August 29, 2018

RE: Undergraduate Research Opportunity

Dr. Paul Parsons (Department of Computer Graphics Technology) is looking to hire undergraduate researchers to work on an NSF-funded project investigating cognitive aspects of data visualizations. The project aims to understand how designers create visualizations, specifically focusing on how designers think about creating visual forms of data. We are also trying to understand how users interpret and make sense of visualizations for different kinds of data/information. Understanding how people interpret visualizations will help to create better guidance for visualization designers making various kinds of visual representations. The project is not technical and does not require any programming experience. The focus of the work is on the visual design aspects of data visualization. All kinds of visualizations are of interest, not just typical statistical graphics. The project is highly interdisciplinary, and sits at the intersection of psychology, design, and graphics.

The commitment will be approximately 7-10 hours per week, with a possibility of extending the contract for a second semester. A stipend will be provided, but US residency is required by the NSF for the stipend. There will be opportunities to learn some of the following skills: literature analysis and review; content analysis; qualitative data analysis; experiment design; quantitative data analysis; analyzing and discussing research papers; writing both scholarly and practitioner-oriented articles. By working with graduate students, you will likely learn general skills related to research, writing, and speaking/presenting. There will be opportunities for publishing papers and attending top-tier conferences (e.g., ACM CHI, IEEE VIS).

Qualifications: 3.0+ GPA required. Junior/Senior students preferred, but strong Freshmen and Sophomores will be considered.

If this opportunity seems interesting and you are highly motivated, please apply by sending an email to parsonsp@purdue.edu by September 7, 2018. Make sure to describe your qualifications, experience, and interest in the project when applying. No technical or programming experience is required for this work.

If you have any questions, please email Dr. Parsons and he will be happy to answer them.

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