

Xiaoyi Tian

Assistant Professor of Information Technology | Kennesaw State University
xtian5@kennesaw.edu | Research Lab: tianhci.com | [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=xtian5)

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of Information Technology (Tenure-Track) Kennesaw State University, Marietta, GA	Aug 2026–Present
Research Scientist North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC	Sep 2024–Aug 2026

Education

Ph.D., Human-Centered Computing University of Florida, Gainesville, FL <i>Dissertation:</i> Designing for Children to Create Conversational Agents and Learn about Artificial Intelligence <i>Advisor:</i> Kristy Elizabeth Boyer; <i>Committee:</i> Eric Ragan, Jaime Ruiz, Maya Israel	2024
M.S., Information Science University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA	2020
B.Mgmt., Management Science Anhui University, Hefei, China	2018

Research Interests

Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence; Artificial Intelligence in Education; Human–AI Interaction; K–12 AI Literacy; Generative AI for Learning; Child–AI Interaction; Learning Analytics and AI-Based Assessment; Participatory Design and Educational Robotics.

Research Funding

Award amounts below refer to total project awards.

Externally Funded Projects

- [G1] **Fostering Computer Science and AI Learning through Youth-Led Conversational App Development Experiences.** NSF ITEST (DRL-2048480); \$297,390; Sep 2026–Sep 2027. **Role: Co-PI;** PI: Kristy Boyer; co-PI: Maya Israel. Conversational app creation using AMBY in middle school education.
- [G2] **Beginnings: Experiential Learning for In-Service Teachers: Augmenting Teaching and Learning with Generative AI.** NSF ExLENT (DUE-2526340); \$1,000,000; Jan 2026–Dec 2028. **Role: Co-PI;** PI: Tiffany Barnes; co-PIs: Joey Huang, Dongkuan Xu. Teacher experiential learning and generative AI integration.
- [G3] **ElementaryAI: Leveraging AI Innovation to Enhance School-Wide Literacy Through Active Learning in Montgomery County Elementary Schools.** NSF CSforAll (DRL-2524505); \$926,299; Oct 2025–Sep 2028. **Role: Co-PI;** PI: Tiffany Barnes; co-PI: Shiyang Jiang. Research–practice partnership integrating AI learning and elementary literacy instruction.

Internal Funding

Supporting Student Learning of Generative AI and Large Language Models through AI Chatbot Construction. North Carolina State University Catalyst Grant; \$10,000; Aug 2025–Jun 2026. **Role: Co-PI;** PI: Joey Huang; co-PI: Tiffany Barnes.

Selected Proposals Under Review

- **CORAL: Empowering Children Co-Design of Social Robots that Foster AI Literacy and Intergenerational Connection.** NSF Future CoRe; \$1,000,000 proposed; **Role: PI.**
- **LIBRA: Libraries as Spaces for Children to Design Robots and AI.** NSF STEM K-12; \$900,000 proposed;

Role: Co-PI.

- **Dottie Impacts Youth: Empowering K–16 Students for Community Change by Integrating Computing, Sustainability, and Civic Engagement.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; \$2,999,868 proposed; **Role: Co-PI.**

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- [J6] Tithi, S. D., Ramesh, A. K., DiMarco, C., **Tian, X.**, Alam, N., Fazeli, K., & Barnes, T. (2025). The promise and limits of LLMs in constructing proofs and hints for logic problems in intelligent tutoring systems. *Computers and Education: Artificial Intelligence*, 9, 100490. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.caeai.2025.100490>
- [J5] **Tian, X.**, Griffith, A. E., Price, Z., Boyer, K. E., & Tang, K. (2025). Investigating linguistic alignment in collaborative dialogue: A study of syntactic and lexical patterns in middle school students. *Language and Speech*, 68(3), 63–86. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00238309241234565>
- [J4] Song, Y., Weisberg, L. R., Zhang, S., **Tian, X.**, Boyer, K. E., & Israel, M. (2024). A framework for inclusive AI learning design for diverse learners. *Computers and Education: Artificial Intelligence*, 6, 100212. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.caeai.2024.100212>
- [J3] Song, Y., Xing, W., Li, C., **Tian, X.**, & Ma, Y. (2024). Investigating the relationship between math literacy and linguistic synchrony in online mathematical discussions through large scale data analytics. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 55(5), 2226–2256. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjet.13444>
- [J2] **Tian, X.**, Kumar, A., Solomon, C. E., Calder, K. D., Katuka, G. A., Song, Y., Celepkolu, M., Pezzullo, L., Barrett, J., Boyer, K. E., & Israel, M. (2023). AMBY: A development environment for youth to create conversational agents. *International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction*, 38, 100618. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijcci.2023.100618>
- [J1] **Tian, X.**, Risha, Z., Ahmed, I., Lekshmi Narayanan, A. B., & Biehl, J. (2021). Let’s talk it out: A chatbot for effective study habit behavioral change. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 5(CSCW1), 1–32. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3449171>

Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

- [C18] **Tian, X.**, Zhang, S., Song, Y., McKlin, T., Boyer, K. E., & Israel, M. (2026). An attitude paradox? examining ability beliefs and persistence intentions in a middle school conversational ai learning experience. *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education*, 526–534. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-29770-9_57
- [C17] Zhang, S., Zambrano, A. F., **Tian, X.**, Song, Y., Botelho, A. F., Boyer, K. E., Israel, M., & Jiang, S. (2026). Analyzing middle school students’ dialogue and behaviors during collaborative ai chatbot development using ordered network analysis. *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education*, 336–350. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-29763-1_23
- [C16] Ozturk, D., **Tian, X.**, Huang, J., & Barnes, T. (2026). Learning through chatbot design: Examining children’s ai understanding and hallucination awareness. *International Conference of the Learning Sciences (ICLS)*, In press
- [C15] **Tian, X.**, Ozturk, D., Edula, S., Adil, J., Jin, Q., Shi, Y., & Barnes, T. (2026). When AI gets it wrong: Scaffolding AI hallucination detection for children through chatbot creation. *Proceedings of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, In press. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3772318.3791480>
- [C14] Tithi, S. D., **Tian, X.**, Limke, A., Chi, M., & Barnes, T. (2026). Exploring the design and impact of interactive worked examples for learners with varying prior knowledge. *Proceedings of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, In press. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3772318.3791631>
- [C13] Riahi, B., Limke, A., **Tian, X.**, Storozhevsky, V., Patukale, S., Yasir, T., Singh, K., Chiu, J., Lytle, N., Barnes, T., & Catete, V. (2026). Exploring teacher-chatbot interaction and affect in block-based programming. *Proceedings of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, In press. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3772318.3791823>
- [C12] **Tian, X.**, Rajapaksha, Y., Limke, A., DiMarco, C., Dobar, E. B., Hill, M., Payton, J., & Barnes, T. (2026). AI scholars program: Scaling AI literacy through K-12 outreach. *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, 40(47), 40704–40712. <https://doi.org/10.1609/aaai.v40i47.41518>

