

Morgan L. Turner, PhD

*Postdoctoral Associate and CRA/CCC/NSF Computing Innovation Fellow
Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Minnesota*

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Academic Interests

vertebrate foot structure and function, biomechanics, anatomy, locomotor evolution, evolutionary biology, paleontology, ichnology, animation, reconstruction of *in-vivo* skeletal kinematics, interactive visualization design for time-based multivariate skeletal motion

Education

- Dec 2020 **Ph.D., Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**, Brown University
Thesis: Internal and external foot kinematics at the animal-substrate interface
Advisor: Stephen M. Gatesy
Committee: Elizabeth L. Brainerd, Thomas J. Roberts, David H. Laidlaw
- May 2018 **Sc.M. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**, Brown University
- June 2013 **B.A. Biological Anthropology**, University of Washington
Paleobiology minor
- 2009 - 2010 Bellevue Community College, WA

Professional Appointments

- 2021 - 2023 **University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN**
Postdoctoral Associate and CRA/CCC/NSF Computing Innovation Fellow
Associate Director of the Interactive Visualization Lab
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
- 2013 - 2016 **University of Washington. Seattle, WA**
Scientific Illustrator, Department of Biology
- 2014 - 2015 **Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture. Seattle, WA**
Casting and Molding Technician
- Summer 2014 **John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. Kimberly, OR**
Artist in Residence

Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

- 2021 **Alfred Sherwood Romer Prize Finalist**, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
outstanding scientific contribution in Vertebrate Paleontology by a predoctoral student
- 2021 **Leadership Development Grant**, Office of Postdoctoral Initiatives, University of Minnesota
- 2020 **Computing Innovation Fellow**, Computing Research Association, Computing Community Consortium, and National Science Foundation
a two-year postdoctoral fellowship and career-enhancing bridge experience for computing PhD graduates to combat hiring disruptions due to COVID-19
- 2020 **Grant in Aid for Research**, "The impact of interdigital substrate flow on theropod dinosaur footprint diversity", Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology

- 2019 **Doctoral Dissertation Enhancement Grant**, “Postural Grades and Foot Function Gradients in Archosaurs”, Brown University, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- 2018 **Best Poster Award**, “Developing Virtual Reality Visualizations of Dinosaur Track Creation with Scientific Sketching”, IEEE VIS
- 2016 **Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention**, NSF
- 2015 **Life Sciences Fellowship**, University of Missouri (Declined)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

Published

9. Cieri RL, **Turner ML**, Carney RM, Falkingham PL, Kirk AM, Wang T, Jensen B, Novotny J, Tveite J, Gatesy SM, Laidlaw DH, Kaplan H, Moorman AFM, Howell M, Engel B, Cruz C, Smith A, Gerichs W, Lian Y, Schultz JT, Farmer C. (2021). *Virtual and Augmented Reality: new tools for visualizing, analyzing, and communicating complex morphology*. Journal of Morphology.
8. **Turner ML** and Gatesy SM. (2021). *Alligators employ intermetatarsal reconfiguration to modulate plantigrade ground contact*. The Journal of Experimental Biology. 224, jeb242240.
7. Falkingham PL, **Turner ML**, and Gatesy SM. (2020). *Constructing and testing hypotheses of dinosaur foot motions from fossil tracks using digitization and simulation*. Palaeontology.
6. **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, Gatesy SM. (2020). *It’s in the loop: shared subsurface foot kinematics in birds and other dinosaurs shed light on a new dimension of fossil track diversity*. Biology Letters. 16: 20200309.
5. Tsai HP, **Turner ML**, Manafzadeh AR, Gatesy SM. (2020). *Contrast-enhanced XROMM reveals in vivo soft tissue interactions in the hip of Alligator mississippiensis*. Journal of Anatomy 236(2), 288-304.
4. Novotny J, Tveite J, **Turner ML**, Gatesy SM, Drury F, Falkingham P, Laidlaw DH. (2019). *Developing Virtual Reality Visualizations for Unsteady Flow Analysis of Dinosaur Track Formation using Scientific Sketching*. IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics. 25(5): 2145-2154.
3. Farlow JO, Robinson NJ, **Turner ML**, Black J, Gatesy SM. (2018). *Footfall Pattern of a Bottom-Walking Crocodile (Crocodylus acutus)*. Palaios 33(9):406-413.
2. **Turner ML** and Sidor CA (2017). *Pathology in a Permian Parareptile: Congenital Malformation of Sacral Vertebrae*. Journal of Zoology.
1. **Turner ML**, Tsuji LA, Ide O, Sidor CA (2015). *The vertebrate fauna of the Upper Permian of Niger—IX. The appendicular skeleton of Bunostegos akokanensis (Parareptilia: Pareiasauria)*. Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology 35, e994746.

