



Two WVU alumni receive praise for scholarly work

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Two recent WVU graduates are being recognized internationally by the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations, a consortium of more than 200 universities worldwide.

Aaron Steele of Roseburg, Ore., and Ana Torres of Mexico are among six winners of the Innovative Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Award. The consortium is honoring the WVU grads for their exemplary work — Steele for his electronic dissertation and Torres for her electronic thesis.

John Hagen, program coordinator for WVU's ETD program and an NDLTD board member, applauded each of the graduates for creating a unique model of digital media research that will encourage further endeavors in their respective areas.

"Their efforts have improved graduate education and raised the standard of scholarship on a global scale," he said. "Their work will provide a clear road for others to follow."

Steele, a December 2007 graduate of WVU's Department of Physics in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, developed a multimedia dissertation, "Collective Behavior in Chemical Systems," that includes animated simulation models and computer software code. He wanted other scholars to easily follow in his footsteps, using the same software and methodology he developed.

A key element to Steele's dissertation is its interactive components. He added links throughout the document, so readers can easily find all the supporting materials, and he also included images.

"It's appealing and is more than just text," Steele said. "There's quite a bit of visual information included. It's more like having a Web page."

Torres, a graduate of WVU's College of Creative Arts, developed a multimedia thesis that includes film clips and photographic files to allow others to experience her dramatic art presentation. Her thesis, "The 3 Pigs: Interactive Performance," is a dramatic parody within the realm of conceptual art.