

Awards

IEEE VGTC Virtual Reality Career Award 2008

The 2008 Virtual Reality Career Award goes to R. Bowen Loftin, Texas A&M University, USA in recognition of his contributions to the VR training system for the Hubble Space Telescope repair, his role in porting VR technology into the geophysical exploration community, and his service to the VR Community. The IEEE VGTC is pleased to award R. Bowen Loftin the 2008 Virtual Reality Career Award.



Bowen Loftin

Vice President and CEO
Texas A&M at Galveston

IEEE VGTC Virtual Reality Career
Award Recipient 2008

BIOGRAPHY

R. Bowen Loftin holds a B.S. in physics from Texas A&M University (1970) and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in physics from Rice University (1973, 1975). Since May, 2005 Bowen has been Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of Texas A&M University's branch campus in Galveston, Texas where he is also Professor of Maritime Systems Engineering. He also holds a joint appointment as Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Texas A&M University (College Station). From 2000 to 2005 he was at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia as Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Professor of Computer Science. In addition, Bowen was Old Dominion University's Director of Simulation Programs, with responsibility for the university's graduate programs in modeling and simulation, and Executive Director of the Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center. Before coming to Old Dominion University, he was Professor in and Chair of the Department of Computer Science and the Director of the NASA Virtual Environments Research Institute at the University of Houston. For over twenty years, Bowen, his students, and coworkers have been exploring the application of interactive, three-dimensional computer graphics to the development of education, training and visualization systems. Bowen is a director of the IEEE Visualization and Graphics Technical Committee. He is also a member of the IEEE Virtual Reality Conference Steering Committee and served as the General Chair of the Conference in 1999. Bowen is a frequent consultant to both industry and government and serves on advisory committees and panels sponsored by numerous government and professional organizations.

His awards include the University of Houston-Downtown Awards for Excellence in Teaching and in Service (twice), the American Association of Artificial Intelligence Award for an innovative application of artificial intelligence, NASA's Space Act Award, the NASA Public Service Medal, and the 1995 NASA Invention of the Year Award. He is the author or co-author of more than one hundred technical publications.

AWARD INFORMATION

The IEEE VGTC Virtual Reality Career Award was established in 2005. It is given every year to an individual to honor that person's lifetime contribution to virtual & augmented reality. VGTC members may nominate individuals for the Virtual Reality Career Award by contacting the 2008 awards chair for virtual reality, Larry F. Hodges, at vgtc-vr-awards@computer.org.