

# SAMI BENZAID

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## EDUCATION

### The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill NC

- MS in Computer Science: **May, 2010.**

### Carleton College, Northfield MN

- BA in Computer Science: **June 2008.** Graduated magna cum laude.
- Comprehensive Project Topic: Explaining Support Vector Machines.

### Carleton College Paris Program 2006 (March 2006 – June 2006)

- Lived with a host family and studied French language and art history in Paris, France.

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## WORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Research Assistant, Department of Computer Science, UNC Chapel Hill (May 2009 – Present)

*Research Advisor: Professor Prasad Ram*

- Investigating ways to use webcam data to predict user engagement during online lectures, among other applications in distributed collaboration (i.e., presence detection, availability detection).

### Teaching Assistant, Department of Computer Science, UNC Chapel Hill (August 2008 – May 2009)

- Introduction to Programming (Fall 2008), Foundations of Programming (Spring 2009). Tasks included holding office hours for students, preparing recitation exercises, leading recitations, e-mail correspondence with students, and assignment grading.

### Student Computing Information Center, Carleton College (September 2004 – June 2008)

- Provided phone-in and walk-up technical support for students.
- Provided computer repair and servicing for students, including: removal of viruses and malware, hardware troubleshooting and installation, software troubleshooting and installation, data backup/recovery/migration, OS recovery and installation.

### Research Assistant, Carleton College Computer Science Department (June 2007 – August 2007)

*Research Advisor: Professor David Musicant*

- Determined a way to predict the amount of elemental carbon in the air based on information from an atmospheric time-of-flight mass spectrometer.
- Worked with faculty and students from two different disciplines: Computer Science and Chemistry.
- Presented a poster at the Carleton College All Science and Math Poster Session.

### Research Assistant, Carleton College Computer Science Department (June 2006 – July 2006)

*Research Advisor: Professor Amy Csizmar Dalal*

- Investigated ways to predict user-perceived quality of streaming media by using various data mining techniques on user survey responses.
- Presented a poster at the Carleton College All Science and Math Poster Session.

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Research Publications

- David Barbella, **Sami Benzaid**, Janara Christensen, Bret Jackson, Victor Qin, David Musicant. “Understanding Support Vector Machine Classifications via a Recommender System-Like Approach”. *Proceedings of The International Conference on Data Mining (DMIN '09)*, Editors: Robert Stahlbock, Sven F. Crone, and Stefan Lessmann. CSREA Press, 2009, pages 305-311.
- Deborah S. Gross, Robert Atlas, Jeffrey Rzeszotarski, Emma Turetsky, Janara Christensen, **Sami Benzaid**, Jamie Olson, Thomas Smith, Leah Steinberg, Jon Sulman, Anna Ritz, Benjamin Anderson, Catherine Nelson, David R. Musicant, Lei Chen, David C. Snyder, James J. Schauer. “Environmental Chemistry through Intelligent Atmospheric Data Analysis”. Accepted for publication by *Environmental Modeling and Software*. DOI: 10.1016/j.envsoft.2009.12.001
- A. Csizmar Dalal, D. Musicant, J. Olson, B. McMenemy, **S. Benzaid**, B. Kazez, E. Bolan. “Predicting User-Perceived Quality Ratings from Streaming Media Data”. In *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC 2007)*, Glasgow, Scotland, June 2007.

## SKILLS

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### **Programming/Formatting Languages**

- Java, Python, C++, Matlab, HTML, CSS, some PHP.

### **Foreign Languages**

- French (3 years of study, as well as studying abroad in Paris, France), Japanese (one year of study)

## COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES

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### **Carleton College** (Undergraduate-Level Courses)

- Introduction to Computer Science; Data Structures; Database Systems; Mathematics of Computer Science; Computer Organization and Architecture; Algorithms; Programming Languages; Automata and Computability; Natural Language Processing; Artificial Intelligence; Operating Systems.

### **The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** (Graduate-Level Courses)

- Images, Graphics, and Vision; Computer Networks; Computer Graphics; Computer Vision; Machine Learning Techniques in Image Analysis; Distributed Collaboration; Software Design and Implementation (currently enrolled); Data Mining (currently enrolled).

## REFERENCES

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*Contact information for references is available upon request.*