

DEJA DUNLAP

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EDUCATION

Yale University , New Haven, CT B.S. Applied Mathematics, Data Mining & Artificial Intelligence Concentration, GPA: 3.81 Awards & Honors: Rhodes Scholar Finalist, Stanford Exposure to Research and Graduate Education, Northwestern Introduction to Graduate Education, Edward A. Bouchet Fellowship, Code2040 Fellowship, Yale Questbridge National College Match Scholarship	Expected Graduation: May 2026
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Yale Mellon Mays/Edward A. Bouchet Fellowship , <i>Research Fellow</i> , New Haven, CT	March 2024 – Present
• Conducting independent research on the linguistic abilities and biases of Large Language Models (LLMs) when representing African American Vernacular English (AAVE).	
• Designing a computational framework to analyze syntactic and lexical features of AAVE in model outputs	
Equity Research and Innovation Center , <i>Data Science Intern</i> , New Haven, CT	Oct 2023 – May 2024
• Conducted statistical analysis of patient comfort and data-sharing behavior across racial and sociodemographic factors using survey data from NIH	
• Authored internal reports to inform culturally sensitive care initiatives and digital health accessibility efforts.	

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

J.P. Morgan/Chase , <i>Software Engineering Intern</i> , New York City, NY	June 2025 – Aug 2025
• Designed a domain-specific chatbot to translate natural language questions into structured programming language queries, decreasing training and searching time for financial traders.	
• Conducted prompt engineering, fine-tuning, and evaluation of model responses to improve model accuracy and robustness.	
Rheaply , <i>Data Engineering Intern</i> , Remote	June 2025 – Aug 2025
• Designed and implemented data pipelines to support AI-driven prediction of product weight, embodied carbon, and cost for batch prediction workflows.	
• Optimized data storage and retrieval for scalable analytics supporting sustainability and cost-reduction initiatives.	
Bloomberg , <i>Software Engineering Intern</i> , New York City, NY	June 2023 – Aug 2023
• Architected a scalable framework and applied data processing techniques to analyze real-time metrics for over 2 million ticket distributions annually to inform business managers' decision processes.	
• Communicated and documented the project development process and potential use cases for business and engineering future use.	

PUBLICATIONS

- **Dunlap, D., & McCoy, R. T. (2025).** *Evaluating Large Language Models' Usage of African American Vernacular English*. Accepted for presentation at the 2026 HCII Conference on Cross-Cultural Design.
- **Dunlap, D. (2024).** It's Time Yale Addresses the Race Issue in the Engineering Department. *Yale Daily News*
- **Dunlap, D., & Park, S. (2022).** An Association of Twitter Derived Measures of Discrimination and Race-Motivated Hate Crimes. *Journal of Student Research*, 11(3).

CONFERENCES

- “Evaluating Large Language Model Usage of African American Vernacular English”, Envisioning AI at Yale Symposium, Yale University, New Haven, CT, May 2025
- “Evaluating Large Language Model Usage of African American Vernacular English”, Yale Undergraduate Student Research Conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 2025
- “Towards Computational Understanding of Lexical and Grammatical Features of Regional Dialects”, Mellon May Northeast Regional Conference, Williams College, Williamstown, MA, Oct 2024
- “Using Social Media as a Research Tool for Social Justice”, Black In Data Week, Remote, April 2023

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Code Switch: Restorative Justice for Girls of Color

Board Member

June 2022 – Present

- Contributing to long-term strategic planning efforts aimed at increasing educational access, promoting racial equity, and developing restorative justice programs for girls of color.
- Collaborated with fellow board members to direct mission-aligned programming and assess annual goals.

Program Manager, Overachievers Education Fund

Feb 2020 – Present

- Led end-to-end management of the Overachievers Education Fund, a microgrant program supporting low-income girls of color with academic expenses.
- Co-led grant-writing efforts, securing over \$10,000 from corporate sponsors like Nevada State Bank and NewSchools Venture Fund.

National Society of Black Engineers

Regional Leadership Conference Chair

May 2024 – July 2025

- Designed and developed leadership training curriculum for over 1,000 student leaders across NSBE chapters nationwide, focusing on strategic planning, organizational development, and equity-centered leadership.
- Organized and executed the Regional Leadership Conference, overseeing logistics, program planning, and speaker arrangements for over 70 attendees from more than 20 chapters, the largest in post-COVID history.

Chapter President

Aug 2023 – May 2025

- Increased chapter membership by 200% through 50+ diverse initiatives, facilitating community in the Black engineering community.
- Advocated for increased diversity in engineering fields through coordinated campaigns and administrative discussions.
- Secured over \$13,000 in funding through corporate sponsorships, grants, and crowdfunding sources.

MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning, Student AI Liaison, New Haven, CT

Aug 2025 – Present

- Co-developing the syllabus and curriculum for the “Race and Gender in AI” course
- Leading a graduate lecturer on racial bias and representation in large language models.
- Developing strategic initiatives to encourage critical examination of AI usage in academia and beyond.

Yale Office of Educational Opportunity, Peer Mentor, New Haven, CT

March 2024 – Present

- Mentored 8 first-generation, low-income college students on transitioning to college and financial literacy through workshops and one-on-one sessions.
- Led a variety of workshops that helped students manage their coursework, stress, and summer opportunities.

Science, Technology, and Research Scholars, Peer Mentor, New Haven, CT

Aug 2024 - Present

- Mentored 8 undergraduate students from underrepresented backgrounds in STEM, offering academic guidance and professional development support.
- Organized and led workshops on networking, research opportunities, and navigating the academic environment for minority STEM students.

Office of Career Strategy, Mock Technical Interviewer, New Haven, CT

Aug 2024 – Present

- Conducted mock technical interviews for undergraduate students preparing for software engineering roles at top tech firms, simulating real-world interview environments.
- Provided tailored, constructive feedback on problem-solving approaches, code quality, and communication skills to improve candidate performance.

Yale Prison Education Initiative, Volunteer, New Haven, CT

Oct 2022 – May 2025

- Supported incarcerated students in Yale-accredited courses by sourcing, organizing, and summarizing academic materials aligned with their syllabi and research assignments.