

**Center for Graphics Research
Western Connecticut State University
2007 Annual Report**

Summary:

This past year has been a time of great advances and small setbacks for the Center. We have expanded our programs, but in doing so have learned valuable lessons about what works and what doesn't. As we move into 2008, our hope is to continue this growth, especially with respect to our research projects.

Research:

- During the Fall term, the Center has established a working relationship with Dr. Jörn Loviscach, Hochschule Bremen, Germany. Dr. Loviscach was kind enough to present a talk as part of the Computer Science Department's Lecture Series. His talk was co-sponsored by the Center.
Dr. Loviscach's current research explores novel graphical user interfaces (GUIs) for use in a variety of applications. Jointly, we will be exploring interfaces based on cartoon animation physics. One to two Center Research Assistants will be hired to be part of this project.
- Dr. William J. Joel, the Center's Director, continues to explore non-photorealistic animation techniques. For example, during the Summer 2007, Dr. Joel spent seven weeks at Paderborn University, Germany, teaching a graduate course in computer animation. He also worked with students in his section in NPR research. This resulted in a technique for creating animations that have the look and feel of woodcuts. It is his hope to submit a short paper to SIGGRAPH 2008 based on this work.
Dr. Joel is also working on a technique to create animations that have the look and feel of stained glass.
- Dr. Katie Lever, Communications, has joined the Center. Dr. Lever's proposed project will focus on the impact of MP3 players for communication. She is currently in the discussion phase of this project. Most likely, a Research Assistant will be hired to work on this project.
- Dr. Frank Dye, Biology, has expressed an interest to resurrect a previous project regarding the behavior of amoebae. This work will entail video-taping amoebae, and then using image analysis techniques to determine if there is any interaction between the organisms. This project is also in the discussion phase. A Research Assistant will be hired to work on this project.

AniFest 07:

- April 24-26, 2007
- The Student Animation Competition received over three dozen entries, internationally. This is more than a 100% increase over 2006. It should be noted that AniFest 2008 has already begun to receive international submissions.

- The Animation Theater included not only the above mentioned student works, but also works from industry, including a new short from Blur, “A Gentlemen’s Duel”.
- The festival’s art exhibit showcased the ACM/SIGGRAPH’s 2006 SPACE-TIME poster competition. This is a traveling show that the Center was fortunate enough to schedule.
- The festival’s guest speaker was originally Chris Gilligan from Blue Sky Studios. But, Blue Sky in its generosity sent not only Chris, but three other prominent individuals from their organization. This panel presented examples of previous and current work by Blue Sky. The session was well attended.
- AniFest 08 is scheduled for April 21-25, 2008.

Student Summer Grant Program:

- Two students were awarded grants to attend SIGGRAPH 2007, in San Diego, CA. This grant includes a full student registration, housing, and an airfare stipend. The awards went to Heidi Gendron (Art ’07), and Alfiya Menconi (Art ’08). Heidi worked for the Center as a teaching assistant in the Fall, and is currently working as Assistant to the Director.

Summer Computer Animation Camp:

- The camp, originally scheduled for July 2007, did not run. The target audience for the camp was High School juniors and seniors. Unfortunately, the camp received no applications. Subsequently, it was brought to our attention that Middle School students would have been a better target audience. Therefore, we will again be offering the camp, August 3-8, 2008, with Middle School students as our audience.

Advanced Graphics Lab:

- During this past year, we were informed that WS104W, where the center’s Advanced Graphics Lab and office was located, was listed as the worst office space in the Westside building. In addition to known leaks during the Spring thaw, the room was determined to have a problem with mold.
- Therefore, the Center is now “without a home”, and is working with Drs. Vaden-Goad and Rinker to locate a new permanent space.

Respectfully submitted January 24, 2008, William J. Joel, Director