Alexander Caceres-Wright

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy: Computer Science and Engineering, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, *Expected: June 2028*
Master of Science: Computer Science and Engineering, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York, June 2024
Bachelor of Arts: Cognitive Systems, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, May 2022

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. August 2025 – Present
- Developing and delivering the first offering of *Intro. to Computational Expression* alongside its professor. *Spring 2026*
- Facilitated learning for over 100 students enrolled in CSE 421/521: Operating Systems. *Fall 2025*
- Guiding and marking several group projects, holding office hours, and grading exams

Research Assistant, cUBe Lab at the University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. June 2023 – Present
- Constructed tools for stance detection using Large Language Models applied to 15 million tweets from the 2020 US Presidential Election. Ran experiments to evaluate LLM prompts and parameters
- Published peer-reviewed paper: A. Caceres-Wright et al., "Explicit Stance Detection in the Political Domain: A New Concept and Associated Dataset", SBP-BRiMS 2024. **Runner Up: Best Student-Led Paper Award**
- Investigating how individuals express identity online and how those who share identities speak about shared topics

Data Analyst (Intern), Quanturisk Analytics Ltd, New York, NY, September 2024 – June 2025
- Developed financial models critical to initial product launch at an early stage startup to study corporate resilience
- Established dataset of corporate financial data with quality controls to facilitate model development and testing
- Ran statistical analysis on financial data of 1.4 million companies from 124 different countries to guide product design

Teaching Assistant, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC. January 2020 – December 2020
- Ran labs, held office hours, and graded assignments and exams for CPSC 210: Software Construction
- Mentored ∼30 students per semester as they worked on a semester-long project. Helped guide design and implementation, and helped debug issues, through weekly 1:1 meetings

PROJECTS

Text-to-Speech Application for Low Resource Languages. Python, Huggingface, Transformers
- Created a Text-to-Speech (tts) system for a low resource Indigenous Language from the Amazon
- Experimented with several different approaches and models, compared end results, and wrote a report summarizing methods and findings

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

SKILLS & TOOLS

Large Language Models: Llama, BERT
Data Science Tools: SQL, R, PostgreSQL, PGAdmin4, Firebase Realtime Database, Pyspark
Programming Languages: Python, Java, C++, C, Haskell, JavaScript
Tools: Git, Jupyter, Visual Studio, LaTeX, JetBrains Suite, JUnit Testing, Flask, Pandas, Matplotlib
Languages: English (Fluent), Spanish (Fluent)

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Applied Machine Learning; Computational Investment; Computational Linguistics; Advanced Topics in Computational Linguistics; Data Models and Query Languages; Databases in Data Science; Operating Systems; Software Construction

AWARDS & INVOLVEMENT

Runner Up: Best Student-Led Paper Award. SBP-BRiMS, September 18–20, 2024
Summer School on Foundations of Data Science. Bryn Mawr College, June 27–28, 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
Second Degree Black Belt, Kyokushin Karate. Ken Wa Kan Karate, New York City. Achieved March 15, 2015