

Karthik Pelleti

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Education

The University of Texas at Austin

Bachelor of Business Administration

Double Major in Finance + Mathematics; Minors in Economics and Statistics

Cumulative GPA: 3.85/4.0 | SAT: 1570

Relevant Coursework: Management Information Systems, Statistics & Data Science; Microeconomics; Management & Leadership; Language & Politics; Ancient Rome; Differential & Integral Business Calculus; Culture & Communication; Archeological Studies

Austin, TX

Expected Dec 2027

Prague University of Economics and Business

Study Abroad Program in International Management and Trade

Prague, Czech Republic

Jun 2025 - Jul 2025

Work Experience

Harvard Law School – Research Apprentice, Center for Labor and a Just Economy | Cambridge, MA

Jun 2024 – Present

- Authoring a research paper on the economic assimilation of Indian immigrant groups in the U.S. under the mentorship of Dr. Gokhan M. Aykac (Senior Research Associate), exploring the intersection of human capital, policy, and migration economics.
- Selected as one of five international students for this role, sponsored by a scholarship from the Cambridge Centre for International Research; collaborating with experts to link research with policy discussions on skilled immigration.

Synapse AI – Founder | Austin, TX

Oct 2024 – Present

- Launched a stealth startup focused on democratizing access to AI tools, simplifying and reducing the cost of LLMs for everyday use.
- *Operating in stealth mode through Winter 2025.*

Contrary Venture Capital – Research Fellow | San Francisco, CA

Dec 2024 – Present

- Research Fellow at Contrary, a talent and research-driven VC firm; currently authoring a 3k+ word research memo on Dataiku.
- Illuminating private markets through deep-dive research and analysis of the world's best private tech companies and startups.

Chainhub Foundation – Venture Analyst | Austin, TX

Nov 2024 – Present

- Led comprehensive technical, business, and GTM due diligence on Y Combinator companies, evaluating 5-15 startups per batch for \$10-50K check investments; Generated \$150K in deal flow through due diligence on AI, SaaS, and Systems companies.
- Set up and managed diligence meetings directly with founding teams; participated in pitch days and YC Demo Day as a YC Analyst.
- Identified, analyzed, and evaluated new investment opportunities through technical evaluation, market research, and competitor analysis.

Outplay27 Capital – Founder & CEO, Chief Algorithmic Engineer | Dallas, TX

Mar 2021 – Present

- Established a fintech quant trading hedge fund, producing cloud hosted algorithmic and machine learning-driven trading strategies.
- Turned a \$25k investment into a \$65k AUM portfolio leveraging 23+ investment trading algorithms I created.
- Beyond trading, the firm offers comprehensive asset management support, investment research, and financial engineering services.
- As part of ESG initiatives, I fund a \$10k financial reserve I established; these funds are earmarked for the sustainable restoration of the Chinook salmon habitat, vital for the preservation of endangered Southern Resident orca whales native to the Seattle region.

qBlock Ventures – Founder & CEO, Chief Product Officer | Dallas, TX

Jul 2021 – Sep 2024

- Founded digital media startup developing cloud-based blockchain-enabled solutions to combat movie piracy, particularly effective for protecting films and entertainment content; secured \$12k pre-seed funding grant from a London production house.
- Additionally, developed Web3-based ticketing software for a major concert; facilitated 400+ ticket sales; generated \$20k+ revenue.

The Borgen Project – Regional Director & Campaign Ambassador | Dallas, TX

Aug 2023 – Mar 2024

- Intern for a national campaign focused on alleviating global poverty via strategic US foreign policy advocacy; 1 of 435 directors.
- Engaged with congressional leaders; lobbied for and supported global poverty legislation; rallied constituents to contact Congress.

Leadership Experience & Activities

University Securities Investment Team – Special Situations Fund Analyst

Sep 2024 – Present

- Focused on public/private credit investing, private real assets, and early-stage/venture investing.
- Analyzing public equities in financial distress or unique situations, contributing to investment pitches and fund positions.
- Evaluating portfolio management strategies, studying capital structure investment strategies, and maintaining fund responsibilities.

Longhorn Investment Team – Junior Analyst

Sep 2024 – Present

- Conducting equity research and market analysis to optimize investment strategies for a student-managed fund; honing skills in options trading, investing, and corporate finance; collaborating in trading competitions; contributing to portfolio management.
- Crafting stock pitches and valuation models, utilizing financial analysis to generate insight supporting strategic investment decisions.

Texas Blockchain – Software Developer, Labs & Hackathon Divisions

Sep 2024 – Present

- Developing innovative Web3, Solidity, and smart contract projects, focusing on NFTs, IPFS, and DeFi.

- Collaborating on decentralized projects in blockchain finance, digital assets, and data storage; member of a competitive Web3 hackathon team with participation in ETHGlobal, Chainlink, and Coindesk Web3athon events.

University Finance Association – Association Member Sep 2024 – Present

- Engaged with, networked, and learned from business executives from investment banking, restructuring, and other industries.
- Participated in stock watches and economic news recaps at weekly meetings to stay up to date on market changes.

