Preserving Cocoa Beach’s Glass Bank

Dr. Lori Walters knows the importance of capturing the human link to significant moments while we can and that is, when she got the opportunity to scan the space-aged Glass Bank in Cocoa Beach, she seized it. The Space Program is an integral part of Central Florida’s history and, frankly, part of why the community here even exists and Walters is determined to preserve, “That moment when space was our future.”

The First Federal Savings and Loan Building, nicknamed The Glass Bank, was one of a kind. Built in 1961, it was rare to see such an elegant bank building at that time; one built for beauty rather than function. The impressive structure was reflective of the space age and soon became a landmark drawing visitors to the area. With the restaurant and nightclub, Ramon’s Rainbow Room, on the top floor hosting national politicians and Hollywood stars alike it soon became a source of great pride for the community. For those who remember those times, the demolition of the Glass Bank is like losing a member of the community and they mourn its loss.

Walters is part of that community and, as such, has wanted to laser scan the building for quite some time as a part of her ChronoPoints endeavors. She was excited when the city finally provided access even though she only had two days to create a 3D point cloud model of the building exterior using a FARO Focus S120 laser scanner. Luckily, once all (continued on page 3)
IST held its first ever game jam – an event that brings people of all skills together to rapidly prototype a video game or even non-digital games like board or card games – May 15 – 17. It was a chance for people to get their creative juices flowing in a high intensity situation.

Organizer Alexia Mandeville says she wanted to host a game jam because she thought it’d be a good opportunity to strengthen the community between labs at IST. With an organization this size and with so many different projects it’s easy to constantly pass people in the halls without ever officially meeting them or knowing their names. Others in the organization have shared the same thoughts with Alexia and she knows, “Working together in a creative event will be an easy way to make friends, network, and find out what the other labs are interested in.”

She has previous experience organizing game jams with good turnouts and, given Orlando’s large game and simulation development community, she hopes she can continue to organize more development events at IST and include people from outside the organization as well.

Hopefully these kind of events will help spread the word about IST and increase exposure within the game development community that isn’t always aware just how much simulation development is happening at UCF. Alexia also hopes it’ll help folks within IST identify people and organization in the community for potential partnerships and, for students, future employment opportunities.

Valencia College Unveils School of Public Safety & Partners with UCF/IST

On April 2nd Valencia College had the official unveiling of their School of Public Safety with leaders from Orange and Osceola county public safety agencies as well as state and local elected officials in attendance. The School occupies a 77,000 square-foot training facility that houses several state of the art simulators including the fire command simulator developed for Orange County Fire Rescue by UCF’s Institute for Simulation & Training.

Valencia hopes to end the fragmentation of training for law enforcement and fire service officers with the new School of Public Safety. The interdisciplinary training that can be offered by bringing all of the different training programs under one roof will lead to expanded courses and open up more opportunities for career advancement for students. This is why Valencia plans to continue to partner with UCF and IST on their public safety programs with their most immediate plans to explore the possibility of a specialized driving simulation course intended for continued law enforcement training.
of the asbestos had been removed from the premises, she was given additional access and able to perform additional scans from the roof.

Complications have made it impossible to view blueprints of the building so Walters is now working with members of the community to enhance the Maya 3D model she has created of the Glass Bank exterior and environment. She’s been gathering oral histories and photos to recreate the interior of the building from a variety of people from those who worked at the bank to a couple who were married in the bank to someone who helped install the glass – he was 19 then and now owns the glass company. She hopes by researching who occupied each of the floors and how it looked before changes were made to the building she’ll be able to build a reasonable representation of how it appeared in 1961.

Walters says she has met lots of interesting people who are both very nice and willing to help. It’s been both fun and fascinating talking to people who love to share their stories of the Glass Bank and Ramone’s Rainbow Room. As Walters continues to gather information and look for people to interview, she hopes to secure additional funding to complete the interior aspects of the modeling. She’d like to turn it into an educational platform, using it as a tool to teach students about these historic buildings while also offering them an opportunity to see what they can do using the resources of today while working in the parameters of these structures of yesterday.

As for what sites she’ll be capturing next, Walters has just finished scanning the Saturn V at the Kennedy Space Center and will be working on the TWA Terminal at JFK in New York this summer. To learn about these sites and other aspects of the project, visit the ChronoPoints site: www.chronopoints.com.

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(continued from page 1)

Preserving the Glass Bank

We now have the capability to record M&S Seminars!

If speakers consent to being recorded, you’ll find links to watch their presentations on-line at: www.ist.ucf.edu/grad/events.html

At least three recent presentations are now available to watch on-line:

- Theoretical Foundations for Developing Cybersecurity Training, Presenter: Eric C. Ortiz, M.A.M.S.
- Modeling and Simulation: Exploring its Application for Policy Analysis, Presenter: Janet Weisenford, M.I.P.A.
- Developing a Modeling & Simulation Curriculum for High School: Processes and Lessons Learning, Presenter: Richard Hartshorne, Ph.D.

Be sure to check them out!
Congratulations & Accolades

Congratulations to all of our 2015 Spring graduates. All of your hard work and perseverance has paid off and we want to take a moment to recognize your accomplishment. Whether you’re move on or staying with us for the next portion of your journey, we wish you all the best in the future!

• Veronica Prisco – Bachelor, College of Sciences, Psychology
• Melissa Vazquez – Bachelor, College of Sciences
• Natalia Zubieta – Bachelor, College of Business (Accounting)
• Jon Hurter – Masters in M&S, College of Sciences
• Ryan Wohleber – Masters in M&S, College of Engineering & Computer Sciences
• Kevin Leyva – Masters in M&S, College of Sciences
• Crystal Maraj – PhD, College of Engineering and Computer Sciences

We also want to take a moment to thank Tammie McClellan, Program Director for the Department of Information Systems Technology, for her 20+ years of service here at IST and to congratulate her receiving the 2015 Alumni Achievement Award from the Master of Research Administration program. This award recognizes public service professionals who have made a positive impact within their communities and have contributed to the success of the School of Public Administration. We can definitely attest to the positive impact Tammie has made here at IST!

Congratulations also go out to Dr. Florian Jentsch for his appointment as Interim Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development at UCF’s College of Sciences. We know he’ll exceed expectations as he takes on the responsibilities of overseeing research and faculty development.

Got News? Email us!

Do you have a news item or project you’d like featured on our website or in our newsletter? A noteworthy project you think deserves attention? We’d like to hear about it! Are you attending or presenting at an event that we should all know about? Does someone in your group deserve accolades? These are the kind of things we want to include in the newsletter and highlight on the IST website. Email us at graphics@ist.ucf.edu with your news items.