Austin J. Ferguson

(740)370-2768 | ferguson.austin.j@gmail.com

567 Wilson Road Room 1455 | East Lansing, MI 48823

EDUCATION

Dual B.S. Computer Engineering Technology; Digital Simulation & Gaming Engineering Technology

Minor in Mathematical Sciences

Summa Cum Laude

Shawnee State University, Portsmouth, Ohio   August 2014 - May 2018

Dual Ph.D. Computer Science and Engineering; Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior

Advisor: Charles Ofria

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan   Expected May 2023

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My interests focus on approaching artificial intelligence and artificial life through means borrowed from biology and ecology. More specifically, I am interested in using the principles of natural evolution to create digital agents capable of the foundations of learning.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Supplemental Instructor - Shawnee State University   Springs 2016 & 2017

Assisted professor Jason Witherell with ETGG1803: Concepts of 3D Graphics and Math. Held open lab hours where students could receive additional instruction on concepts and help on assignments.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Software Development Intern - Fluor BWXT, Piketon, Ohio   Summers 2015 - 2018

Collaborated with multiple departments to develop web applications to be used on plant site. Applications included inventory tracking systems for on-site fire services, information technology, and security as well as auditing and reporting software for site maintenance. All work was done under DOE contract number DE-AC30-10CC40017.

Office Assistant - Student Success Center, Shawnee State University   August 2016 - May 2018

Managed a variety of student needs regarding academic advising and scheduling while maintaining computer labs and study spaces for student use.

HONORS & AWARDS

Engineering Distinguished Scholar, MSU	Fall 2018 – Spring 2023
BEACON Top-Up Fellowship, MSU	Fall 2018 – Spring 2023
Outstanding Senior in Computer Engineering, SSU	Spring 2018
Outstanding Senior in Digital Simulation and Gaming, SSU	Spring 2018
Outstanding Supplemental Instructor, SSU	Spring 2017
President's List, SSU	Fall 2014 – Spring 2017

Shawnee State Presidential Scholarship, SSU   Fall 2014 - Spring 2018
Margaret Gurney Noel Scholarship, SSU   Fall 2015 - Spring 2016
Centrus Energy Corporation Scholarship, SSU   Fall 2014 - Spring 2016
Ralph and Louise Arrick Scholarship, SSU   Fall 2014 - Spring 2015

REFERENCES

Jason Witherell, Associate Professor of Digital Simulation & Gaming
Engineering Department, Shawnee State University
740-351-3113
jwitherell@shawnee.edu

Dr. James Hudson, Associate Professor of Computer Engineering
Engineering Department, Shawnee State University
740-351-3686
jhudson@shawnee.edu

Coleen Kosan, Assistant Director of Advising & Academic Resources,
University College, Shawnee State University
740-351-3758
ckosan@shawnee.edu

Rick Fleeman, Software Development Manager
Fluor BWXT Portsmouth
740-897-2178
rick.fleeman@fbports.com