

Joshua Peeples

PHD CANDIDATE · ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

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Education

University of Florida

PHD ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Gainesville, FL

June 2017 - Pres.

- Advisor: Dr. Alina Zare
- Dissertation: "Connecting the Past and the Present: Histogram Layers for Texture Analysis"
- Research Interests: Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Pattern Recognition, Computer Vision, Image Processing
- Expected Graduation Date: April 2022

University of Florida

MS ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Gainesville, FL

June 2017 - Dec 2019

University of Alabama at Birmingham

BS ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (MINOR: MATHEMATICS)

Birmingham, AL

Aug 2013 - April 2017

- Magna Cum Laude

Publications

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

5. **J. Peeples**, J. Jameson, N. Kotta, J. Grasman, W. Stoppel, and A. Zare, "Jointly Optimized Spatial Histogram UNET Architecture (JOSHUA) for Adipose Tissue Segmentation," doi: 10.1101/2021.11.22.469463, *In Review*. 📄
4. **J. Peeples**, W. Xu, R. Gloaguen, D. Rowland, A. Zare, and Z. Brym, "Spatial and Texture Analysis of Root System Architecture with Earth Mover's Distance (STARSEED)," doi: 10.1101/2021.08.31.458446, *In Review*. 📄
3. **J. Peeples**, S. Walker, C. McCurley, A. Zare, and J. Keller, "Divergence Regulated Encoder Network for Joint Dimensionality Reduction and Classification," doi: arXiv:2012.15764, *In Review*. 📄
2. R. Gloaguen, Z. Brym, **J. Peeples**, W. Xu, C. Hyen-Chung, and D. Rowland, "The Plasticity of Early Root Development in *Sesamum indicum* L. as Influenced by Genotype and Water Availability", in *Rhizosphere*. Elsevier BV, 2022. doi: 10.1016/j.rhisph.2021.100457. 📄
1. **J. Peeples**, W. Xu, and A. Zare, "Histogram Layers for Texture Analysis," in *IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence*, 2021. doi: 10.1109/TAI.2021.3135804. 📄 🌐

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

6. **J. Peeples**, C. McCurley, S. Walker, D. Stewart, and A. Zare, "Learnable Adaptive Cosine Estimator (LACE) for Image Classification," in *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV)*, 2022, pp. 3479-3489, *In Press*. doi: arXiv:2110.05324. 📄
5. D. Prioleau, K. Alikhademi, A. Roberts, **J. Peeples**, A. Zare, and J.E. Gilbert, "Use of Divisive Clustering for Reducing Bias in Training Data," in *International Conference on Machine Learning and Data Mining (MLDM)*, 2021, pp. 115-131. P-ISSN 1864-9734, E-ISSN 2699-5220, ISBN 978-3-942952-81-1. 📄
4. S. Walker, **J. Peeples**, J. Dale, A. Zare, and J. Keller, "Explainable Systematic Analysis for Synthetic Aperture Sonar Imagery," in *IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS)*, 2021, pp. 2835-2838. doi: 10.1109/igarss47720.2021.9554901. 📄
3. **J. Peeples**, M. Cook, D. Suen, A. Zare, and J. Keller, "Comparison of Possibilistic Fuzzy Local Information C-Means and Possibilistic K-Nearest Neighbors for Synthetic Aperture Sonar Segmentation," in *Detection and Sensing of Mines, Explosive Objects, and Obscured Targets XXIV*, vol. 11012. International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE), 2019, p. 110120T. doi: 10.1117/12.2519484. 📄

2. A. Starke, J. McNair, R. Trevizan, A. Bretas, **J. Peeples**, and A. Zare, "Toward Resilient Smart Grid Communications using Distributed SDN with ML-Based Anomaly Detection," in *International Conference on Wired & Wireless Internet Communications*. Springer, 2018, pp. 83-94. doi: 10.1007/978-3-030-02931-9_7. 📄
1. **J. Peeples**, D. Suen, A. Zare, and J. Keller, "Possibilistic Fuzzy Local Information C-means with Automated Feature selection for Seafloor Segmentation," in *Detection and Sensing of Mines, Explosive Objects, and Obscured Targets XXIII*, vol. 10628. International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE), 2018, p. 1062812. doi: 10.1117/12.2305178. 📄

Professional Experience

University of Florida Machine Learning and Sensing Laboratory

Gainesville, FL

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

June 2017 - Pres.

