

Christopher Johnson

CONTACT INFORMATION
Office: King Hall 246-E
Email: johns8cr@jmu.edu
Web: twodee.org
GitHub: github.com/twodee

EDUCATION

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Ph.D. Computer Science, August 2009

- ▶ Dissertation: Enhancing User Queries in Scientific Visualization with Distribution Information
- ▶ Advisor: Professor Jian Huang

M.S. Computer Science, December 2005

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA

B.S. Computer Science, May 2003, *summa cum laude*

- ▶ Completed two years as English double major
- ▶ Recipient of full-tuition STEM scholarship

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Professor	August 2025–present
Associate Professor	August 2020–August 2025
<i>James Madison University</i>	Harrisonburg, VA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Teach courses on web development, programming languages, data structures, computer graphics▶ Mentor Competitive Programming Club and organize programming contests▶ Serve as first-year advisor to 65 students a year▶ Host workshops for K-12 students in 100+ contact hours of outreach annually	
Associate Professor	August 2016–May 2020
Assistant Professor	August 2011–August 2016
<i>University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire</i>	Eau Claire, WI
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Taught courses on programming languages, mobile applications, game development, web systems, computer graphics, architecture, and introductory programming▶ Investigate problems at the intersection of art and design, biology, communication disorders, and computer science with undergraduate researchers	
Erskine Fellow	January–June 2019
<i>University of Canterbury</i>	Christchurch, New Zealand
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Taught post-graduate course on mobile software development, including topics on sensors, wireless communication protocols, and social computing	

Instructor Summers 2018–2019, 2021
Carleton College Northfield, Minnesota
▶ Directed three-week summer camp on computational music, electronics, and geometric modeling for high schoolers

Lecturer August 2008–May 2011
Iowa State University Ames, IA
▶ Managed 10+ teaching assistants per semester
▶ Directed department's residential learning community
▶ Met prospective students and led outreach exhibits and workshops

Adjunct Faculty June–November 2006
William Penn University Ames/Des Moines, IA
▶ Instructed students in College for Working Adults program in course on office software

Teaching Assistant August 2003–December 2004
University of Tennessee Knoxville, TN
▶ Directed recitation and lab sessions for courses on introductory C programming, graduate/undergraduate computational theory, and MATLAB

*RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE*

Visualization Researcher January 2005–July 2009
University of Tennessee Knoxville, TN
▶ Developed software for interactive exploration of scientific data
▶ Constructed scripting language for custom frequency-based feature queries

Predoctoral Associate February 2007–August 2008
Ames Laboratory Ames, IA
▶ Maintained interactive chemistry graphics software
▶ Incorporated stereo support and molecular construction tools

Visualization Intern May–August 2004
Oak Ridge National Laboratory Oak Ridge, TN
▶ Built tools for visualization of large-scale supernova simulation
▶ Scripted suite of tools for management of large display walls

*OTHER WORK
EXPERIENCE*

Game Engineer April 2018–January 2019
Filament Games Madison, WI
▶ Developed two learning games in an agile environment with teams of game designers, artists, and UX designers

iOS Intern May 2013–August 2013
JAMF Software Eau Claire, WI
▶ Engineered mobile apps to manage enterprise-scale OS X and iOS resources

Web Developer*Dyton Media, Inc.*

September 2002–June 2003

Cedar Falls, IA

- ▶ Automated processing of textbook publishers' content into web-ready format

Resident Assistant*University of Northern Iowa*

August 2000–May 2001

Cedar Falls, IA

- ▶ Mentored academically and socially a house of 50 residents
- ▶ Designed house programs and assisted in operation of hall affairs

