

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human-Computer Interaction; Accessibility; Natural Language Processing; Speech Processing; Machine Learning

## CURRENT POSITION

2017 - 2016     **Rochester Institute of Technology**, Rochester, NY  
Research Assistant, Golisano College of Computing and Information Science.  
*Advisor:* Matt Huenerfauth

## EDUCATION

*Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY*

2016 –            **Doctor of Philosophy**, Computing and Information Science

*Tribhuvan University, Pulchowk Engineering Campus, Lalitpur, Nepal*

2014            **Bachelor of Engineering**, Computer Engineering (Rank: 3<sup>rd</sup> of 48, GPA: 4.0)  
Research Assistant, Golisano College of Computing and Information Science.  
*Thesis:* Interest Rate Prediction of Banks – Analyzing social-economic trend to predict interest rates.

## HONORS & AWARDS

2017            RIT Ph.D. Merit Scholarship (3 awards)  
2016            ACM ASSETS Doctoral Consortium  
2014            The College Fellowship Scholarship (4 awards)  
2013            Winner of Integrity Hackathon  
2012            Winner of Startup Weekend Kathmandu  
2011            Full Scholarship for Bachelors in Engineering Program  
2011            Academic Excellence Award

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2016 –            **Rochester Institute of Technology**, Research Assistant,  
Center for Accessibility and Inclusion Research Lab. Creating the Next Generation of  
Live-Captioning Technologies.  
*Advisor:* Matt Huenerfauth

2014 – 2015     **Viveka Health**, Software Developer  
Creating web services for eliminating fraud, waste and abuse in medical claims  
payment process.

2013 – 2014     **Yomari Pvt. Ltd.**, Research Intern  
Socio-economic trend analysis from news to predict interest rates of banks in Nepal.

2013            **E&T Nepal Pvt. Ltd.**, Intern  
Developing a GUI for realistic rendering of containers (like glass, plastic, metal, wood,  
fabric etc.) and particles (like smoke, water, molten metal) using appropriate shaders,  
and using particle physics for simulating particle interaction inside the container.

2012 – 2013     **Verisk Information Technology**, Intern  
Optimizing and automating Quality Control pipeline used by the company.

## PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS PUBLISHED

- W.1            **Kafle, S.** and Huenerfauth, M. 2016. Effect of Speech Recognition Errors on Text Understandability for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. *In Proc. of 7th Workshop on Speech and Language Processing for Assistive Technologies (SLPAT)*, INTERSPEECH 2016, San Francisco, USA.

## ACADEMIC PROJECTS

- 2017            **Word Importance Modeling using Speech Based Features.** (*in progress*)  
Investigate various acoustic features from human speech to see if they provide clues about the *importance* of word being spoken; *importance* in terms of the impact the word has on the understandability of whole sentence/phrase that it is a part of.  
*Spoken Language Processing, Spring 2017*
- 2016            **Empirical Analysis of Error Produced by Automatic Speech Recognition Systems.**  
Categorized and evaluated different categories of errors commonly produced by Sphinx4 Speech Recognition System on 100hrs of speech recordings from LibriSpeech Corpus. Implemented output alignment modules to account for fuzzy time-stamp matching and, one to many and many to one substitution errors. Created a local compute cluster to make the speech recognition faster.  
*CyberInfrastructure Foundation, Spring 2016*
- 2013            **Kabach – A Real-time Rescue Solution for Violence Against Women (VAW).**  
A mobile based application that sends alerts to Nepal Police Department during VAW encounters. The alerts could be triggered using special shake gestures or by a push of button. Other services to report and track these encounters were also provided.  
*Violence Against Women Hackathon, 2013*

## TALKS AND POSTERS

- 2017            Word Importance Modeling to Improve Automated Caption Display for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.  
**Kafle, S.**, Berke, L., Caufield, C., and Huenerfauth, M.  
[Poster]    *Graduate Symposium, Rochester Institute of Technology*
- 2017 – 2016    Modeling the Effect of Speech Recognition Errors on Text Understandability for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.  
**Kafle, S.** and Huenerfauth, M.  
[Poster]    *Move78 Retreat, Rochester Institute of Technology*  
[Talk]      *ASSETS Doctorial Consortium '16*  
[Poster]    *The 14<sup>th</sup> Int'l ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility*

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION & MEMBERSHIP

- Member of Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)  
Special Interest Group on Accessibility and Computing (SIGACCESS)  
Special Interest Group on Computer-Human Interaction (SIGCHI)

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Programming Languages: Python, Java, C/C++, MATLAB, R.
- Markup Languages & Web: HTML/5, CSS, Javascript, Django, Spring Framework, PHP.
- Databases & Query Languages: SQL, MySQL, PL/SQL.