- Developed automated machine learning approaches for seafloor segmentation and scene understanding
- Designed and implemented novel deep learning layers focused on texture analysis
- Supervised undergraduate students on research projects
- Disseminated results of research through publications, presentations, and reports to funding agencies

Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program

Panama City, FL

GRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH INTERN (VIRTUAL)

May 2021 - Aug 2021

- Led project entitled "Deep, Regularized Histogram-based Features for Seafloor Segmentation and Classification"
- Assisted in curation of ground truth labels for semantic segmentation of circular synthetic aperture sonar (CSAS) imagery
- Developed algorithms to identify various environments in synthetic aperture sonar (SAS) imagery

Michigan State University Summer Research Opportunities Program

East Lansing, MI

UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH INTERN

May 2016 - July 2016

- Participated in a 10-wk residential program for students interested in graduate study
- Attended a week-long short course in statistics and R Studio software
- Utilized multiple datasets to develop an improved algorithm for lane detection
- Selected for travel award to present research at Emerging Researchers National Conference in STEM

University of Alabama at Birmingham Signal Processing and Embedded Systems Laboratory

Birmingham, AL

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Jan 2014 - Dec 2016

- Performed image processing techniques for a project that involved topics such as facial detection and recognition
- Worked with Arduino software that was implemented to various technologies such as a robotic arm, sensors, and Bluetooth
- Designed and interpreted circuit diagrams to properly implement hardware designs

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

GRAND TOTAL: \$525,910 UNDERGRADUATE TOTAL: \$30,000 GRADUATE TOTAL: \$495,910

University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB); University of Florida (UF)

2021	Inductee , Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society	
2020-21	Dr. Joseph S. Rosko Award , UF Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering	\$ 3,750
2018-Pres.	Graduate Research Fellowship (NSFGRFP) , National Science Foundation	\$ 144,000
2018-Pres.	NSF External Top-up Award , UF Graduate School	\$ 26,250
2018-Pres.	Southern Regional Education Board Institute Travel Award , UF Graduate School	\$ 6,000
2017-Pres.	McKnight Doctoral Fellowship , Florida Education Fund	\$ 85,000
2017-Pres.	Preeminence Award , UF Graduate School	\$ 218,130
2017	Iva and Norman Tucker Fellowship , UF Transportation Institute	\$ 4,000
2017	Board of Education Summer Fellowship , UF Office of Graduate Diversity Initiatives	\$ 8,780
2017	Green Blazer of Excellence , UAB Blazer Male Excellence Network	
2017	President's List (Spring) , UAB	

2016-17	Dupuis Leadership Scholarship , UAB School of Engineering	\$ 1,500
2016-17	Cleo and Clara Thomas Academic Scholarship for Excellence , UAB	\$ 1,000
2016	Commitment to Excellence in Tutoring , UAB Vulcan Material Academic Success Center	
2016	Dean's List (Spring) , UAB	
2016	President's List (Fall) , UAB	
2016	Honor Scholar , UAB Multicultural Scholars Program	
2015	Dean's List (Spring and Fall) , UAB	
2015	Scholar of the Year , UAB Multicultural Scholars Program	
2014	Dean's List (Spring) , UAB	
2013-17	Vulcan Materials Scholarship , UAB	\$ 4,000
2013-17	Comprehensive Minority Faculty and Student Development Program Scholarship , UAB	\$ 4,000
2013-17	Collegiate Honors Scholarship , UAB	\$ 16,000
2013-14	Scholarship , The Birmingham Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy	\$ 3,500



Presentations


* *presenting author*

INVITED TALKS

6. ***J. Peeples**, "Histogram Layers for Texture Analysis," in *North American Plant Phenotyping Network (NAPPN) AI/ML Workshop*, Athens, GA, February 2022.
5. ***J. Peeples**, "Connecting the Past and Present: Histogram Layers for Texture Analysis," in *Texas A&M University Electrical and Computer Engineering Seminar Series*, College Station, TX, Virtual, February 2022.
4. ***J. Peeples**, "Connecting the Past and Present: Histogram Layers for Image Texture Analysis," in *Los Alamos National Laboratory Seminar*, Los Alamos, NM, Virtual, February 2022.
3. ***J. Peeples**, "Connecting the Past and Present: Histogram Layers for Texture Analysis," in *Boston University Electrical and Computer Engineering Seminar Series*, Boston, MA, Virtual, April 2021. 
2. ***J. Peeples**, "Artificial Intelligence for Texture Analysis," in *University of Florida Thompson Earth Systems Institute Scientist in Every Florida School*, Gainesville, FL, Virtual, May 2021.
1. ***J. Peeples**, "Design Your Engineering Career," in *University of Alabama at Birmingham Engineering Young Alumni Series*, Birmingham, AL, Virtual, July 2020.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

