

# 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. Guided design and implementation and debugged 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 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 recent 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