

News

Entries Sought for NSF Science Visualization Competition

Some of science's most powerful statements are not made in words. From the diagrams of DaVinci to Rosalind Franklin's X-rays, visualization of research has a long and literally illustrious history. To illustrate is to enlighten.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the journal Science are sponsoring an International Science and Engineering Visualization Challenge to celebrate that grand tradition--and to encourage its continued growth. The goal of the competition is communicating science, engineering and technology for education and journalistic purposes.

Judges appointed by NSF and Science will select winners in each of five categories: Photography, Illustrations, Informational Posters and Graphics, Interactives Games and Videos. The winning entries will appear in a special section in Science and Science Online, and on the NSF website, and one of the winning entries will be pictured on the front cover.

Faculty and students are welcome to enter. The deadline for entries is Sept. 30. Winners will be featured in a February 2012 issue of Science. For more information, see Guidelines for Submissions and use the Online Entry Form. If you have questions, contact scivis@nsf.gov.

Alumni, Veterans Gather

by John Gagnon, promotional writer

A group of Vietnam-era veterans started a vets club on campus in 1968. In their heyday, they numbered about 140. Now, says alumnus Rick Rozman '71, "Our ranks are getting thinner." Forty could come to a reunion last weekend, their first since 1993.

"Da' Duck" is their insignia. It features a cartoon duck, biting down on a broken slide rule, pictured with a frothing mug of beer. It's a play on the national symbol honoring veterans, an eagle that is nicknamed the "ruptured duck." The mug of beer is telltale. Let's just say that these men were a thirsty bunch when they held meetings in the old Library Bar and routinely visited the old Bosch Brewery. "We're too old to raise hell now," Rozman says.

On Friday night, the group gathered in Dollar Bay for a social before some weekend activities on campus. They told tales about the two things they have in common: "military service and Michigan Tech." Both resulted in "friends for life," says Bob Ziemnick '73, of Dollar Bay, one of the organizers.

John Dodge '72, of Eagle River, says the vets group helped members get benefits and were active on campus and in the community: besides socializing, they cleaned up parks, helped run the soap box derby; competed in Frisbee (they called themselves "The Swedetown Sweathogs"); participated in blood drives; and hung in the rafters at hockey games at Dee Stadium. ("I gotta go back in there," says one.)

To track down all these alumni and stage the reunion, the vets got help from Brenda Rudiger of Alumni Relations, Rob Bishop of Student Affairs, and Erik Nordberg of Archvies.

Some who couldn't make it posted letters at the social.

Dennis Hacker '70 wrote: "Life is good. I sincerely hope everyone else has had a great life as well. God knows

you all deserved it."

The late John Slining led the establishment of the vets club. His widow, "Two-Daiquiri Donna," wrote of her husband: "He considered the Vets Club the crowning achievement of his college career." A scholarship in his name was established in 1989.

R. P. Bowen '70 wrote: "Lift a mug high for me."

No war stories here. One alumnus was a support troop in Vietnam, and he won't talk about it. "It's disrespectful to the men who were grunts." He allows that he brought supplies to them via helicopter--military-issue stuff, as well as anything extra he could scrounge up--spirits, extra medical supplies, and clean socks.

Rozman, of Gwinn, was in the military for 31 years, in both the air force and the navy. He served in the Vietnam conflict and in Iraq, where the young soldiers called him "grampa."

"What the hell are you doing here?" they asked him.

"I'm here for my grandkids," he responded.

The days of these men's military service in the Vietnam era were contentious times in the US. The war was unpopular, and the returning servicemen were sometimes vilified. "Nobody wanted to see us," a genial man who goes by just name "Old Pully" recalls. Rozman adds, "No hassles, but no parades."

Anthony Krycka, a sophomore in engineering fundamentals from New Buffalo, served as a combat engineer in the army from 2003 to 2011, in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He is helping to reestablish a veterans club on campus and was the lone student at the Dollar Bay reception. "It's a different time," he says, "but we have a sense of connection." He says it was "a great honor" to mingle with old-timers: "They gave me the opportunity to serve."

One of these was Big Pully, who adds, "The time with these guys is the best time of my life. These are all good men. No bad memories in the club, except the guys who aren't here."

On display at the social were 15 pictures of the known deceased. The headline above the pictures reads: "Da' Duck Remembers."

For as these alumni and veterans mourn for their dead and resurrect the past, Big Pully says: "You gotta have memories. If you don't have them, you're a lonely individual."

Seminars and Workshops

Learn about Energy from Trees

At a seminar beginning at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 27, in Rekhi G05, three speakers will discuss their roles in a project examining the use of woody biomass for energy in Michigan.

First, Donna LaCourt from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation will talk about "Why study the forest-to-gate supply chain for wood bioenergy?"

Robbins Chair Professor David Shonnard (ChE), and director of Tech's Sustainable Futures Institute, will

speak at 10:15 a.m. on "What can life cycle analysis tell us about sustainability?"

At 11 a.m., Ray Miller, director of the Forest Biomass Innovation Center, will discuss "Producing wood energy crops in Michigan."

The talks are open to the campus and the public. Each presentation will be recorded for posting on the project website Biofuels.

For more information, contact Kristen Schmitt at 482-6303 ext. 14 or kmschmit@mtu.edu .

Meet, Eat and Learn about Growing Biofuel Crops on Your Unused Land

The Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR), in partnership with Michigan Tech and corporate sponsors, is hosting a soup and sandwich dinner and free workshop about opportunities to convert unused land to income-producing biofuel crops.

The dinner and workshop are scheduled for 5:45 p.m., Wednesday, July 27, in the Memorial Union Ballroom.

SFRES has shown that biofuel crops, such as switchgrass, poplar and willow trees, grow successfully in the UP. The global demand for energy presents an opportunity to create a locally based sustainable energy system and become a leader in growing biofuel crops.

Anyone interested in attending this workshop needs to notify WUPPDR in advance by calling 1-800-562-7614, ext. 310, or emailing RSVP@wupldr.org .

Regular Features

New Funding

Associate Professor Soner Onder (CS/CCSR) has received \$153,000 from the National Science Foundation for a one-year project, "SHF: Small: Single Assignment Architecture/Single Assignment Compiler."

Job Posting

Staff job descriptions are available in Human Resources or at <http://www.admin.mtu.edu/hro/postings> . For more information regarding staff positions, call 487-2280 or email jobs@mtu.edu .

Faculty job descriptions can be found at www.admin.mtu.edu/hro/facpers/facvac.htm . For more information regarding faculty positions, contact the academic department in which the position is posted.

Campus Visit Coordinator
Admissions

Michigan Technological University is an equal opportunity educational institution/equal opportunity employer.