

New Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Ulan Dakeev

Department of Engineering Technology



Rost, Kyra

Sam Houston State University

College of Science and Engineering Technology

Dr. Ulan Dakeev received his bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the International Black Sea University in Georgia. Dr. Dakeev then earned his Master's degree in Industrial Management and his PhD in Technology from the University of Northern Iowa. He is a new assistant professor at Sam Houston State University, in the Engineering Technology Department. He currently teaches design product classes at SHSU, but has taught a wide range of engineering classes at other colleges. He came to SHSU to be able to interact with a variety of departments and specialties, and because it is close to the city of Houston. He also felt that SHSU had various amounts of funding available for research, including the \$10 million Pirkle endowment for the Engineering Technology Department.

Dr. Dakeev's research interests are in virtual and augmented reality, employee and student engagement, and student motivation. He is currently working on developing an app that brings augmented reality to life by using the camera feature on any phone. To use the app, you would simply hold your camera over an image or text and it becomes a pop-up virtual graphic animation, photo, or video. This type of research can help people in their everyday lives. For example, Dr. Dakeev is currently working with an undergraduate student on how to enhance exit signs. Together they are creating an understandable image of an exit sign that will erase any language barriers or cultural differences. In March 2020, his undergraduate student will be presenting their research in Florida. Dr. Dakeev loves working with students and seeing them succeed. He believes they are his biggest academic achievement. Many of his students have become successful over the years. One of his former students works for the Tesla Company, two have worked for SHSU, another is a Microsoft executive, and one went on to graduate number one in his class from Oxford University.

Dr. Dakeev's interest in the Engineering Technology field was sparked because he feels it is the only profession that develops discipline, sets realistic

goals, and then achieves them. He believes that the Engineering Technology field it is not about what your abilities are, but what you have done with them. He continued to say that the field will stand behind you if what you say is credible and has reliability. He is constantly inspired by education. It helps him meet, interact and spark ideas about topics with other people. His advice for any undergraduate is "Stay hungry and stay foolish," a quote from Steve Jobs. To Dr. Dakeev it means do not put yourself into boundaries. Find your vision and absorb all the information you can to become successful.

He is currently one of the advisors for the Virtual Reality (VR) Club. The VR Club is reaching out to other Sam Houston departments in hopes of collaborating with them on a mass project. The Club meets biweekly on Tuesdays at 5pm in the Pirkle Building, room 100.

Interesting Facts about Dr. Dakeev

What was your first job?

“I was an intern for Caterpillar, INC in Georgia, as an engineer.”

What is your favorite music genera?

“I’d say my favorite music genera is pop. I enjoy listening to Michael Jackson and Metallica.”

What is your favorite TV show? Favorite Movie?

“I love crime shows and movies. My favorite TV show is *Peaky Blinders* and my favorite movie is *The Godfather!*”

Do you have any Hobbies?

“I like to play chess and repair my motorcycle,”

Do you have a favorite book?

“My favorite book would be *The World Is Flat* by Thomas Friedman.”

What is your favorite holiday, and why?

“My favorite holiday is New Years, because it is the beginning of everything!”

Where was the best place you have ever been?

“Culture wise, Nigeria, I went in 2008. Almost no one smokes in the country.”

“People wise, Turkey, if you stop anyone to ask for directions, they will actually take you to your destination.”

Did you participate in any organizations/ clubs in college?

“I was on the Computer and Biology Olympiad team, and an officer in the Environmental organization.”

If you could change history, what would you change?

“I would change the collapse of the soviet union. When that happened the competition for space between the USA and the Soviet Union decreased. Russia is just now coming back into competition with us (USA).”

Is there any extra information you would like to add?

“People are awesome, and there is still faith in humanity.”