Alexander Giovannelli

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Summary

My research interest lies in the intersections of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), Augmented/Virtual Reality (AR/VR), and 3D User Interfaces (3DUI). My current work involves prototyping and evaluating collaborative work in AR/VR. Specifically, I am exploring how we can improve communication between individuals using avatars and investigating asynchronous collaboration via guided tours in immersive experiences.

Education

Virginia Tech — Blacksburg, VA, USA
Ph.D. in Computer Science advised by Doug A. Bowman, GPA: 4.00/4.00 — Aug. 2021–Present

University of Cincinnati — Cincinnati, OH, USA
B.S. in Computer Engineering with German Studies minor, GPA: 3.30/4.00 — Aug. 2013–May 2018

Skills

Programming Languages: C#, JavaScript, Java, Python, HTML, CSS

Productivity Tools: Unity, Git, JMP, SPSS, LaTeX, Tableau

Research Experience

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory — Livermore, CA, USA
Computing Research Intern — Summer 2023

- Developed guided tour prototypes for inspection processes in virtual reality using C# and Unity technologies
- Facilitated meetings between multi-disciplinary project stakeholders
- Prepared user study procedure for evaluation of prototype capabilities

Virginia Tech — Blacksburg, VA, USA
Graduate Research Assistant — Spring 2023

- Investigated methods for asynchronous and synchronous collaboration in immersive experiences
- Performed contextual inquiry and analysis to determine research goals
- Created prototype virtual reality applications using C# and Unity technologies

Virginia Tech — Blacksburg, VA, USA
Graduate Research Assistant — Summer 2022

- Conducted research regarding communication via avatars in augmented and virtual reality
- Generated prototype applications and experimental studies using C# and Unity technologies
- Designed and administered user studies in accordance with Institutional Review Board regulations

Work Experience

JPMorgan Chase & Co. — Columbus, OH, USA
Associate Software Engineer I — Jul. 2018–Jul. 2021

- Developed front-end features for Chase.com using JavaScript, HTML, and CSS technologies

- Designed and implemented minimum viable product user interfaces via Figma design tool
- Authored technical documentation for product owners and developers
- Appointed subject matter expert in behavioral-driven development and CI/CD initiatives
- Automated logging of proprietary systems using the Python programming language

Siemens Healthineers Forchheim, BY, DE
Software Engineer Intern Jan. 2017–Aug. 2017

- Developed back-end software for use in advanced therapy devices using the C# programming language
- Created system architecture diagrams to record project design changes and behaviors
- Represented project team in international software integration meetings using German and English languages

Granville Exempted Village Schools Granville, OH, USA
Systems Administrator Intern May 2016–Jul. 2016

- Provisioned Windows and Linux server and workstation systems to support school network infrastructure
- Administered changes to proprietary devices regarding operating system applications, packages and images
- Managed summer technician team operations

Matrix Technologies, Inc. Maumee, OH, USA
Computer Programmer and Systems Analyst Intern Aug. 2015–Dec. 2015

- Created full-stack internal software tools for engineers and project managers using C#, XML and SQL
- Updated existing project management software according to submitted user feedback
- Authored software usage documents to elaborate on internal tool usage

Matrix Technologies, Inc. Maumee, OH, USA
Computer Programmer and Systems Analyst Intern Aug. 2014–Dec. 2014

- Enhanced existing proprietary software using the C# programming language
- Researched emerging technologies and presented potential process improvements for development team
- Coordinated project design changes with stakeholders

Projects

- Guided Tours for Multiscale Collaborative Virtual Environments Mar. 2023–Present
  Design and prototyping of a virtual environment for collaboration in multiscale inspection processes
- CLUE: An Immersive Competitive Lock-Unlock Experience Nov. 2022–Mar. 2023
  Development of a gamified experience for Metaverse security using token sequences as an authentication method
- Virtual Avatar Reaction Visualizations in VR Jun. 2022–Mar. 2023
  Development of a virtual environment for user studies investigating avatar reaction visualizations in collaboration
- Environment for Intermittent Typing Experiments in VR Jan. 2022–May 2022
  Creation of a virtual environment with mixed reality capabilities for conducting text-entry user studies
- Smart Lighting Design in Immersive VR Jan. 2022–Apr. 2022
  Developed methods and techniques to support smart real-time lighting design in virtual reality
- Clean the Ocean: An Immersive VR Experience Oct. 2021–Mar. 2022
  Created a virtual reality experience implementing novel enhancements to classic 3D interaction techniques

