Merin Ashokkumar

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Education

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY   **Piscataway, NJ**
Bachelor of Arts & Science, Computer Science, GPA: 3.812   **2022 - 2026**
Dean's List:
- Fall 2022 / Spring 2023
- Fall 2023 / Spring 2024

Experience

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY   **Piscataway, NJ**
Learning Assistant - Physics 1 and Physics 2   **Jan 2024 - Current**
As a learning assistant for General Physics 1 and 2 at Rutgers University - New Brunswick, I collaborated with the teaching assistant to lead recitation and lab sessions. I primarily focused on engaging students in interactive problem-solving activities and reinforcing lecture material. I assisted in facilitating group discussions, clarified concepts, and supported students in understanding complex physics principles.

THE CHEESECAKE FACTORY   **Lawrenceville, NJ**
Baker, Dessert Finisher, Barista   **May 2023 - Sep 2023**
As a dessert finisher and barista at The Cheesecake Factory, I prepared and garnished cheesecake slices and other desserts for customers. I worked alongside peers but when they could not take up their shifts, I learned to handle the dessert station singlehandedly. At this job, I honed my communication, team-work, and time management skills.

Skills & Interests

Technical: Java, Python, C, UI/UX, Microsoft Office Suite
Language: English, Spanish, Tamil
Interests: Generative AI, Tennis, Cooking, Teaching, Astronomy

Projects

GitHub: https://github.com/melowmelon
Speech-To-Text Chatbot
Key Achievements
- Python and Google voice recognition software converts spoken language into written text
- Clear Audio Recognition
- Future Integration with AI: Actively working on connecting the chatbot with AI chatbot APIs, like OpenAI's GPT, to enable seamless voice-based interactions.

CookCo Website
Created an innovative website, "CookCo," that asks users for available or preferred ingredients and suggests the top 5 meals they can prepare. Integrated the application with an existing meal database API to fetch relevant recipes.
- **Key Achievements:**
  - User Authentication: Designed and implemented a custom login/sign-up page
  - Future Enhancements: Planned integration of health conditions and dietary preferences into the search functionality, allowing users to specify constraints like "diabetes" or "vegetarian," with the system returning the best-matched recipes
  - Built using JavaScript, HTML, and CSS, with plans to incorporate React.js for improved performance and user experience