

# Morgan L. Turner, PhD

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Computer Science and Engineering  
University of Minnesota  
4-192 Keller Hall  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

turnerm@umn.edu  
www.morganlturner.com

**Research Areas:** paleobiology, locomotor evolution, vertebrate foot structure and function, ichnology, animation methods for reconstruction of *in-vivo* skeletal kinematics, interactive visualization design for spatially and temporally referenced multivariate skeletal motion data.

---

## 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  
Minor: Paleobiology  
Advisor: Christian A. Sidor
- 2009 - 2010 Bellevue Community College, WA

---

## Appointments

- University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN**
- 2021 - present Computing Innovation Fellow. CRA/CCC/NSF
- 2021 - present Postdoctoral Associate. Department of Computer Science and Engineering
- 2022 - present Associate Director. Interactive Visualization Lab
- University of Washington. Seattle, WA**
- 2013 - 2016 Scientific Illustrator. Department of Biology
- 2014 - 2015 Casting and Molding Technician. Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture
- John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. Kimberly, OR**
- summer 2014 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, Univ. of Minn. (\$500)
- 2020 **Computing Innovation Fellow**, Computing Research Association, Computing Community Consortium, and National Science Foundation (\$253,800)  
*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 (\$706)

- 2019 **Doctoral Dissertation Enhancement Grant**, “Postural Grades and Foot Function Gradients in Archosaurs”, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Brown University (\$12,343)
- 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

*\*co-first author*

- 2022 **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, and Gatesy SM. *What is stance phase on deformable substrates?* The Journal of Integrative and Comparative Biology.
- 2022 Gatesy SM, Manafzadeh AR, Bishop PJ, **Turner ML**, Kambic RE, Cuff AR, and Hutchinson JR. *A proposed standard for quantifying 3-D hindlimb joint poses in living and extinct archosaurs.* Journal of Anatomy 00:1-18.
- 2021 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, and Farmer C. *Virtual and Augmented Reality: new tools for visualizing, analyzing, and communicating complex morphology.* Journal of Morphology 282(12):1785-1800.
- 2021 **Turner ML** and Gatesy SM. *Alligators employ intermetatarsal reconfiguration to modulate plantigrade ground contact.* The Journal of Experimental Biology. 224(11):jeb242240.
- 2020 Falkingham PL, **Turner ML**, and Gatesy SM. *Constructing and testing hypotheses of dinosaur foot motions from fossil tracks using digitization and simulation.* Palaeontology 63(6):865-880.
- 2020 **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, and Gatesy SM. *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.
- 2020 Tsai HP, **Turner ML**, Manafzadeh AR, and Gatesy SM. *Contrast-enhanced XROMM reveals in vivo soft tissue interactions in the hip of Alligator mississippiensis.* Journal of Anatomy 236(2):288-304.
- 2019 Novotny J, Tveite J, **Turner ML**, Gatesy SM, Drury F, Falkingham P, and Laidlaw DH. *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.
- 2018 Farlow JO, Robinson NJ, **Turner ML**, Black J, and Gatesy SM. *Footfall Pattern of a Bottom-Walking Crocodile (Crocodylus acutus).* Palaios 33(9):406-413.
- 2017 **Turner ML** and Sidor CA *Pathology in a Permian Parareptile: Congenital Malformation of Sacral Vertebrae.* Journal of Zoology 304(1):13-20.
- 2015 **Turner ML**, Tsuji LA, Ide O, and Sidor CA. *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 Talks

- Mar 2022 Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Behavior Group, University of Minnesota, MN.  
*Inferring extinct archosaur locomotor variability and diversity using modern-day alligators and birds.*
- Feb 2022 Minnesota Robotics Institute, MN.  
*Can insight from the feet of alligators, birds, and dinosaurs serve the robotics field?*
- June 2021 Endotherm Research Group, Bell Museum of Natural History, MN.  
*Internal and external foot kinematics at the animal-substrate interface.*
- July 2020 Beneski Museum of Natural History and Culture, MA.  
*Research Trajectory: How I came to study fossil dinosaur tracks.*
- Nov 2019 PaleoLunch, Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, WA.  
*The dynamic interaction between foot and ground.*
- Oct 2019 CCV-Con, Center for Computation and Visualization, Brown University, RI.  
*Developing Virtual Reality Visualizations for Exploring Dinosaur Track Formation.*
- Feb 2019 Ecology and Evolutionary Ecology Brown Bag Seminar, Brown University, RI.  
*Tanzania field trip report.*
- Sept 2018 Ecology and Evolutionary Ecology Brown Bag Seminar, Brown University, RI.  
*Where does footprint morphology come from? Integrating 3D methods for exploring dinosaur track formation.*
- Jan 2018 Initiative to Maximize Student Development, Brown University, RI.  
*Predatory Journals and Plagiarism.*
- April 2017 Scientific Visualization Group, Department of Computer Science, Brown University, RI.  
*Dinosaur Feet Underground: visualizing, Aligning, and Comparing Toe Path Trajectories.*
- Feb 2016 Ecology and Evolutionary Ecology Brown Bag Seminar, Brown University, RI.  
*Pareiasaurs and Paleoart.*

