Aliyah Zaizay

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EDUCATION

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)   Expected May 2027
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science   *Troy, NY*
Minor in Graphic Design

- **Relevant Coursework:** Data Structures (C++), Intro to Algorithms, Interactive Data Visualization, Intro to Graphic Design

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, C, C++, Java, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, R
Tools & Frameworks: Figma, MongoDB, React.js, Git, Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Canva

PROJECTS

Sustainable Swap | RPI's NSBE & SHPE 2025 Hackathon *Third Place Winner*
- Collaborated with a team of three to develop a web application enabling students to trade or sell items during move-in/move-out, reducing waste and promoting sustainability.
- Designed and implemented the front end using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. The features included a CO2 emissions tracker that visualized user contributions to sustainability, functional item submission and listing, and a sign-in system.
- Addressed over-consumption and emissions by providing an alternative to unnecessary disposal and new purchases.

RPIDorms | *Rensselaer Center of Open Source*
- Built a full-stack web app using React (frontend), Flask (backend), and Supabase (database) to help 1,000 RPI students explore and compare campus dorms..
- Co-led a team of three to deliver a web app that empowers RPI students to explore and compare dorms through immersive virtual tours, peer reviews, and an AI chatbot, streamlining their housing decision process.
- Seamlessly integrated an AI-driven chatbot leveraging API calls to OpenAI's GPT-3.5 model to deliver instant, on-demand answers to dorm-related queries, enhancing user self-service and satisfaction.

AlumniNet | *Rensselaer Center of Open Source*
- **Tech Stack:** React JS, Vite, Express JS, MongoDB, JavaScript, Python, Figma
- Collaborated with a team of 4 to develop a web application aimed at facilitating networking for undergraduate students. The tool allows users to filter alumni based on industry, company, and location.
- Leveraged React.js and Figma to design and implement responsive, user-focused UI pages, enhancing the overall alumni networking experience.

Connect-4 AI Development
- Created a Connect-4 AI capable of playing against humans and other AIs, utilizing basic strategies for blocking and winning moves, with a program that scans for potential wins and blocks opponent strategies using a simple "parity" approach.
- Utilized debugging principles related to memory and adaptability to improve AI gameplay performance, while studying AI behavior in relation to the Turing Test, focusing on adaptability and creativity.
- Collaborated with one CS team member, enhancing project management and teamwork skills throughout the project.

LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

Rensselaer Pipelines Initiatives   May 2025 – Present
Teacher Assistant   *In-Person*

- Serve as a mentor and role model in a structured, project-based STEM program while supporting faculty and students through academic guidance, lab/classroom assistance, and progress monitoring.

America Reads and Counts   September 2023 – Present
Tutor (Work Study)   *Troy, NY*

- Provide weekly one-on-one tutoring for K–12 students, supporting math and literacy development. Assist an average of 2–4 students per week in reaching their academic goals.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute   May 2025 – Present
Leadership Roles – BSA & ColorStack   *Troy, NY*

- **Black Student Association (BSA) Public Relations Chair** — Developed and executed digital strategies to increase chapter engagement and visibility. Created promotional materials—including posters, flyers, and social media videos—using Canva, Figma, and InDesign.
- **ColorStack Communications/Operations Chair** — Built and implemented systems for event communication and member engagement through digital documentation, surveys, and operational coordination.