For links to articles, see <https://morganlturner.com/publications/>

Presentations

Invited Symposium Talks

- Jan 2022 Falkingham PL, **Turner ML**, Gatesy SM. *Walking, swimming, and everything in between: Guineafowl limb kinematics on firm, soft, and semi-liquid substrates*. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. **Evolutionary conservation and diversity in a key vertebrate behavior: "walking" as a model system.**

- July 2019 **Turner ML**, Novotny J, Falkingham PL, Laidlaw DH, Gatesy SM. *Where does footprint morphology come from? Developing virtual reality visualizations for exploring dinosaur track formation.* International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology. **VirtMorph - Using Virtual Reality to Visualize and Analyze Vertebrate Morphology.**
- Oct 2018 **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, Gatesy SM. *Where does footprint morphology come from? Integrating 3D methods for exploring dinosaur track formation.* Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. **Building a Phenomic Universe: Collection, Management, and Applications of Digital Morphological Data.**

Invited Seminars

- June 2021 Bell Museum of Natural History, MN
- July 2020 Beneski Museum of Natural History and Culture, MA
- Nov 2019 Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, WA
- Oct 2019 CCV-Con, Center for Computation and Visualization, Brown University, RI
- Feb 2019 Ecology and Evolutionary Ecology Brown Bag Seminar, Brown University, RI
- Sept 2018 Ecology and Evolutionary Ecology Brown Bag Seminar, Brown University, RI
- Jan 2018 Initiative to Maximize Student Development, Brown University, RI
- April 2017 Scientific Visualization Group, Department of Computer Science, Brown University, RI
- Feb 2016 Ecology and Evolutionary Ecology Brown Bag Seminar, Brown University, RI

Panels

- June 2021 Careers in Biomechanics, at International Women in Biomechanics
- July 2019 Summit for Women in STEM, at Wheaton College, MA

Workshops

- Aug 2021 Motion and Animation: Unity for the Interactive Visualization Lab Workshop series.
- July 2019 Virtual Morphology (VirtMorph) symposium, at the International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology conference, Prague, Czechia.

Invited and Contributed Conference Presentations

†undergraduate mentee

26. **Turner ML.** (2021). *Inside the “Black Box” of the Crurotarsal Ankle and Insights into the Pedal Origins of Locomotor Diversity in Archosaurs.* Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting [virtual]. **Alfred Sherwood Romer Prize Finalist.**
25. †Deibert C, **Turner ML**, and Keefe DF. (2021). *An exploratory visualization tool for linking 2D and 3D biomechanical motion data.* REU Virtual Poster Symposium [virtual].
24. **Turner ML**, and Gatesy SM. (2021). *Intermetatarsal mobility in the American alligator.* Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting [virtual].
23. Capano JG, Kaczmarek EB, Lomax JJ, **Turner ML**, Brainerd EL, and Ryerson WG. (2021). *Reticulated pythons roll their hemimandibles and splay their quadrates to engulf enormous prey.* Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting [virtual].
22. **Turner ML** and Gatesy SM. (2020). *Intermetatarsal mobility and grades of foot contact in the American alligator: building a new perspective on archosaurian foot evolution.* Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting [virtual].
21. Gatesy SM and **Turner ML.** (2020). *Dinosaurs in disguise: substrate flow accounts for unusual Early Jurassic tracks.* Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting [virtual].

