Career Profile of a Core Facility Director: George Dubay, PhD

What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job?

Director of Instrument Operations: 25 years

Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in?

Duke University, Physical Organic Chemistry

Did you do a postdoc?

Yes, at MIT with Ron Hites

What are your main daily responsibilities?

Manage the lab to make sure that the people in the lab are trained and operating the instruments correctly.

What are the keys to success in your career field?

Here are keys but they are not in order.
1. Enjoyment of working with the instruments and people in the lab.
2. An interest in the science being done in the Department and around the University.
3. An interest in how the instrumentation works and what the limitations and strengths of the instruments are.
4. Flexibility in working with others.

What were the most important factors in choosing your career path?

1. Much of my career path was unconsciously developed. It was a trial and error process as I worked in a government lab and an industrial lab before taking my current job.
2. My personality as an individual who likes to be active and doing physical things was quite important. I like doing experiments and thinking about the science.
3. My upbringing provided an inherent bias as my father taught math in a small liberal arts college and the environment was always of interest.

What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours?

1. Make sure that you enjoy doing science on a day to day basis.
2. It is crucial to be patient with other people and hone your skills in science.