

The 2012 Visualization Technical Achievement Award

John Stasko

The 2012 Visualization Technical Achievement Award goes to John Stasko in recognition of his seminal achievements in new visualization techniques and for the Jigsaw system which allows understanding large document collections. The IEEE Visualization & Graphics Technical Community (VGTC) is pleased to award John Stasko the 2012 Visualization Technical Achievement Award.



John Stasko

Georgia Institute of
Technology

Award Recipient 2012

BIOGRAPHY

John Stasko is a Professor in and the Associate Chair of the School of Interactive Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He received his Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from Brown University in 1989 and joined the faculty at Georgia Tech later that year. While on sabbatical during the 2007-08 academic year, he was a visiting scientist at Microsoft Research in Redmond, WA and at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, WA. John's research is in the areas of information visualization and visual analytics, with a particular emphasis on the human-computer interaction aspects of the fields. His Information Interfaces Research Group at Georgia Tech develops ways to help people and organizations explore, analyze, and make sense of data in order to solve problems.

John's thesis work was in the area of software visualization, developing the TANGO algorithm animation system. In 1998, he served as lead editor on the MIT Press book *Software Visualization: Programming as a Multimedia Experience* that still provides the broadest overview of that area to date. John's later research has focused on the areas of information visualization and visual analytics. His pioneering work has spanned a variety of areas within these fields including the design of new visualization techniques such as Information Mural, SunBurst, and Dust & Magnet, application systems such as Tarantula and SellTrend, innovative evaluation studies, and fundamental theoretical research on user tasks, interaction, and cognitive support models of visualization.

In the relatively new field of visual analytics, John was a member of the international Advisory Board that helped to define the area and lay out a research agenda for it in the book *Illuminating the Path*, published by IEEE Press. His work on the advisory board motivated and inspired his most recent research focus, helping investigators to explore and understand large collections of text documents. He developed Jigsaw, a general purpose visual analytics system combining computational text mining with a suite of interactive visualizations. Using Jigsaw, his research group won the university division of the 2007 IEEE VAST Conference Contest and has received a number of subsequent award recognitions. Jigsaw is available to the public and currently is being used by investigators in law enforcement, intelligence, journalism, fraud detection, academic research and other disciplines.

John began teaching a graduate course on Information Visualization in 2000. The class, one of the first in the world about this topic, provides extensive on-line materials, and is widely referenced and used by others as a teaching resource. In 2005 John received the Georgia Tech College of Computing Teaching Award. His 14 PhD graduates have gone on to a variety of careers at prestigious organizations in academia and industry.

John has co-authored more than 150 scientific publications and has served on the papers committees of most major visualization and HCI conferences. He won the Best Paper Award at the 2001 INTERACT and 2004 IEEE Information Visualization

Conferences. He has been on the editorial board of the journals *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics* (2004-2008), *ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction* (2006-2012), *International Journal of Human-Computer Studies* (2004-2009), and he continues as an Associate Editor of the *Information Visualization Journal* since its founding in 2001.

John has been actively involved with IEEE VisWeek since 1995 when he co-authored a paper at the first Information Visualization (InfoVis) Symposium. He has published 19 papers at IEEE InfoVis and VAST since then. John has taken on a variety of organizing committee positions at the conferences as well, including Papers Co-Chair in 2005 and 2006 at InfoVis and 2009 at VAST, as well as Conference Chair of InfoVis in 2007. He has been a member of the Steering Committee of the Information Visualization Conference since 2006 and the VisWeek Executive Committee since 2009. In 2013, he will be General Chair of VisWeek when the meeting comes to Atlanta. John is also an at-large member of the IEEE Visualization and Graphics Technical Committee, and a Senior Member of ACM and IEEE. In 2011 he was named an ACM Distinguished Scientist.

AWARD INFORMATION

The IEEE VGTC Visualization Technical Achievement Award was established in 2004. It is given every year to recognize an individual for a seminal technical achievement in visualization. VGTC members may nominate individuals for the Visualization Technical Achievement Award by contacting the awards chair, Lawrence Rosenblum, at vgtc-vis-awards@vgtc.org.