NDLTD ETD Awards 2012 Winners

The Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) international consortium is pleased to announce this year’s award winners. The awards recognize students who have written exemplary electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) as well as leaders who have helped to promote ETD programs. Winners have demonstrated new dimensions of scholarship being explored by individuals who have made significant contributions to the worldwide ETD movement.

The Awards Program includes several categories of appreciation. The Innovative ETD Award recognizes student efforts to transform the genre of the print dissertation through the use of innovative software to create cutting edge ETDs. Use of renderings, photos, video and other multimedia objects that are included in the electronic document were considered as part of the innovation of the work. The Innovative Learning through ETDs Award recognizes a graduate whose professional life has been enhanced by the ETD process. Finally, the ETD Leadership Award recognizes members of the university community whose leadership and vision has helped raise awareness of the benefits of ETDs, and whose efforts have improved graduate education through the use of ETDs. Criteria for consideration of the awards are available online.

The awards will be presented at the ETD 2012 Symposium, to be held September 12 - 14, 2012 at the Delfines Hotel, Lima, Peru.

Innovative ETD Award

Each winner receives $500 and is eligible to receive an additional $500 in travel scholarship funding to attend the ETD Symposium.

Paula Stofer Cordeiro de Farias / Master of Mechanical Engineering (2011) / Pontifical Catholic University - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

In her Master’s thesis "Optical Method for Characterizing Liquid Film in Horizontal Two-phase Annular Flow", Paula Farias employs a non-intrusive optical technique to provide time-resolved images of the lower portion of the liquid film of horizontal annular flow of air and water, revealing the interfacial wave behavior. The stereoscopic technique developed is an original contribution of the present work to the set of experimental techniques available for the study of two-phase flows. Time–resolved images of longitudinal and cross section views of the film were recorded and analyzed, what constitutes in valuable information for the understanding of the dynamics of the liquid film in horizontal annular flow. The work by Farias has made use of state-of-the-art equipment and image processing techniques to produce visualization movies of the dynamic characteristics of annular flow that have not been seen up to now. This is a significant contribution that opens new opportunities for studying complex flow fields. This multimedia thesis portfolio contains the thesis in PDF and provides supplementary high definition video clips.

In 2011 Paula received the ABCM Award for best thesis and in 2012 she published her work as a scientific paper in The Journal of Experiments in Fluids.

Clifford Gouws / Master of Architecture (2011) / University of Pretoria, South Africa

In his Master’s thesis "Magazine Hill: a Weathered Continuum", Clifford Gouws focuses on architecture's potential to adapt according to the passage of time, through the process of aging and weathering. The project questions current approach to heritage design, in particular the conventional museum and memorial typologies are investigated. The unexplained explosion in 1945 (and subsequent preservation) of the Central Magazine Building on Magazine Hill (in the military precinct of Pretoria) forms the basis of the investigation. The candidate investigates a site that is trapped in time. The proposed a new brass foundry will recycle spent ammunition shells. In the words of Gouws;
where ammunition was once produced, ammunition is now reduced to brass artworks and utilitarian products. This multimedia thesis portfolio contains separate PDF chapters with specialized architectural-sized renderings as well as unique and stunning visual presentations.

The thesis culminates in the production of a short film (posted on YouTube) where concept is explored three-dimensionally.

Jessica Claire Menck / Ph.D. Leadership & Change (2011) / Antioch University, USA

In her dissertation "Recipes of Resolve: Food and Meaning in Post-Diluvian New Orleans", Claire Menck revisited the twice-told tales of New Orleans's tragic flooding with a unique perspective - food, and did so with a research methodology and reporting format that involved several media. Mench looked at New Orleans, five years after the events surrounding Hurricane Katrina, and asked: Is food a way for individuals and groups to make meaning following critical change events such as the failure of the federal levee system in New Orleans? Her study found there are 4 common leadership discourses in talking about food in relation to critical change including culture, ecology, economics and politics. This dissertation integrates multimedia to express data and findings, and is accompanied by 26 audio files, truly bringing to life the dissertation text with rich oral histories by research participants.

