

Dr. Antonette M. Logar



Education:

As someone once said, I have “over-degreed” myself. I don’t know how it happened but it is a cautionary tale for all students: be careful or you will end up with the world’s most expensive wallpaper!

B.A. Geology - Lehigh University

B.S. Computer Science – South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

M.S. Computer Science – University of Minnesota

Ph.D. Computer Science – Texas Tech University

J.D. (law) – University of Louisville

Career:

I am currently a Professor in Mathematics and Computer Science at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T) in Rapid City, SD. I have spent most of my career at SDSM&T although I have held a few different positions. I served as Chair of the department for four years and was the Interim Dean of Graduate Education for two years. Although I keep getting pulled into administrative positions, my first love is being in the classroom. I also had the opportunity to work in industry for four years at ETA Systems – a company which built the fastest machine in the world at a time when super-computers were about to go extinct – and I taught for the University of Maryland in Europe for a year. My research and publication record has focused on pattern recognition, first with NASA’s Mission to Planet Earth where I developed neural networks to process satellite imagery, and later with the Friction-Stir processing group where I work on non-destructive evaluation of weld quality by applying pattern recognition techniques to weld assembly feedback signals. I was presented with the Ennenga Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1996 and received the Outstanding Professor Award in 1997. I was also named an Eminent Engineer by Tau Beta Pi in 2000, received a NASA Space Act Award along with my team for the mission-critical MODIS reprojection tool in 2001, and was selected for Leadership Rapid City – a program designed to groom the next generation of community leaders – in 1998. More recently, I was given a lifetime achievement award by the ICPC in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2013. The last award is perhaps the most important one to me since my passion for 25 years has been coaching the programming team along with Ed Corwin. SDSM&T is by far the smallest school to take five teams to the World Finals of the International Collegiate Programming Contest. Only a handful of coaches have done it, even at big schools, and we are grateful for that experience. Texas Tech gets a lot of the credit for our success as coaches. Ed learned a lot of his coaching techniques from the excellent coaches at TTU and our students have been the beneficiaries of those experiences. I’ve served on a lot of community boards, having most recently been elected to the Mt. Rushmore Society Board of Directors.

Personal:

Of all the good fortune I have enjoyed, and I have had more than my share, the greatest gift in my life was finding and marrying Ed Corwin – my research partner, my soul-mate, my husband of 36 years.

Although we don't have any children of our own, we have loved, nurtured, and continue to keep in touch with many of our students. We are avid travelers, having been to more than 50 countries already with more on the way (as you might guess, we have some stories to tell...). Some of our most memorable trips have been with our students. The train across India, midnight at the Eiffel tower, the beer halls of Prague... the memories of those trips with our students are among our most treasured moments. Music has also been a source of great joy in my life. I've sung in choirs my whole life and continue to sing with the University Choir even now. That group has done several European tours and plans to do another next year.

Texas Tech, the faculty of the Computer Science Department at TTU, and specifically Dr. William J. B. Oldham my Ph.D. advisor, are directly responsible for the career I have enjoyed. I am endlessly grateful for all they have given me.



At the border of Thailand and Myanmar



Sitting on George Washington's head at Mt. Rushmore (no – you can't do this when you visit, sorry)