ASIS Special Interest Group for
Visualization, Images, & Sound

Greetings, and Welcome to the first SIGVIS Newsletter of 1998-99

Although we are getting off to a bit of a late start, we are still hoping to have four issues of the SIGVIS newsletter out this year, with various guest editors at the helm.

Our publications will be ably managed by Mark Rorvig, Communications Officer, and his Graduate Assistant, Teresa Lepchenske (many thanks to Teresa for taking on this job!) Our Chair Elect and Program Chair for 1998-'99 is Jana Bradley.

We are also creating a listserv, which hopefully will be up and running by Feb. 22. If you do not receive a welcome message from the list and you are a SIGVIS member or interested in the group, please let me know.

This continues to be an exciting time for those interested in digital images and audio and visualization techniques. One very interesting project currently underway (and with which I am involved), is the MPEG 7 initiative, whose focus is on developing standards for the content coding of multimedia materials. The development of these standards will take several years, and
we will be hearing quite a bit more about them as time goes on. Participants in the group are mainly from industry, with a few academic institutions represented. I am pleased therefore that LIS will now be represented at these important talks, which could have a major impact on the future of multimedia access. U.S. meetings are open to anyone; if you have a
particular interest in this area, you may wish to attend.

An interesting note is that the original call for proposals for these standards was expected to result in about 100 submissions; more than 600 were received. I had a chance to preview several in Albuquerque and San Jose, and the ones I heard about were *vastly* different from each other. It looks like the issues of metadata and indexing for multimedia materials are
still very fluid, and we are definitely in for some interesting times! Stay tuned...More information can be found at the following URLs:

   http://drogo.cselt.stet.it/mpeg/#Meetings

Moving Pictures Expert Group (with many links to more information about MPEG 7)

   http://www.ncits.org/

The National Committee on Information Technology Standards Home Page

Corinne Jorgensen

cjorgens@acsu.buffalo.edu

School of Information and Library Studies

534 Baldy Hall
Buffalo, NY 14260-1020

(716)-645-6127 or 645-2412 FAX (716)-645-3775

Website Coordinator