Cynthia Zastudil

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Education

Aug. 2022 – Present

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
Ph.D. in Computer & Information Sciences
- Advisor: Dr. Stephen MacNeil
- GPA: 3.96/4.0

Aug. 2016 – May 2020

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA
B.S. in Computer Science with minors in Mathematics & Honors Interdisciplinary Studies
- GPA: 3.9 / 4.0
- Honors College with an Area of Emphasis in Leadership
- Capstone project: CampusPartner: An assistive technology for pedestrians with mobility impairments

Publications

2025

1. Zastudil, C. *et al.* Neurodiversity in Computing Education Research: A Systematic Literature Review. *ACCEPTED for publication at ITiCSE '25* (2025).

2024

2. Hou, I. *et al. The Effects of Generative AI on Computing Students' Help-Seeking Preferences* in *Proceedings of the 26th Australasian Computing Education Conference* (2024), 39–48.

3. Zastudil, C., Holyfield, C., Smith, J. A., Nguyen, H. & MacNeil, S. *Predictive anchoring: A novel interaction to support contextualized suggestions for grid displays* in *Proceedings of the 26th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility* (2024), 1–6.

4. Zastudil, C. *et al. Exploring the use of generative AI to support automated just-in-time programming for visual scene displays* in *Proceedings of the 26th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility* (2024), 1–6.

2023

5. Zastudil, C., Rogalska, M., Kapp, C., Vaughn, J. & MacNeil, S. *Generative AI in Computing Education: Perspectives of Students and Instructors* in *2023 IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE)* (2023), 1–9.

2020

6. Zastudil, C., Stewart, M., Sprague, N. & Brady, E. *CampusPartner: An Assistive Technology for Mobility Impaired Pedestrians* in *Companion of the 2020 ACM International Conference on Supporting Group Work* (Association for Computing Machinery, Sanibel Island, Florida, USA, 2020), 139–142.

Service

Conference Reviewer

- ACM CHI, Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems - 2023, 2024, 2025
- ACM ITiCSE, Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education - 2025
- ACM C&C, Creativity and Cognition - 2023
- IEEE FIE, Frontiers in Education - 2023

Community

- Expanding Your Horizons 2017-2019 Volunteer
- DIGITAL (Dukes Inspiring Girls In Technology Across Limits) 2017-2019 Volunteer & Workshop Leader

External

- ASSETS 2019, 2024 Student Volunteer
- SIGCSE 2023, 2025 Student Volunteer

Leadership & Teaching Experience

Jan. 2025 - May 2025 — **Temple University Department of Computer & Information Sciences**
Teaching Assistant
- Served as a teaching assistant for Program Design and Abstraction (CIS 1068) and Server-Side Web Application Development (CIS 3342)
- Facilitated two lab sessions (one per course) per week for students to apply concepts they learned in their lectures
- Hosted four office hours (two per course) per week to provide assistance to students

Sept. 2017 - May 2020 — **JMU Department of Computer Science**
Lead Teaching Assistant
- Assisted in the teaching of the introductory programming sequence & Introduction to Computer Science classes
- Acted as a liaison between teaching assistants & faculty to facilitate a constructive & beneficial relationship between them
- Hosted 2-6 lab hours each week to provide additional support to students outside of class
- Aided in facilitating class activities, lab exercises, & grading of student work

Jan. 2019 - Feb. 2020 — **JMU Outreach & Engagement**
College for Kids Instructor
- Taught a six-week Scratch programming class for 12 elementary school students
- Developed lesson plans, including a final project, for students to follow & present at the end of the course

Sept. 2017 - Dec. 2018 — **JMU Honors College**
Honors College Teaching Assistant
- Facilitated the Honors Orientation course for 25 first-year students
- Responsible for the prompt grading of student work
- Provided support for first-year Honors students in curriculum planning & campus involvement

Honors & Awards

- University Fellowship, Temple University
- Phi Kappa Phi - Member April 2019 - Present
- Upsilon Pi Epsilon - Member March 2018 - Present
- JMU Distinguished Graduate in Computer Science
- JMU Computer Science Department Alan Turing Award for Excellence in Theory (2020)
- JMU Computer Science Department Merit Scholarships (2017 - 2019)
- JMU Tapia Conference Scholarship (2018 & 2019)
- JMU Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Scholarship (2017)

Research Mentorship

I have had the opportunity to work with 15 incredibly talented undergraduate students. 8 of these students have published a paper or poster with me at an academic conference. Additionally, students I've mentored have been awarded prestigious scholarships and grants to support their academic endeavors and conference travel, including the Tapia Celebration for

Diversity in Computing, Grace Hopper Celebration, and the Temple CARAS grant to support conference travel. Students have also obtained internships at companies including SAP, Ibotta, and Lincoln Financial.

Undergraduate Researchers

- Magdalena Rogalska, Temple University [5]
- Jennifer Vaughn, Temple University [5]
- Christine Kapp, Temple University [5, 4]
- Rebecca Fritz, The University of Dallas (NSF REU)
- Caleb Hageman, Temple University
- Xandria Crosland, Western Governors University [4]
- Kriti Baru, Temple University
- Megha Joshi, Temple University
- Yusef Tohamy, Temple University [1]
- Daniel Bicalho, Temple University
- June A. Smith, Berea College (NSF REU) [3]
- Liam Newsam, UC Berkeley (NSF REU)
- Gavin Montross [1]
- Rayhona Nasimova [1]
- Kate Hamilton

Technical Skills

- Programming Languages: Java, Python, JavaScript, C, Ruby, PHP, & Swift
- Databases: SQL, PostgreSQL
- Web Development: HTML5/CSS, REST APIs, Angular, TypeScript, AWS
- Software Development: Agile Software Development & Scrum Protocols, Git, Subversion, Maven, Splunk