# KETON KAKKAR

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## EDUCATION

**Swarthmore College**                                                  *Graduation: December 2019*
Cumulative GPA: 3.65
Computer Science and English Literature, *with Honors*
*Associate Member, Sigma Xi*

**Phillips Academy Andover**                                              Graduation: May 2015

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University**          May 2019—
*Research Assistant*                              *Principle Investigator: Professor Dennis Tenen*
· Developing a machine learning algorithm to detect text reuse
· Using Python, Gensim, Word2Vec, Pandas, Matplotlib to analyze large-scale phenomena in literature
· Awarded a $6,0000 Google Cloud Platform Research Credits Grant

**Department of Computer Science, Swarthmore College**                    May 2017—May 2018
*Research Assistant*                              *Principle investigator: Professor Ameet Soni*
· Used deep learning techniques for bioinformatics research
· Implemented convolutional neural networks in low-level TensorFlow to predict transcription factor binding sites *in vivo*

**Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University**        June 2016—August 2016
*Intern*
· Helped maintain the Lumen Database, the authoritative archive of online cease and desist letters
· Conducted research on the online content removal requests of Twitter's Periscope

## JOURNALISM AND LITERARY POSITIONS

**The Phoenix**                                                              January 2019—
*Editor Emeritus*
· Served as acting editor for an investigation into fraternities that broke national news, resulted in frats disbanding
· Successfully lobbied for Swarthmore to participate in the Pulitzer Center's campus consortium program
· Organized a panel featuring four professionals in the field, drawing 50+ community members

**The Phoenix**                                                   June 2018—December 2018
*Managing Editor & Head of Digital Operations*
· Instituted the regular dissemination of an email newsletter
· Rewrote and modernized the publication's style guide
· Overhauled the website's full-stack and added SSL encryption
· With my colleagues, created an infographic initiative to demystify bureaucratic elements of the college

**The Daily Gazette**                                                  January 2018—May 2018
*Editor-in-chief*              *Formerly: Managing Editor & Treasurer, Opinions Editor, Webmaster*
· Organized campus journalism events, drawing over a hundred people
· Spearheaded a merger with Swarthmore's flagship newspaper, The Phoenix
· Preserved all 22 years of The Gazette's archive with a SQL merge of the two publications

**Small Craft Warnings**                                          September 2018—May 2019
*Publisher*                                              *Formerly: Treasurer, Webmaster*
· Curated, edited, and published Swarthmore College's oldest literary magazine.
· Lead and managed a 15 person editorial board; acquired an office, and funds to regularly print in color
· Notable past editors: National Book Award winner Jonathan Franzen & Pulitzer finalist Adam Haslett

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

### [Panam Mortgage](#)
*Loan Officer*

February 2017—
*New York, New York*

· Licensed to originate loans, broker mortgages in NY State
· NMLS ID 1610934

### [ASK Abstract](#)
*Title Closer*

January 2017—
*Hicksville, New York*

· Represent ASK Abstract at closings for residential purchases and refinances in New York State
· Notarize affidavits and deeds; pick up closing checks and documents for recording
· Notary license number: 01KA6354294

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

### Moore Research Fellowship, Friends Historical Library

June 2019

· Stipend to support a week of archival research on the Rosine Association for Magdalenes

### Genevieve Ching-wen Lee Award

Summer 2018

· Funding for work toward an oral history of the Afghan Hindu diaspora
· Hyperlinked is a [podcast](#) I produced with War News Radio using these interviews

### A. Edward Newton Book Collection Competition
*First Prize*

2019

· Awarded first prize in the longest-running collegiate book collection competition in the nation
· View the collection at this hyperlink: [A Glimpse Beyond the Veil](#)

### ACMW Celebration of Women in Computing in Philadelphia
*First Place Student Poster*

2018

· Co-author with [Katherine Kwok](#) as primary
· Hyperlinked is a brief [write-up](#) from the Swarthmore College website

## SERVICE

### Culture, Computation, & Society Reading Group
*Co-founder & Organizer*

January 2019—
*Swarthmore College*

· Gather faculty, students, staff from across multiple disciplines for weekly discussions
· Coordinated a guest lecture from technology lawyer and Berkman-Klein affiliate Kendra Albert

### [Self Study Action Committee](#)
*Student Member*

January 2016—May 2016
*Swarthmore College*

· Selected to be a part of a committee charged with suggesting improvements for Swarthmore to the President
· With a team, summarized a 290-page consulting report to make it legible to the community
· From that summary, solicited, distilled, and raised-up community feedback about the college

### Events Organized

· [Local News, Digitization, and Democracy: A Panel](#)   April 1, 2019
· [David Corcoran: A Life in Journalism](#)   March 2, 2018
· [The Abu Dhabi Bar Mitzvah—*with Adam Valen Levinson*](#)   December 7, 2017

## SKILLS AND INTERESTS

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|---|---|
| **Computer Science** | Python, C++, TensorFlow, Pandas, Linux, Git |
| **Languages** | Limited working proficiency: Hindi, Spanish |
| **Music** | Seven years classical training in tabla |
| **Athletics** | Top-rope & lead certified climber; enjoy running & kayaking; former wrestler |