

I would like to pass an idea by you. Due to the nature of my research in which illustrations, rather than computations, play a central role, I have been interested in the methods and possibilities of computer imaging, graphic manipulations, and image analysis of images and video. I am constantly observing mismatches between the need for certain imaging processes and the actual state of the art. It is my understanding that this entire area is growing in importance.

Most relevant to the IT Initiative, this is an area that will be relevant for a broad array of units on Campus and which holds enormous promises for the benefit of the state (surveying of coastal areas, water quality in the Gulf, etc.). A new research group in the area of computer image manipulation and analysis on Campus would be of overarching importance, and, with this field being not yet overcrowded, LSU may be able to gain some degree of prominence in it. Such a research group could be placed in a variety of academic units at LSU, such as physics (especially given the medical physics program and the new faculty member in medical imaging, as well as the needs in astronomy, etc.), chemistry (crystallography, modelling), biology, geography, CCER, anthropology, design, art, veterinary school, College of Engineering. Many more departments would probably benefit from such a center.