Nicholas Becker

Curriculum Vitae

Contact Information

Department of Cognitive Science
Johns Hopkins University
3400 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Website: nickbecker.net

Education

PhD, Cognitive Science 2014 - Present
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
Primary Advisor: Paul Smolensky

BS, Computer Science and Linguistics May 2014
Truman State University, Kirksville, MO
Summa cum Laude, Minor in Cognitive Science

Academic Honors and Awards

Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program 2015
Linguistics Summer Institute Fellowship Recipient 2015
Linguistics Society of America
Truman State University Honors Scholar 2014
Disciplinary Honors in Computer Science, Truman State University 2014
Disciplinary Honors in Linguistics, Truman State University 2014
Nominated, Outstanding Senior in Computer Science, 2013
Department of Computer Science, Truman State University
Outstanding Senior in Linguistics, 2013
Department of English and Linguistics, Truman State University
Truman State University President's List (4.0 GPA) 2010 - 2014
Member, Phi Beta Kappa Inducted 2013
Boeing Company Scholarship Recipient 2011
Member, Scholarships in Math and Computer Science (SMACS) 2010 - 2011
(NSF-funded scholarship program at Truman State University)

Teaching Assistantships

Johns Hopkins University

Cognitive Neuroscience: Exploring the Living Brain	Brenda Rapp	Spring 2016
Neural-Network Modeling of Language, Learning, and Cognition	Pyeong Whan Cho	Fall 2015
Cognitive Development	Julia Yarmolinskaya	Spring 2015

Truman State University

Introduction to Linguistics	Douglas Ball	Fall 2013, Spring 2014

Presentations

Becker, N. (2014). *Constructing a control flow graph from TrAL code*. Presentation at the 2014 Truman State University Student Research Conference.

Becker, N. (2014). *Whether, if, and that: Rethinking lexical categorization in English*. Presentation at the Spring 2014 English and Linguistics Senior Seminar Conference, Truman State University.

Extracurricular Involvement

GSC Workshop, Department of Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University 2014
Co-organizer of workshop: "Gradient Symbolic Computation: *The Continuous and Discrete in Sentence Processing*."

Linguistics Internship, Truman State University 2013
Assistant for Dr. Mary Shapiro's sabbatical project. Helped create content for website to help people with high-functioning autism and other social communication challenges improve their communicative skills.

Monte Carlo Methods in Artificial Intelligence, Oregon State University 2013
One of approximately 20 students selected for participation in NSF-sponsored short course on modern AI techniques.

Stargazers Astronomy Club, Truman State University 2011 - 2014
Webmaster (Spring 2012, Fall 2013), Vice President (Fall 2012 - Spring 2013), President (Spring 2014). Hosted bi-monthly open houses at University Observatory for students and community.

Programming and Markup Languages

Java, C#, C++, Python, MATLAB	Intermediate
R, LaTeX, HTML/CSS, SQL	Basic

Selected Graduate Coursework

Spring 2016

Mathematical Models of Language	Kyle Rawlins
Phonology I	Colin Wilson

Fall 2015

Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience	Barbara Landau
Intro. to Machine Learning [Audit]	Ilya Shpitser

Summer 2015

Linguistics Society of America Summer Institute, University of Chicago

4-Week Courses:

Introduction to Computational Linguistics	Sharon Goldwater
Gradient Symbolic Computation[1]	Paul Smolensky, Matt Goldrick

2-Week Courses [Audit]:

Computational Psycholinguistics	Roger Levy, Klinton Bicknell
Constructionist Approaches	Adele Goldberg
Neuroscience of Language	Ellen Lau
Linguistics as a Forensic Science	Carole Chaski
Speech Technologies	Karen Livescu
Computational Learning of Syntax	Alexander Clark

Spring 2015

Foundations of Neural Network Theory	Paul Smolensky
Psycholinguistics	Akira Omaki
Syntax I	Géraldine Legendre

Fall 2014

Advanced Statistical Methods	Jason Matterer
Bayesian Inference	Colin Wilson
Semantics I	Kyle Rawlins

[1] Unofficial teaching assistant for this course