Claire is an international award winning chef, restaurateur and scholar. She is also a passionate advocate for social media and research in disaster recovery with continuing work on her Website Girlchef.

Innovative Learning through ETDs Award
Each winner receives $500 and is eligible to receive an additional $500 in travel scholarship funding to attend the ETD Symposium.

Michael Otremba / Doctorate of Medicine (2012) / Yale University, USA

In his thesis "When Doctors Become Creditors: The Detainment of Impoverished Patients in Uganda", Michael Otremba's research path and development as a physician for human rights was defined and refined though the development of a visual thesis that documents the ethical and societal conflicts at the intersection of inadequate national health infrastructure, extraordinary poverty, and chronic shortages of skilled physicians in the world's poorest nations. This thesis portfolio also includes a documentary film entitled, "Twero: The Road to Health," made over the course of 2 years, including 6 months of filming on location in Uganda, and is presently under consideration for international media distribution. the documentary follows a journalist who uses his radio station as a means to expose what is happening to patients, like Esther Ayugi, who find themselves unable to pay their medical bills. Otremba's work will continue to be an agent for social change as the thesis and documentary are disseminated in wider international circles, giving power to the people whose lives are impacted by socio-economic and political challenges in advocating for proper health care as a basic human right.

Michael has an M.D. and is presently a Postdoctoral Associate in the Section of Otolaryngology in the Department of Surgery at Yale. His continued advocacy efforts, film documentary commentaries and other research interests are reported in his Blog.

John Christopher Williams / Master of Arts in Art Education (2011) / West Virginia University, USA

In his master's thesis “Art educators and practicing artists: strengthening the curriculum and building a creative community”, Chris Williams demonstrated the effectiveness of artist-in-residence programs through his analysis of artist immersion programs nationally and then applying his findings within the school setting in West Virginia for a hands-on experience. The cultural focus of these activities included celebration of the International Day of
Peace and the Chinese New Year, incorporating learning components regarding multicultural dimensions and the international Peace movement as well as Chinese symbolism and history. Activities also included puppet-making skills utilizing various art techniques and media such as paper Mache, textiles, painting, music and performance. WVU chief among a handful of puppetry programs nationwide - collaborations have included guest lectures from legendary Jim Henson's "Sesame Street Muppets" and their puppeteers.

Williams resides in New York City where he uses his considerable skills to organize projects as an art educator, teaching artist, arts advocate, community arts coordinator and puppeteer. Presently he is Project Coordinator for CITYarts in New York City where he organizes all project elements for their residencies. CITYarts' projects frequently foster community revitalization by galvanizing businesses, schools, and community organizations into developing youth programs and constructing playgrounds and gardens. CITYarts has also organized the international Pieces for Peace program, providing a mosaic with youth from around the world. His professional Website JCWArts contains a variety of arts education resources.

ETD Leadership Award
Each winner receives international honorary recognition.

David T. Palmer / University of Hong Kong Libraries, Hong Kong

David Palmer is an Associate University Librarian for Digital Strategies & Technical Services and Principal Investigator for The HKU Scholars Hub at The University of Hong Kong, where his career spans over 21 years. Palmer's achievements include responsibility for a 2001 ETD mandate covering all HKU thesis producing graduate degrees, as well as a retrospective conversion policy and process. HKU was the first institution in Asia to have its entire thesis collection online. Now numbering some 20,000 ETDs, HKU is among select institutions worldwide with the highest number of ETDs that are full text, fully catalogued, and available as open access. David's work on HKU ETDs was the spearhead for the 2006 creation of the HKU institutional repository, The HKU Scholars Hub. David suggested digitizing retrospective theses in 2005 to the Chinese American Digital Associative Library (CADAL). Palmer works with the HKU Office of Knowledge Exchange to gain grant funding to further digitization efforts as well as open access and institutional repository implementation throughout Hong Kong as well as facilitating collaboration on digitization among Asian universities.

Detailed information about David Palmer is available online.

Press release URL: http://www.ndltd.org/events_and_awards/awards/ndltd-etd-awards-2012-winners

John H. Hagen & Elsabé Olivier, NDLTD ETD Awards Committee Co-Chairs, June 29, 2012.