I’ll describe joint work with Matt Clay and Chris Leininger. We give sufficient conditions for a finite set of mapping classes to generate a right-angled Artin group quasi-isometrically embedded in the mapping class group. Moreover, under these conditions, the orbit map to Teichmüller space is a quasi-isometric embedding for both of the standard metrics. As a consequence, we produce infinitely many genus $h$ surfaces ($h$ at least 2) in the moduli space of genus $g$ surfaces ($g$ at least 3) for which the universal covers are quasi-isometrically embedded in the Teichmüller space. (Received September 19, 2011)