

# Harrison Stropkay '25

## Jacobs Software Engineering Internship/Research with Professor Rockmore Summer and Fall 2023

Summer 2023: I worked as a software engineering intern for Jacobs, an engineering services company. Balancing the sophomore summer experience with this internship, I worked hybrid, traveling to the office in Hudson, NH once a week. I learned modern front-end web development frameworks, using React and Redux to develop mission planning software for military aircraft. I thoroughly enjoyed expanding my software engineering skillset while enjoying the summer in Hanover.

Fall 2023: I delved into classical machine learning and modern natural language processing to tackle the challenge of automating book reviews, specifically focusing on predicting whether a book deserves a positive review. Collaborating with Professor Rockmore, we honed in on determining the likelihood of a book receiving the prestigious Kirkus Star. I web scraped the Kirkus Reviews website and matched 3,000 of the scraped reviews with full text from the books3 dataset. Through various models, from logistic regression to transformer-based approaches, I explored zero-shot, few-shot, and fine-tuning methods, with logistic regression surprisingly yielding the best results. The project was an invaluable learning experience, solidifying my interest in NLP and machine learning.