**PEER-REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS**

- ▶ Chris Johnson and Will Morris. Shaping with code and mouse in twoville. In Helena Verrill, Karl Kattchee, S. Louise Gould, and Eve Torrence, editors, *Proceedings of Bridges 2024: Mathematics, Art, Music, Architecture, Culture*, pages 603–610, Phoenix, Arizona, 2024. Tessellations Publishing.
- ▶ Chris Johnson and Will Morris. Twoville: Programming with Time and Direct Manipulation. In Sarah Chasins, Elena Glassman, and Joshua Sunshine, editors, *Proceedings of PLATEAU 2024*, 5 2024.
- ▶ Chris Johnson. Computational making with twoville. *Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges*, 38(8):39–53, 2023.
- ▶ Chris Johnson and Ian McCormack. Computational making via bidirectional parametric modeling. In David Swart, Frank Farris, and Eve Torrence, editors, *Proceedings of Bridges 2021: Mathematics, Art, Music, Architecture, Culture*, pages 359–362, Phoenix, Arizona, 2021. Tessellations Publishing.
- ▶ Megan Gilbert, Dee A. B. Weikle, Chris Mayfield, and Chris Johnson. Fourth hour: A cs1 review session led by teaching assistants using peer instruction. *J. Comput. Sci. Coll.*, 36(6):45–54, apr 2021.
- ▶ Monica M. McGill, Chris Johnson, James Atlas, Durell Bouchard, Chris Messom, Ian Pollock, and Michael James Scott. If memory serves: Towards designing and evaluating a game for teaching pointers to undergraduate students. In *Proceedings of the 2017 ITiCSE Conference on Working Group Reports*, ITiCSE-WGR '17, pages 25–46, New York, NY, USA, 2017. ACM.
- ▶ Chris Johnson and Adrian Abundez-Arce. Toward blocks-text parity. In *2017 IEEE 41st Annual Computer Software and Applications Conference*, volume 01, pages 413–419, July 2017.
- ▶ Chris Johnson. Toward computational making with Madeup. In *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM SIGCSE Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education*, SIGCSE '17, pages 297–302, New York, NY, USA, 2017. ACM.
- ▶ Heather R. Buhr, Jerry K. Hoepner, Hannah Miller, and Chris Johnson. Aphasiaweb: development and evaluation of an aphasia-friendly social networking application. *Aphasiology*, 31(9):999–1020, 2017.
- ▶ Chris Johnson, Monica McGill, Durell Bouchard, Michael K. Bradshaw, Víctor A. Bucheli, Laurence D. Merkle, Michael James Scott, Z Sweedyk, J. Ángel Velázquez-Iturbide, Zhiping Xiao, and Ming Zhang. Game development for computer science education. In *Proceedings of the 2016 ITiCSE Working Group Reports*, ITiCSE '16, pages 23–44, New York, NY, USA, 2016. ACM.

- ▶ Chris Johnson and Peter Bui. Blocks in, blocks out: A language for 3d models. In *Blocks and Beyond Workshop, 2015 IEEE*, pages 77–82, Oct 2015.
- ▶ Hannah Miller, Chris Johnson, Heather Buhr, and Jerry Hoepner. Aphasiaweb: A social network for individuals with aphasia. In *Proceedings of the 14th international ACM SIGACCESS conference on Computers and accessibility, ASSETS '12*, pages 287–288, New York, NY, USA, 2012. ACM.
- ▶ Kate Sanders, Marzieh Ahmadzadeh, Tony Clear, Stephen H. Edwards, Mikey Goldweber, Chris Johnson, Raymond Lister, Robert McCartney, Elizabeth Patitsas, and Jaime Spacco. The Canterbury QuestionBank: Building a repository of multiple-choice CS1 and CS2 questions. In *Proceedings of the final reports on Innovation and technology in computer science education 2012 working groups, ITiCSE-WGR '13*, pages 33–52, New York, NY, USA, 2013. ACM.
- ▶ Chris Johnson. Madeup: A Mobile Development Environment for Programming 3-D Models. In *Proceedings of Programming Mobile and Touch, ProMoTo 2013*, September 2013.
- ▶ Chris Johnson, Anson Call, and Steve Herrnstadt. Learning elsewhere: tales from an extracurricular game development competition. In *Proceedings of the 18th ACM conference on Innovation and technology in computer science education, ITiCSE '13*, pages 70–75, New York, NY, USA, 2013. ACM.
- ▶ Barry Burd, João Paulo Barros, Chris Johnson, Stan Kurkovsky, Arnold Rosenbloom, and Nikolai Tillman. Educating for mobile computing: addressing the new challenges. In *Proceedings of the final reports on Innovation and technology in computer science education 2012 working groups, ITiCSE-WGR '12*, pages 51–63, New York, NY, USA, 2012. ACM.
- ▶ Paul Wagner and Chris Johnson. MOBILE: a MOBILE Instructional Laboratory Environment for hands-on information technology education. In *Proceedings of the 13th annual conference on Information technology education, SIGITE '12*, pages 115–120, New York, NY, USA, 2012. ACM.
- ▶ Chris Johnson. Speccheck: automated generation of tests for interface conformance. In *Proceedings of the 17th ACM annual conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education, ITiCSE '12*, pages 186–191, New York, NY, USA, 2012. ACM.
- ▶ C. Ryan Johnson, Markus Glatter, Wesley Kendall, Jian Huang, and Forrest Hoffman. Querying for feature extraction and visualization in climate modeling. In *ICCS 2009: Geo Computation*, volume 5545 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pages 416–425. Springer, 2009.
- ▶ C. Ryan Johnson and Jian Huang. Distribution driven visualization of volume data. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 15(5):734–746, 2009.
- ▶ Robert Sisneros, C. Ryan Johnson, and Jian Huang. Concurrent viewing of multiple attribute-specific subspaces. In *Proceedings of EuroVis Conference*. Eurographics Association, 2008.
- ▶ Jinzhu Gao, Jian Huang, C. Ryan Johnson, Scott Atchley, and James Arthur Kohl. Distributed data management for large volume visualization. In *Proceedings of IEEE Visualization*, pages 183–189, Minneapolis, MN, October 2005. IEEE Computer Society.