9. ***J. Peeples**, C. McCurley, S. Walker, D. Stewart, and A. Zare, "Learnable Adaptive Cosine Estimator (LACE) for Image Classification," in *IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV)*, Waikoloa, HI, Virtual, January 2022. 
8. D. Prioleau*, K. Alikhademi*, A. Roberts, **J. Peeples**, A. Zare, and J.E. Gilbert, "Use of Divisive Clustering for Reducing Bias in Training Data," in *International Conference on Machine Learning and Data Mining (MLDM)*, New York, Virtual, July 2021.
7. S. Walker, ***J. Peeples**, J. Dale, A. Zare, and J. Keller, "Explainable Systematic Analysis for Synthetic Aperture Sonar Imagery," in *IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium*, Brussels, Belgium, Virtual, July 2021. 
6. ***J. Peeples**, *J. Jameson, N. Kotta, W. Stoppel, and A. Zare, "Jointly Optimized Spatial Histogram U-NET Architecture (JOSHUA) for Adipose Tissue Identification in Histological Images of Lyophilized Silk Sponge Implants," in *University of Florida Biomaterials Day*, Gainesville, FL, Virtual, March 2021.
5. *R. Gloaguen, **J. Peeples**, W. Xu, Z. Brym, D. Rowland, A. Zare, and H. Chun, "New Approaches to Characterize the Root System Architecture Response of a Drought Tolerant Crop to Varying Soil Moisture Levels," in *ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting, C02 Crop Physiology and Metabolism Section, C-2 Graduate Student Oral*, Phoenix, AZ, Virtual, November 2020.
4. ***J. Peeples**, M. Cook, D. Suen, A. Zare, and J. Keller, "Comparison of Possibilistic Fuzzy Local Information C-Means and Possibilistic K-Nearest Neighbors for Synthetic Aperture Sonar Segmentation," in *Detection and Sensing of Mines*,

Explosive Objects, and Obscured Targets XXIV, International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE), Baltimore, MD, May 2019. 

3. ***J. Peeples**, "Histogram Layer: A Novel Approach to Feature Engineering," in *McKnight Doctoral Mid-Year Research and Writing Conference*, Tampa, FL, February 2019.
2. ***J. Peeples**, D. Suen, A. Zare, and J. Keller, "Possibilistic Fuzzy Local Information C-means with Automated Feature selection for Seafloor Segmentation," in *Detection and Sensing of Mines, Explosive Objects, and Obscured Targets XXIII*, International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE), Orlando, FL, April 2018.
1. ***J. Peeples** and A. Zare, "Synthetic Aperture SONAR Soft Segmentation using Possibilistic Fuzzy Local Information C-Means" in *University of Florida Water Institute Symposium*, Gainesville, FL, February 2018.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

4. ***J. Peeples**, *J. Jameson, N. Kotta, W. Stoppel, and A. Zare, "Spatial Histogram Layers in Convolutional Neural Network Models for Adipose Segmentation in Histological Silk Implant Images," in *Biomedical Engineering Society Annual Meeting*, Orlando, FL, October 2021.
3. ***J. Peeples**, "Connecting the Past and Present: Histogram Layers for Texture Analysis," in *Notre Dame Future Faculty Workshop*, South Bend, IL, May 2021.
2. ***J. Peeples**, B. Driggers, G. Contreras, N. Tracht, S. Chen, and M. Bedwell, "Using the Engineering Force: BHAMSolo Senior Design Project," in *University of Alabama at Birmingham Spring Expo*, Birmingham, AL, April 2017.
1. ***J. Peeples**, M. Al-Qizwini, and H. Radha, "LIVE ON: Lane, Sign, and Vehicle Detection in Various Environments," in *Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference in STEM*, Washington, D.C., March 2017.

Teaching Experience

University of Florida Electrical and Computer Engineering Department

Gainesville, FL

SUPERVISED TEACHER, EEL 5840/4930 FUNDAMENTALS OF MACHINE LEARNING

Aug 2019 - Dec 2019

- Updated lecture notes and held weekly office hours
- Assisted in the preparation and grading of assignments and exams
- Participated in weekly meetings with instructor team

Successful Transition and Enhanced Preparation for Undergraduates Program (Year II)

Gainesville, FL

COURSE CO-INSTRUCTOR, INTRODUCTION TO CODING AND PROGRAMMING

July 2019 - Aug 2019

- Led lectures to introduce core concepts for programming and Python to incoming engineering students
- Developed course syllabus, assignments, and project

Successful Transition and Enhanced Preparation for Undergraduates Program (Year I)

