


ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Visual Information Systems Center (VISC) is pleased to announce that it has formed a partnership with the Applied Media and Simulation Games Center at Indiana University. Drew Davidson, director of AMSGC, has a long and distinguished career in the multimedia and simulation field. He was formerly Senior Project Manager, New Media for Holt, Rinehart and Winston and a producer for Sapient Technologies. One of the first projects that the partnership is working on is an International Conference on Simulation and Gaming. Interested parties should contact Assistant Professor and VISC Director Kenneth M. Sochats, in the VISC Lab, 707 SIS. A link to information on the AMSGC can be found at the VISC Web site http://visc.sis.pitt.edu.

VISC is also pleased to announce that Kenneth M. Sochats will be presenting VISC’s work on Visualization at a seminar series co-sponsored by VISC and the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS). Also speaking will be Elbert Yaworsky, CTO of PPS, and Dr. David Thornburg, a noted author and speaker on the use of technology in education.

Dr. Thornburg is Director of the Thornburg Center and Senior Fellow of the Congressional Institute for the Future. He spends about 100 days a year on the road speaking at conferences and consulting for education, government and industry on future trends, with a special focus on technology. As one of the first employees of the famed Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) in 1971, Dr. Thornburg took part in the early stages of the personal computer revolution. He has been interested in the educational applications of technology for many years, with a special focus on the creative use of technology by students. In addition to his live presentations, he has appeared on PBS, CBC and numerous radio and television programs throughout the Americas. Dr. Thornburg has authored numerous books and received several awards for his work in the field of educational technology. Interested parties should contact Ken Sochats, in the VISC Lab, 707 SIS.
FACULTY APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS


Professor Richard J. Cox participated in the Association of Records Managers and Administrators International Day, Boston, MA, October 18, 2003, presenting on issues of education, research, and professional concerns.


FACULTY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS THE RECENT REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHAEL LEWIS, OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS:


State Senator Jack Wagner and a PCN-TV video crew met with Assistant Professor Kenneth M. Sochats and his VISC team in mid-September to learn about the '707 First Responders' CAVE visualization system. The video crew filmed as Ken demonstrated the potential of virtual real environments to train, prepare, and support emergency first responders.

Senator Wagner virtually toured the County Office Building, even identifying and entering Jim Roddey's office. As a former first responder, Senator Wagner was impressed by both the degree of usefulness the virtual environment offers, and by the relatively low cost achieved by VISC. Senator Wagner paused to engage the attention of Matt Kelley, Jeff Jacobson, and the assembled VISC lab team to say, "I want you all to recognize that what you are doing is important. You are doing more than just advancing technology, you are truly saving lives. In the future, this technology will save lives."

The PCN-TV video crew interviewed Ken, Matt Kelley, and Senator Wagner. The resulting program will be shown on PCN-TV in December 2003. Once the air time has been scheduled, it will be posted at http://www.pcntv.com/calendar.htm
Two former doctoral students of Professor Cox presented papers at the First International Conference on the History of Records and Archives at the University of Toronto, 2-4 Oct. 2003. Information about the conference is available at http://www.fis.utoronto.ca/research/i-chora/programme.html.

Jeannette Bastian, who currently directs the Archives Education program at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College (Boston, MA) presented “Placing Archives In the Memory Continuum: Remembering the Homestead Strike of 1892.”


The abstract for Bernadette’s paper is as follows:
Museum recordkeeping systems generate institutional records within the cultural context of the museum. As the institutional context changes, so do the records documenting the activities of the institution. This paper examines the evidence of the identity and ownership of objects in a museum's collection as captured in the accession records of three American natural history museums and discusses how that evidence has changed over time and what forces have influenced those changes. While some aspects of the accession record did change in response to external mandates and recommended best practice, major changes appeared more related to isolated but significant incidents such as large-scale re-organization of the collections or adverse public reaction to the legitimate museum process of de-accessioning.

Bernadette will also act as the guest editor of a forthcoming issue of the Journal of Internet Cataloging. The publication will address issues surrounding the records of virtual museums.

“I want minimum information given with maximum politeness.”

— Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis