

John Morris, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Industrial & Systems Engineering
The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Email: john.h.morris@uah.edu
Research Site: searchlaboratory.org
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/john-h-morris
OrcID: [0009-0005-6571-1959](https://orcid.org/0009-0005-6571-1959)

Curriculum Vitae, last updated: 10 September 2026

Summary

As a researcher, my work into digital twins expands principles of model-based engineering to create universal frameworks for information systems, advancing modeling flexibility and representation. My laboratory turns these multidisciplinary theories into tools for manufacturing, defense, and model-based enterprises.

Research Interests

Digital twins, digital and model-based engineering, system dynamics and optimization, and advanced modeling techniques for complex systems.

Research Experiences

Assistant Professor

August 2026 – Present

The University of Alabama in Huntsville; Huntsville, AL

- Lead Systems Engineering Applied Research (SEARCH) Lab, focusing on turning mathematical constructs into usable tools for model-based enterprises

Research Assistant

August 2021 – Dec 2025

Clemson University; Clemson, SC

- Posited [foundation for digital twin](#) development and deployment, solving globally recognized issues in [digital twin interoperability](#)
- Developed [ConstraintHg](#), an open-source kernel for systems modeling and simulation that allows universal integration of system models
- Initiated and led three research projects involving researchers from institutions including the Naval Postgraduate School, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Texas A&M, and the University of Arizona
- Developed digital twins for advanced [additive manufacturing](#), power [microgrids](#), an [elevator lift](#) system, a manufacturing [workcell](#), and [autonomous vehicles](#)
- Demonstrated the [first declarative integration](#) of solid modeling, allowing CAD features to be assigned in any order

Visiting Researcher

June 2025 – July 2025

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); Gaithersburg, MD

- Contributed to formulation of ISO standards for digital twin interoperability
- Created digital twin of a [powder-bed fusion process](#) used to show autonomous formation of digital twin aggregates

Research Assistant: Fluid and Thermal Transport Lab

Jan 2020 – Jul 2020

Brigham Young University (Dr. Julie Crockett); Provo, UT

- Conducted over 200 experiments [exploring heat transfer](#) on superhydrophobic surfaces

Education

PhD of Mechanical Engineering

December 2025

Clemson University; Clemson, SC

- Advisors: Dr. John Wagner, Dr. Gregory Mocko

- Dissertation: Universal Systems Simulation via Constraint Hypergraphs with Applications to Digital Twins

MS of Mechanical Engineering

August 2024

Clemson University; Clemson, SC

- Dual track emphasis: dynamics and controls, design and manufacturing

BS of Mechanical Engineering, Emphasis in Computer Science

April 2021

Brigham Young University; Provo, UT

- Founding leadership of Engineering Design Club
- 3x letterman in Men's Swimming (NCAA Div. I)

Teaching

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor

August 2026 – Present

The University of Alabama Huntsville; Huntsville, AL

- Teach undergraduate and graduate level courses on mathematics and systems engineering

PLM Applications Engineer

August 2021 – December 2025

PLM Center at Clemson University; Clemson, SC

- Governed digital engineering initiatives and training for Department of Mechanical Engineering
- Developed and delivered over 100 seminars on digital engineering topics
- Organized and conducted workshops and training sessions teaching software tools including NX, SOLIDWORKS, MATLAB, Python, C++, Ansys, Onshape, and Teamcenter, providing hands-on learning materials and resources
- Created online, asynchronous [learning resources](#) for digital engineering via HTML-customized Canvas page with more than 25 hours worth of recorded videos, learning guides, documentations, and troubleshooting pages
- Primary author of \$500,000 grant from the US Army for educational initiatives with PIs from Clemson, George Mason, Norfolk State, and South Carolina State Universities

Teaching Assistant: Computer Aided Design

September 2019 – December 2020

Brigham Young University; Provo, UT

- Designed and developed learning modules to teach advanced concepts with SOLIDWORKS, including design tables, parametric modeling, surface modeling, master modeling, manufacturing drawings, and rendering
- Provided individualized tutoring for over 70 students, enhancing their proficiency in CAD design techniques and applications

Courses Taught

Probability and Statistics I

Fall 2026 – Present

Dept. of Industrial & Systems Engineering, The University of Alabama in Huntsville

- Junior-level core class teaching statistical theory to 150 students in online, asynchronous format

PLM Processes & Software Applications in Engineering Design

Fall 2023

Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, Clemson University

- Senior-level/graduate elective teaching digital engineering to 40 students
- Developed curriculum, lectures, tests, assignments, and semester-long project
- Wrote 280+ page [textbook](#) to facilitate classroom learning

PLM Processes and CAD/CAE Tools with Application to Vehicle Component Design

Fall 2021 – Fall 2025

Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, Clemson University

- Mentored individual research projects for nearly 50 undergraduate students

- Curriculum included presentations on digital engineering, effective scientific communication, and skills such as soldering, programming, mechatronics, networking, CAx tools, sensor integration, and 3D printing

Teaching Presentations

Seminars and Workshops

Fall 2021 – Fall 2025

PLM Center at Clemson University; Clemson, SC

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to SOLIDWORKS • Advanced SOLIDWORKS Practices • Introduction to Siemens NX • Teamcenter for Beginners • Introduction to the Product Lifecycle • Introduction to Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) • Digital Components of PLM • Functional Areas of PLM • Product Design Tools and Approaches • Data Preservation and Security | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Analytics and Mining • Additive Manufacturing • Computer-Aided Design (CAD) Methods • Computer-Aided Engineering (CAE) • Technical Drawings and GD&T • Systems Simulation and Optimization • Project Management • Product Data Management (PDM) • Engineering Change Management • Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) |
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Service and Outreach

Professional Service and Affiliations

- Member of ASME
- Secretary for ASME SEIKM (Systems Engineering Information & Knowledge Management) Technical Committee (2026)
 - Co-coordinator of technical session on Foundation Models and Informatics for Design & Manufacturing for ASME IDETC-CIE 2026
- Peer Reviewer:
 - INCOSE Journal of Systems Engineering (Wiley)
 - ASME Journal of Dynamic Systems, Measurement, and Control (JDSMC)
 - ASME Letters in Dynamic Systems and Control (LDSC)
 - INCOSE Conference on Systems Engineering Research (CSER)
 - ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition
 - ASME International Design Engineering Technical Conferences & Computers and Information in Engineering Conference (IDETC-CIE)
 - Modeling, Estimation, and Controls Conference (MECC)
- Mechanical Engineering Instructor at [Project WISE summer camp](#) for students grades 7–8
- Contributed to *Adventures in Tradespace Exploration*, workshop presented at ASME IDETC-CIE 2025
- Presenter at Graduate Student Research seminars at Clemson University (3x)

Community Service and Engagement

- Service coordinator for Clemson Engineering Design Applications and Research (CEDAR) lab (2024 – 2025)
- Volunteer peer mentor for incoming graduate students (2023 – 2025)
- Founding leadership of the BYU Engineering Design Club (2019 – 2021)
- Volunteer undergraduate STEM tutor (2017 – 2020)
- Full time volunteer performing religious outreach in Ghana for 2 years (2015 – 2017)

Awards and Recognitions

Best Poster, VIPR-GS 2025 Annual Review Poster Forum

February 2025

Best poster in forum of 40+ describing mathematical foundations of digital twins for US Army applications

PiMT Finalist, PiMT Department Thesis Competition
Top three presenter at PiMT (3MT mimic) departmental competition

October 2024

Buzz Award Finalist, ASME IDETC-CIE: SciTechBuzz Summit
Top four presenter of 30+ presentations on innovative ideas at inaugural summit

August 2024

Graduate Travel Grant Award 2x, Clemson University Graduate Student Government
Application-based, limited-funds award for graduate student research travel

July 2023; June 2025

Publications

Journal Publications

1. John Morris, Abhishek Indupally, Satchit Ramnath, Gregory Mocko, and John Wagner. “Declarative, Multi-physics Simulation Between Applications via Constraint Hypergraphs”. *In press with J. Comput. Inf. Sci. Eng.* (Aug. 2026). ISSN: 1944-7078. DOI: [10.1115/1.4072577](https://doi.org/10.1115/1.4072577).
2. John Morris, Gregory Mocko, and John Wagner. “Effects of Functional and Declarative Modeling Frameworks on System Simulation”. *Journal of Dynamic Systems, Measurement, and Control* (Jan. 2026). DOI: [10.1115/1.4070883](https://doi.org/10.1115/1.4070883).
3. John Morris. “ConstraintHg: A Kernel for Systems Modeling and Simulation”. *Journal of Open-Source Software* (Jan. 19, 2026). ISSN: 2475-9066. DOI: [10.21105/joss.09131](https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.09131). <https://joss.theoj.org/papers/10.21105/joss.09131>.
4. Frederick Rowell, John Morris, Todd Schweisinger, and John Wagner. “Digital Engineering Education Challenges and Opportunities—A Case Study in a Mechanical Engineering Senior Capstone Design Course”. *In press with Intl. J. of Product Lifecycle Management* (Oct. 2025). DOI: [10.1504/IJPLM.2025.10075986](https://doi.org/10.1504/IJPLM.2025.10075986).
5. John Morris, Gregory Mocko, and John Wagner. “Unified System Modeling and Simulation via Constraint Hypergraphs”. *Journal of Computing and Information Science in Engineering* (Apr. 4, 2025). DOI: [10.1115/1.4068375](https://doi.org/10.1115/1.4068375).

Submitted Manuscripts

6. John Morris, Edward Louis, Douglas L. Van Bossuyt, Gregory Mocko, and John Wagner. “Constraint Hypergraphs as a Unifying Framework for Digital Twins”. *Under review with Systems Journal* (July 2025). DOI: [10.48550/arXiv.2507.05494](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2507.05494).

Conference Publications

1. Mark A Ansell, John Morris, and Douglas L Van Bossuyt. “Towards Automating and Integrating Risk and Reliability Analyses in Model-Based Systems Engineering”. International Design Engineering Technical Conferences and Computers and Information in Engineering Conference (Houston, TX, USA). ASME, Aug. 23, 2026. DOI: [10.1115/DETC2026-192361](https://doi.org/10.1115/DETC2026-192361).
2. Joe Gregory and John Morris. “From Knowledge Graphs to Constraint Hypergraphs”. *36th Annual INCOSE International Symposium*. IS 2026 (Yokohoma, Japan). INCOSE, June 13, 2026.
3. John Morris, Duncan Gibbons, Joe Gregory, and Gregory Mocko. “Technical Strategies for Semantic Aggregation of Interoperable Digital Twins”. *Conference on Systems Engineering Research*. CSER26 (Arlington, VA, USA). INCOSE, Apr. 6, 2026.
4. John Morris, Gregory Mocko, and John Wagner. “Effects of Functional and Declarative Modeling Frameworks on System Simulation”. The 5th Modeling, Estimation and Control Conference (MECC 2025). IFAC, Oct. 7, 2025.
5. John Morris, Gregory Mocko, John Wagner, and Satchit Ramnath. “Declarative Integration of CAD Software into Multi-Physics Simulation via Constraint Hypergraphs”. *Proceedings of the ASME 2025 International Design Engineering Technical Conferences and Computers and Information in Engineering Conference*. ASME IDETC-CIE 2025 (Anaheim, CA). ASME, Aug. 17–20, 2025. ISBN: 978-0-7918-8920-6. DOI: [10.1115/DETC2025-168376](https://doi.org/10.1115/DETC2025-168376).

6. John Morris, Dave Procopio, and John Wagner. “Dynamic Estimator of CAD Patterning Feature Execution Time”. *Proceedings of the ASME 2023 International Design Engineering Technical Conferences and Computers and Information in Engineering Conference*. ASME IDETC-CIE 2023. ASME, Nov. 21, 2023. <https://github.com/Clemson-PLMC/PatternEstimatorTool> (visited on 06/19/2024).
7. David Procopio, John Morris, and John Wagner. “Evaluation of CAE Design Change Updates—A Case Study on Gas Turbine Airflow Disruptors”. *Proceedings of the ASME 2023 International Design Engineering Technical Conferences and Computers and Information in Engineering Conference*. ASME IDETC-CIE 2023. American Society of Mechanical Engineers Digital Collection, Nov. 21, 2023. DOI: 10.1115/DETC2023-116761. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1115/DETC2023-116761> (visited on 07/15/2025).
8. John Morris and John R. Wagner. “Application of Extracurricular Course Teaching Product Lifecycle Management Concepts to Undergraduates”. 2023 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition. June 25, 2023. DOI: 10.18260/1-2-42269. <https://peer.asee.org/42269> (visited on 08/01/2023).
9. David Procopio, John Morris, and John R. Wagner. “Application of Product Lifecycle Management in the University Classroom and Laboratory”. 2023 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition. June 25, 2023. DOI: 10.18260/1-2-42669. <https://peer.asee.org/42669> (visited on 08/01/2023).
10. Conner Eddy, Matthew Castanier, John Wagner, John Morris, and Benjamin Moss. “Usefulness and Time Savings Metrics to Evaluate Adoption of Digital Twin Technology”. WCX SAE World Congress Experience. SAE International, Jan. 24, 2023. DOI: 10.4271/2023-01-0111.

Books

1. John Morris, John Wagner, and Gregory Mocko. *Product Lifecycle Management: Processes for Modern Industry*. Intended for publication by Taylor and Francis, Aug. 2026.

In Progress

1. John Morris, Abheek Chatterjee, Meredith Sutton, Douglas L. Van Bossuyt, Astrid Layton, and Gregory Mocko. “Methods for Enhancing Tradespace Exploration by Integrating Multi-Scale Simulation”. *Intended for submission to Multiscale Modeling and Simulation* (Dec. 2026).
2. John Morris et al. “Definitions, Methods, and Paradigms of Digital Twin Interoperability”. *Intended for submission to Wiley Systems Engineering* (Mar. 2026).
3. John Morris, Joe Gregory, Duncan Gibbons, and Gregory Mocko. “Strategies for Technical Composition of Digital Twins”. *Intended for submission to Software and Systems Modeling* (Feb. 2026).
4. John Morris, Evan Taylor, Gregory Mocko, and John Wagner. “Dealing with Hallucinations: Technical Strategies for Deterministic AI”. *Intended for submission to Artificial Intelligence Journal* (Dec. 2025).
5. Evan Taylor, John Morris, and Gregory Mocko. “A Framework to Enable Automated and Valid Selection of Models”. *Intended for submission to J. Comput. Inf. Sci. Eng.* (Dec. 2025).

Technical Reports and Theses

1. John Morris. “Universal Systems Simulation via Constraint Hypergraphs with Applications to Digital Twins”. PhD thesis. Clemson University, Dec. 12, 2025. https://open.clemson.edu/all_dissertations/4127 (visited on 01/20/2026).
2. John Morris and John Wagner. *2024-2025 Annual Report for the Product Lifecycle Management Center at Clemson University*. Product Lifecycle Management Center at Clemson University, Sept. 28, 2025.
3. John Morris and John Wagner. *2023-2024 Annual Report for the Product Lifecycle Management Center at Clemson University*. Product Lifecycle Management Center at Clemson University, Sept. 3, 2024.
4. John Morris, Serita Acker, Tonyia Stewart, and John Wagner. *2023 VIPR-GS Diversity, Inclusion, and Education Initiatives*. Technical Status Report. VIPR-GS Center, June 30, 2023.

Tools

1. John Morris. *VisualCHG*. July 2026. <https://github.com/SEARCHlaboratory/visualchg> (visited on 07/28/2026).

2. John Morris. *MicrogridHg*. May 16, 2025. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.15447062. <https://github.com/jmorris335/MicrogridHg>.
3. John Morris. *ConstraintHg*. Nov. 23, 2024. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.15278018. <https://github.com/jmorris335/ConstraintHg>.
4. John Morris. *Dynamic Estimator of CAD Patterning Feature Execution Time*. Aug. 20, 2023. <https://github.com/Clemson-PLMC/PatternEstimatorTool>.

Presentations

1. John Morris. “Practical Methods for Robust, Interoperable Digital Twins”. Workshop. ASME IDETC-CIE 2026 (Houston, TX, USA). Aug. 23, 2026.
2. John Morris. “Advanced Digital Twins for Manufacturing”. Invited Presentation. Invited Research Seminar at the Fibers and Composite Manufacturing Facility at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (Knoxville, TN, USA). July 24, 2026.
3. John Morris. “Unified System Modeling and Simulation via Constraint Hypergraphs”. Invited Presentation. JMD-JCISE Joint Webinar: Networks and Graphs for Engineering Systems Design (ASME). Apr. 17, 2026. <https://youtu.be/Nw68gA9IMt8?si=oXKH1GG0yANV8RE&t=4025>.
4. John Morris. “Strategies for Aggregating Digital Twins”. Conference. Conference on Systems Engineering Research 2026 (Fairfax, VA, USA). Apr. 8, 2026.
5. John Morris. “Mathematics of Model-Based Systems”. Invited Presentation. Invited Research Seminar at the University of Alabama at Huntsville (Huntsville, AL). Mar. 2, 2026.
6. John Morris. “Universal System Simulation via Hypergraphs”. Invited Presentation. Invited Research Seminar at East Tennessee State University (Johnson City, TN). Jan. 12, 2026.
7. John Morris. “Effects of Functional and Declarative Modeling Frameworks on System Simulation”. The 5th Modeling, Estimation and Control Conference (MECC 2025) (Pittsburgh, PA). Oct. 7, 2025.
8. John Morris. “Universal System Simulation via Hypergraphs”. Applied Category Theory Conference (ACT 2025) (Gainesville, FL). June 2, 2025.
9. John Morris. “Solving Interoperability with Digital Twins”. Invited Presentation. Guest Presentation to the National Institute for Standards and Technology (Virtual). Apr. 16, 2025.
10. John Morris. “Model-Based Engineering of Digital Twins”. Poster. VIPR-GS Research Center Annual Review Meeting (Greenville, SC). Feb. 26, 2025.
11. John Morris. “Representing Digital Twins”. ASME IDETC-CIE: SciTechBuzz Summit 2024 (Washington DC). Aug. 26, 2024.
12. John Morris. “Application of Extracurricular Course Teaching Product Lifecycle Management Concepts to Undergraduates”. 2023 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition (Baltimore, MD). Aug. 1, 2023.
13. John Morris. “Application of Product Lifecycle Management in the University Classroom and Laboratory”. 2023 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition (Baltimore, MD). Aug. 1, 2023.

Mentored Presentations

14. William Ainsworth et al. “Development of Mechanisms Supporting Digital Twins in a Model-Based Engineering Ecosystem”. Poster. Clemson University 20th Annual Focus on Creative Inquiry Forum (Clemson, SC). Apr. 2025.
15. Lia Anderson et al. “Development of Digital Twin for Scaled Robotic Vehicle”. Poster. 19th Annual Focus on Creative Inquiry Forum (Clemson, SC). Apr. 3, 2024. <https://ci.clemson.edu/foci/posters/>.
16. Lia Anderson et al. “Exploring Digital Technologies - A Focus on PLM Concepts and Software with Application to Scale Track Vehicle”. Poster. 18th Annual Focus on Creative Inquiry Forum (Clemson, SC). Apr. 2023. <https://ci.clemson.edu/foci/posters2023/>.
17. Clark Beuckman, Michael Calamari, Sam Gossett, Noah Wanthal, and Brenden Schumm. “PLM Processes and CAD/CAE Tools with Application to Vehicle Component Design”. Poster. 17th Annual Focus on Creative Inquiry Forum (Clemson, SC). Apr. 2022.

Other Publications

1. Mara Kinsey, John Morris, and John Wagner. "A PLM-Focused, Multi-Disciplinary Creative Inquiry Course at Clemson University". *Siemens Aspire* (2022). <https://view.highspot.com/viewer/6220fc66c2d0aa20acf42c3a> (visited on 07/15/2025).

Technical Work

VisualCHG [Link] <i>SEARCH Lab</i> Open source GUI playground for exploring constraint hypergraphs	Summer 2026 – Present
Powder-Bed Fusion Additive Manufacturing Digital Twin [Link] <i>National Institute of Standards and Technology</i> Digital twin of a powder-bed fusion machine, showing full interoperability and autonomous formation of digital twin aggregates	Summer 2025
Microgrid Digital Twin [Link] <i>Clemson; Naval Postgraduate School</i> Digital twin of a naval microgrid demonstrating how universal simulation enables total interrogation of a physical entity	Spring 2025
ConstraintHg Modeling Kernel [Link] <i>Open-Source Python Package</i> Implements constraint hypergraphs for general model representation and universal simulation	Fall 2024 – Present
Digital Twin of a Chop Saw [Link] <i>Kroeger Marine Construction</i> A fully implemented digital twin of a 5 degree of freedom chop saw intended to be installed with a local manufacturer, integrating IoT sensors, computer vision, dynamic modeling, dashboarding, and backended with a MySQL database	Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
NX Journal for CAD Patterning Estimation [Link] <i>ASME IDETC-CIE 2023</i> VBA macro that dynamically estimates the length of time necessary for the system to complete a patterning operation	Spring 2023
Digital Twin of Tracked Vehicle [Link] <i>PLM Center at Clemson University</i> Base platform for a digital twin of a tracked robotic vehicle made in both MATLAB and Python to be able to be extended by a group of undergraduate researchers	Fall 2021 – Fall 2025
Agent-Based Model of Pedestrian Flow through Civic Center [Link] <i>Provo City Recreation Center</i> Combination of a Discrete Event Simulation (DES) and Agent-Based Modeling (ABM) algorithm simulating patron flow and usage of a high-volume civic center, used by the center management to decide whether to install lobby kiosks	Spring 2021