

Biography



Dr. Alyn Rockwood is Professor of Applied Mathematics and Associate Director of the Geometric Modeling and Scientific Visualization Research Center at King Abdullah University of Science & Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia – both positions he assumed in June 2009.

Dr. Rockwood has been involved with computer graphics and related research for more than 30 years. At the pioneering graphics company Evans and Sutherland, he led a team that first achieved certification from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for a pilot training simulator, which allowed pilots to train completely for new aircraft on a simulator. At Silicon Graphics, Inc, he developed the method for rendering curved surfaces in real time that is integral to OpenGL today. These and other innovations led the Association for Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group on Graphics and Interactive Techniques (ACM SIGGRAPH), the premier organization in computer graphics, to appoint him as Research Papers Chair in 1999 and Conference Chair in 2003. Recently, as vice president, he led a multi-million-dollar initiative to create the new conference, SIGGRAPH in Asia. He is currently the SIGGRAPH Asia Papers Chair for 2013.

Before moving to KAUST, Dr. Rockwood held academic positions at both Arizona State University and Colorado School of Mines. He has received several teaching awards, the COFES 2007 Innovation in Technology Award, and the CAD Society "Heroes of Engineering" Award. He has also been the co-founder of three successful startup companies.

His current research is focused on developing new modeling techniques for industrial design and animation, volume meshing for FE analysis, a new basis for image processing, and engineering applications of Clifford Algebra. This work has particular application to terrain modeling and therefore digital reconstruction of historical terrain data.

Dr. Rockwood has published more than 90 peer-reviewed articles, secured six patents, and written three books, including one novel entitled *How Noble in Reason*. He received his doctorate from the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.