Laerdon Kim

Cornell University
Bowers CIS College of Computing and Information Science
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EDUCATION

Cornell University 2024-.
GPA: *4.13/4.0*
Bachelor of Arts, Computer Science
Milstein Scholar in Technology and Humanity

Phillips Academy Andover, Whitney Young High School 2020-2024
GPA: *5.75/6.0, 4.0/4.0*, Dean's List

National Merit Finalist (2024)
Voted *Most Likely to Be President* by Student Body (2024)
Prefect (Student Residential Advisor), Rockwell House
Co-President, Phillips Academy Philomathean Society (Speech & Debate)
Co-President, Phillips Academy Korean Society

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS

Khonzoda Umarova, Lillian Lee, **Laerdon Kim**. *Current semantic-change quantification methods struggle with semantic change discovery in the wild.* Under review, 2025.

Laerdon Kim. *A baseline for self-state identification and classification in mental health data: CLPsych 2025 Task*. Accepted at NAACL 10th Workshop on Computational Linguistics and Clinical Psychology. P.I. Cristian Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil. http://arxiv.org/abs/2504.14066

Laerdon Kim, Jenny Jin, Ajahla Jefferson, Tina Zeng, Brian Chica-Herrera. "Social Mobility in the Mission Hill/Roxbury Area." Presentation at Opportunity Insights Lab. Harvard University, Boston, MA, May 2024.

1st Place Team, MIT Sloan AI + Education Hackathon (2024)

Laerdon Kim. "Altruism and Our Kinship Crisis." TEDx Presentation at Phillips Academy, Andover, MA, April 2024.

1 of 5 Student Panelists at Cornell University Bowers CIS Research Night

The Boston Globe Foundation's Scholastic Art and Writing Award: Honorable Mention for Critical Essay (2022)

Phillips Academy Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Social Change (2024)

Phillips Academy Harold J. Sheridan Award for Athletic Excellence (2024)

National Latin Exam: Summa Cum Laude (2022)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Academic Team Lead on the Association of Computer Science Undergraduates
- Created and led the Paper Reading Group, discussing mathematics and intuition behind recent developments in ML.

EXPERIENCE

Cornell University, Undergraduate Researcher 2024-.

- Developing novel models for forecasting conversational dynamics, i.e. predicting how and when online discourse becomes toxic.
- Modernized ConvoKit, a conversational analysis toolkit developed at Cornell, by adding a modular wrapper class to enable usage of HuggingFace and custom-trained models. Advised by Prof. Cristian Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil and Prof. Lillian Lee.
- Conducted research project tracking semantic change over time, identifying methods to reduce false positive detection of semantic shifts.
- Funded by the Bowers CIS Undergraduate Research Experience program for Summer 2025.

Illinois Institute of Technology, Student Researcher 2024

- Utilized z-score and absolute value threshold outlier masking methods on LLaMA 2.
- Studied ML efficiency and quantization methods; implemented SmoothQuant and LLM-AWQ on OPT-8B for text completion inference. Advised by Prof. Yan Yan.

Office of State Senator Martwick, Intern 2023

- Project lead for census-based district canvass in 87 neighborhood tracts. Used Python, NGPVan, and VoteBuilder to deliver targeted social services (rent assistance, food stamps, elderly care) access to 135K constituents.
- Designed government literature providing information on social program availability in Photoshop.
- Scooped snow cones for kids at block parties.

Innocuous AI, Web Development Intern 2023

- Developed startup website in Webflow and coded a branded landing page to be used in pitches, including assets designed in Figma and Photoshop. Improved accessibility and readability for vision-impaired users.
- Applied principles of responsive web design to decrease site loading time: removing extraneous classes and replacing large images with Lottie animations.