

Sonny T. Jones (He/Him/His)

Email: sonny.jones@utah.edu

[LinkedIn](#), [Website](#), [GitHub](#)

Interests

Machine Learning, Reinforcement Learning, Deep Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Neural Engineering, Neural Interfaces, Video Games, Weightlifting, PC Enthusiast

Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Biomedical Engineering 2023 - 2028

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Advisor: Ashley Dalrymple

Master of Science, Biomedical Engineering 2023 - 2028

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

GPA: 4.00

Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Engineering 2021

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

GPA: 3.79

Thesis: *"Development of Electrocardiographic Measures for Cognitive Load During Prosthesis Use"*

Advisor: Michael Paskett, Gregory Clark

Experience

Graduate Research Assistant 2023 - Present

Neural Engineering for Rehabilitation Via Electrical Stimulation (NERVES) Lab

Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Mentor: Ashley Dalrymple

Post-Baccalaureate Research Assistant 2022 - 2023

Utah NeuroRobotics Lab

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Mentor: Marshall Trout, Jacob George

Research Analyst/Assistant 2021 - 2023

Trajectories of Resilience, Community, and Health Lab (TORCH)

Division of Epidemiology, Department of Medicine, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Mentor: Mary Jo Pugh

Undergraduate Research Assistant 2019 - 2021

Center for Neural Interfaces

Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Mentor: Michael Paskett, Gregory Clark

Certifications

Deep Learning Certificate	2025
College of Engineering, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA	
Reinforcement Learning Specialization	2023
University of Alberta and Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute on Coursera	
Machine Learning Scientist	2022
DataCamp	
Data Science Professional	2022
DataCamp	

Grants

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Grant	2020
Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA	
Office of Undergraduate Research Small Grant	2019
Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA	
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Grant	2019
Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA	

Scholarships

Campbell Endowed Fellowship	2023
College of Engineering, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA	
John C. Jackson Trust Scholarship	2021
College of Engineering, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA	
Dee Undergraduate Research Scholarship	2020
Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA	
President's Scholarship	2017
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA	

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Published

1. AN Dalrymple, **ST Jones**, JB Fallon, RK Shepherd, DJ Weber, "Overcoming Failure: Improving Acceptance and Success of Implanted Neural Interfaces", *Bioelectronic Medicine, Special Issue for Neural Interfaces*, In Press.
2. K North, **ST Jones**, GM Simpson, AN Dalrymple, "Personalized Gait Rehabilitation with Spinal Cord Stimulation and Machine Learning: Recent Advances and Promising Applications", Invited Review, *Current Opinions in Biomedical Engineering: Bioelectronic Medicine*, vol 34, **2025**.

Pre-Print

1. MD Paskett, JK Garcia, **ST Jones**, MR Brinton, TS Davis, CC Duncan, JM Cooper, DL Strayer, GA Clark, "Improving Upper-limb Prosthesis Usability: Cognitive Workload Measures Quantify Task Difficulty", *medRxiv*, **2022**.

Conference Publications

Accepted

1. **ST Jones**, GM Simpson, PM Pilarski, AN Dalrymple, "Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning for Adaptive Walking Control Using Predicted Lower-Limb Signals", *Multi-Disciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making (RLDM)*, Dublin, IRL, Jun. **2025**.
2. GM Simpson, K North, **ST Jones**, AN Dalrymple, "A Novel Template-Matching Method for Extracting Gait Cycles from Underfoot Pressure Data", *IEEE International Consortium for Rehabilitation Robotics (ICORR)*, *RehabWeek*, May **2025**.
3. **ST Jones**, GM Simpson, WMJ Young, K North, PM Pilarski, AN Dalrymple, "Comparative Analysis of Temporal-Difference Learning Methods to Learn General Value Functions of Lower-Limb Signals", *IEEE International Consortium for Rehabilitation Robotics (ICORR)*, *RehabWeek*, May **2025**.

Other Publications

Undergraduate Research Journal

1. **ST Jones**, MD Paskett, GA Clark, CC Duncan, "Development of Electrocardiographic Measures for Cognitive Load During Prosthesis Use", *Undergraduate Research Journal*, **2021**.

Conference Abstracts

1. CV Ihediwa, KJ Valestrino, **ST Jones**, CT Stanley, AN Dalrymple, "Image Processing of X-Rays of the Lumbar Spine & Spinal Cord Stimulation Implants", *Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES)*, Baltimore, MD, USA, Oct **2024**.
2. **ST Jones**, GM Simpson, WMJ Young, K North, PM Pilarski, AN Dalrymple, "Predicting Sensor Signals During Walking Over Different Terrains Using Reinforcement Learning", *Utah Biomedical Engineering Conference (UBEC)*, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, Sep **2024**.
3. GM Simpson, **ST Jones**, K North, PM Pilarski, AN Dalrymple, "Finding Optimal Sensor Combinations Across Variable Terrains Using tSNE And Reinforcement Learning", *Utah Biomedical Engineering Conference (UBEC)*, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, Sep **2024**.
4. CV Ihediwa, KJ Valestrino, **ST Jones**, CT Stanley, AN Dalrymple, "Image Processing of X-rays of the Lumbar Spine and Spinal Cord Stimulation Implants", *Utah Biomedical Engineering Conference (UBEC)*, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, Sep **2024**.

5. **ST Jones**, GM Simpson, WMJ Young, K North, PM Pilarski, AN Dalrymple, "Predicting Terrain Transitions After Stroke Using Reinforcement Learning Methods", *Rocky Mountain American Association of Biomechanics (RMASB)*, Estes Park, CO, USA, April **2024**.
6. GM Simpson, **ST Jones**, K North, PM Pilarski, AN Dalrymple, "Optimal Body-Worn Sensors for Predicting Terrain Transitions While Walking", *Rocky Mountain American Association of Biomechanics (RMASB)*, Estes Park, CO, USA, April **2024**.

