Virtual Residency Workshop 2020  
“Strategic Thinking & Visioning”

Moderator: Henry Neeman, U Oklahoma, Director, OU Supercomputing Center for Education & Research (OSCER)

Shafaq Chaudhry, U Central Florida, Assistant Director, Research IT
Shawn Doughty, Tufts U, Manager, Research Computing
Frank Feagans, U Texas Dallas, VP and CIO
Claire Mizumoto, U California San Diego, Director, Research IT Services
Annamaria Szakonyi, St. Louis U, Research Computing Architect
Scott Valcourt, U New Hampshire, Director of Strategic Technology

Wed June 3  
Shafaq Chaudhry
Assistant Director, Graduate & Research IT, Office of Research, UCF
NSF Trusted CI Cybersecurity Fellow, 2019
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• offer a service designed to address the needs of a consumer group
  Examples
  • Data collection and analysis tools
  • Cloud computing
  • Technical consulting
  • CUI/FISMA environment

• make (an action or process) easy or easier
  • Liaise with HPC, library, other IT depts, InfoSec Office, Research Compliance, C&G office
  Examples:
  • GIS facilitation
  • SPSS facilitation
  • Agreements with vendors

• one who supports or promotes the interests of a cause or group
  Examples:
  • Researcher Needs Assessments
  • External capabilities assessments
  • Presenting to senior leadership (VPR, Provost, Faculty Senate)
Shawn G. Doughty
Tufts University
Tufts Technology Services (TTS)

Manager Research Computing
shawn.doughty@tufts.edu
Roles

- Sponsor/Stakeholder
- Systems Facing
- Researcher Facing
- Software Data Facing
Frank Feagans  
Vice President and Chief Information Officer  
University of Texas at Dallas

OIT Business Strategies

- Focus on delivery of IT services that improve agility, quality & availability, while continuing to reduce operational costs.
- Leverage digital transformation to enhance learning, strengthen collaboration, reduce administrative burden & boost decision making capabilities.
- Provide cyber-infrastructure services that help advance research & attract T/TT faculty.
- Establish a partnering, “can do” customer-care culture with our customers, stakeholders, colleagues & each other.

Higher Ed (2011-present)
- UTD HPC
- U of AZ HPC

Private Sector (1981-2011)
- McD HPC

MS, Computer Sci. – U of IL  
BS, Computer Eng. – U of IL
UTD “Science-Optimized” Cyber-Infrastructure Services

6 FTEs
Gi Vania, Sr. Dir.

HPN Services
Research Facilitation
HPC Architectures
Grants
HPC Operations

PhD
PhD

HPN
Research Facilitation
HPC Architectures
Grants
HPC Operations

UTD
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS
Office of Information Technology

6 FTEs
Gi Vania, Sr. Dir.

HPN Services
Research Facilitation
HPC Architectures
Grants
HPC Operations

PhD
PhD

GENI
TACC
Ganymede (condo)
Private PI HPC

OSG
Europa (shared)
Fed Reserve HPC

AWS
Io (storage/AI/ML)
Data Management

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS
Office of Information Technology

7

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS
Office of Information Technology
UC San Diego

About the University of California San Diego:
• RI Research Institution
• $1.35B in annual research funding
• One of the 10 campuses in the University of CA System
• ~3,000 Faculty and ~1300 Postdocs and ~40k students

CLAIRE MIZUMOTO
DIRECTOR, RESEARCH IT SERVICES

• A division of the central IT Services, under CIO
• As a formal group, Research IT is just 5 years old
• We have both Executive IT Governance and Research IT Governance
WHAT WE DO

Newsflash: We didn’t start in an HPC/HTC Center

Researcher-Facing

\textit{not necessarily systems-}, \textit{services-focused}

- Consultation Services
- Proofs of Concept & Pilot Programs
- Sell off small percentages of effort, co-located Researcher-Facing professionals,
- Contract and Grant Support
- Training, Software Support

\textit{Built on the long-tail of research, partnerships with service-providers, fill the gaps in support}

Acutely aware of the RCD Ecosystem
Annamaria Szakonyi
Research Computing Architect
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linkedin.com/in/annamarias
@AMSzakonyi
Research Computing Expert:
- IT & Research liaison
- Internal consultant and advisor to the research community
- Designer of research technologies
- “IT Ninja”
- Previously: app support & projects

Products and Services:
- Research Computing Consulting
- HPC
- Cloud computing
- Strategy advisor
- Project implementations
- Process improvements
- Security & compliance reviews
- External partnerships

Report to CISO

PhD Student & Researcher:
- Effects of technology (AI, ML) and technology policies on social justice and equity
- Application of technology to fight human trafficking and the exploitation of women and children

STEM Education & Advocacy:
- CyberAmbassadors Program (MSU, NSF)
- Leadership in Women in Tech groups (women & underrepresented groups in STEM)
Research Computing Professional

- XSEDE Campus Champion – Started as a TeraGrid Campus Champion just before the change in 2011
- RC Evangelist – “Fake it till you make it” doesn’t work
- Project Management isn’t just for Central IT anymore
- Strategic Thinking – where do you want to be, when, and what are the steps to get there
Q&A

• Can you give us some examples of projects that you initiated and how you came up with the vision(s) for those projects?

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Q&A

• How do you align your vision for your organization with the vision and direction provided by the VP/VC-Research, CIO, etc.?
Q&A

• Does your strategic planning include input from a Research Governance and/or Advisory Group? If so, how does that affect your plans?

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Q&A

• How do you support others (researchers, departments, partners) as an RCF in thinking strategically themselves?

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Q&A

• How does your autonomy (or lack thereof) affect your vision and strategic planning?

Q&A

• To what extent does funding/financial backing affect your development of a strategic plan?

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Q&A

• What's your vision for your own organization? How did you come up with it?

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Q&A

• Can you give us some examples of how you used strategic thinking to resolve an issue or need for your organization and/or your researchers?

Q&A

• How did you learn how to do strategic thinking and visioning?

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