the one thing that I've realized Greg does that most mentors don't is turning you loose with the code. He lets students be independent, and learn from 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 never quite managed to grasp. He walked through systems and problems with me, and he taught me not only how to solve problems myself, but how to teach others as well." (Dominic Napoleon)

Mr. Smith is now involved in the manipulator subgroup where he has logged many hours working to solve one of the complicated problems presented by FIRST. "Mr. Smith is hard working and dedicated. I know he's spent numerous nights staying up until the early hours of the morning working with inventor and developing our ideas. He always listens to what I have to say helps me to get things done." (Ace Zhang)

Greg's widespread influence on the team goes beyond the bounds of the software and manipulator groups. 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.

In addition to providing leadership and guidance, Greg 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. "Mr. Smith always asks the right questions to help me express and develop my ideas." (Josh Killian)

Jayanth, Kunal, Dominic, Ace, and Josh 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.