Accepted

1. CV Ihediwa, KJ Valestrino, **ST Jones**, JH Bello, AN Dalrymple, "Image Processing of X-Rays of the Lumbar Spine and Spinal Cord Stimulation Implants", *International Functional Electrical Stimulation Society (IFESS)*, Chicago, IL, USA, Oct **2025**.

Submitted

1. **ST Jones**, GM Simpson, PM Pilarski, AN Dalrymple. "Classification of Walking Terrain Using Raw and Predicted Lower-Limb Sensor Signals". *Rocky Mountain American Association of Biomechanics*, Estes Park, CO, USA, April **2025**.
2. GM Simpson, K North, **ST Jones**, AN Dalrymple. "A Novel Template-Matching Method for Extracting Gait Cycles from Underfoot Pressure Data", *Rocky Mountain American Association of Biomechanics*, Estes Park, CO, USA, April **2025**.
3. WMJ Young, GM Simpson, **ST Jones**, K North, PM Pilarski, AN Dalrymple. "Optimizing Sensor Placement for Terrain Classification", *Rocky Mountain American Association of Biomechanics*, Estes Park, CO, USA, April **2025**.
4. CV Ihediwa, KJ Valestrino, **ST Jones**, JH Bello, AS Gandhi, AN Dalrymple, "Image Processing of X-Rays of the Lumbar Spine and Spinal Cord Stimulation Implants", *Rocky Mountain American Association of Biomechanics*, Estes Park, CO, USA, April **2025**.

Oral Presentations

1. **ST Jones**, MD Paskett, GA Clark, CC Duncan. "Development of Electrocardiographic Measures for Cognitive Load During Prosthesis Use." *BME Undergraduate Research Symposium*, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, April **2021**.

Poster Presentations

1. **ST Jones**, GM Simpson, WMJ Young, K North, PM Pilarski, AN Dalrymple. "Predicting Sensor Signals During Walking Over Different Terrains Using Reinforcement Learning." *Utah Biomedical Engineering Conference (UBEC)*, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, Sep **2024**.
2. **ST Jones**, GM Simpson, K North, PM Pilarski, AN Dalrymple. "Predicting Terrain Transitions After Stroke Using Reinforcement Learning Methods". *James R. Swenson, MD Scientific Symposium Day*, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, May **2024**.

3. **ST Jones**, GM Simpson, K North, PM Pilarski, AN Dalrymple. "Predicting Terrain Transitions After Stroke Using Reinforcement Learning Methods". *Rocky Mountain American Association of Biomechanics*, Estes Park, CO, USA, April **2024**.
4. **ST Jones**, MD Paskett, GA Clark, CC Duncan. "Development of Electrocardiographic Measures for Cognitive Load During Prosthesis Use". *BME Undergraduate Research Symposium*, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, April **2021**.

Teaching and Lectures

Guest Lecturer

- **Guest Lecturer, BME 1010 Careers in Biomedical Engineering** 2024
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
- **"Rehabilitative Robotics and Its Application in Stroke/Amputee Populations"** 2024
Robotics, West High School, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
- **"Rehabilitative Robotics and Its Application in Stroke/Amputee Populations"** 2024
Principles In Engineering, West High School, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Student Mentorship

- **Chimdi Ihediwa** 2024 - Present
Undergraduate Student, Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, USA
Role: Graduate Student Mentor
- **Wyatt Young** 2024 - Present
Undergraduate Student, Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, USA
Role: Graduate Student Mentor

Open-Source Software and Data Repositories

1. [Machine Learning Gait Front End](#)

Academic Honors/Awards

Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society, University of Utah 2017
Dean's List, University of Utah 2017 - 2021

Service and Volunteerism

University

- **Chair, Curriculum Committee** 2025 - Present
Biomedical Engineering Graduate Student Advisory Committee, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

- **Volunteer, Biomedical Engineering Recruitment Weekend** 2025
Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
- **Volunteer, National Biomechanics Day** 2024
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
- **Volunteer, Biomedical Engineering Recruitment Weekend** 2024
Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
- **External Vice President** 2019 - 2020
Vietnamese American Student Association (VASA), University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Community

- **Judge Advisor Assistant** 2025
Utah Regional First Robotics Competition, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
- **First Robotics Mentor** 2023 - 2024
Red Rock Robotics, West High School, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
- **Director of Patient Impact** 2022 - 2023
Project Embrace, West Jordan, Utah, USA
- **Member, Research Committee** 2021 - 2023
Project Embrace, West Jordan, Utah, USA
- **Director of Marketing and Community Engagement** 2021 - 2022
Project Embrace, West Jordan, Utah, USA
- **Community Outreach and Engagement Chair** 2020 - 2021
Southwest Union of Vietnamese Student Associations (SWUVSA)
- **Counsel of School Representatives (CoSR) Member** 2019 - 2020
Southwest Union of Vietnamese Student Associations (SWUVSA)
- **Emergency Room Volunteer** 2019 - 2020
University of Utah Hospital, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
- **Medical Interpreter & Patient Assistance Program** 2019 - 2020
Maliheh Free Clinic, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
- **Camp Counselor** 2018, 2019
Camp Anytown, Inclusion Center, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Media

Television

- [“Medical Innovations at the University of Utah”](#)
2022
University of Utah, The College Tour, Amazon