- [C11] Alam, N., Fazeli, K., **Tian, X.**, Chi, M., & Barnes, T. (2025). Determining problem type using deep reinforcement learning in a data-driven intelligent tutor. *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education*, 141–148. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-98465-5_18
- [C10] Droujkov, D., Emerson, A., Carpenter, D., **Tian, X.**, Azevedo, R., & Barnes, T. (2025). Investigating the impact of confusion and agency on motivation in a game-based learning environment. *Proceedings of International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education*, 177–189. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-98420-4_13
- [C9] **Tian, X.**, Mannekote, A., Solomon, C. E., Song, Y., Wise, C. F., Mcklin, T., Barrett, J., Boyer, K. E., & Israel, M. (2024). Examining LLM prompting strategies for automatic evaluation of learner-created computational artifacts. *Proceedings of the 17th International Conference on Educational Data Mining (EDM)*, 698–706. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12729922>
- [C8] Song, Y., **Tian, X.**, Regatti, N., Katuka, G. A., Israel, M., & Boyer, K. E. (2024). Artificial intelligence unplugged: Designing unplugged activities for a conversational AI summer camp. *Proceedings of the 55th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education V. 1*, 1272–1278. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3626252.3630783>
- [C7] Song, Y., Xing, W., **Tian, X.**, & Li, C. (2023). Are we on the same page? Modeling linguistic synchrony and math literacy in mathematical discussions. *LAK23: 13th International Learning Analytics and Knowledge Conference*, 599–605. [Best Short Paper Award]. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3576050.3576082>
- [C6] Katuka, G. A., Auguste, Y., Song, Y., **Tian, X.**, Kumar, A., Celepkolu, M., Boyer, K. E., Barrett, J., Israel, M., & McKlin, T. (2023). A summer camp experience to engage middle school learners in AI through conversational app development. *Proceedings of the 54th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education V. 1*, 813–819. [Best Paper Award]. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3545945.3569864>
- [C5] Song, Y., Katuka, G. A., Barrett, J., **Tian, X.**, Kumar, A., McKlin, T., Celepkolu, M., Boyer, K. E., & Israel, M. (2023). AI made by youth: A conversational AI curriculum for middle school summer camps. *Proceedings of the Thirty-Seventh AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Thirty-Fifth Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference and Thirteenth AAAI Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence*. <https://doi.org/10.1609/aaai.v37i13.26882>
- [C4] Bounajim, D., Rachmatullah, A., Hinckle, M., Mott, B., Lester, J., Smith, A., Emerson, A., Morshed Fahid, F., **Tian, X.**, Wiggins, J. B., et al. (2021). Applying cognitive load theory to examine stem undergraduate students' experiences in an adaptive learning environment: A mixed-methods study. *Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting*, 65(1), 556–560. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1071181321651249>
- [C3] **Tian, X.**, Wiggins, J. B., Fahid, F. M., Emerson, A., Bounajim, D., Smith, A., Boyer, K. E., Wiebe, E., Mott, B., & Lester, J. (2021). Modeling frustration trajectories and problem-solving behaviors in adaptive learning environments for introductory computer science. *Proceedings of International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education*, 355–360. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-78270-2_63
- [C2] Morshed Fahid, F., **Tian, X.**, Emerson, A., B. Wiggins, J., Bounajim, D., Smith, A., Wiebe, E., Mott, B., Elizabeth Boyer, K., & Lester, J. (2021). Progression trajectory-based student modeling for novice block-based programming. *Proceedings of the 29th ACM Conference on User Modeling, Adaptation and Personalization*, 189–200. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3450613.3456833>
- [C1] **Tian, X.**, Lubold, N., Friedman, L., & Walker, E. (2020). Understanding rapport over multiple sessions with a social, teachable robot. *Proceedings of International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education*, 318–323. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-52240-7_58

Peer-Reviewed Workshop and Companion Papers

- [W2] **Tian, X.**, Ma, R., Jin, Q., Sun, K., Razi, A., Shi, Y., Cagiltay, B., Fails, J. A., & Kou, Y. (2026). Growing up (and old) with ai: Co-constructing the future for family-centered ai. *Proceedings of the 2026 Companion of the Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing*, 652–658. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3785651.3816096>
- [W1] Yasir, T., Li, W., Gilson, S., Tithi, S. D., **Tian, X.**, & Barnes, T. (2026). Confirming correct, missing the rest: LLM tutoring agents struggle where feedback matters most. *Proceedings of the 21st Workshop on Innovative Use of NLP for Building Educational Applications (BEA)*. <https://aclanthology.org/2026.bea-1.56/>

Interactive Demonstrations and Short Papers

- [D9] **Tian, X.**, Huang, J., Singh, D. P., Rajapaksha, Y., Ozturk, D., & Barnes, T. (2026). BotBuilder: A chatbot development platform for AI literacy and hallucination awareness [interactive demonstration] [Interactive