GRANTS AND
AWARDS

- ▶ Work-based Learning Experiences Fellow, September 2025–present
- ▶ Goodman Faculty Fellowship Endowment for Excellence in Teaching, May 2024
- ▶ CWS Harrisonburg Youth STEM Partner of the Year for Bridges to Computer summer camp, May 2024
- ▶ VIVA Open Course Grant for Dear Computer: An Interactive Programming Languages Textbook, March 2024, \$6750
- ▶ JMU Innovative Diversity Efforts Award for Snippets: An After-School Club on Computational Making for Middle and High School Students, March 2022, \$4000
- ▶ Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, 2017
- ▶ Partnering with K-12 Teachers to Turn 3D Printing into 3D Thinking, Nordson Foundation Grant, Fall 2017–Spring 2018, \$6250
- ▶ Automating Animation with Machine Learning, UWEC Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Faculty-Student Research Collaboration Grant, Summer 2017, \$4600
- ▶ Coding in Space: Analyzing Programmer Behaviors in a 3D Modeling Context, UWEC Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Grant, Summer 2017, \$6900
- ▶ ACM Inroads Haiku Contest, Honorable Mention, June 2017
- ▶ Madeup: A Programming Language for Making Things Up, UWEC Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Faculty-Student Research Collaboration Grant, Fall 2015–Spring 2016, \$1998
- ▶ Madeup: A Programming Language for Making Things Up, Kickstarter, 2015
- ▶ Lab Renovation Grant, Jamf Software, 2015, \$17000
- ▶ ESEA Title II-B Mathematics and Science Partnership, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2014–2017, \$220,770
- ▶ Wisconsin Teaching Fellowship, University of Wisconsin System, 2014–2015
- ▶ Keystrokes: A System for Capturing Textual Development in Video-based Learning, SIGCSE Special Projects grant, Spring 2013–Spring 2014, \$5000
- ▶ Visualization and Analysis of Niobium Tin and Other Superconducting Materials, UWEC Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Faculty-Student Research Collaboration Grant, Fall 2013–Spring 2014, \$2800
- ▶ An Aphasia-Aware Social Network, UWEC Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Faculty-Student Research Collaboration Grant, Fall 2012–Spring 2013, \$2500
- ▶ Buster: a Budget-minded Cluster for Classroom Computation, UWEC Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Faculty-Student Research Collaboration Grant, Fall 2012–Spring 2013, \$2800
- ▶ Reader-animated Storybooks, UWEC Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Faculty-Student Research Collaboration Grant, September 2011–May 2012, \$2800
- ▶ Analysis of Fish Media Using Computer Vision, UWEC Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Faculty-Student Research Collaboration Grant, September 2011–May 2012, \$2800
- ▶ Iowa State University Game Development Competition, Motorola Foundation Innovation Generation grant, July 2010–June 2011, \$50,000, Acceptance rate: 23%

- ▶ Modeling Reality: Bringing Market Relevance to an Undergraduate Curriculum in Interactive 3-D Gaming and Computer Graphics, Iowa State University Miller Faculty Fellowship, July 2010–June 2011, \$10,000
- ▶ Not Just Nerds: Reintroducing Computer Science with Collaboration and Creativity, Iowa State University women’s enrichment mini-fund grant, April 2010–May 2011, \$3300

