

# Quentin Romero Lauro

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Citizenships: United States, Italy

## Research Interests

I am interested in the intersection of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enable workers of all digital literacy to build and use AI-powered workflows to enhance productivity and create a more equitable future of work.

## Education

2019 – Present     **University of Pittsburgh** – Pittsburgh, PA  
B.S. in Computer Science  
*GPA: 3.91 / 4.00.*

### Selected coursework

- *Computer Science:* Data Structures & Algorithms I & II, Algorithm Design (graduate-level), Deep Learning, Systems Software, Computer Organization & Assembly, Human-Computer Interaction (graduate-level), Operating Systems, Formal Methods, Software Quality Assurance, Writing Machines.
- *Mathematics & Statistics:* Single through multi-variable Calculus (Honors), Linear Algebra (Honors), Introduction to Probability

## Honors and Scholarships

2022-2026     Nordenberg Leadership Scholarship (University of Pittsburgh)  
*Full-tuition scholarship and leadership development program at the University of Pittsburgh awarded to 5 students in each class.*

2024     Best Healthcare Hack (Yale Hacks)  
*Built bedside translation assistant in the healthcare track at Yale University's annual hackathon. Code [here](#).*

- 2023 HCOMP/CI Student Travel Grant (AAAI)  
*\$1,795 for travel and conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing in Delft, Netherlands.*
- 2023 Most Technically Elegant Hack (HackMIT)  
*Built Tinder for iterative prompt refinement with image generation models leveraging Flask, React Native, Stable Diffusion, Clip Interrogator, and Llama. Competed with 1000+ hackers from all over the world on MIT's campus. Code and demo video [here](#).*
- 2022 1st Place (Kuzneski Innovation Cup)  
*\$7,500 in non-dilutive funding for venture into BCIs for refractory epileptic seizures.*
- 2022 Lola G. Duff & William H. Duff Memorial Scholarship  
*\$24,000 scholarship awarded to select graduates in Allegheny County, managed by Scholarship America.*

## Publications & Writing Samples

- C.1 **Exploring the Role of Social Support when Integrating Generative AI into Small Business Workflows**  
**Quentin Romero Lauro**, Jeffrey Bigham, Yasmine Kotturi.  
*ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW) 2024. Poster Paper.*
- C.2 **Demystifying Developer Workflows When Iterating on RAG Pipelines**  
**Quentin Romero Lauro**, Shreya Shankar, Aditya Parameswaran.  
*In progress; to be submitted to UIST 2025.*
- P.1 **Simplify the Spreadsheet: Enhancing Financial and Creative Insights for Maker Entrepreneurs**  
Quentin Romero Lauro and Courtney Krietzer  
*CMU Human-Computer Interaction Institute Summer Research Symposium.*
- B.1 **Moser's Circle Problem: False Induction and A Beautiful Solution.**  
Quentin Romero Lauro  
*Medium.com.*
- B.2 **Beyond the Search Bar: Navigating the Age of Surveillance Capitalism**  
Quentin Romero Lauro  
*Medium.com.*

## Research Experience

- October 2024 – Present  
**Research Assistant; University of Maryland, Baltimore College**  
Mentors: Professor Yasmine Kotturi.  
Developing BizChat, a tool for small business owners of various digital literacy to use large-language models to generate business plans through chat-based and in-line affordances. Developing user-study to report results to CHIWORK.
- June 2024 – August 2024  
**REU Intern; UC Berkeley EECS; EPIC Data Lab**  
Mentors: Professor Aditya Parameswaran.  
Developed a visual interactive notebook for iterating on RAG pipelines, leveraging TypeScript (React), Python (Flask), and OpenAI API. Designed and conducted end-to-end user-study with 12 AI engineers to probe developer workflows when iterating on RAG pipelines. Poster [here](#). Code [here](#).
- Month 2023 – May 2024  
**Research Assistant; CMU Human-Computer Interaction Institute**  
Mentors: Professor Jeffrey Bigham & Yasmine Kotturi PhD.  
Led interview study with 11 local entrepreneurs to build design principles informing design of generative AI technology for small-scale business owners. First authored short paper, published at ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW) 2024 in Costa Rica, guided by Jeffrey Bigham and Yasmine Kotturi. Paper [here](#).
- May 2023 – August 2024  
**REU Intern; CMU Human-Computer Interaction Institute**  
Mentors: Professors Nikolas Martelaro & Laura Dabbish.  
Developed React Native app for creative small business owners to manage artistic product data and personal fulfillment. Built accompanying wizard-of-oz tool in React and Google Firebase to facilitate user interaction with researchers, creating a chat-based product data input method for app users. Poster [here](#).

