

Professor Mark Sherriff,

*The ideal condition*

*Would be, I admit, that men should be right by instinct;*

*But since we are all likely to go astray,*

*The reasonable thing is to learn from those who can teach.*

*- Sophocles 497B.C. – 406B.C.*

As understood even throughout the years before the estimated date of the Christian father's birth, the position of education indeed reigns paramount to the development of mankind in the face of all trials placed before it. Years recently in passing have placed unnecessary strain on this core facet of humanity even here at the University of Virginia where over eight million dollars of state funding has been regretfully redirected by government administration. Furthermore, the university has seen greater influxes of students appearing at its gates than ever before as class sizes increase at a much greater rate than any educational and admissions faculty had predicted; our current fourteen thousand undergraduate students will soon be eclipsed by an even larger student body. We are undoubtedly a competitive university full of bright students but we are only as strong as the wills of those who labor to make the collective dreams of wave after wave of students achievable. With these truths considered we wish to recognize you, Professor Mark Sherriff, for your ceaseless service to the university community even in the face of relentless adversity.

Your service in the School of Engineering has not gone unnoticed. We watch as you work tirelessly to modify the curriculum of the numerous courses you teach at all levels in the department of Computer Science. We watch as you continue to enrich the studies of undergraduate and graduate students alike with numerous opportunities in recitation and teaching assistant positions despite the stresses of decreased funding and increased class sizes. We watch as you rise above pressures to downsize your courses and repeatedly work in conjunction with fellow faculty members to make your introductory Computer Science course as welcoming as possible. Through our collected observations we believe that you are deserving of note and recognition, a fine example of how faculty should strive to work regardless of the situations their students and superiors place them within.

Education knows no price tag. Knowledge has no boundary. We thank you for your service and present you with these gifts as a symbol of our appreciation for your consistent service for the betterment of the University of Virginia. You have set a brilliant example we hope others will follow.

We are always watching.

*Ex Tenebris Lux*