### Invited Symposia

- May 2022 **Turner ML.** *How Did Dinosaurs Walk?* Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD; nitrd.gov) 30th Anniversary Symposium.
- 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.
- May 2017 **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, Gatesy SM. *Sub-Surface Foot Trajectories and Fossil Dinosaur Tracks.* Last Days of Pangea Triassic-Jurassic Research Symposium, Bruce Museum, CT.

### Panels

- April 2022 Work-life balance and time management, University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA
- June 2021 Careers in Biomechanics, International Women in Biomechanics
- July 2019 Summit for Women in STEM, 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.

## Contributed Conference Presentations

‡undergraduate mentee \*co-first author ◆refereed submission

- 2022 **Turner ML**, Herman B, Broske M, and Keefe DF. *Linked Spatial and Temporal Normalization for Analysis of Cyclical 4D Skeletal Motion Data*. IEEE VIS. ◆
- 2021 **Turner ML**. *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**.
- 2021 †Deibert C, **Turner ML**, and Keefe DF. *An exploratory visualization tool for linking 2D and 3D biomechanical motion data*. REU Virtual Poster Symposium [virtual].
- 2021 **Turner ML**, and Gatesy SM. *Intermetatarsal mobility in the American alligator*. Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting [virtual].
- 2021 Capano JG, Kaczmarek EB, Lomax JJ, **Turner ML**, Brainerd EL, and Ryerson WG. *Reticulated pythons roll their hemimandibles and splay their quadrates to engulf enormous prey*. Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting [virtual].
- 2020 **Turner ML** and Gatesy SM. *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].
- 2020 Gatesy SM and **Turner ML**. *Dinosaurs in disguise: substrate flow accounts for unusual Early Jurassic tracks*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting [virtual].
- 2020 **Turner ML** and Gatesy SM. *Looking inside the sole: intermetatarsal mobility in the American alligator*. Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting.
- 2019 Capano JG, Brainerd EL, **Turner ML**, Ryerson WG. *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.
- 2019 Falkingham PL, **Turner ML**, Gatesy SM. *Generating and Testing Hypotheses of Dinosaur Foot Motions Using 3D-Digitized Tracks and Large-Scale Granular Simulations*. International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology.
- 2018 Novotny J, Tveite JJ, **Turner ML**, Gatesy SM, Falkingham PL, Laidlaw, DH. *Developing a Virtual Reality Application for Unsteady Flow Analysis in Dinosaur Track Creation*. IEEE VIS. **Best Poster Award**. ◆
- 2018 Tsai HP, **Turner ML**, Manafzadeh AR, Gatesy SM. *Contrast-enhanced XROMM reveals in vivo soft tissue interaction in the hip of Alligator mississippiensis: implications for pseudosuchia*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
- 2018 Farlow JO, Robinson NJ, **Turner ML**, Black J, Gatesy SM. *Footfall Pattern of a Bottom-Walking Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*)*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
- 2018 **Turner ML**, Gatesy SM. *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.
- 2018 **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, Gatesy SM. *Avian subsurface foot kinematics on deformable substrates*. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting.
- 2018 Gatesy SM, **Turner ML**, Falkingham, PL. *CT Imaging of Dinosaur Footprints: Hidden Topography and the Origin of Track Diversity*. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting.

