Message from the Chair

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One of the most valuable benefits of participating in EDGD is the opportunity to attend its conferences. Of all the professional conferences I attend, whether research or education related, my favorite by far is the EDGD Midyear Conference. At the Midyear, I truly feel that I am among friends and family. It is a collection of educators with common goals and interests, but the differences in their means and approaches are what make discussions exciting.   The Midyear Conference is small enough to afford a personal touch, and the expenses are always kept to a reasonable level. If you haven't been to an EDGD conference lately, I fully encourage you to do so. While much can be learned from reading papers and watching webinars or video presentations, there is really no substitute for face-to-face discussion. Conferences are the places to make friends as well as professional contacts. They are places to discover new ideas, technologies, and different approaches to common problems. They are places to bounce your own ideas off others who can offer qualified opinions and advice. These types of interaction are best done at a personal level: over a meal, in the hallway, or on a tour.   Remember that you can attend a conference even if you are not presenting a paper. I've done this more often than not, and I've always come away refreshed, inspired, and full of new ideas.

The recent 68th EDGD Midyear Conference, held on 20-22 October 2014 at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worchester MA, carried on the tradition of EDGD conferences that are well-organized, informative, and just plain fun. I wish to congratulate the organizers for a job well-done, especially Site Chair Holly Ault, and Program Chairs Nick Bertozzi and Kathryn Holliday-Darr. The 68th Midyear boasted sixty participants from twenty different universities and five industrial partners (Autodesk, Parts Solutions, PTC, Schroff Development Corporation, and Solidworks). Seventeen technical papers were presented and four professional workshops were conducted.   The event highlight was a most memorable dinner among the exhibits at the Worcester Art Museum.

At the Midyear Conference, Lulu Sun and Heidi M. Steinhauer, won the Media Showcase Award for their presentation of, "Using Multimedia Online Learning Tools to Supplement the Classroom Instruction." The Oppenheimer Award was won by Thomas Delahunty, Niall Seery, and Raymond Lynch for their presentation of, "Conceptualization in Visuospatial Reasoning Tasks: A Research Direction." In addition the Lulu Sun and Christopher Grant were selected as winners of the 2013 Chair's Award for their paper, "Inquiry-Guided Learning (IGL) in Graphical Communications Course." These papers are fine examples of the expanding scope of the Division, encompassing topics such as visual and learning science, as well as traditional

engineering graphics and practical classroom implementation. I'm looking forward to seeing many more such papers in the near future.

Dennis K. Lieu
2013-2014 EDGD Chair