## Teaching Experience

- Spring 2022  
**Teaching Assistant, Mathnasium**  
Tailored individualized lessons for up to six students simultaneously in content ranging from geometry to calculus.

Summer 2022     **Teaching Assistant, Steel City Codes**  
Taught basic data structures, object-oriented programming, and control flow to 4th – 8th graders.

## Projects & Industry Experience

October 2020 – September 2022     **RaspiShop.com** – Pittsburgh, PA  
Built, operated, and managed a project-based learning ecommerce store for Raspberry Pi enthusiasts. Created tutorials for 10 RaspberryPi projects (e.g. NAS Torrent Server, Cloud Storage Server, AirPrint Server, see [here](#)) for more details. Penetrated markets in the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, New Zealand, and Great Britain cultivating a 390% increase in sales from 2020 to 2021.

May 2022     **TutorHHS.org** – Pittsburgh, PA  
Developed and deployed web application to match National Honors Society tutors to struggling students. Coordinated with district administrators to create accessible database maintenance system leveraging Google Cloud Platform and Google Sheets API. Deployed with Heroku and continuing to serve 800+ students per year at Hamp-ton High School in Allison Park, PA.

Summer 2020     **Freelance Web Developer** – Pittsburgh, PA  
Built, managed, and maintained websites for a Pittsburgh church and local startup. Interfaced Google Calendar API with WordPress to delegate maintenance away from CMS, lowering long term upkeep cost. Provided professional photography, photo-shop, and video editing for website content. See websites [here](#) and [here](#).

## Workshop Participation

November 2024     Envisioning New Futures of Positive Social Technology: Beyond Paradigms of Fixing, Protecting, and Preventing  
*CSCW 2024. [C.1] was also accepted to this workshop.*

## Service

- May 2024 – September 2024 **SteelHacks (Executive Director)**  
 Led the University of Pittsburgh’s largest MLH-backed hackathon with 600+ global registrants. Recruited and managed a cross-functional team overseeing sponsorship, outreach, participant experience, operations, and technology. Secured \$18,000+ in sponsorships from Google, Eaton, PNC, and partnerships with leading institutions like MIT, Stanford, and CMU.
- May 2024 – Present **Computer Science Club (Business Manager)**  
 Organized and led weekly social, academic, and professional events for 500+ computer science community members. Collaborated with executive board to develop and media engagement strategy garnering over 50 million views, 4 million likes, and 400k+ shares over a 3-month period. Managed relations with corporate sponsors including Google, BNY, and FAST enterprises.
- June 2023 – September 2023 **PittChallenge (Organizing Committee)**  
 Coordinated team formation and assisted in sponsorship outreach for Pitt’s largest healthcare focused hackathon attracting over 425 registrants with over \$7,000 in prizes.

## Professional Memberships

- 2023 – Present ACM SIGCHI  
*Attended CI 2023, DIS 2023, UIST 2024, CSCW 2024.*
- 2023 – Present Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society

## Technical Skills

### Programming languages & Frameworks

Proficient in: Python, Java, C, Swift, JavaScript, HTML, CSS Node.js, React, React Native, Flask, sklearn

### Software

LaTeX, Git, GitHub, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere Pro, WordPress, Figma

### Languages

English (fluent), Italian (advanced), Spanish (intermediate)