

# Sawyer Alston

[sawyer@sawyer.alston.com](mailto:sawyer@sawyer.alston.com) • [github.com/SawyerAlston](https://github.com/SawyerAlston) • [linkedin.com/in/sawyer-alston](https://linkedin.com/in/sawyer-alston)

## EDUCATION

---

### University of Texas at San Antonio

B.S. Computer Science

GPA: 3.85

San Antonio, Texas

Expected Graduation: May 2028

## WORK EXPERIENCE

---

### Midwest Commercial Painting, Software Engineering Intern

6/25 – 8/25

Chicago, Illinois

- Developed and deployed a new **interactive company website** leveraging **frontend** languages such as HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and relevant frameworks
- Led total **database revamp**, increasing company data clarity and reducing workload for **10+ employees** using implementation of automation and data handling using Python and relevant libraries such as pandas, openpyxl, matplotlib, and more
- Developed and deployed proprietary painting bid **automation, printing, and data handling** to **speed up the process by more than 400%** compared to previous approach

### U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Technology Intern

12/24 – 2/25

Abuja, Nigeria

- Worked as a DT Intern, where I **developed and deployed** the Embassy RTTI application (see Projects section)
- Learned **secure system management**, worked with sensitive **government networks and systems**, and resolved IT issues around the Embassy daily
- Continue to work with my department to support the upkeep of the RTTI application

### U.S. Consulate General - Chennai, Community Liaison Office Assistant

06/23 – 07/23

Chennai, India

- Led an initiative to **digitize record-keeping processes** while working as a summer-hire assistant
- Organized multiple social events for the Consulate community
- Served as editor for CLO weekly newsletter

## PROJECTS

---

### ALERG'Z (*RowdyHacks '25 1st Place*)

10/25

- Developed a 1st place-winning hackathon project that helps users identify allergen risks in food products through barcode scanning and ingredient analysis, recommending geocentric allergen-free alternatives for unsafe products
- Built a **FastAPI backend** integrated with an **SQLite database** to efficiently store, query, and validate food and allergy data, ensuring **accurate, real-time responses**
- Designed and deployed a full-stack prototype in exactly **24 hours** to then present to judges, demonstrating strong skills in **Python, RESTful API design, and communication**

## **Embassy RTTI Program** 12/24-Present

- Developed and deployed an **AI-powered** program using an **NLI model** to automate nationwide RSS news feed collection for the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria
- Designed a **filtering system to extract security-relevant articles**, compiling them into a daily report for the Regional Security Office, Overseas Intelligence, Public Diplomacy, and other key Embassy departments
- Leading **ongoing expansion** efforts to scale the project globally across all U.S. Embassies and Consulates while exploring more advanced AI models for enhanced analysis

## **ShelfSense (HackUTD '25)** 11/25

- Built a full-stack mobile app in **24 hours** using **FastAPI** w/ **RESTful endpoints** for receipt **OCR** input, **SQLite** for food-inventory tracking, and automatic expiration detection logic
- For Nvidia's challenge I integrated **Llama 3.3-NeMo via NVIDIA NIM** for AI-driven recipe generation, focusing on Nemotron's exceptional **synthetic data generation** and tool functionality using API-Ninjas as a fallback recipe source to ensure continuous recommendations.
- Leveraged **Ngrok** and **Expo Go** in combination with **React Native** in order to create a tangible, clean, easy-to-use MVP for judges to interact with and explore.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

---

### **Rowdy Creators** 2025-Present San Antonio, TX

- Hold the role of JO PR officer, where I work to expand the outreach of the club during a critical club rebrand by seeking club endorsements and sponsorships from local companies
- Lead the artificial intelligence group project where we are developing a ASL to Text application to assist with accessibility for those with, and around those with, hearing issues

### **Association for Computing Machinery and ICPC** 2025-Present San Antonio, TX

- Engaging with a community of like-minded peers passionate about technology through ACM
- Engage in annual hackathons hosted by ACM and hone my skills on DSA problems with ICPC
- Collaborate with peers to tackle complex LeetCode problems, exposing myself to alternative methods for approaching challenges I am passionate about solving

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

---

<b>MLH Hackathon Winner</b>	Fall '25
<b>UTSA President's List</b>	Spring '25 & Fall '25
<b>UTSA Honor Roll</b>	Fall '24
<b>Folds of Honor Higher Education Award</b>	2024
<b>U.S. Department of State: Certificate of Recognition</b>	2021