Richard Álvarez

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About Me

Aspiring computer engineer passionate about innovating hardware systems for VFX and filmmaking. Experienced in research, programming, and collaborative film production, with a focus on developing tools that enhance creative work flows. I have created over 17 unique open-source projects and published two papers with over 300 downloads on large language models. Pursuing a degree in Film has honed my creative problem-solving and project management skills. I excel in developing professional video content and organizing group projects. I also enjoy reading, listening to music, visiting local theaters, and cycling.

Education

New York University (NYU) Tandon School of Engineering Brooklyn, New York
Master of Science in Computer Engineering *Aug 2025*

Kenyon College Gambier, Ohio
Bachelor of Arts in Film; GPA: 3.4/4.0 *Aug 2020 – May 2024*
Minor in History and Concentration in Integrated Program in Humane Studies

- **Relevant coursework:** Senior Research Seminar, AI for the Humanities, Software Development, Programming Humanity, Data Structures & Program Design, Introduction to Programming
- **Extracurriculars:** Horn Gallery Videographer, Club Basketball, KSJP

Work Experience

Library and Information Services (LBIS), Kenyon College Gambier, Ohio
IT Assistant · Part-time *Sep 2023 – Feb 2024*

I supported campus-wide technology needs by preparing workstations, moving office tech, and securely erasing and recycling equipment. I restocked printers daily. I conducted classroom checks under the guidance of team members. I streamlined team projects by applying programming skills, in one instance by generating a spreadsheet of course meetings and classroom locations to determine when our techs could perform maintenance.

Sommerlad Construction Chicago, Illinois
General Contractor · Part-time *Jun 2023 – Aug 2023*

I participated in demolition projects for remodeling efforts, performed general land management tasks such as lawn mowing and simple assembly, and supported the team in meeting deadlines and adhering to safety standards.

Publications

A Retrieval-Augmented Film Recommendation System | *GitHub* | *Digital Kenyon* | May 2024

- Utilized LangChain's OpenAI integration for dynamic query generation based on user preferences, demonstrating the potential for advanced AI and machine learning techniques in digital entertainment.
- Developed a Retrieval-Augmented Film Recommendation System using Node.js, integrating OMDb and TMDb APIs to enhance movie metadata for precise and personalized recommendations.

Certificates

CompTIA ITF+ *Sep 2024*

NYU Tandon Bridge *Mar 2025*

Skills

Programming: Python, JavaScript/Node, SQL, PHP, C, C++, Rust
Frameworks: Next.js, React, Tailwind CSS, Scikit-Learn, Keras
Languages: English (Fluent), Spanish (Intermediate)