Alexander Caceres-Wright

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy: Computer Science and Engineering, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, *Expected: Dec. 2028*
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

Teaching Assistant, University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. August 2025 – Present

- Assisting for CSE 421/521: Operating Systems
- Responsible for guiding and marking term long 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**
- Presented peer-reviewed poster: A. Caceres-Wright, G. Bunn, S. Shuster, and K. Joseph, "Who supports Bernie? Analyzing identity and ideological variation of Bernie supporters on Twitter", IC2S2 2024.
- Investigating how individuals express identity online and how those who share identities speak about shared topics

Data Analyst (Intern), s-cubed Strategic Sustainability Solutions 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

- 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

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). 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

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

SKILLS & TOOLS

Large Language Models: Llama, BERT
Data Management & Analytics: 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; Data Models and Query Languages; Databases in Data Science; Operating Systems; Modern Network Concepts; Computer Security; Introduction to Artificial Intelligence; Software Construction; Basic Algorithms and Data Structures

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