

2011
School of Engineering and Applied Science Distinguished
Service Award
(Presentation to *William J. Thurneck*)

To periodically award individuals, who have given generously of their time and talent to the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and/or the University of Virginia Engineering Foundation.

- **I am sure that all of you here that have worked at UVa for a couple of years or more know this man and most of you who do not work at UVa but are in some way connected to the Engineering School know Mr. Thurneck. Although newly retired, for 30 years he was a fixture in Thornton A-wing serving and solving problems for Deans, Department Chairs, Faculty, Staff, and many others from other Schools and Offices at UVa.....he was easy to find because he was always in.....before most of us started work and after most of us had left for the day.....more on this later.**

- **I would like to tell you a few things that perhaps you don't know about Bill. He spent a lot of time in Indiana.....Evansville to be exact.....he went to Reitz High School where he was president of the Senior Class and then went on to Evansville College where he got his BS in Mechanical Engineering.....all pretty standard except he varsity lettered in basketball and baseball in both high school and college and was part of the Evansville basketball team that was national champs in '58-'59 and '59-'60!**

- **He retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel after 20 years in the service and after serving as the Commandant of Cadets here at UVa from 1975-1978..... all before his second career as a faculty member in the School of Engineering.**
- **In the letters supporting this award he clearly is viewed as setting the standard for exceptional service, passionate service, breadth of service, selfless service, and excellence in problem solving. As the Associate Dean for Administration, he was the go to guy for everyone at SEAS! One of our past chairs wrote about Bill's service to SEAS, and I quote, "Bill defined the bar sufficiently high that it will be hard for others to follow. He can be the standard for others to emulate."**
- **You see, Bill is unusually talented in problem solving very difficult issues that do not fall into anyone's job description.....and he is pretty good at finances, leading us through some of the most financially challenging times that SEAS has experienced in recent times.**
- **If there was a maintenance, renovation, or new construction project, he was there watching the details and keeping everyone focused and on point.**
- **His door was always open to anyone at SEAS and his attention, integrity, and desire to help could be always be counted on.**
- **Did I mention that he taught applied math?.....right up until he retired. This is something that he was most proud of!**

- **It is with much appreciation that the School of Engineering and Applied Science honors William J. Thurneck by presenting to him a 2011 School of Engineering and Applied Science Distinguished Service Award.**