Gainesville, FL

COURSE CO-INSTRUCTOR, MACHINE LEARNING

July 2018 - Aug 2018

- Led lectures to introduce machine learning and remote sensing to incoming engineering students
- Coordinated activities of class with program director and trained teaching assistants in preparation of course

University of Alabama at Birmingham Vulcan Material Academic Success Center

Birmingham, AL

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION LEADER, CALCULUS BASED PHYSICS II

Jan 2015 - April 2015

- Created an intensive learning environment for undergraduate students by hosting two weekly SI sessions (75 minutes per session)
- Constructed weekly worksheets and mock exams to prepare students for class
- Maintained a constant interaction with the professor to properly align supplemental materials with course information and requirements

University of Alabama at Birmingham Vulcan Material Academic Success Center

Birmingham, AL

TUTOR, ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS, MATHEMATICS, AND PHYSICS

Aug 2014 - April 2017

- Assisted students in difficult subjects by working through conceptual and quantitative problems
- Led approximately 10 one-hour sessions per week with undergraduates
- Participated in training sessions to become an Associate in the Tutoring Profession (ATP) certified Associate Tutor

Mentoring

- 2020-21 **Wilkerson, P.**, UAB Young Alumni Mentee, University of Alabama Birmingham,
Achievements: internship for Spring 2021 with TriAltus Bioscience, graduated Spring 2021,
hired as Suture Manufacturing Engineer at Arthrex
- 2019-21 **Walker, S.**, Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Florida,
Achievements: Selected for University Research Scholar Program, published two
manuscripts, graduated Spring 2021, accepted into UC San Diego as a Master's student
studying Computer Science with a focus in AI
- 2019-20 **Zhao, H.**, Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Florida,
Achievements: Graduated Fall 2020, hired as Software Engineer at Capital One
- 2019 **Tran, T.**, Graduate Research Assistant (Master's student), University of Florida,
Achievements: Graduated Fall 2020, hired as Program Manager at Microsoft
- 2019 **Kim, T.**, Student Science Training Program (High School student), University of Florida,
Achievements: won Best Paper Award, accepted into Columbia University

Outreach & Professional Development

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND OUTREACH

University of Florida Aspire STEM Equity Achievement Change Executive Committee

Gainesville, FL

GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

July 2021 - Present

- Assist with American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) effort to effect sustainable change to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM)
- Review project outputs such as surveys, audacious goals, and action plan
- Meet monthly to give feedback and perspective on ongoing work within the larger institutional context

IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS) Boston Hackathon (Virtual)

Boston, MA

JUDGE

July 2021 - August 2021

- Documented scores and maintained communication with the IEEE GRSS Boston Chair
- Used expertise to provide constructive feedback and assessment of contest entries

University of Florida Bouchet Spring Symposium

Gainesville, FL

CO-ORGANIZER

March 2021 - April 2021

- Coordinated with team to organize theme and events for symposium
- Served on "Beyond a Scholar" panel to share research experience and journey
- Co-hosted research presentation session (Lightning Talks)

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Engineering Young Alumni Mentorship Program

Birmingham, AL

MENTOR

July 2020 - Present

- Provided academic guidance, career advice and personal development to current UAB student(s)
- Maintained regular contact with mentee through two monthly, virtual meetings
- Documented interactions with mentee and provide feedback to Program Manager and Alumni Advisory Board

University of Florida Board of Education Summer Fellowship Program

Gainesville, FL

PEER ADVISOR

July 2020 - Aug 2020

- Served as mentor for incoming underrepresented graduate students
- Assisted in planning and leading program events with other Peer Advisors and Program Coordinator
- Led group of seven engineering students and documented their progress through weekly reports

University of Florida Student Science Training Program (SSTP)

Gainesville, FL

MENTOR

June 2019 - July 2019

- Developed research project for high school student participant
- Assisted and provided feedback for program deliverables (paper, poster, and presentation)
- Served as primary mentor for the participant which culminated in the student earning the SSTP Best Paper Award

McKnight Doctoral Mid-Year Research and Writing Conference

COMPUTER SCIENCE PANEL CHAIR

- Recruited panelists to present their research during discipline-specific session
- Moderated discussion and feedback on presentations from expert discussants
- Collected and documented feedback on the session from panelists and audience to share with conference team

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

African/African American/African Diaspora in Electrical and Computer Engineering

PRESIDENT

- Led organization that provides community and support for Black undergraduate and graduate students in the department
- Facilitated monthly executive board meetings and allocate duties among officers

Machine Learning and Sensing Laboratory

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

- Maintained and created content for the lab's Twitter and Facebook accounts to raise awareness of research and outreach activities

