

College of Engineering

CORRECTION

November 12, 2003

Subject: Central College Machine Shop

Dear Engineering Faculty and Staff:

The Engineering College has conducted an extensive review over the past nine months to identify cost-cutting measures that will allow us to manage recent budget reductions. As a result of the review, we have decided to close the central college machine shop located in the basement of Upson Hall. The college machine shop is staffed with outstanding individuals who have dedicated a significant portion of their careers to providing superb support to the research and instructional activities of the college. Demand for the shop services has experienced a significant and steady decline over the past decade. We have reduced staffing and costs in the shop to a minimum, however, the cost of providing central college shop services continues to be prohibitive.

This decision impacts the livelihood and careers of valued college employees. It will also impact some of our research and instructional groups as they change design and fabrication service providers. The decision has been made after an assessment of the impact of such a change, discussions with many active engineering shop patrons, and exploration of potential alternatives.

The College's machine shop will continue to provide machining services until approximately mid-January, and welcomes your business until then. Closing activities will then take place between mid-January and mid-February.

The equipment and materials from the Upson shop will be allocated primarily to the Emerson Shop. We request that you please do not ask the Upson shop staff about acquiring equipment or other items. The next few months will be difficult for those staff and they are not authorized to allocate the shop belongings.

The LASSP machine shop in Clark Hall provides on-campus design and fabrication services in addition to several local vendors. The Emerson Manufacturing Teaching Laboratory of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering is available to train and supervise faculty, staff, and students in the use of machine tools. The Emerson Lab's services and hours can be found at <http://www.mae.cornell.edu/maelab/EMERSON.htm>.

If you have utilized the services of the shop, I encourage you to take a moment to thank the staff for their exceptional service.

Sincerely,



W. Kent Fuchs
Joseph Silbert Dean of Engineering