



NAME: Rob Gorbet
@ UW ENG SINCE: 2000

As winner of the Faculty of Engineering Teaching Excellence Awards, Professor Rob Gorbet's students describe him as accessible, easy to talk to, and that he goes out of his way to help them understand difficult concepts. Rob thrives on the variety and flexibility in his job and enjoys wearing many hats – teacher, researcher, manager, administrator, artist, mentor, counsellor, and champion for the FIRST Robotics competition at UW. Rob's best memory at UW is yet to come – "It will be the opening ceremonies of the inaugural FIRST Robotics Waterloo Regional in March 2005!"

What motivates you to give to UW?

Competition for federal and provincial scholarship money is fierce and I see first-hand excellent students who are not receiving scholarships, which greatly reduces their chances of going to grad school. Obviously, this is close to my heart and one day I hope to benefit by being able to mentor and work with a student who has an Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Science & Technology (OGSST). Rob donates to the OGSST and the Canadian Engineering Memorial Fund.

What makes you proud to work at UW?

One of the aspects of my job involves interviewing our students for co-op work terms in Finnish research labs. I'm always amazed at the experiences these students have acquired by third year and the employers echo these sentiments as well. I am proud to send these students overseas as UW's ambassadors.

Have you lived in any other interesting places?

I was born and grew up in Ottawa; when I was 11, my Dad moved our family to Paris, France for three years – a life altering experience. Later, as a UW student in Electrical Engineering, I spent two work terms in France and participated in an exchange at the University of Technology in Compiegne (north of Paris) where I also met my wife Maud. Maud and I have two children – Améline (five years old) and Simon (ten months old).