

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign +3

Who is Jason Zych? Why was he fired from UIUC years ago?

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3 Answers

Maxie Schmidt, BS/BS/MS Mathematics & Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2014)

Updated Jan 13

His algorithmic “successor” calls him her “predecessor” with a light smirk. She, I believe, was unfairly sort of forced out of her successful take-over position many years later by administrators and dominant otherworldly female personalities that be. I’m glad someone has taken this mystery of uncertain terms back up off of the archived Reddit posting about him. To be honest, I don’t like him and didn’t appreciate his formal gestures at me while I was a student in CS225 many years ago the first time I enrolled in the class.

Edit: I talked with Cinda privately today because I wanted her input on Jason and how the #MeToo tag has been subtly lost in my flame war with Jeff Erickson yesterday including his “revisionist historical” perspective on how he chooses to present himself in public on this forum. I want to clarify because there was some misunderstanding on my part about the terms of her leaving, she was not “forced out” but rather chose to leave for a better offer (perhaps more administrative respect if anything) and because UBC is a better place for her family. I apologize if anyone had the wrong impression about this based on my post before this edit.

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Jeff Erickson

Jan 12

No, Cinda was not forced out by administrators; quite the contrary. But Illinois just couldn't compete with UBC's offer of (1) tenure and (2) British Columbia (where she and her family spent their summers for several years).

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My current email to Quora (I will delete this when they respond...):

I have seen much more detailed logging data for questions on the site than currently seem to be publically viewable for a question I am participating in. Can you please add the full public logs for the question <https://www.quora.com/Who-is-Jason-Zych-Why-was-he-fired-from-UIUC-years-ago#> to the page. In particular, one user (Jeff Erickson) is intentionally and deceptively removing posts from the site, without which, some of the followup posts I made to him seem out of context and unexplained. At the very least, if someone is interested enough to look into this matter further, I think that they should be able to see a complete history of previously viewable, now deleted posts. I had (by reporting it) one of his litigious spirited, intentionally intimidating and "reverse defamatory" (if you will) comments to the first post in the thread removed. While it should definitely not be viewable on the main page, something important gets lost in translation if you neglect to keep a log of this transaction and the bad behavior Jeff leverages to suit his own self interests on the site. PLEASE MAKE THESE MORE DETAILED LOGS VIEWABLE IMMEDIATELY!

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

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Jeff Erickson, works at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Answered Jan 12 · Upvoted by David Arcoleo, B.S. Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Kausik Venkat, studied at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2018)



Jason Zych was a superstar computer science instructor at Illinois for several years around the turn of the century. As far as I know, he was *not* fired. He left under his own power, despite the best efforts of the administration to keep him, because his spouse lived and worked several hours away from Champaign-Urbana.

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Maxie Schmidt, BS/BS/MS Mathematics & Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2014)

Jan 12 · 1 upvote



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experience and be taught by both successive lecturers during this time period. To be honest, Cinda was far better as a lecturer than Jason for a number of reasons and the content of her version of CS225 involved a more “rigorous” and technically challenging treatment code-wise of the material than that of her predecessor. I personally can’t believe you all let her walk away without reciprocating some tenure offer, or making a new unprecedented position which would be effectively equivalent to this. Of course I should not utter this sentiment out loud having never held a tenure track position — thereby sticking my foot in my mouth on principle for expressing what a lot of mere students these past 10–15 years might say if they read Quora digest as often as some do.

I have seen some of the other comments you have in this forum about how fantastic the undergrad curriculum is at UIUC — and I wholeheartedly agree and certainly benefited from it — but it doesn’t seem like the undergrad education is a priority to some administrators that be (again, my personal opinion here).

I have some personal nit-picky, to be subtle about it complaints, about Jason Zych’s conduct while I was in his standard sequence of two intro classes years ago. He was certainly technically excellent (cf. Vector225.cpp/h) and entertaining at times, but I was personally made to feel like the most awkward outsider in that room (and elsewhere on campus) sitting in the back just trying to get through and take notes. The fallacy of his superstar legacy at UIUC seems to me like some time honored thing that the CS people who chose to like him perpetuate because the boys who run the ACM all agree what a fantastic human being he is. Again, it’s just my opinion, different from yours, but more elaborately explained and articulated here.

(*In hushed terms*: remember that “bitch” is a lazy choice of words to express “difficult female”, and also an ancient celebrated UNIX chat program, so maybe I’m just confused by context and need someone to lecture me as a followup here?)

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...



Maxie Schmidt, BS/BS/MS Mathematics & Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2014)

Jan 12 · 1 upvote

It occurs to me to disclose that I received a recommendation from at least one lecturer in the UIUC CS department for my Goldwater scholarship awarded in 2010. To my knowledge I am the first CS student at UIUC to have this honor, and certainly the first woman in CS at the university to receive this award. Just as some of the best students in the department worshiped, or idolized even, Jason at one point, some might recognize that other accomplished undergrad scholars have opinions on both. I get consistently annoyed at some perceptions, judgments, and presumptions of some esteemed authorities who really should know better than to be understatedly short in responding to something like this. #MeToo

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Anonymous

Answered Jan 9

As the anonymous poser of this question, I will say that I always assumed it had something to do with him getting caught for hacking on the Good ‘Ol CITES network. Which, to be sure, has for years along with the standard EWS lab chain been fodder for many in the know individuals around the large campus so to speak. If anyone can pull the website which would have been the first on Google when searching for “Lucky 225” on Google in 2005, there’s a peculiar image of a teenage “lucky” sitting in front of a large right mommy’s UNIX workstation. Thus, this anonymous poster posits that what is known identified a Jared Morgan is either a pseudonym or an elaborate hoax or a profitable sale of hacker credentials or identity.

669 views

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Shane Ryoo, studied at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Jan 18

I knew Jason personally: my girlfriend in school was his very close family friend and I was often invited to family gatherings. And I'm pretty sure he had neither the knowledge, ability, nor the interest in doing that sort of thing.

Upvote

Jeff Erickson
Jan 12 · 1 upvote

This is a sad libelous "joke".

Reply

Upvote

Maxie Schmidt, BS/BS/MS Mathematics & Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2014)
Jan 13



We shouldn't call Jeff stupid, or "special", or even a cultural swine with respect to his security credentials for this. Rather I believe his litigious spirited stunningly over, yet under, reaction to what this post implies was just not algorithmically diagrammed correctly in his brain as to what... [\(more\)](#)

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