



## Jasmine DeHart- Ph.D. student

Jasmine is from St. Louis, MO where she grew up with 5 siblings, including a twin sister named Jessica. As a child, she enjoyed her grandmother's computer and rapidly learn to defrag, disc clean, and reimage on her machine. She was an excellent Math student and completed all her high school Math classes by the end of her Sophomore year. It is this kind of academic excellence that caused Jasmine to graduate as valedictorian of Jennings Senior High School. Although her high school did not offer Computer Science classes and she contemplated being a pastry chef for a while, Jasmine decided to look for a major that would allow her to use her Math skills in a practical way. Therefore, upon enrolling at Philander Smith College, a small HBCU in Little Rock, AR, she opted right away for a major in Computer Science and never looked back. A first-generation college student,

Jasmine was awarded the Thomas Mason scholarship which covered full tuition and fees at Philander Smith College and she continuously made Dean and President's Honor Rolls. She was very active in Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (a resource for high-potential historically under-represented students with a passion to become academic leaders in STEM areas) and her professors recognizing her potential, kept pushing her to continue her studies.

After graduating with the honors of Summa Cum Laude and Distinction in Field, Jasmine's profile was spotted by Dr. Christan Grant who thought she would make a great addition to his then new OU Data Analytics Lab (OU DALab) research group. She enjoys the broader spectrum of opportunities and culture that the University of Oklahoma can offer. As far as the School of Computer Science goes, she found the environment very welcoming and inclusive. She admires her professors for their time spent investing into her academic progress and for being helpful and considerate in her transition into matriculation at OU. OU DALab has grown into a group of very close-knit friends who support each other. Jasmine recalls how many of them went to Houston over the summer for a week to support a member presenting at a conference. Composed of students from all over the world and very different backgrounds, they offer each other support, organize gatherings and Jasmine describes them as her best friends.

Continuing her academic achievements, Jasmine presented at the 39th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy in May 2018. There, she presented her research on social media networks and privacy leaks proposing techniques that will allow users to prevent leakage in visual content. Moreover, she is an OU Graduate College Bridge to Doctorate Fellow which is sponsored through the National Science Foundation and the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. Throughout the Fall 18 semester, Jasmine and other members of the OU DALab co-founded the Databite Workshop that consisted in four sessions to bring awareness to other departments and students of the research and resources in the Computer Science discipline, teach various disciplines about Python for data analytics, and open the door for multi-disciplinary collaborations across campus. As co-chair, she was responsible for planning and advertising of this great workshop series. Since starting her curriculum here, Jasmine says her favorite classes are Dr. Grant's CS 5293 Text Analytics which exposed her to machine learning for text processes and is applicable to her research design and techniques and Dr. Fang's CS 5173 Computer Security which gave her a solid foundation for understanding practices with security and is applicable to her research techniques.

Giving back has always been important to Jasmine. Therefore, it is no surprise that she has been participating in the Tapia Conference for the past two years. There she works on recruiting graduate students, increasing diversity in Computer Science and bringing more awareness to the discipline. She also volunteers at the Children' School of Montessori in Norman, teaches elementary students about coding and Computer Science, mentors through the National Society of Black Engineers, and is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated. Even with her volunteer activities, graduate courses, and research; she serves as the webmaster for the CS Graduate Student Association. Upon the completion of her doctorate, Jasmine would like to follow the steps of her mentor, Dr. Grant, and pursue a career in academia while working to bring more diversity to STEM disciplines and inspiring youth to engage in science and math.

When she is not busy with academic work, Jasmine loves cooking, writing poetry, playing basketball, and is also known to her friends under the rap name of Jazzy J. Her motto in life is: "When life gives you lemons, make apple juice."

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