demonstration]. *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED 2026)*

- [D8] Huang, J., **Tian, X.**, Ozturk, D., Singh, D., Rajapaksha, Y., & Barnes, T. (2026). Lumibuilder: A chatbot-building tool for hallucination-aware ai literacy. *In International Society of the Learning Sciences (ISLS) Annual Meeting - Interactive Tools & Demos*, In press
- [D7] Riahi, B., **Tian, X.**, Limke, A., Storozhevkyh, V., Cateté, V., Barnes, T., Lytle, N., & Singh, K. (2025). Snapclass: An AI-enhanced classroom management system for block-based programming. *2025 IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing (VL/HCC)*, 461–465. <https://doi.org/10.1109/VL-HCC65237.2025.00072>
- [D6] Tithi, S. D., **Tian, X.**, Chi, M., & Barnes, T. (2025). Investigating the impact and student perceptions of guided parsons problems for learning logic with subgoals. *9th Educational Data Mining in Computer Science Education (CSEDM) Workshop*. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2505.04712>
- [D5] **Tian, X.**, Borchers, C., Boyer, K. E., & Israel, M. (2025). Combining log data and collaborative dialogue features to predict project quality in middle school AI education. *9th Educational Data Mining in Computer Science Education (CSEDM) Workshop*. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2506.11326>
- [D4] Limke, A., Islam, S., Riahi, B., **Tian, X.**, Hill, M., Catete, V., & Barnes, T. (2025). What does it take to support problem solving in programming classrooms? a new framework from the k-12 teacher perspective. *Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3706599.3719763>
- [D3] Song, Y., **Tian, X.**, Barrett, J., Israel, M., & Boyer, K. E. (2023). Guide, safety net, project tester, and more: Investigating the roles of facilitators in an AI summer camp. *Proceedings of the 17th International Conference of the Learning Sciences-ICLS 2023*, 2013–2014. <https://doi.org/10.22318/icls2023.548176>
- [D2] Kumar, A., **Tian, X.**, Celepkolu, M., Israel, M., & Boyer, K. E. (2022). Early design of a conversational AI development platform for middle schoolers. *2022 IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing (VL/HCC)*, 1–3. <https://doi.org/10.1109/VL/HCC53370.2022.9833129>
- [D1] Buddemeyer, A., **Tian, X.**, & Walker, E. (2022). Dominance as an indicator of rapport and learning in human-agent communication. *Student Research Workshop in Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2212.02361>

Preprints (Not Peer Reviewed)

- [P11] Yasir, T., Li, W., Ozturk, D., Rajapaksha, Y., Droujkov, D., **Tian, X.**, & Barnes, T. (2026). From instructional intent to classroom-ready lessons: Investigating teacher-AI collaboration in lesson authoring for secondary computing education [Preprint]. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2610.12834>
- [P10] Xiao, F., Wu, R., Cui, X., Rajapaksha, Y., **Tian, X.**, Jiang, S., & Barnes, T. (2026). If my toy could talk: How young children imagine, design, and test AI-enabled toys [Preprint]. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2610.06619>
- [P9] Melese, F., Wu, R., Cui, X., Perkins, J., **Tian, X.**, Barnes, T., & Jiang, S. (2026). Adapting for AI: How elementary teachers adjust their practices for an AI-integrated curriculum [Preprint]. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2609.31569>
- [P8] Riahi, B., Ozturk, D., Guth, A., Li, J., Singh, D. P., **Tian, X.**, Chiu, J., Lytle, N., Barnes, T., & Catete, V. (2026). Will it teach as intended? how teachers configure educational AI chatbots [Preprint]. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2609.29993>
- [P7] Ozturk, D., Li, J., Singh, D. P., Rajapaksha, Y., Melese, F., Riahi, B., Jiang, S., Huang, J., Catete, V., Barnes, T., & **Tian, X.** (2026). How children design and reason about trustworthy AI chatbots [Preprint]. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2609.25244>
- [P6] Tabarsi, B., Yasir, T., Reichert, H., **Tian, X.**, Gadireddy, S., DiMarco, C., Briceno, D., Battestilli, L., & Barnes, T. (2026). Student-facing LLM tools in computing education: A systematic literature review of roles, designs, evaluations, and impacts [Revised preprint, SSRN]. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=7463479
- [P5] Yasir, T., Tithi, S. D., Tabarsi, B., Droujkov, D., Gilson, S., Rajapaksha, Y., **Tian, X.**, Ramesh, A., & Barnes, T. (2026). When verification hurts: Asymmetric effects of multi-agent feedback in logic proof tutoring [Preprint]. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2603.27076>
- [P4] Tithi, S. D., Fazeli, K., Droujkov, D., Yasir, T., **Tian, X.**, & Barnes, T. (2026). Data-driven hints in intelligent tutoring systems [Preprint]. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2603.07311>
- [P3] Tithi, S. D., Alam, N., Yasir, T., Shi, Y., **Tian, X.**, Chi, M., & Barnes, T. (2026). Adaptive scaffolding for

cognitive engagement in an intelligent tutoring system [Preprint]. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2602.07308>