Texas Convergent – Forge Team Member; Product Development Intern, Peace Foundation Sep 2024 – Present

- Collaborating with product managers and engineers in Forge, a selective accelerator for scaling nonprofit and startup ventures.
- Currently driving game development at Peace Foundation, actively incorporating AI into a new game; tasks include researching and implementing Unity Build Engine, evaluating AI/ML models, and exploring partnerships with disaster relief organizations.

Project PL-8 – Procurement Specialist, Business and Operations Division Sep 2024 – Present

- On a mission to design, engineer, and build the world's first-ever street-legal production car developed entirely by a student body.
- Advancing sustainability by building the world's first-ever basalt-fiber vehicle, cutting carbon-emissions and boosting performance.
- Managing materials acquisition and maintaining supplier and sponsor relationships to procure high-quality components; negotiating and implementing effective budgetary controls to optimize costs.

Texas Spacecraft Laboratory – Logistics Committee and SCOPE Member, Operations and SCOPE Divisions Sep 2024 – Present

- Research group dedicated to designing and building small satellites, securing launches into space, and operating them once in orbit.
- Coordinating project timelines, resource allocation, and mission operations for smooth spaceflight mission execution.
- Additionally, contributing to NASA-funded SCOPE mission at TSL, developing surface-feature-based navigation and timing algorithms for lunar exploration, with plans to demonstrate the technology in low-Earth orbit as part of a larger lunar PNT system development.

Texas Guadalupe – Fundraising Coordinator, Business Division Sep 2024 – Present

- Fundraising for an undergraduate Hyperloop R&D team; team is a two-time recipient of the SpaceX Hyperloop Innovation Award.
- Developing strategies and researching grants to finance operational costs, pod logistics, and procurement, ensuring team success.
- Establishing partnerships with global businesses to reduce costs and form beneficial collaborations, enabling global competitions.

Longhorn Rocketry Association – Finance Associate, Business Division Sep 2024 – Present

- Finance Associate for high-powered rocketry team designing, building, and launching rockets; competing in Spaceport America Cup.
- Accelerated strategic partnerships with SpaceX by negotiating supply agreements and securing sponsorships, streamlining operations.
- Managing profit-sharing agreements to foster partnerships and drive revenue growth; helping manage the organization's balance sheet.

University of Texas Sailing Team – Competitive Sailor Sep 2024 – Present

- Competing regionally and statewide with the Texas Longhorns Sailing Team, specializing in fleet and team racing at collegiate regattas.
- Developing expertise in operating double-handed dinghies (420), optimizing boat speed, handling, and tactical real-time decision-making.
- Adapting to diverse weather and race conditions, analyzing wind shifts, currents, and competitor positioning to refine racing strategies.

Projects

Engineering and Computational Learning of AI in Robotics (ECLAIR) – Battle Bot Builder Oct 2024 – Present

- Designing and building a battle robot, honing coding, wiring, and 3D modeling skills with 3D-printed elements and ESP32 microcontrollers.
- Integrating wireless control and AI-driven autonomous systems using Arduino IDE, enhancing performance in real-time combat scenarios.

QuantGPT: Financial Report Analysis Engine – [GitHub](#) Aug 2023 – Sep 2023

- Engineered an AI agent using Langchain and ChromaDB for vectorized NLP querying and parsing of 300-page financial reports.
- Deployed a Streamlit LLM interface with OpenAI API integration for precise, real-time financial statement extraction and analysis.
- **Technologies:** Python, Langchain, ChromaDB, Streamlit, GPT-4, PyPDF, CryptoDome

Research & Publications

High-Octane Nanosecond Trading – Addressing AI-driven high-speed trading's impact on SMBs, market ethics, and stability.

- Pelletti, K. (2023). Preserving the Vitality of Small and Medium-sized Businesses: Ethical Considerations in the Face of High-Octane Nanosecond Trading Practices. SSRN Electronic Journal. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4645937>

Financial Institutions & Lending – Analyzing impact of lending malpractices on commercial real estate, economic stability.

- Pelletti, K. (2022). The Building Up of the Commercial Real Estate Fiasco: How Banks are Giving Out Bad Loans. SSRN Electronic Journal. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4645920>

Additional Info

Honors/Awards: Cambridge Centre for International Research Social Science Scholarship; Cambridge Future Scholar; National Merit Commended Scholar; National Spanish Exam Bronze Medalist (2x); University Honors (Fall 2024)

Certifications: Yale University: Narrative Economics; Duke University: Behavioral Finance; Columbia University: Economics of Money & Banking; CME Group: Portfolio Management w/ Equity Index Futures & Options; Google: Generative AI; NVIDIA: Data Center AI; AWS Cloud Practitioner

Computer Skills: R, Python, Langchain, Java, MS Office, Canva, Figma, Adobe Suite, Davinci Resolve, Autodesk Inventor

Interests: Sailing, Chocolatiering, Jigsaw Puzzling, Legos, Photography, Filmmaking, Travelling, Piano, Memecoins

Languages: Fluent in English, Telugu, Tamil; Proficient in Spanish