Machine Learning and Sensing Laboratory

OUTREACH COORDINATOR

- Created and organized opportunities to share the lab's research with others in the community (i.e., laboratory tours)

Electrical and Computer Engineering Graduate Student Organization

SECRETARY

- Recorded meeting notes and oversaw calendar of events
- Maintained listserv and reserved spaces for all activities of the organization

Gator McKnights Unite

PRESIDENT

- Led graduate student organization responsible for providing personal and professional development opportunities for African American and Latinx graduate students
- Organized monthly executive board meetings and regulate the general functioning of the executive board and organization

Electrical and Computer Engineering Graduate Student Organization

FACULTY AND STAFF LIASON

- Chaired social events to promote community in the ECE department (e.g., faculty/staff mixer)

Machine Learning and Sensing Laboratory

DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE

- Served as liaison between the department and lab by actively participating in departmental events

University of Alabama at Birmingham Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

VICE CHAIR

- Assisted the Chapter Chair in following up on assigned committee responsibilities
- Performed all functions of the Chapter Chair in their absence or upon request

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Engineering

LEADERSHIP SCHOLAR

- Led tours of the engineering building for prospective students
- Actively participated in several events throughout the year such as recruitment, award ceremonies, and meetings

University of Alabama at Birmingham Multicultural Scholars Program

PRESIDENT

- Coordinated activities of the executive committee, which included oversight of the duties of executive committee members
- Served as the liaison between the executive body and program director
- Assisted students in identifying funding opportunities as co-Chair of the scholarship committee

University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazer Male Excellence Network

MENTOR

- Served as a role model, counselor, and motivator for incoming freshmen Black male students
- Collaborated with other mentors for social and volunteer activities of organization

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WORKSHOPS

- 2021 **SEC Emerging Scholars Program**, selected for virtual workshop to provide professional development and networking opportunities for current doctoral students and a limited number of postdoctoral researchers considering careers in higher education.
- 2021 **Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Future Faculty Career Exploration Program**, selected to participate in rigorous three-day virtual program designed for African American, Latino American, and Native American scholars and artists to experience a “behind the scenes” glimpse into life as a faculty member at RIT.
- 2021 **Notre Dame Future Faculty Workshop**, invited to on-campus program to share research through poster presentation and engaged in panel discussions regarding academic hiring process.
- 2021 **Auburn University Preparing Future Faculty Workshop**, participated in interactive, virtual sessions to provide more insight into seeking academic positions.
- 2021 **EGS6056 Engineering Supervised Teaching**, supplemented graduate students teaching activities to learn practical skills to become effective instructors.
- 2021 **EGS6933 Engineering Faculty Development**, detailed preparation for careers in academia through exploration and experiential learning.
- 2020 **NextProf Nexus Workshop**, provided participants the opportunity to explore and prepare for a faculty position. The program is part of a nationwide effort to strengthen and diversify the next generation of academic leaders in engineering.
- 2020 **McKnight Webinar Series: Best Practices for Obtaining Faculty/Postdoc Positions**, presented comprehensive process of applying for faculty and postdoctoral vacancies as well as provide feedback on application materials.
- 2019-20 **Assistant Grant Writer**, responsible for editing, reviewing, and organizing documents for National Science Foundation AI Institute proposal (not awarded)

CONFERENCE AND JOURNAL PEER REVIEW

IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters (Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020)
IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence (Fall 2021)
IEEE Journal of Oceanic Engineering (Fall 2021)
The Plant Phenome Journal (Fall 2021)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2018-Pres. Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
- 2017-Pres. National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- 2017-Pres. Order of the Engineer
- 2016-Pres. Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- 2015-Pres. National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS)

References

Alina Zare, Ph.D. (Ph.D. Advisor)

Professor

Electrical and Computer Engineering Department

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

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azare@ece.ufl.edu

Juan E. Gilbert, Ph.D. (Dissertation Committee Member)

Andrew Banks Family Preeminence Endowed Professor and Chair

Computer and Information Science and Engineering Department

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32611

(352) 392-1200

juan@ufl.edu

James Keller, Ph.D. (Faculty Collaborator)

University of Missouri Curators' Distinguished Professor Emeritus

Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department

University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211

(573) 882-7339

KellerJ@missouri.edu

Whitney Stoppel, Ph.D. (Faculty Collaborator)

Assistant Professor

Chemical Engineering Department

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32611

(352) 392-6205

whitney.stoppel@ufl.edu

Damon Woodard, Ph.D. (Dissertation Committee Member)

Director of AI Partnerships, Artificial Intelligence Initiative

Associate Professor, UF Term Professor

Electrical and Computer Engineering Department

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