

2021 VGTC Visualization Service Award

Loretta Auvil, National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign



The 2021 VGTC Visualization Service Award goes to Loretta Auvil for the dedicated expertise and leadership she has provided to the visualization and visual analytics community through more than two decades of service as a finance chair of the VIS conference as well as her long-term service as finance chair of VGTC.

Loretta attended her first VIS conference in 1997 and was part of the student volunteers that year. Her friend and colleague, Rachael Brady, convinced her to co-chair finance with her the following year. Loretta has continued in this role since then, sometimes solo, and sometimes not. Since 2010, Maria Velez has been her co-chair. As finance chair she has enjoyed collaborating with conference chairs and committees to support the VIS conference. Her engagement with IEEE has provided consistency, leadership and a long-term communication bridge that is beneficial to the conference and IEEE.

Loretta received a MS in Computer Science from Virginia Tech and a BS in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science from Alderson-Broaddus College.

She currently works at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. She has worked with a diverse set of application drivers to integrate machine learning, text analysis and information visualization techniques to solve the needs of research partners. She has led software development and research projects for many years.

At NCSA, Loretta assisted Fortune 100 companies, government agencies, and academic institutions with making sense of the data mining and machine learning process; designed, developed, and integrated visual analytics frameworks to support the process; and applied these frameworks to real-world data intensive applications. This work spans a diverse set of data mining applications dealing with issues in bio/medical, environmental engineering, fraud detection, customer relationship management, business intelligence, and digital humanities. She also collaborated with Illinois football staff to find patterns and visualize results as well as trained a football coach to leverage Tableau for visualization.

Prior to NCSA, she spent several years creating tools for visualizing performance data of parallel computer programs at Rome Laboratory and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

She has co-authored numerous articles with a variety of communities and managed many student interns over the years.

Loretta enjoys long walks with her labradoodle, Bella, quilting, and partnering with Operation Christmas Child to promote packing shoebox gifts.