

# 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**

- Constructed tools for stance detection using Large Language Models applied to large datasets of tweets
- Ran experiments to evaluate prompts and parameters for automatic stance detection using LLMs
- First author of research paper “Explicit Stance Detection in the Political Domain: A New Concept and Associated Dataset”, accepted to 2024 International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling & Prediction and Behavior Representation in Modeling and Simulation
- Published abstract and presented poster “Who supports Bernie? Analyzing identity and ideological variation of Bernie supporters on Twitter” at 2024 International Conference on Computational Social Science
- Building framework to fine-tune Large Language Models for custom classification tasks using unlabeled data

**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, 1<sup>st</sup> Place).** JavaFX, SQL

- Won first place prize with a prototype 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

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

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

**Languages:** English (Fluent), Spanish (Fluent)

## RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Computational Investment; 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

## 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