

Good Evening everyone,

I am in Italy continuing research for adapting my thesis to other languages. Therefore, I send my regards and apologies that I cannot be here with you.

I simply want to say thank you for the honor of receiving The Innovative Learning through ETDs Award. I am thrilled to be given this recognition for my MFA thesis, entitled ASL Finger Challenge. This computer Assisted Instruction Software is designed to teach the American Sign Language Manual Alphabet, and improving students ability to receive fingerspelling using real time animation. It has been a lot of hard work and, naturally, I have much more to do. Receiving this award from the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations Awards Committee has been very encouraging indeed. I would like to personally thank my thesis committee, which includes Professor Chris Jackson, Professor Cathy Chou, Professor Baldev Kaur Khalsa and Professor Emeritus James Ver Hague for their continual encouragement, relentless support and invaluable guidance. I would not be where I am today without them.

Thank you very much and enjoy the conference!

Regards,  
Jeffrey Cougler