# MAX WHITTON

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## EDUCATION

**Boston University**                                           September 2025 - Present
Ph.D in Computer Science
Dean's Fellowship

**Cornell University**                                            August 2021 - May 2025
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, magna cum laude
Overall GPA: 3.85

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

**Moog, Inc**                                                May 2024 - January 2025
*AI Development Team*                                                  *Buffalo, NY*

· Worked on a small development team to deploy internal applications used by thousands of users at a global engineering firm.
· Developed and scaled an application to automate in-context AI translation of .docx and .pptx files.
· Researched, developed, and deployed an application to validate database entries using generative AI.
· Joined the team as a summer intern and accepted a return offer to work part time during the academic year.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Gong Research Group**                                        September 2025 - Present
*Boston University*                                                   *Boston, MA*

· Pursuing a Ph.D advised by Professor Boqing Gong and funded by BU's Dean's Fellowship.
· Conducting graduate-level research on machine learning, with a focus on deep learning and visual representation learning.
· Investigating transformer-based vision language models for tasks such as image QA and multimodal understanding.

**Collaborative Discovery Group**                              January 2025 - May 2025
*Cornell University*                                                  *Ithaca, NY*

· Participated in a collaboration between professor Jennifer Sun and Cornell University's Hein Fish Lab.
· Prepared an expert-annotated animal behavior detection dataset and provided benchmark results from SOTA vision models.
· Contributions were later included in manuscript submitted to CVPR 2026.

**Social Dynamics Lab**                                        January 2025 - May 2025
*Cornell University*                                                  *Ithaca, NY*

· Assisted in a collaboration between Professor Lillian Lee and Cornell University's sociology department.
· Built a series of LLM-powered confirmation bias simulations and interpreted the findings.
· Studied and deployed knowledge graphs to support information indexing, retrieval, and reasoning.

## PUBLICATIONS

Wang, S.*, Wang, W.*, Wang, Z.*, **Whitton, M.*,** *et at,* Gong, B (2026). Baby-VLM-V2: Toward Developmentally Grounded Pretraining and Benchmarking of Vision Foundation Models *(Under Review for CVPR 2026)*

Grassick, A., Hsu, J., Lin, E., **Whitton, M.,** *et at,* Sun, J (2026). WILDFIN: An In-the-Wild Video Dataset from Underwater Ecology Pipelines *(Under Review for CVPR 2026)*