

## Could Anything Top His Talking Toaster? Yes! Corey Anderson Has Created an Even Bigger Buzz with His Endowments

The “Talking Toaster” generated a hot buzz in Computer Science & Engineering’s senior capstone design course in spring 1996. Voice-activated and programmed to respond to instructions and talk back (no need to set dials or push levers), the popular gizmo remains firmly and fondly embedded in CSE’s cultural memory and in video format on the department’s website.

Its co-designer, Corin (“Corey”) Anderson, recently set off another buzz around CSE when he simultaneously established both fellowship and scholarship endowments with a substantial gift through the UW’s new Students First program (page 7). Now a software engineer at Google, he is, at age 29, CSE’s youngest donor at this level. With a 50 percent match from the UW, his endowments will support undergraduate and graduate students each year, in perpetuity.

Corey earned bachelor’s degrees in math and computer science in 1996 and a PhD in computer science in 2002. As an undergrad he explored computer graphics, and his graduate research included machine learning, planning systems, data mining, and applying artificial intelligence to problems on the Web. His well-rounded training has made him a perfect fit for Google, where he works with a team improving its Web search property.

*“Campaign UW topped its \$2 billion goal on January 26 — cheers and thank you!*

*Now onward to meet Engineering’s goal and to support exceptional students through the new Campaign UW Students First initiative.”*

STEVEN R. ROGEL, Chair, COE Campaign Executive Committee Chairman & CEO, Weyerhaeuser Company

From his undergraduate days through his years as a grad student, Corey had heard about efforts to raise money for the new CSE building. It left an impression. “The idea just stuck that I wanted to give back to CSE someday,” Corey says. “It’s a friendly place and a lot of fun, too. Setting up a fellowship to aid future graduate students who also appreciate and contribute to this culture sounded like a great idea.”



*The Anderson Family celebrates graduation in 2002. From left are Craig, Casey, Cory, and Cathy.*

Still, it felt a little odd to be creating an endowment in just his own name, so after consulting with his dad, Craig, he also decided to honor his family by establishing the Anderson Family Endowed Scholarship for undergraduates. “This idea was just perfect,” Corey says, “because my entire family was involved with my education and my brother, Casey, overlapped with me at CSE. It would be wonderful, for example, if families with more than one member at the UW could benefit from scholarships so the recipients can have a richer college experience, shared with family.”

Corey, Casey, and their mother, Cathy, started taking math classes together at Highline Community College when Corey was 12 and Casey was 13. “I thought they were too young to go on their own, so I enrolled too,” says Cathy. By 1993 all three had AA degrees and had entered the UW. Their motto might well be, “The family that studies together, succeeds together.”

Cathy earned her bachelor’s degree in technical communication and works at Microsoft as a content release manager for its email and messaging server. She hails from a family full of engineers dating back to her great grandfather. Craig is an electronic technician, so Corey and Casey received technological encouragement from both sides. Casey earned a bachelor of science in computer engineering in 1996 and in 2002 completed his professional masters degree in CSE. Like Cathy, Casey works for Microsoft, as a software development programmer for K-12 products.

To announce the scholarship endowment to his family, Corey hatched a plan to present it as a surprise Christmas gift. “We were dumfounded,” Cathy says. “Speechless,” Casey adds. “It was absolutely cool and awesome. It’s impressive to be able to give something back as a family, and we have a lot to be thankful for.”