

# AL-KESNA FOSTER

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## EDUCATION

### University at Buffalo, The State University of New York

*Master of Science, Computer Science*

**Sep 2024 - Dec 2025**

*Buffalo, NY*

### University at Buffalo, The State University of New York

*Bachelor of Science, Computer Science - GPA: 3.46*

**Sep 2020 - May 2024**

*Buffalo, NY*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### University at Buffalo Department of Computer Science and Engineering

*Teaching Assistant*

**Sep 2021 – Present**

*Buffalo, NY*

- Mentored **300+ students** in C and Go programming assignments
- Led weekly labs covering low-level systems programming concepts such as system calls, memory management, threads, and concurrency
- Held weekly office hours troubleshooting distributed systems projects in Go, covering topics such as failure detection, distributed data structures, and consensus

### Amazon Web Services

*Software Development Engineer Intern*

**May 2025 – August 2025**

*Portland, OR*

- Developed a mechanism to identify AWS accounts with resources eligible for Amazon Application Recovery Controller resiliency feature to increase availability in Availability Zones
- Designed and implemented parallel instances of AWS Lambdas using Kotlin for efficient data collection across **33 regions**
- Created a dashboard to visualize **100,000+ AWS accounts** to drive resiliency feature adoption

### Computation and Equity Lab at UB

*Undergraduate Student Researcher*

**May 2021 – May 2024**

*Buffalo, NY*

- Fine-tuned a large language model on **200+ million tweets** using TensorFlow and Apache Spark, to detect political stances, allowing the team to understand why people exit the democratic process
- Used natural language processing(NLP) to qualitatively analyze **400+** text responses from computer science freshmen, deriving insights on major retention rates
- Utilized Pandas and linear regression modeling to research and present effects of employment services on foster youths' full-time employment rates

### Meta

*Data Science Intern*

**Jun 2022 – Aug. 2022**

*Menlo Park, CA*

- Analyzed Facebook video data using Python, Pandas, and statistical analyses, increasing the engagement of **1 million+ young adults** on Facebook videos
- Managed and queried large databases using SQL to obtain relevant datasets for analysis
- Wrote official documentation, created compelling data visualizations, and presented recommendations to senior engineering leadership

## PROJECTS

### Pen Plotter | Forth

**May 2025**

- Repurposed a 3D printer to draw alphanumeric characters and some special shapes
- Programmed a Raspberry Pi Pico 2 to interface with the stepper motors using Forth to move pen attachment along x, y, and z axes

### DateFinder - Web Application | Python, JavaScript, NodeJS, HTML, CSS, Git

**Aug 2024**

- Created a web application to find dates in any area based on user preferences
- Utilize Google API to develop a Python script for finding restaurants and activities in a given location
- Used NodeJS, Javascript, HTML, and CSS to implement an intuitive user interface

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Programming/Query Languages:** C, Go, JavaScript, Python, SQL

**Technologies/Frameworks:** Apache Spark, CSS, Git, HTML, NodeJS, Pandas, ReactJS, TensorFlow

## AWARDS/EXTRACURRICULAR

### Engineering Design and Innovation Scholar

**Aug 2024**

*Academically exceptional students committed to solving societal problems through engineering and computing projects*

### CSE Undergraduate Researcher Award

**May 2024**

*Recognized for exceptional research in collaboration with UB CSE faculty during undergraduate studies*

### NSBE

**Sep 2021**

*Member*