

## DOSSIER: Steve Timmins of the University of Delaware



The University of Delaware Formula SAE team, with U.S. Sen. Chris Coons in the driver's seat.

Profiled in this month's Dossier is Steve Timmins, who is busy with three occupations at the moment. In addition to running his own 5,000-square-foot shop, [Instant-G](#), dedicated to Porsche engine building and vehicle track preparation, the Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Delaware (UD) holds two positions at his alma mater. He works in the Central Information Technologies group as a systems support consultant, managing computing systems, servers, etc. He also is a

faculty member, teaching the Formula SAE part of the Senior Design course and other motorsports-related courses.

He developed an interest in cars at age 15, pumping fuel and doing repair jobs at a gas station. His love for Porsche led to him becoming a Porsche-club track driver in 1988. He's been an instructor since 1991, often being called upon to give trackside in-class lectures and to teach other instructors in vehicle dynamics.

### What is the most interesting activity you are engaged in at the moment?

Developing a GT3 and 911turbo (2001-2007) conversion for early Porsche 911—450-800 horsepower in a 2000-pound street-legal car.

### What past activity, accomplishment, or memory gives you the most satisfaction?

My Porsche business. Developing new products such as braking systems, engine conversions, tuning with aftermarket ECUs, developing exhaust systems, etc. The business literally springs out of a love for cars, and I actually worked on customer cars in my driveway before building the shop.

### How does SAE figure in your organization and in your specific job?

My faculty role at UD centers around the Formula SAE effort. I was asked to teach a



Steve on the track at Watkins Glen, circa 2012.

duo of courses at the FSAE Student Organization's request in 2000, and in 2006 I became club advisor, even though my position is as part-time faculty. In 2010, we developed a new course, FSAE Senior Design, which has 16 students developing the FSAE fossil-fuel car as their capstone course requirement. In 2013, we added a second club, FSAE-EV, whose goal is to develop an electric car for SAE Formula competition.



Steve and Lydia's wedding day, June 17, 1995.



A selection of parts for use in Timmins's Porsche shop.

### Is SAE useful to you in your job?

FSAE has been the basis for my faculty position at UD. We are now in the process of offering an Automotive Engineering concentration, beginning with the 2018-19 school year.

### Has any single SAE Member been particularly helpful or inspirational to you?

All of my students and their very hard work for the past eleven years!!

### What advice can you offer SAE Members?

Join SAE and participate in FSAE as an industry advisor to your local university, if at all possible. We are in constant need of outside evaluators to assist students with critiquing their designs from an engineering standpoint.

### What do you like to do in your free time?

Raising kids, racing Porsches (track) and, when I get the time, working on my own collection of 20+ Porsche 911s.

### Is there anything else about yourself that you'd like readers to know about your SAE Membership experience or your personal or professional life?

As I said, my life revolves around FSAE, Porsches and Family, not necessarily in that order! I maintain a balance and encourage youth. I usually employ one or two students a year in the shop. It's always a two-way learning experience. ■

## Farewells

The following SAE International Members recently passed away.

Dennis S. Chrobak, 53 years of SAE membership

Dr. Samuel J. Errera, 41 years of SAE membership

Gordon Hardy, 50 years of SAE membership

Paul Hasson, 51 years of SAE membership

Douglas C. Kruse, 28 years of SAE membership

Dr. John J. Moskwa (SAE Fellow), 28 years of SAE membership

Thomas Nesbitt, 45 years of SAE membership  
Raymond B. Rehm, 31 years of SAE membership

Donald Roskopf, 62 years of SAE membership  
Ross M. Stewart, 63 years of SAE membership

Robert H. Thorner, 73 years of SAE membership

E. J. Weller, 52 years of SAE membership ■

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