Nikhil Kakarla

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EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) — Cambridge, MA

- BS in Computer Science and Engineering with concentration in Theatre Arts; GPA 5.0/5.0 — Expected June 2024
- Varsity Squash Captain (2 seasons): Led top-15 nationally ranked team; trained 15 hours weekly and won national sportsmanship award
- MIT Media Lab Researcher: Utilizing ML models to detect stress in drug addiction patients and deliver just-in-time digital treatment
- On-Campus Activities: Vice President of MIT Sigma Chi, High School Physics Tutor, and MIT Golf Club

EXPERIENCE

McKinsey & Company — Philadelphia, PA
Incoming Business Analyst and Business Analyst Intern — June 2023 - August 2023

- Focused on applying computer science principles to business challenges and bridging the gap between engineers and business strategists
- Worked with analytical models such as ML classification and statistical regression to tackle real-world problems including dynamic pricing, inventory optimization, and personalization of promotions; constructed A/B tests to analyze model performance
- Built data tool to analyze and predict county-level economic and labor market conditions to optimize warehouse distribution

Ciena Corporation (NYSE: CIEN) — Boston, MA
Product Management Intern — May 2022 - August 2022

- Identified and defined next-generation solutions and target markets within Solutions Architecture Group of multibillion dollar telecom leader, focusing on 5G for mobile operators and SD-WAN / SASE for enterprise customers
- Conducted market research to prioritize potential customers for new product offering using internal data tools and public domain sources
- Produced executive summary and data visualizations that detailed results of an experimental technology trail for Verizon

Planalytics, Inc. — Wayne, PA
Product Development Intern — June 2021 - August 2021

- Reported to CEO of a multinational demand analytics company that predicts the impact of weather on consumer behavior
- Led 4-person team to develop a new technology for existing waste mitigation product that would quantify annual carbon emission reduction; evaluated use case market opportunity and pitched new methodology to senior management team
- Implemented technology with existing clients and coauthored industry "white paper" detailing methodology and strategic benefits

LEADERSHIP

Atlas Cedar Trading Fund — Boston, MA
Co-founder and developer — September 2023 - Present

- Founded algorithmic trading fund ($1000 AUM) to exploit inefficiencies on the Kalshi marketplace; utilized novel machine learning and probabilistic models to identify trading opportunities; liaised with MIT professors to understand risk and built out robust code base
- Generated annualized 37% return on invested capital over first 2 months; currently developing plans to further build out model

Ek Kadam Aur — Boston, MA
Curriculum Development Lead — December 2021 - May 2022

- Produced detailed curriculum to facilitate the education of over 100 visually-impaired, low-income elementary students throughout India
- Conducted extensive research and collaborated with experts in educating the blind to fine tune and expand existing educational models; deployed improved curriculum to schools and educators throughout India

Digital Literacy Initiative at Belmont Charter School — Philadelphia, PA
Co-Founder and President — September 2016 - December 2019

- Launched initiative to teach underprivileged elementary and middle school students the fundamentals of computer science and robotics through Python, Scratch, and Lego Mindstorm; organized biweekly lesson plans in advance of Saturday classes
- Developed legacy plan for program by securing funding, preparing lesson plans, and recruiting new teachers

Software: Experience with financial modeling in Excel, presentations in PowerPoint, and programming in Python
Interests: Skiing, Poker, Football.