From: **Ian Taylor** itaylo19@students.kennesaw.edu
Subject: Thesis Advisor Opportunity
Date: July 30, 2025 at 9:22 AM
To: Pengcheng Xiao pxiao4@kennesaw.edu

Dear Dr. Xiao,

I hope you're doing well. I'm writing to ask if you would be open to serving as my thesis advisor for the MSCS program. After reviewing the requirements with the graduate coordinator, I understand I'll need a faculty advisor confirmed in order to officially transition into the thesis track.

My research interests sit at the intersection of machine learning and cognitive science—specifically, using neural networks to model internal mental states like visual imagery, and leveraging EEG data to study phenomena such as aphantasia. The direction is still taking shape, but I've been exploring embodied cognition as a guiding theory, and I'm currently looking into public datasets like YOTO and OpenMIIR to begin experimentation.

I've spoken with Dr. Tim Martin, who is interested in being involved as a committee member. However, since he's in a different college (Radow), he may not be eligible to serve as my primary advisor; that's why I'm reaching out to you. I believe your expertise and position within the College of Computing would be a perfect match for both the technical scope and the program structure.

I'd be happy to share more details or schedule a time to chat if you're interested. Thank you for considering, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Ian Taylor
Graduate Student, M.S. Computer Science
Kennesaw State University
(770) 625-6774
LinkedIn | GitHub

From: **Pengcheng Xiao** pxiao4@kennesaw.edu 📎
Subject: Re: Thesis Advisor Opportunity
Date: July 30, 2025 at 10:25 PM
To: Ian Taylor itaylo19@students.kennesaw.edu

Hi Ian,

Thank you for the message. I am in Canada for a conference, and I will be back tomorrow evening. Can you please send me your current cv? We can schedule an online meeting next week and talk about more.

One thing I want to clarify: I am in the College of Science and Mathematics, not the College of Computing. So please ask if I am eligible to be your advisor. If not, I am still interested in your research, and we can work on some projects together in the near future.

Best,
Pengcheng

Dr. Pengcheng Xiao
Associate Professor of Mathematics
Department of Mathematics

850 Polytechnic Lane
Room 204, MD 9085
Marietta, GA 30060

p: 470-578-4512
e: pxiao4@kennesaw.edu

From: Ian Taylor <itaylo19@students.kennesaw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2025 9:22 AM
To: Pengcheng Xiao <pxiao4@kennesaw.edu>
Subject: Thesis Advisor Opportunity

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