

**Presents the Summer 2013 EECS Seminar Series**

**Dr. Diane Sonnenwald**

**University College Dublin**

**“Visioning Studies: A Socio-Technical Approach to Designing the Future”**

**Thursday, May 23, 2013 • 11:00 a.m. • HEC 450**

**Hosted by: Professor Gregory Welch ([welch@ucf.edu](mailto:welch@ucf.edu))**

It is increasingly important to understand the potential impact of future technology in complex contexts as early as possible in the research and development (R&D) cycle. Understanding the potential impact informs the design of new technology, enhancing the technology’s adoption and reducing its unintended negative consequences. It also uncovers potential conflicts with current social structures, facilitating the identification of enhancements to social structures and/or practices to derive additional benefits from the technology.

To discover the potential impact of future technology we have been developing a research approach called “visioning studies.” The goal of a visioning study is to understand the perspectives of potential stakeholders, and from this understanding develop socio-technical design recommendations in collaboration with computer science researchers. Two complementary approaches to visioning studies have emerged. One investigates task performance using an experimental design involving task simulation, observation, questionnaires and interviews. The other explores domain implications using a qualitative design including a video depicting the technology vision and semi-structured interviews. To date visioning studies have focused on 3D telepresence technology in collaborative emergency health care and future mobile technology in collaborative police work.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Diane H. Sonnenwald holds the title of Professor, Chair of Information and Library Studies at University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland, and Adjunct Professor in Computer Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the first person working outside North America to be elected President of ASIS&T, the Association for Information Science & Technology, and is currently serving as Immediate Past President. ASIS&T has over 4,000 members in 50 countries worldwide. Diane also served as Head of School in the School of Information and Library Studies at UCD from 2009-2012.

Diane conducts research on collaboration and collaboration technology in a variety of contexts, including interdisciplinary and inter-organizational collaboration in emergency healthcare, academia, police work and industry. She has published over 80 papers and book chapters, and has been awarded over 20 research grants from national and international foundations, corporations, and funding agencies, including the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine, the European Science Foundation, and most recently the Motorola Foundation and HW Wilson Foundation.

In 2002 Diane was a Fulbright Professor in Finland. Other awards and recognition include a U.S. Army Research Laboratory Scientific Contribution Award, UNC Junior Faculty Research Award, ALISE Research Methodology Best Paper Award, and Bell Communications Research Award of Excellence. Professor Sonnenwald has a PhD from the School of Communication and Information, Rutgers University.