Publications

Peer Reviewed Journal Papers

1. **A. Giovannelli**, J. Thomas, L. Lane, F. Rodrigues, and D. A. Bowman, "Gestures vs. emojis: Comparing non-verbal reaction visualizations for immersive collaboration", in *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics, Nov. 2023.*

Peer Reviewed Conference Papers

2. F. Rodrigues, **A. Giovannelli**, L. Pavanatto, H. Miao, J. C. Oliveira, and D. A. Bowman, "Amp-it and wisdom: Improving 3d manipulation for high-precision tasks in virtual reality", in *2023 IEEE International Symposium on Mixed and Augmented Reality (ISMAR), 2023.*

3. **A. Giovannelli**, L. Lisle, and D. A. Bowman, "Exploring the impact of visual information on intermittent typing in virtual reality", in *2022 IEEE International Symposium on Mixed and Augmented Reality (ISMAR), 2022, pp. 8–17.*

Peer Reviewed Workshops, Posters, Abstracts, & Contests

4. I. A. Tahmid, F. Rodrigues, **A. Giovannelli**, L. Lisle, J. Thomas, and D. A. Bowman, "Colt: Enhancing collaborative literature review tasks with synchronous and asynchronous awareness across the reality-virtuality continuum", in *2023 International Symposium on Mixed and Augmented Reality Adjunct (ISMAR-Adjunct), 2023.*

5. **A. Giovannelli**, F. Rodrigues, S. Davari, I. A. Tahmid, L. Lane, C. Connor, K. Davidson, G. N. Ramirez, B. David-John, and D. A. Bowman, "Clue hog: An immersive competitive lock-unlock experience using hook on go-go technique for authentication in the metaverse", in *2023 IEEE Conference on Virtual Reality and 3D User Interfaces Abstracts and Workshops (VRW), 2023, pp. 945-946.*

6. J. Thomas, S. W. Lee, **A. Giovannelli**, L. Lane, and D. Bowman, "A communication-focused framework for understanding immersive collaboration experiences", in *2023 IEEE Conference on Virtual Reality and 3D User Interfaces Abstracts and Workshops (VRW), 2023, pp. 301–304.*

7. L. Lisle, F. Lu, S. Davari, I. A. Tahmid, **A. Giovannelli**, C. Llo, L. Pavanatto, L. Zhang, L. Schlueter, and D. A. Bowman, "Clean the ocean: An immersive vr experience proposing new modifications to go-go and wim techniques", in *2022 IEEE Conference on Virtual Reality and 3D User Interfaces Abstracts and Workshops (VRW), 2022, pp. 920–921.*

8. E. Mohammadrezaei, **A. Giovannelli**, L. Lane, and D. Gračanin, "A digital twin based approach to smart lighting design", in *2022 Winter Simulation Conference (WSC), 2022.*

Awards

- I/ITSEC Leonard P. Gollobin Scholarship 2023
- Davenport Leadership Fellowship 2023–2024
- Honorable Mention for Best IEEE ISMAR 2022 Conference Paper [3] 2022
- Best 3DUI Contest Entry [7] 2022
- International Co-op Program Scholarship 2016–2017
- Matrix Technologies, Inc. Co-op Scholarship 2014–2016

Teaching

- **Graduate Teaching Assistant** at Virginia Tech Fall 2022
  Comparative Languages (CS-3304)
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant** at Virginia Tech Fall 2021 & Spring 2022
  Software Design & Data Structures (CS-2114)

Organizations

- Member of Computer Science Graduate Student Council 2021–Present
  Represent the interests of the CS graduate student body and assist in event planning
- Member of the Center for Human-Computer Interaction 2021–Present
  Active participant in the Center seminars regarding the study of human-computer interaction