

Mmachi G. Obiorah

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Education

Northwestern University

2015 - Present

PH.D. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

3.83/4

Northwestern University

Mar., 2015

M.Sc. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

3.84/4

University of Jos

June, 2009

B.Sc. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

4.61/5 (1st Class)

Skills

Programming

Working knowledge of the following programming languages: Java (and Android programming), JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Python, C++. Also familiar with Swift, PHP and R

Application Framework

Bootstrap, Parse, Firebase

Version Control System

Familiar with Git and GitHub

Research Methods

Qualitative Methods

Research

TIDAL LAB, Northwestern University

Aug 2015 - Present

MEMBER

- I work with Dr. Michael Horn at the TIDAL Lab on understanding how to build technologies for people who are typically marginalized in the design of technological solutions.

Projects

- Designing Alternative and Augmentative Communication for people with language impairments (in progress). For this project, I am investigating how to use contextual information to retrieve relevant words from an AAC's vocabulary to support real-time conversations for people with aphasia. **Platforms used: Java, Android Studio**
- JumpGym: This is an exergame that was developed to understand how to decrease users' perceived waiting time as they waited for a service. Paper submitted at GLS 12. **Platforms used: Javascript, Swift**
- Graduate School Acceptance Predictor: This was deployed at this website with a model that attempts to predict whether an applicant will be accepted into grad school based on his/her profile. **Platforms used: Weka, HTML, CSS, node.js**

Experience

Northwestern University

INSTRUCTOR

Computing Everywhere: Building Mobile Applications for Android Devices

Jan. 2019

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Tangible Interaction Design and Learning

Mar. 2017

Human Computer Interaction

Jan. 2016

University of Jos

Mar. 2015 - Present

ASSISTANT LECTURER

- Taught Introduction to Computer Science

University of Jos

Jul. 2011 - Mar. 2015

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

- Taught Introduction to Computer Science with Python
- Taught Object Oriented Programming with C++

University of Jos, Consultancy Ltd

2008

INDUSTRIAL TRAINEE

- Assisted in setting up and managing Local Area Networks.

Honors & Awards

2017	Microsoft Diversity Conference Scholarship	Microsoft
2016	Segal Design Fellowship	Northwestern University
2012	Presidential Special Scholarship for Innovation and Development for Graduate Studies	Abuja, Nigeria
2009	National Association for Women Academics (NAWACS) Prize for Best Graduating Female Student in the Faculty of Natural Sciences	University of Jos, Nigeria

Volunteering

Brave Initiatives

Aug 2015 - Present

CODE COACH

- I support teenage girls as they learn to build websites with HTML, CSS and JavaScript to address social issues in their environment.

Publications

- M. Obiorah, A. M. Piper, M. Horn. Independent Word Discovery for People with Aphasia. Poster presented in Proceedings of the 19th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '17).
- M. Obiorah, E. Harburg, M. Bos, M. Horn. JumpGym: Exploring the Impact of a Jumping Exergame for Waiting Areas. Spotlight paper presented in Proceedings of the 2017 Annual Symposium on Computer-Human Interaction in Play Companion Extended Abstracts (CHI PLAY Companion '17).
- M. Obiorah, E. Harburg, J. Franklin, B. Downs, S. Ye, M. Bos, M. Horn. (2016) JumpGym: A Jumping Exergame for Waiting Areas in GLS 12 Conference Proceedings.
- Beheshti, E., Obiorah, M. and Horn, M.S., 2015, June. Let's dive into it!: Learning electricity with multiple representations. In Proceedings of the 14th International Conference on Interaction Design and Children (pp. 263-266). ACM.