

Jeff Walterschied
Quality Control Inspector
Since 2005

I was born and raised in Muenster. It's a small town and we hear quite a bit about what's going on. Reality was I was going to school and needed a job and was lucky enough to get a job here and it has carried on ever since.

When you come in and you start in a company like this in manufacturing you just don't know coming out of school what really took place in any manufacturing plant. You were always told about college. I came in with no experience and really no idea of what to do. I started out basically pushing buttons on a machine and progressed. Over the years you keep gathering information and ultimately you'll get your break if you keep working. So now I work in quality control. It doesn't sound too exciting but it is a good job. There is a lot to learn. Just keep your head down and eventually you'll get another break.

When an employee succeeds the company succeeds. We live by that mindset. And if I'm doing my best and I do well I know that my family is going to be taken care of and can feel confident that my fellow employee's family is going to be taken care of too all because I am doing my part. I feel like everyone in the company feels that way and it makes for a good working environment.

With technology advancing the way it is a company has to sustain that or maintain that to keep ahead of the next guy. You have to be able to keep up and technology is a really big part of that. Everything that we do is based around a computer skill. You can push that to an engineering degree or even at a base level where they are putting the materials together. And that's really part of it – having computer skills and taking them with you in your career.

I think this is obviously a pretty special community. I've known that ever since I was little. It has been instilled in me how lucky we are to be a part of this community. This company is part of that fabric and there are other companies that are the same way in other communities. We have all grown up based on the idea that we are lucky, we are special and we have to fight to keep it that way.

Living here in town, working for a local business, seeing that business grow, thrive and succeed - it's a good thing to be a part of. Being close to family, school districts, everything about our community seems to be going well. So we're doing is not just a job, it is our way of life and we work hard to keep that going.

If I was to talk to a student about a career in manufacturing I would tell them that the possibilities are endless. You can go all the way to an engineer, you can go to school – there is variety in manufacturing. It's not just being on a shop floor and pushing a button on a machine. The possibilities are really endless between work ethic, keeping your head down, being smart, making good decisions, going to school, and working hard. Having the work ethic – that is what is going to push you not just in manufacturing but every aspect of life.

Nathan Hermes
Program Manager

Since 2016

I was first exposed to UMI at school where someone worked for one of our customers. One day the president of the company called me up looking for some new help. The president, Steve Trubenbach, worked with my father some years ago at the Valenite Tooling Company that was on this site back then. I had never met Steve before. He had a position he thought I would be qualified for and interested in. I came out and visited with him and things progressed from there.

In the beginning everything I was doing was mostly on the technical side. Once I got familiar with all the technical aspects of what we do here I progressed into business analysis, looking at the expenses required to produce a part, the cost of materials and the overall cost of doing business. It is important to know what it takes to maintain a healthy program for the longevity of the company.

I grew up in Lindsay and my family is there. I enjoy being able to live in Lindsay and commute “against traffic” to come to work. I enjoy living in Lindsay. It is where I grew up, go to church and intend to raise my family.

Everyone has different interests. My interests are around a small town like this. I’m not a fan of living in the city. I like being outdoors. My hobbies include working on the farm, taking on some shop projects and helping out people that I know around here. I like working in a small town. It has its advantages and disadvantages but I’m definitely glad I don’t get caught up in the rat race.

Let me give a little insight into some of the customers we deal with. They design computer graphic type modeling parts. They send us a part file with some of the critical features listed out. We will take that 3D file and have to manipulate it, try to understand how all features come together and how we are going to make it. What kind of material, material sizes – all that has to be assessed. We even have to put together our own drawing to be able to list off all the characteristics that get inspected. There is a lot of computer aided technology involved. The program we create for the machines are actually created directly for the model we give the customer. There are a lot of things that can be different on a 2 dimensional piece of paper. It has to be done right off the computer model to capture the complex surfaces and shapes.

We use a lot of different data bases for keeping track of costs and manufacturing schedules and there’s a lot of number crunching that goes into things.

I am working with a customer project that is going to be 2 years of development before we actually see any production work. They approached us. It is an airplane engine component. We are looking at a few components but one component in particular attaches on the engine and interfaces with different ports that have to be ported into the atmosphere if the engine was to blow a seal - items that are required on airplane engines to rout fluids away from the working components. We don’t want combustibles to end up in the wrong spot on the engine.

The company approached us with the initial design. They wanted us to give them some input to aide in the manufacturing ability and something we could machine from a piece of plate. So we went through 5 different iterations. They would send us a model and we would tell them – well that geometry would be difficult to cut or this design would increase the cost of the part and things of that nature. Even the discussions of the material the part was going to be made of had a list of requirements. Specifications might include requirements where the material inhibits bacterial growth, resists corrosion or can

maintain its dimensions in large temperature ranges. We would assess that and give them suggestions on materials that we have experience with and think we could do a good job cutting to make them a usable part, do it consistently and for the right price.

I graduated high school and then attended UT at Arlington where I received a bachelor degree of science in mechanical engineering. I would highly recommend it. I did some design work out of college which I thoroughly enjoyed. I've always been interested in the manufacturing process and capabilities. This is a real neat place to work.

I would say if you have that kind of interest it is extremely fun and easy to learn. I always enjoyed geometric problems – part geometry and part how they interface and work together – that sort of thing. If you have that sort of aptitude this is a great way to earn a living. It's always fun to encounter new problems to solve and trouble shoot things when you don't get the expected outcome. Going to college I didn't know that I ever thought I'd end up working at a machine shop but it's pretty neat.

Corey Anderle

Programming Manager
Since 2000

I grew up in Muenster, Texas and now live in Lindsay. It's nice working in the same community I grew up in because I work with people every day that are my friends. So it's like going to work with all your friends and it's close to home.

I started as a machinist on the night shift, running machines. From there I moved to the quality department where I remained for a couple of years. Management then encouraged me to go into programming. Today I oversee seven programmers as the programming manager.

Advice I would have for a student who was thinking about going into manufacturing would be to have a good work ethic, show up to work on time and work hard. If you do there's lots of different avenues you can go into the manufacturing world.

If may be a student that's not really sure if you want to go to college or not. I went to college for about a year and a half but it wasn't for me. I heard about some good paying jobs in the manufacturing world that was down the road and gave it a shot. There are lots of different opportunities for those who want to work hard and show up to work on time.

Some of the different job opportunities here at Universal Machining is anywhere from being a supervisor on the shop floor that makes good money or a quality manager. We have several ladies in the HR department that do a very good job. Lots of different jobs and opportunities are here at Universal Machining.

An advanced manufacturing plant like Universal Machine uses state of the art technology such as CNC machines that are run by computers. We have automated pallet systems that automatically load the machines themselves. To me Universal Machining is a different than many in the manufacturing world because it's a very clean work environment. There is central air and heat in all the buildings. We have unique technology and software. We make cool parts for aircraft and helicopters and more. Most people don't realize what goes on here. It is pretty neat.