[P2] Mannekote, A., **Tian, X.**, Boyer, K. E., & Dorr, B. J. (2024). Can similarity-based domain-ordering reduce catastrophic forgetting for intent recognition? *arXiv preprint arXiv:2402.14155*. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2402.14155>

[P1] **Tian, X.** & Boyer, K. E. (2023). A review of digital learning environments for teaching natural language processing in k-12 education. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.01603*. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2310.01603>

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

Kennesaw State University

Fall 2026

IT 3503: Foundations of Health Information Technology (undergraduate; online asynchronous).

Guest Lectures and Instructional Contributions

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Fall 2026

Guest lecture, AI for Educators: Using Generative AI to support K-12 teaching and learning

Utah State University

Fall 2024, Fall 2025

Guest lecture, Natural Language Processing: designing conversational agents for children's AI learning.

University of Florida

2021–2024

Guest lectures and learning activities on K–12 conversational AI and human-centered AI learning environments.

Curriculum and Educator Professional Development

- Developed and deployed K–12 curricula in conversational AI, chatbot construction, critical AI literacy, and responsible generative AI use.
- Designed teacher-facing professional learning and classroom implementation materials through NSF-supported projects and Montgomery County school (NC) partnerships.
- Supported training and mentorship of undergraduate facilitators for K–12 AI educational programs.

Student Advising and Mentorship

An asterisk () denotes coauthored publications. Research mentorship is listed separately from formal degree advising.*

Graduate Student Advising

Sayali Patukale (Ph.D., Kennesaw State University)

Fall 2026–Present

Graduate Research Mentees

Sutapa Dey Tithi* (Ph.D., NC State University)

2024–Present

Kimia Fazeli (Ph.D., NC State University)

2024–Present

Benyamin T. Tabarsi* (Ph.D., NC State University)

2024–Present

Tahreem Yasir* (Ph.D., NC State University)

2025–Present

Daksh Pratap Singh* (M.S., NC State University)

2025–2026

Undergraduate Research Mentees

Max Bradshaw (Kennesaw State University)

Fall 2026–Present

Zain Kashif (Kennesaw State University)

Fall 2026–Present

Deniz Ozturk* (NC State University)

Summer 2025–Present

Faaz Mohamed (University of Pittsburgh)

Summer 2026

Matheus Marques (The College of New Jersey)

Summer 2026

Lokesh Sharma (University of California, Irvine)

Summer 2026

Susanna Quayle (NC State University)

Summer 2026

Nicole Ackerman-Lowery (Fayetteville Technical Community College)

Summer 2026

Daniel Briceno (NC State University)

Spring–Summer 2026

Aditya Basarkar (NC State University)

Summer 2026

Jibran Adil* (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Summer 2025

Sreekar Edula* (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)	Summer 2025
Shiyi Qiu (University of Florida)	Fall 2023–Summer 2024
Carly Solomon* (University of Florida)	Summer 2022–Spring 2024
Kaceja Calder* (University of Florida)	Summer 2023
Chandler Wiggins (University of Florida)	Summer 2023
Alex Johnson (University of Florida)	Summer 2023
David Vallejo-Lozano (University of Florida)	Summer 2023
Madison Edward (University of Florida)	Summer 2023
Nandika Regatti* (University of Florida)	Summer 2023
Omar Maslamani (University of Florida)	Summer 2021
Yvonika Auguste* (University of Florida)	Summer 2021

Student Project Teams

Senior Design Project Mentorship (groups of 5) Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026

Research Leadership and Educational Technology

AMBY and BotBuilder: Conversational AI Authoring for K–12 Learners. Research, design, classroom deployment, and evaluation of tools enabling students to build intent-based and LLM-supported conversational agents.

