

Team promotes technology

A NEW CONSORTIUM at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is taking a 3-D look at new methods of academic research.

The Computation and Visualization Enterprise consortium is an interdisciplinary team of 15 faculty members. It was formed to encourage the use of supercomputing, 3-D visualization and high-speed fiber optics available at the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise in University Research Park.

LITE technology could ultimately speed up conventional research.

“This consortium is an extension of the partnership between LITE and the university. Assembling this multidisciplinary team will help us more effectively handle modern science and engineering research,” said Dr. Bradd Clark, dean of the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences and chairman of the LITE Commission.

Henry Florsheim, chief executive officer of LITE, said the consortium enhances the relationship between LITE and UL Lafayette. “Having access to such

a diverse group of experts will allow LITE to tap into client markets that we couldn't have tapped into on our own,” he said.

Clark said the combination of researchers' expertise and supercomputing capabilities is key. “Most research problems are too difficult for one person to solve. With these teams and this computation power, we'll be better able to work on solutions,” he said.

UL Lafayette researchers in chemical engineering and biochemistry, for example, are exploring ways to use glycerol in a more efficient, green way. They are testing and identifying enzymes that can help convert glycerol into compounds utilized by the chemical industry.



Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise

DOUG DUGAS

Glycerol is an abundant product with limited use. A modified enzyme could use it as a catalyst for chemical processes, helping to reduce waste and make chemical processes cleaner. Supercomputers are helping to narrow the number of enzymes that could be successfully modified.

“We are excited about being able to provide our faculty with the equipment it takes

to conduct research – like with these enzymes – that requires difficult computations,” Clark said.

Dr. Azmy Ackleh, a professor of mathematics at UL Lafayette, is the consortium's director.

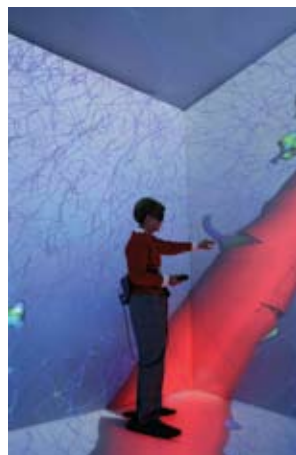
LITE SHINES IN LOUISIANA TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL COMPETITION

THE WINNER of the 2010 Innovator of the Year award couldn't travel to New Orleans to be honored for its achievements.

So Dr. Bradd Clark, dean of UL Lafayette's Ray P. Authement College of Sciences, and Henry Florsheim, chief executive officer of the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise, accepted the recognition on its behalf.

The Louisiana Technology Council bestowed the Innovator of the Year designation on LITE, which is located in University Research Park on UL Lafayette's campus.

“When you look at all the applications and high-performance tools



LITE's Total Immersive Space

DOUG DUGAS

they're using, the work they do across all industries made them a very worthy choice for Innovator of the Year Award. They're doing great things with companies and government to put Louisiana on the map when it comes to technology,” Mark Lewis, president of the Louisiana Technology Council, told *The Advertiser*, Lafayette's daily newspaper.

LITE is one of the first multi-user six-sided digital 3-D total immersive spaces that's based on CAVE® technologies. It opened in 2006.

It was created as an economic development tool by a partnership formed by the State of Louisiana, UL Lafayette and the Lafayette Economic Development Authority. Clark is president of the LITE Commission.

Florsheim said LITE concentrated on economic development last year. The facility's versatility is reflected in its clients.

Pixel Magic, a leading digital effects company, opened a studio at LITE in November. And, 3-D visualization models were created at LITE for Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center, the City of New Iberia and Lafayette Consolidated Government.

This year, 3-D training simulation has been conducted at LITE for the state Department of Transportation and Development. LITE helped create a Technology Business Accelerator to assist startup technology firms and to help recruit other technology companies.

A Louisiana Technology Council committee chose award recipients with input from Gov. Bobby Jindal's staff. More than 50 companies and individuals were nominated for the Council's awards this year.