366 Leverett Mail Center
Cambridge, MA 02138

RUSSELL FAIST PEKALA

russellpekala@college.harvard.edu
russellpekala.com

EDUCATION

Harvard College Class of 2018   **GPA 3.83**   Cambridge, MA
- Ambitious Math/Computer Science Major on track to graduate in 3 years.
- I wrote the top final paper (recognized by professor) in two of the writing classes I've taken at Harvard.
- Taken Machine Learning, Functional Programming, Algorithms, Advanced Microecon., and Data Visualization.
- Graduate level Statistics, Mathematics, and Computer Science coursework.

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities   **GPA 3.86**   Minneapolis, MN
- Finished BA math requirements during high school. Received A in high level undergrad financial math class.
- Engaged in pure math research with a professor. I presented my research at math conference.

Southwest High School   **GPA 4.00**   Minneapolis, MN
- Graduated valedictorian in a class of 380. National Merit Scholarship Winner, National AP Scholar.
- Competed on Minnesota State Math Team for two years (team won 4th in national competition).
- Debate captain that tripled the size of the team. Student Election Judge Organizer – 42 student sign ups.

PROFESSIONAL

Kensho Technologies   Cambridge, MA
Kensho is a financial analytics company disrupting equity investing through employing event data in equity models.
Data Scientist Intern   June 2017 – August 2017
- Youngest summer intern on Machine Learning team.
- Helped to select features and modeling techniques for a mortgage-backed security trading model.
- Realized more effective use of autoregressive features by modeling total buying, and total selling separately.

University of Minnesota NOVA Experiment Collaboration   Minneapolis, MN
NOvA is a $300M experiment that sends a beam of neutrinos from Fermilab to MN to study neutrino behavior.
REU Student Specializing in Machine Learning Architecture   June 2016 – August 2016
- Wrote scripts in C++ and Python to analyze the performance of our Convolutional Visual Network (CVN) through looking at training time, result variability, and accuracy. Improved network 3.6%, documented changes.
- Selected to present findings at the National Science Foundation's Washington D.C. Conference in October.

ACTIVITIES AND LEADERSHIP

Harvard Computer Society   Cambridge, MA
Datamatch Statistics/Visualizations Subteam Leader   October 2016-Current
- Former leader of a 5-student team disseminating online interactive online interest-grabbing statistics and analysis.
- Current leader of new initiative team to expand project to other schools.
- Extensive experience using JavaScript D3 and basic experience in web development.

Personal Entrepreneurial Projects   Boston, MA
Cofounder – Transcriptr.com   September 2017-Current
- Transcriptr measures the difficulty of courses by collecting transcripts and sells such information to recruiters.
- Developed codebase for Ruby on Rails website and algorithm for measuring course difficulty.
- Transcriptr was accepted into the Harvard College Ventures selective Incubation Program.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES AND SKILLS

Self-Initiated, Entrepreneurial
- Self-studied for and achieved the top score on the Society of Actuaries' Exam P (Probability).
- Ran my own independent tutoring business in high school, managed 15 client relationships.
- Organized and lead a group of four undergraduates that won 2nd place at the Veritas Financial Group's end of year stock pitch competition. Our findings were published by the competition's sponsor.
- One of four students selected to represent Harvard at the University of Michigan's stock pitch competition.

Communication & Teaching
- Selected to be MATLAB and Multivariable Calculus teaching assistant.

Well-Rounded, Community-Minded
- Two-time Boston Marathon qualifier who won 5th in my age division at the Chicago Marathon.
- Volunteer debate mentor/judge with the Harvard College Mentors for Urban Debate.