20. **Turner ML** and Gatesy SM. (2020). *Looking inside the sole: intermetatarsal mobility in the American alligator*. Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting.
19. Capano JG, Brainerd EL, **Turner ML**, Ryerson WG. (2019). *Cranial Kinesis During Prey Ingestion in the Reticulated Python*. Northeastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Division of Vertebrate Morphology and Comparative Biomechanics.
18. Falkingham PL, **Turner ML**, Gatesy SM. (2019). *Generating and Testing Hypotheses of Dinosaur Foot Motions Using 3D-Digitized Tracks and Large-Scale Granular Simulations*. International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology.
17. Novotny J, Tveite JJ, **Turner ML**, Gatesy SM, Falkingham PL, Laidlaw, DH. (2018). *Developing a Virtual Reality Application for Unsteady Flow Analysis in Dinosaur Track Creation*. IEEE VIS. **Best Poster Award**.
16. Tsai HP, **Turner ML**, Manafzadeh AR, Gatesy SM. (2018). *Contrast-enhanced XROMM reveals in vivo soft tissue interaction in the hip of Alligator mississippiensis: implications for pseudosuchia*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
15. Farlow JO, Robinson NJ, **Turner ML**, Black J, Gatesy SM. (2018). *Footfall Pattern of a Bottom-Walking Crocodile (Crocodylus acutus)*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
14. **Turner ML**, Gatesy SM. (2018). *Intra-foot kinematics of the American alligator*. Northeastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Division of Vertebrate Morphology and Comparative Biomechanics.
13. **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, Gatesy SM. (2018). *Avian subsurface foot kinematics on deformable substrates*. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting.
12. Gatesy SM, **Turner ML**, Falkingham, PL. (2018). *CT Imaging of Dinosaur Footprints: Hidden Topography and the Origin of Track Diversity*. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting.
11. Napoli JG, Tsai HP, **Turner ML**, Manafzadeh AR, Gatesy SM. (2018). *In- and Ex-Vivo Analysis of the Kinematics and Function of the Tendon of Sutton in Alligator mississippiensis*. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting.
10. Tsai HP, **Turner ML**, Manafzadeh AR, Gatesy SM. (2018). *Significance of hip kinematics for interpreting articular soft tissue function in Alligator mississippiensis*. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting.
9. **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, Gatesy SM. (2017). *Sub-Surface Foot-Trajectories and Fossil Dinosaur Tracks*. Last Days of Pangea Triassic-Jurassic Research Symposium.
8. Tsai HP, **Turner ML**, Manafzadeh AR, Gatesy SM. (2017). *Significance of hip kinematics for interpreting articular soft tissue function in Alligator mississippiensis: evolutionary and biomechanical implications for Saurischia*. Last Days of Pangea Triassic-Jurassic Research Symposium.
7. **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, Gatesy SM. (2016). *The morphology of motion in sub-surface foot trajectories and fossil dinosaur tracks*. Northeastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Division of Vertebrate Morphology and Comparative Biomechanics.
6. Tsai HP, **Turner ML**, Manafzadeh AR, Gatesy SM. (2016). *Hip joint kinematics of Alligator mississippiensis: Significance of articular soft tissues for interpreting hind limb function*. Northeastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Division of Vertebrate Morphology and Comparative Biomechanics.

5. **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, Gatesy SM. (2016). *The morphology of motion in sub-surface foot trajectories and fossil dinosaur tracks*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
4. **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, Gatesy SM. (2016). *The morphology of motion: sub-surface foot trajectories and fossil tracks*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
3. **Turner ML**, Sidor CA, Tsuji LA. (2015). *Removing assumptions of anatomical orientation from cladistic characters: an example from pareiasaurs*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
2. **Turner ML**, Tsuji LA, Sidor CA. (2014). *Evidence for the earliest evolution of a fully parasagittal quadruped*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
1. **Turner ML**, Tsuji LA, Sidor CA. (2013). *The Ontogeny of the Scapulocoracoid of the Pareiasaur *Bunostegos akokanensis* (Amniota: Parareptilia) from the Permian of Niger*. Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of Washington.

Teaching

Teaching Development Activities

- 2021 Columbia University: Python Data Wrangling Boot Camp.
- 2020 Course Design, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University.
- 2017 Reflective Teaching, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University.
- 2013 Natural Science Illustration, School Prof. and Cont. Education, University of Washington.
- 2009, 2012 Gage Academy of Art: Forensic Art for Fine Artists; Drawing from Observation.

Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Human Anatomy I + II (BIOL3644 + BIOL3655)

- F18, S19 Special Projects TA. Organized and led teaching staff meetings; documented course progress and evaluation; developed post-dissection formative assessments which integrated course objectives, lecture material, and key lab concepts.
- F17, S18 TA. Lectured on lower limb anatomy and function as well as on the abdomen, co-led review sessions on extremities and the abdomen, taught via extensive hands-on cadaver dissections and integration with imaging, prepared prosections, prepared and graded evaluations.
- F16, S17 TA. Taught via extensive hands-on cadaver dissections and integration with imaging, prepared prosections, prepared and graded evaluations.

Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design

Virtual Reality Design for Science (CSCI1370 / ILLUS3340)

- F15, F17 Guest Lecturer and Science Contributor. Provided scientific visualization problem and data for student projects, lectured on scientific visualization needs in domain area of foot kinematics and dinosaur footprint formation, created and led a 2-week long assignment, attended and engaged in student project critiques at sketch, mock-up, and implementation phases. Collaborations formed in this course resulted in two publications (numbers 4 and 9 in Publications).

University of Washington

Evolution of Mammals and their Ancestors (BIOL 443)

- S14 Peer TA. Assisted in preparation, teaching, and evaluation of labs focused on anatomy and evolutionary relationships of skeletal and fossil specimens.

Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates (BIOL 453)

- F13 Peer TA. Assisted in preparation, teaching, and evaluation of labs focused on hands-on cadaver dissection of lamprey, dogfish sharks, and cats.

Advising

- Current Kevin Bradt. University of Minnesota. Project: linked 2D-3D biomechanics visualizations
- Current Rea Yoh. Brown University. Project: Bat wing interosseus.
- 2021 Cheyenne Deibert. Vanderbilt University. Project: linked 2D-3D biomechanics visualizations.
- 2018 - 2019 Eli Mitnik. Brown University. Project: track indenter experiments and analysis in R.

Service

Organized Conference Panels

- Oct 2021 Chair of panel on "Navigating Interdisciplinary Careers in Visualization", at IEEE VIS.

Reviewing

- ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2021.
- Anatomical Record.
- Frontiers in Zoology.
- IEEE Visualization Conference (VIS) 2021.
- Integrative and Organismal Biology.
- Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society.

Departmental Service

- 2021 - Inclusiveness, Diversity, Equity. and Advocacy Committee, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Minnesota.
- 2018 - 2020 Vice President, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Grad Student Association, Brown University.
- 2017 Graduate Student Council Representative, Brown University.
- 2009 - 2012 Volunteer Fossil Preparator, Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, WA.

Outreach

Museums and General Public

- Nov 2021 Fossil Bites public talk and interactive VR demonstration, Science Museum of Minnesota, MN
- Dec 2020 DinoFest Jurassic Roadshow
- 2019 - 2020 Custom museum exhibit and website on fossil dinosaur track formation created for permanent display at the Beneski Museum of Natural History at Amherst College, MA.
- May 2017 Discover: A Conversation Between Art and Science, Rhode Island School of Design and Brown University collaboration show, RI.
- 2014 Behind the Scenes Night at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, WA.
- 2012 - 2015 Dino Day at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, WA.
- 2014 Dinosaurs and Cavemen at the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences, University of Missouri, MO.

Elementary and High School

- 2019 - 2020 Brown Junior Researcher Program at the Francis J Varieur Elementary, Pawtucket, RI.
- 2019 Judge, Rhode Island Science and Engineering Fair, Warwick, RI.
- 2018 Virtual Reality demonstrations, Brown University, RI.
- 2018 Scientist Guest Interview, Wild Ones, Providence, RI.
- 2017 - 2018 Brown Junior Researcher Program at the Boys and Girls Club, East Providence, RI.

Affiliations

- 2020 - International Women in Biomechanics.
- 2016 - International Society of Vertebrate Morphology.
- 2016 - 2020 Graduate Women in Science.
- 2015 - Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology.
- 2014 - Society for Vertebrate Paleontology.