- 2018 Napoli JG, Tsai HP, **Turner ML**, Manafzadeh AR, Gatesy SM. *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.
- 2018 Tsai HP, **Turner ML**, Manafzadeh AR, Gatesy SM. *Significance of hip kinematics for interpreting articular soft tissue function in Alligator mississippiensis*. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting.
- 2017 **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, Gatesy SM. *Sub-Surface Foot-Trajectories and Fossil Dinosaur Tracks*. Last Days of Pangea Triassic-Jurassic Research Symposium.
- 2017 Tsai HP, **Turner ML**, Manafzadeh AR, Gatesy SM. *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.
- 2016 **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, Gatesy SM. *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.
- 2016 Tsai HP, **Turner ML**, Manafzadeh AR, Gatesy SM. *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.
- 2016 **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, Gatesy SM. *The morphology of motion in sub-surface foot trajectories and fossil dinosaur tracks*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
- 2016 **Turner ML**, Falkingham PL, Gatesy SM. *The morphology of motion: sub-surface foot trajectories and fossil tracks*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
- 2015 **Turner ML**, Sidor CA, Tsuji LA. *Removing assumptions of anatomical orientation from cladistic characters: an example from pareiasaurs*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
- 2014 **Turner ML**, Tsuji LA, Sidor CA. *Evidence for the earliest evolution of a fully parasagittal quadruped*. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
- 2013 **Turner ML**, Tsuji LA, Sidor CA. *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, Training, and Certificates

- in progress Equity and Diversity Certificate, University of Minnesota.
- 2022 Postdoctoral Leadership Development Certificate, University of Minnesota.
- 2020 Course Design Certificate, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University.
- 2017 Reflective Teaching Certificate, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University.

### University of Minnesota

#### Visualization (CSCI5609)

- S22 Guest Lecturer and Science Contributor. Provided scientific visualization problem and data for student final projects, focusing on techniques to address domain user needs in exploring multidimensional time-varying alligator foot skeletal animations. Engaged in student project critiques at sketch and implementation phases.

## 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 + 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 peer-reviewed 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

- fall 2021 Kevin Bradt. University of Minnesota. Project: linked 2D-3D biomechanics visualizations
- summer 2021 Rea Yoh. Brown University. Project: Bat wing interosseus.
- summer 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, "Navigating Interdisciplinary Careers in Visualization", IEEE VIS.

### Reviewing

- ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2021.
- Anatomical Record.
- Bulletin of the Peabody Museum of Natural History.
- Frontiers in Zoology.
- IEEE Visualization Conference (VIS) 2021. 2022.

Integrative and Organismal Biology.  
Journal of Anatomy.  
Vertebrate Anatomy Morphology Palaeontology.  
Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society.

### Departmental and Institutional Service

- 2022 - Diversity Community of Practice Liaison, Postdoctoral Association, University of Minnesota.
- 2022 - College of Science and Engineering Delegate, Postdoctoral Association, University of Minnesota.
- 2022 - Diversity Community of Practice Member, Office for Equity and Diversity, Univ. of Minnesota.
- 2021 - Inclusiveness, Diversity, Equity, and Advocacy Committee (CS-IDEA) Member, 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.

---

### Public Engagement

#### Demos, Museum Exhibit Development, and Hands-on Interaction

- in progress Interactive planetarium exhibit design at Bell Museum, MN.
- Nov 2021 *Fossil Bites* public talk and interactive stereoscopic z-Space demonstration. Talk: "X-rays, Animation, and Fossil Feet: Looking at how dinosaurs and crocodylians walked from the ground up." Science Museum of Minnesota, MN.
- Dec 2020 The Great Greenfield DinoFest Jurassic Roadshow [virtual]. Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and Memorial Hall Museum, Deerfield, MA.
- 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.  
[www.amherst.edu/museums/naturalhistory/dinosaur-tracks](http://www.amherst.edu/museums/naturalhistory/dinosaur-tracks)
- 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. Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, WA.
- 2012 - 2015 Dino Day. Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, WA.  
2014 Dinosaurs and Cavemen. Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences, University of Missouri, MO.

#### Elementary and High School Programs

- 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.

---

### Other Professional Activities

#### Additional Training and Certificates

- 2021 Python Data Wrangling Boot Camp, Columbia University.

- 2016 XROMM short course, Brown University.
- 2013 Natural Science Illustration Certificate, University of Washington.
- 2009, 2012 Forensic Art for Fine Artists; Drawing from Observation, Gage Academy of Art.

### **Membership in Professional Organizations**

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