

Note of Appreciation for the Distinguished Scholar Award

Missy Bye and Karen LaBat, University of Minnesota

We are honored to be selected as the first team to receive the ITAA Distinguished Scholar Award. Thank you to our colleagues who nominated us—Mary Lynn Damhorst, Jane Hegland, Jana Hawley, and Mary Littrell. We are grateful to have such supportive ITAA friends. The opportunity to reflect on our 30 years of working together on research, teaching, and outreach projects was priceless and very much appreciated. And we enjoyed presenting our story, “Converging and Diverging Scholarly Paths: Success through Collaboration,” at the ITAA conference in Vancouver. We especially thank Marilyn DeLong who brought us together in 1987 to work on a multi-year project funded by 3M. From that initial collaboration we found that our strength lies in the ability to solve problems together, while pursuing different, but complimentary endeavors. So many people including ITAA members, industry partners, University of Minnesota colleagues and students, friends and families have made our work possible. We’ve identified our shared core interests and impacts. *Improving the fit and function of wearable products through merging Karen’s focus on health and well-being and Missy’s focus on visual analysis. *Developing opportunities for learning in and out of the classroom with projects like “Integrated Studios,” “UMN Design Camp,” and “SunSmart.” *Leading efforts in interdisciplinary, collaborative scholarship through establishing the UMN Wearable Product Design Center and leading discussions on “Futuring” for ITAA. Our work and collaboration continues with these themes as our inspiration.