Blake Venté

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Columbia University GPA: 3.81
M.S. Computer Science 2026, NLP concentration
Macaulay Honors at Hunter College GPA: 3.86
B.A. Computer Science 2021, Mathematics Minor

Macaulay 4-Year Merit Scholarship Fall 2017
Leon Cooperman Scholar Since Fall 2019
Phi Beta Kappa Member Spring 2021
MIT Quantitative Methods Workshop Jan 2021

Responsible Conduct of Research CITI Program, Biomedical Research Alliance of New York. ID: 59953509
Human Subjects Protection SBR CITI Program, Biomedical Research Alliance of New York. ID: 74724255

Graduate Courses Speech Recognition Speech (NLP) Deep Learning Natural Language Generation

Amazon *Software Engineer II – Audible Reviews; Amazon Detail Page* Feb 2025 — *Present*

- Designed and implemented reviews ETL jobs touching 200M+ records across 10+ marketplaces using Amazon Glue against DynamoDB
- Lead of org-wide Generative AI training initiative, presenting to 300+ developers on GenAI concurrently
- Maintain Amazon Detail Page platform for cross-Amazon deployments of customer facing recommendation cards

Amazon *Software Engineer – Amazon Customer Service Technology* Jan 2024 — Feb 2025

- Led end-to-end system design for site-local transfers functionality in Amazon Connect call center on AWS with projected customer time savings of 50k mins per month
- Implement event pipeline sending 4 million+ daily messages for 90,000 customer service agents per region
- Developed production-grade services using Python, Java, and TypeScript with AWS CDK, maintaining 90%+ test coverage and reducing build and deployment times by 20% each
- Facilitate cross-functional implementation spanning 4 teams, executing updates across 8 services and 10 Lambda functions while maintaining zero downtime

Amazon *Software Engineer – Audible Content Discovery* Sept 2021 — Jan 2024

- Design, implement, and maintain the "Give feedback" experience in AWS to enable data-driven decision-making
- Maintain multiple backbone services delivering market-leading experiences for 300+ million listeners worldwide
- Boost search ranking by designing and implementing SEO features, for more customer hits on Audible content
- Uphold operational excellence by developing type-safe, well-tested software backed by continuous integration
- Implement configuration validation AWS Lambda to prevent production incidents and preserve developer time

Judex Inc *ML Researcher – Deception & Fraud* May 2021 — Sept 2021

- Architect end-to-end fraud detection machine learning pilot system for a Fortune 100 insurance company
- Review literature and incorporate state-of-the-art ML methods for multi-modal deception detection
- Configure and orchestrate EC2 instances, S3 buckets, and Lambdas on AWS for data pipeline
- Design and deploy custom Ground Truth (M-Turk) human annotation tool to elicit sentence-level labels
- Extract lexical and acoustic features from raw audio with AWS Transcribe and proprietary tech, respectively

Columbia University *Researcher – Natural Language Processing and AI Ethics* Since Nov 2020

- 1st author of *CorpusLens: LLMs as Data Analysis Facilitators in the Social, Humanistic, & Language Sciences*, accepted to EMNLP 2026 System Demonstrations; a from-scratch LLM harness for interactive visual data analysis
- 2nd author of *Cues to Persuasiveness in Competitive Debate Speeches*, accepted into InterSpeech 2021 co-authors Drs. Huyen Nguyen, Sarah Ita Levitan, and Julia Hirschberg contributing full ML training pipeline
- 2nd author of Data Caricatures published in ACL Contributing labeling pipelines over 16 TB of data with optimized numerical inference for 20x speedup cf prior work
- 1st Place Champion in Cornell's Autonomous Agent Control Competition ConvoArena, with discourse mediator `t4rsk1` after defeating autonomous agents built by competitors from MIT and Cornell (50+ entries, 19 institutions)