

Alexander Caceres-Wright

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EDUCATION

Master of Science: Computer Science and Engineering, University at Buffalo (SUNY), Buffalo, New York, June 2024

Bachelor of Arts: Cognitive Systems, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, May 2022

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, cUBe Lab at University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. June 2023 – Present

- Building framework to fine tune Large Language Models for custom classification tasks using unlabeled data
- Constructed tools for stance detection using Large Language Models
- Published “Who supports Bernie? Analyzing identity and ideological variation of Bernie supporters on Twitter”, G. Bunn, A. Caceres-Wright, S. Shuster, K. Joseph. To be presented at the International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2), July 2024.

Member Service Representative, Lockport Family YMCA, Lockport, NY. September 2023 – May 2024

- Greeted each member upon entry, answer questions and phone calls, and give tours to prospective members
- Ensured information for each member is accurate, engaging with members and other staff when issues arise

Student Assistant, X-Lab at University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. June 2023 – August 2023

- Conducted research on creating indices of interdisciplinarity using natural language processing
- Completed a literature search aiming to incorporate best previous results into our index

Teaching Assistant, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC. January 2020 – December 2020

- Duties included running labs, holding office hours, and grading assignments and exams
- Mentored roughly 30 students per semester as they worked on a term-long project, helped guide design and implementation, and helped debug issues through weekly 1:1 meetings

COMPUTER SCIENCE PROJECTS

Museum Interactive Scavenger Hunt: Python, Flask, Firebase Realtime Database, Javascript, CSS

- Implemented a full stack application for the Niagara Aerospace Museum for visitors to complete a scavenger hunt
- Allows curators to enter or edit clues and exhibits, and visitors to customize the length and difficulty of their hunt

Financial Literacy Application: UB Hacking: Fall 2022 (Hackathon, 1st Place). JavaFx, SQL

- Won first place prize with a prototype application aimed at centralizing information new immigrants may find useful, such as banking, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), housing, etc.
- Prompted users with a questionnaire to tailor information they were presented, survey responses stored in a MySQL database along with a username and password for later retrieval

Research in Cognitive Systems: Python, Git, oTree, R

- Worked as a research assistant in a psychology laboratory programming a variation of the public goods game using the oTree framework
- Utilized this software to collect data and wrote a report of the findings in context of relevant work

Lossy Image Compression: C++

- Compressed images using a space partition tree that minimizes color variability across partitions
- Precomputed color statistics for each region

SKILLS & TOOLS

Large Language Models: Llama, BERT

Data Management & Analytics: SQL, R, PostgreSQL, PGAdmin4, Firebase Realtime Database

Programming Languages: Java, Python, C++, C, Haskell, Javascript

Tools: Git, Jupyter, Visual Studio, LaTeX, JetBrains Suite, JUnit Testing, Flask

Languages: English (fluent), Spanish (fluent)

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Applied Machine Learning; Introduction to Artificial Intelligence; Computational Linguistics; Data Models and Query Languages; Databases in Data Science; Operating Systems; Modern Network Concepts; Computer Security; Software Construction; Basic Algorithms and Data Structures; Computational Investment

AWARDS & INVOLVEMENT

Summer School on Foundations of Data Science. Bryn Mawr College, June 27 – 28, 2023.

Bloomberg Accelerator Summer School. Virtual, June 2023.

First Place Prize, M&T Bank's An Innovative Way to Promote Financial Understanding and Well Being Award. UB Hacking: Fall 2022 (Hackathon). November 5 – 6, 2022.

Outstanding International Student Award. University of British Columbia. Academic Year 2017-2018