*POSTERS,
WORKSHOPS,
AND
PRESENTATIONS*

- ▶ Praxly: An Online IDE for the Praxis CS Test Pseudocode. SIGCSE 2025. February 2025.
- ▶ Supporting Algorithms and Aesthetics in Computational Making. Reimagining Learning Workshop at CHI 2022. May 2022.
- ▶ Direct Manipulation for Computational Making. Talk at SPLASH-E 2020. November 2020.
- ▶ Direct Manipulation and SVG: Creating and Adjusting Graphics Programmatically and Visually. Talk at FabLearn 2020. October 2020.
- ▶ Learning Music Theory Through Code with Deltaphone. VOICES 2019. September 2019.
- ▶ Computational Making With Madeup. Workshop at STEM in Education 2018. Brisbane, Australia. November 2018.
- ▶ Computational Making With Madeup. Demo at FabLearn 2017. Palo Alto, CA. October 2017.
- ▶ Coding in Three Dimensions. Summer camp for middle schoolers at L.E. Phillips Public Library. Eau Claire, WI. Summer 2017.
- ▶ Coding in All the Dimensions. Exhibit at Mini-Maker Fair. St. Paul, MN. June 2017.
- ▶ Mixing Code and 3D Printers with Madeup. Workshop at SIGCSE 2016. Memphis, TN. March 2016.
- ▶ Computing in the Third Dimension. Invited talk in UWEC Ask a Scientist Series. Acoustic Cafe, Eau Claire, WI. April 2016.
- ▶ Madeup: A Language for Making Things Up. Poster at SIGCSE 2015. Kansas City, MO. March 2015.
- ▶ AphasiaWeb: Development and Evaluation of an Aphasia-Friendly Social Networking Application. Poster at ASHA Convention. Chicago, Illinois. November 2013.
- ▶ Lessons Learned from an Extracurricular Game Development Competition. Presentation at International Digital Media and Arts Association Conference. Savannah, GA. October 2011.
- ▶ SpecCheck: Automated Generation of Tests for Interface Conformance. Presentation at Iowa Undergraduate Computer Science Consortium. Ames, IA. April 2011.
- ▶ Triangles: A 3-point Talk. Invited talk in Relationships: Drawn, Analog to Digital exhibit at Iowa State University Museums. Ames, IA. October 2010.
- ▶ Interactive Electronic Programmable Art. Workshop for Program for Women in Science and Engineering’s Taking the Road Less Traveled conferences. Ames, IA. April, October 2010; April 2011.

- ▶ Computer Dissection. Workshop for OPPTAG Investigation Series. Ames, IA. March 2010.
- ▶ Programming LEGO Mindstorms Using Java. Exhibit at First LEGO League Regional Competition. Marshalltown, IA. December 2010.
- ▶ Wii-powered Virtual Ribbon Cutting. Technical demo for Farrington Innovation Center grand opening. Ames, IA. November 2009.
- ▶ RingPong—Pong over a circular network. Interactive exhibit at VEISHEA. Ames, IA. April 2009.

*PROFESSIONAL
AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICE*

- ▶ Chair. JMU Department of Computer Science search committee. December 2024–present.
- ▶ Mentor. Harrisonburg High School Robotics Club. 2024–present.
- ▶ Volunteer. Harrisonburg High School Marching Band Pit Crew. 2023–present.
- ▶ Representative. JMU CISE Faculty Council. August 2024–present.
- ▶ Chair. JMU CISE FLAG Committee. August 2024–present.
- ▶ First-year Advisor. JMU Department of Computer Science. 2022–present.
- ▶ Reviewer. JMU Department of Computer Science Awards Committee. August 2023–present.
- ▶ Workshop leader. Bridges to Computing Summer Camp. 2021–present.
- ▶ Fellow. Cultural Competency in Computing. August 2021–May 2023.
- ▶ Chair. UWEC Department of Computer Science search committee. August 2019–May 2020.
- ▶ Reader. Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles. June 2017.
- ▶ Mentor. Chippewa Valley Montessori School and Northstar Middle School. September 2017–May 2018.
- ▶ Reviewer. ACM ITiCSE Conference. 2017–2021.
- ▶ Member. ACM SIGCSE. August 2010–present.
- ▶ Reviewer. International Conference on Computational Science. 2012 and 2013.
- ▶ Reviewer. ACM SIGCSE Conference. 2012–2021.
- ▶ Reviewer. IEEE Computer Software and Applications. July 2010.
- ▶ Reviewer. IEEE Pacific Visualization. March 2010.
- ▶ Reviewer. IEEE VisWeek. 2006, 2007, and 2009.
- ▶ Open-source contributor. wxWidgets. December 2007–July 2008.
- ▶ Member. McIntyre Library Makerspace Task Force. March 2017–May 2020.
- ▶ Member. Chippewa Falls School District Technology Advisory Board. December 2015–May 2020.
- ▶ Member. Story County Conservation Board Trails Advisory Committee. January 2010–June 2011.
- ▶ Vice president, public relations. Town and College Toastmasters. November 2008–June 2010.
- ▶ Judge. State Science and Technology Fair of Iowa. March 2008.