

# 2019 CORNERSTONE AWARD

## GATES HALL "BOOM" TEAM



Photo: Matt Reiter, Erik Eshelman, Rob Murry, Shane Dunn, Vince Knapp

### **This years Cornerstone winners for Distinction in Teamwork**

Shortly after the construction of Gates Hall was completed, building occupants began to complain about mysterious noises. They were incredibly loud banging noises that happened on a daily basis. These ongoing noises were having a profound impact on the students, staff and faculty in the building. People were starting to become concerned about the safety of the building and no one could figure out the cause of the Bang.

Through teamwork, persistence, and technical expertise of Rob Murray, Vincent Knapp, and Shane Dunn (the "Boom" team) was able to diagnose and fix the cause of the Bang. They interviewed faculty, staff, and students to try to pinpoint the location. They methodically reviewed all building systems to rule out possibilities and came in after their typical work hours to gather key data and intelligence on the timing of the bang. Their diagnosis turned out to be something no one could have imagined.

The team determined that the cause of the bang, was thermal expansion of an exposed steel safety railing on the roof. The team developed a cost-effective repair, which involved adding Teflon pads to the slip connections on the rail. The banging issue is now history and the building occupants are back to focusing on their teaching and research!

This team was nominate by Matt Reiter and Erik Eshelman



**Cornell University**  
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