Drshika Asher

Computer Science, Hoeft Technology & Management
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Virtual/Augmented Reality, Accessibility, Social Computing, Moderation, Computer Supported Cooperative Work

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Bachelor of Sciences, Computer Science, Statistics; GPA: 3.55 Expected May 2024
Relevant Coursework: Algorithms & Models of Computing, Computer Architecture, Data Structures, Discrete Structures, Ethical and Professional Issues in CS, Game Design, Software Design Studio, Introduction to Computer Science Honors, Linear Algebra (Python), Numerical Methods, Probability and Statistics for Computer Science

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Microsoft Research
Undergraduate Research Intern, June 2022
Advisor: Mar Gonzalez-Franco (EPIC group, HCI group), Michel Pahud (EPIC Group)
Audio Driven Avatars in Virtual Meetings (C#, Unity, Python TensorFlow)
Accessible Multi-Device interactions for users with Vision Impairment (HTML, Javascript, Azure Speech API)

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Department of Computer Science
CS STARS Research Fellowship, August 2021- present
Advisors: Alex Kirlik , Sebastian Rodriguez
Building a VR game (C#, Unity) for a study examining whether the physicality of an agent affects user trust.

Summer REU participant, June-July 2021
Advisors: Eshwar Chandrasekharan , Tanvi Bajpai
Scraped Twitter for discourse about Audio Based Social Platforms (ABSPs). Used Topic Modeling (Sparse Additive Generative Models (SAGE) and Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)) to identify key trends and to help Graduate Mentor create a framework for classifying ABSPs. Extended line of inquiry from Clubhouse to other ABSPs like Twitter Spaces.

University of Chicago, Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Research Volunteer, June-July 2019
Advisors: Professor Jie Xu

Designed and engineered microfluidic mazes to illustrate basic fluid flow mechanics concepts. Analysed the effects of gamified learning methods on student learning outcomes.

PUBLICATIONS

(ACM CSCW 2022) Harmonizing the Cacophony: An Affordance-aware Framework of Audio-Based Social Platform Moderation. Tanvi Bajpai, **Drshika Asher**, Anwesa Goswami, Eshwar Chandrasekharan (arXiv:2107.09008)

TEACHING

CS225: Data Structures
Lead Course Assistant, August 2022-Present
Course Developer, January 2022-August 2022

CS196: Computer Science Honors
Project Manager and Head of Social Events, January 2021 - December 2021

HONORS AND GRANTS

Clare Boothe Luce Research Scholar (2022)
Bank of America Grace Hopper Scholarship Recipient (2022)
JPMorgan Chase WCS Scholarship (2021-22)
UBER Career Prep Fellow (2022)
Facebook Above and Beyond Computer Science Scholar (2021)
Illinois CS Tapia Scholarship Recipient (2021)
US Presidential Scholar State Nominee (2020)
Prudential Spirit of Community State Nominee (2020)
ISAC State Scholar (2019)
NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Regional Affiliate Award Winner (2019)

LEADERSHIP/SERVICE

Rewriting the Code
Rising Student Leader 7/2022-Current
Gaming Interest Group Student Leader at Rewriting the Code, a growing virtual community of 14,000+ exceptional college and early career women with a passion for technology. Organizing virtual talks and workshops to engage women in the gaming community.

ACM (Association for Computing Machinery)
Corporate Chair, 5/2021 - 5/2022
Social Media Chair, 08/2020 – 5/2021
Organized ACM social committee events and designed promotional materials for these events. Manage the ACM Instagram and Twitter page. Communicate with corporate sponsors and create engaging events for the student body. Manage a team of 10 students in cold outreach efforts. Raised $10000+ in sponsorship funds during the pandemic.

Hackillinois
Experience Team, August 2021 - August 2022
Outreach Team, August 2020 – August 2021
Contact companies to arrange corporate sponsorships and secure technical mentors for HackIllinois. Communicate with company representatives to satisfy all of their requirements so that they can successfully become a part of HackIllinois

Reflections | Projections
Content Chair, Feb 2021 – October 2021
Raise awareness about inclusivity and diversity in the workplace by hosting technical talks and events with companies such as Google, PayPal, Microsoft, and Facebook. Facilitate career fairs to help connect students with employment opportunities.

MEMBERSHIP

Association for Computing Machinery (2020–present)
National Center for Women in Computing (2019-present)
Rewriting the Code (2020-present)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming
Python, C/C++, C#, Java, SQL, Rust, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Kotlin, Swift (IOS Development)

Technologies
Git, LaTeX Unity, Jupyter Notebook, Django, Pytorch, Flask, Firebase, Vim, MongoDB, AWS, REST API, REST Framework, UIKit

LANGUAGES

Hindi (Conversational)
Kutchi (Fluent)
Spanish (Conversational)

Last updated: Sep 29, 2022