Aliyah Zaizay

267-680-4608   aliyahkzaizay@gmail.com   linkedin.com/in/aliyah-zaizay   github.com/aliyahkzaizay

EDUCATION

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)   Expected May 2027
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science   *Troy, NY & Delware County, PA— Open to Relocation*
Minor in Graphic Design

- **Relevant Coursework:** Discrete Math, Data Structures (C++), Intro to Algorithms, Principles of Software, Intro to Graphic Design, Computational Biology, Computer Organization
- **Summer Coursework:** Operating Systems, Linear Algebra

TECHNICAL SKILLS

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

EXPERIENCE

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.
- Promoted student engagement, safety, and team success while upholding program standards, and collaborate with Pipeline staff to evaluate program effectiveness and participant development.

Sustainable Swap - RPI's NSBE & SHPE 2025 Hackathon   February 2025
Third Place Winner   *Troy, New York*

- 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.
- Addressed overconsumption and emissions by providing an alternative to unnecessary disposal and new purchases.

America Reads and Count Tutor   September 2023 – Present
Work Study   *Troy, New York*

- Tutor K–12 students weekly, providing one-on-one support for math and literacy sessions.

PROJECTS

RPIDorms | *Rensselaer Center of Open Source*

- **Tech Stack**: React, Supabase, and TailwindCSS, Python, Flask
- 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 Polytechnic Institute

- **Black Student Association (BSA) Public Relations Chair** (May '25 — Present) — Led initiatives to create, maintain, and execute impactful projects and programs, enhancing chapter visibility and engagement through effective communication strategies

- **ColorStack Communications/Operations Chair** (May '25 — Present) — Managed the club's social media accounts, communicated internal and external events to members, documented events through photos and testimonials, booked rooms, ordered food, and oversaw membership management and data collection (forms, surveys, etc.).

- **Rensselaer Bridge Scholar** (July 2023-Present)

Koding with Klossy Scholar

- Completed an intensive summer program introducing young women and non-binary students to software development.

- Built and pitched Mindful Memory, a website raising awareness for Alzheimer's disease, using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.