AL-KESNA FOSTER

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Education

University at Buffalo — Sep. 2020 – May 2024
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science — *Buffalo, NY*

Relevant Coursework

- Data Structures
- Systems Programming
- Algorithms & Complex.
- Computer Architecture
- Machine Learning
- Distributed Systems
- Web Applications
- Software Engineering

Work Experience

UB Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering — September 2022 – Present
Systems Programming Teaching Assistant — *Buffalo, NY*

- Held regular office hours, assisting students in troubleshooting programming assignments in C
- Conducted weekly labs, providing hands-on guidance and support to students, reinforcing course concepts
- Collaborated with course instructors and fellow teaching assistants to deliver effective academic instruction

Meta — June 2022 – August 2022
Meta University Data Science Intern — *Menlo Park, CA*

- Collaborated with a team as a Data Scientist Intern to complete a project focused on increasing the engagement of over 1 million young adults on Facebook videos
- Utilized SQL and Pandas for data analysis to derive insights from large dataset
- Communicated insights and recommendations by delivering engaging presentations, leveraging compelling visualizations and impactful results from comprehensive data analysis

The Research Foundation for SUNY — May 2021 – Present
Research Assistant — *Buffalo, NY*

- Conducted quantitative research focusing on finding out what freshmen computer science students think about social justice using Pandas and text analysis methods
- Utilized Pandas and Jupyter Notebook to analyze the effects of services on foster youth
- Employed qualitative analysis and linear regression to identify racial biases within the foster care system

Projects

Organizational Tool Web App | *PHP, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, GitHub* — November 2023

- Developed a dynamic calendar for event management, file upload/download functionality, and an integrated to-do list
- Leveraged React, JavaScript, and CSS for the frontend, while implementing PHP scripts to interact with the MySQL database on the backend
- Collaborated on the creation of wireframes using Figma, implementing a user-friendly interface

RafTM | *Go* — April 2023

- Implemented a simplified version of Raft consensus algorithm to manage consensus in a distributed server cluster
- Developed leader elections using failure detection, client interactions, and log management functionalities, ensuring fail-stop resilience
- Utilized Go to create UDP-based communication protocols for servers and clients to pass messages

Music Recommendation System | *Python, Pandas* — November 2022

- Developed a system using Python that generates accurate music recommendations based on a given list of liked songs
- Implemented user-based collaborative filtering and cosine similarity algorithms to analyze user preferences
- Performed an exploratory analysis on the dataset using Pandas, extracting valuable insights through visualization techniques

Technical Skills

Languages: C, Go, Java, JavaScript, Python, Scala, SQL
Technologies/Frameworks: Figma, GitHub, Jupyter Notebook, Pandas, React

Extracurricular

National Society of Black Engineers — *Member* — September 2021 – Present
Louis Stokes Minority Alliance Participation — *Member* — May 2021 – Present
Chess Club — *Member* — September 2020 – Present