# IEEE Computer Society Visualization and Graphics Technical Committee Member Chris Johnson Wins Babbage Award

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Los Alamitos, California ([PRWEB](#)) June 07, 2012 -- Christopher Johnson, a member of the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Visualization and Graphics, is the 2012 winner of the IEEE Charles Babbage Award. The award was presented to Johnson late last month at the 26th IEEE International Parallel & Distributed Processing Symposium (IPDPS) in Shanghai, China.

Johnson received the award "in recognition of his innovations in the area of scientific visualization and their application to computational biomedicine, engineering, and scientific discovery." He joins the ranks of eminent computer scientists such as Jim Gray, Frances Allen, Bill Dally, and Jack Dongarra who have previously received the Babbage Award.

"All of us in VGTC have long appreciated and applauded the outstanding visualization research by Chris and its significant impact in medicine, science, and engineering. It is time that the broader computing field sees Chris as the role model that he is," said Amitabh Varshney, a computer science professor and director of the University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies. "I am very proud to note that VGTC has celebrated his lifetime contributions and impact in visualization through the VGTC Career Award in 2010."

Added Klaus Mueller, the chair of the IEEE Visualization and Graphics TC, a computer science professor, and director of the Visual Analytics and Imaging Lab at Stony Brook University: "This prestigious award puts the field of visualization into the bright spotlight. We are very fortunate to have a distinguished scientist like Chris in our midst to serve as a prominent beacon for all of us."

Johnson directs the Scientific Computing and Imaging (SCI) Institute at the University of Utah, where he is a Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and holds faculty appointments in the departments of physics and bioengineering. Johnson founded SCI as the SCI research group in 1992. It has since evolved into an institute that employs more than 200 faculty, staff, and students. Johnson is co-founder of Visual Influence Inc. and co-editor of "The Visualization Handbook."

Johnson is also the recipient of the Governor's Medal for Science and Technology, the Distinguished Professor Award, and the Rosenblatt Award from the University of Utah among numerous other awards. He is a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM).

The [Visualization and Graphics TC](#) (vgTC) promotes research in computer graphics, visualization, and virtual reality as well as the application of these topics to science, engineering, business, medicine, and the arts. Research interests include hardware, software, algorithms, and user interfaces. Specific topics of emphasis within the TC are visualization, computer graphics, and virtual and augmented reality.

The TC sponsors three major conference series: IEEE VisWeek, IEEE Virtual Reality, and IEEE ISMAR. Also sponsored are international symposia, including the IEEE Pacific Visualization Symposium (PacificVis), the

IEEE Symposium on Biological Data Visualization (BioVis), and the IEEE Symposium on Large-scale Data Analysis & Visualization (LDAV). The TC sponsors IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG) and IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications (CG&A).

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