Rising star award

Jennifer Sparrow, Director, Emerging Technologies and New Ventures, Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies (TLOS) has been selected as a 2013 “Rising Star” by EDUCAUSE. Her work is recognized for demonstrating excellence in faculty support, collaborative leadership in the institution, and a promising future in higher education information technology.

The EDUCAUSE Rising Star award is intended to recognize an information technology professional who, while early in his or her career, demonstrates exceptional achievement in the area of information technology in higher education.

The award will be presented at the annual EDUCAUSE meeting in October. For more on this award, see http://www.educause.edu/careers/awards-program/educause-rising-star-award/rising-star-award-recipients/2013-rising-star-award-recipients.

XSEDE Campus Champion Fellow

James McClure, Computational Scientist, Advanced Research Computing, has been selected as one of six XSEDE Campus Champion Fellows for 2013-2014. The announcement comes from XSEDE—Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment—part of a program funded by the National Science Foundation to facilitate national-scale supercomputing.

McClure has extensive experience in heterogeneous parallel programming, particularly on systems equipped with accelerators, and is interested in developing approaches that utilize the Intel Xeon Phi architecture to accelerate large-scale simulations. He will apply this knowledge to accelerate Rosetta, a macromolecular modeling software package used to predict protein structures. Researchers use Rosetta to better understand treatments of infectious diseases, cancers, and autoimmune disorders.

Further applications involve the development of vaccines, new materials, targeted protein binders, and enzyme design. McClure will work with principal investigator Jeffrey Gray from Johns Hopkins University and Frank Willmore, a research associate with the Texas Advanced Computing Center at the University of Texas-Austin (TACC), on a project that will optimize Rosetta on TACC’s Stampede, currently ranked #6 on the Top500 list of the world’s fastest supercomputers.
Work in distance learning recognized

Aaron Bond and Daron Williams were recognized by the Association for Educational Technology and Communications for their work, “Academic Integrity.” They are third place honorees of the Division of Distance Learning (DDL). The award will be presented during the DDL luncheon on November 1.

Aaron Bond is Director of Networked Development and Support for Networked Learning Design and Strategies (NLDS) in TLOS and Daron Williams is Assistant Director, Networked Learning Design and Media Development for NLDS.

Governor’s Technology Award

The 2013 Governor’s Technology Awards were presented in 10 categories at COVITS on Sept. 9. Congratulations to CGIT for its work in the category “Innovative Use of Technology in Modeling and Simulation.” “Extending Virginia’s Broadband Toolkit” is the awarded project. The Virginia Tech Center for Geospatial Information Technology partnered with Virginia’s Center for Innovative Technology and the Virginia Geographic Information Network for the development of next generation broadband mapping data and tools within Virginia. The workflows and information that provide the basis for the commonwealth's participation on the National Broadband Map were leveraged using modeling and simulation strategies to extend the toolbox with a new suite of data-driven and web-based tools. These tools enable stakeholders including state and local governments, citizens, and businesses in the planning, decision making, and deployment of broadband infrastructure.

Sloan-C award

“We Can Work Together: Managing Group Work Online for Collaboration, Assessment, and Life-Long Learning Skills” by Lujean Baab, Senior Director, Networked Learning Design and Strategies, in TLOS, has been selected as a recipient of the “Best-in-Track” award in the K-12 Online Education track for the 2013 Annual Sloan Consortium International Conference on Online Learning, November 20-22, 2013 in Orlando, Florida. The paper’s abstract is available at the conference website: http://sloanconsortium.org/conference/2013/alcon/we-can-work-together-managing-group-work-online-collaboration-assessment-and-lif.

The Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C) is the leading professional online learning society devoted to advancing quality e-Education learning. Sloan-C is dedicated to providing access to high quality e-Education to individuals, institutions, professional societies and the corporate community.

Hold the date: DCSS October 22, 8am to noon