ToyTalk and ElementaryAI. Child-centered AI learning environments developed in collaboration with elementary educators to integrate conversational AI design into literacy learning.

AI Hallucination Awareness and Trustworthy Chatbot Design. Research on pedagogical supports including confidence, model comparison, fact checking, and chatbot testing to develop critical AI literacy.

LLM-Based Assessment of Computational Artifacts. Rubric development and evaluation of LLM-driven assessment approaches for learner-created conversational AI systems.

CORAL: Intergenerational Robot Co-Design. Research direction exploring elementary students’ co-design of social robots for intergenerational connection and physical AI literacy; proposal-stage work.

Academic and Professional Service

Conference and Workshop Leadership

Co-organizer, *Growing Up (and Old) with AI: Co-Constructing the Future for Family-Centered AI*, ACM CSCW 2026 workshop.

Senior Program Committee / Experience Reports Track Chair, RESPECT 2025.

Session Chair, *AI-Based Assessments and Teaching AI in K–12*, AERA 2025.

Proposal Review

NSF STEM K-12 review panel (2026), AISL review panel (2025); NSF CAREER Ad-hoc review (2024).

Conference and Journal Reviewing

ACM CHI (2023–2026); ACM CSCW (2020, 2023); ACM SIGCSE TS (2024–2026); AIED (2025–2026); ACM ICER (2024, 2026); EDM (2022); AERA (2026); BEA (2024); ISLS (2023); *ACM Transactions on Computing Education*; *International Journal of Human–Computer Interaction*; *International Journal of Human–Computer Studies*; *Applied Computing and Informatics*.

Community and Educational Outreach

Microsoft TEALS volunteer, high school CS1/Python, Fall 2022.

Program coordination and student mentorship, STARS AI Scholars Program (63 scholars); K–12 AI outreach and teacher collaborations.

Previous Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Florida Aug 2020–Aug 2024
Advisor: Kristy E. Boyer. Led learning-tool design, student studies, curriculum and assessment development, and data analysis for the NSF DIALOGS project and related AI learning research.

Research Intern, Carnegie Mellon University Oct 2019–Jul 2020
Supervisors: Amy Ogan and Michael Madaio. Data collection and learning analytics for a child literacy technology deployed in Côte d'Ivoire.

Research Assistant, University of Pittsburgh Apr 2019–May 2020
Advisor: Erin Walker. Qualitative and computational analysis of multisession rapport in child–robot interaction.

Selected Presentations and Invited Talks

- **AERA Annual Meeting**, 2025: *Automatic Evaluation of Conversational AI Chatbots Using Large Language Models*; and *My Bot Can Talk about Science! Fostering AI Learning in a Middle School Classroom*.
- **STARS AI Scholars Webinar Series**, 2025: *AMBY: A Tool for Children to Create Conversational Agents*.
- **Utah State University**, 2024: Guest lecture on child-centered conversational AI authoring and learning.
- **CAST AI Quarterly Convening**, 2024: *How Can We Make AI Learning More Inclusive? A New Framework*.
- **ACM CHI Child-Centered AI Design Workshop**, 2024: *Designing for Children to Create Conversational Agents and Learn about Artificial Intelligence*.
- **University of Florida**, 2023: AI in K–12 education seminar, *Empowering Youth in AI Learning: DIALOGS Curriculum and AMBY Interface*.
- **University of Pittsburgh**, 2023: PAWS research seminar, *Learner Modeling and Design of CS and AI Learning Environments*.

Honors and Awards

- Carla Savage Award, North Carolina State University (2026).
- Engineering ASCEND Most Supportive Faculty/Staff Award, North Carolina State University (2026).
- Best Paper Award Nominee and Best Student Paper Award Nominee, AERA (2025).
- Best Lightning Talk, Second Place, Science by the Shore Conference (2024).
- Three Minute Thesis Award, Second Place, University of Florida (2023).
- Best Short Paper Award, LAK (2023).
- Best Paper Award, ACM SIGCSE (2023).
- Gartner Group Graduate Fellowship, University of Florida (2022, 2023).
- Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis, Anhui University (2018).