

ERIC BENNETT

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Multilingual NLP, AI Evaluation, Machine Translation, Low-Resource NLP, Human-Centered AI

EDUCATION

Northeastern University, Khoury College of Computer Sciences

September 2026 -

Ph.D. Student, Computer Science

Advised by Terra Blevins and David Smith

University of Maryland

August 2022 - May 2026

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Machine Learning Specialization

GPA: 3.48

Bachelor of Arts in Chinese

National Taiwan University

January 2025 - June 2025

- Attended Chinese language courses and Computer Science courses taught in Mandarin.

National Taiwan Normal University

June 2023 - August 2023

- Recipient of Huayu BEST Scholarship for Chinese Summer Language and Literature study abroad program.
- Competed in a Chinese speech competition with the topic of “The Impact of AI on Humans.”

PUBLICATIONS

Synthetic Slang Generation for Benchmarking Machine Translation

August 2026

Under Review - *Eric Bennett*

Do Evaluation Metrics Detect Errors in Classical Chinese to English Translations?

March 2026

COLM 2026. *Oswaldo Quinjica, Eric Bennett, Xincheng Yang, Andrew Schonebaum, Marine Carpuat*

Evaluating Evaluation Metrics for Ancient Chinese to English Machine Translation

May 2025

ALP @ NAACL 2025. *Eric Bennett, HyoJung Han, Xincheng Yang, Andrew Schonebaum, Marine Carpuat*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Laboratory for Analytical Sciences (LAS)

Raleigh, NC

Summer Research Scholar

June 2026 - July 2026

- Developed a pipeline for generating synthetic-but-realistic slang, creating an MT benchmark for Chinese, Russian, and Farsi comprised of 1,087 items and evaluating 10 LLM-based MT systems; found that providing a gold definition at inference time consistently improves translation quality, particularly for smaller models.
- Integrated quality estimation LLM-as-a-judge MT quality metrics into real long-document translation workflows, evaluating the efficiency gains of automatically routing low-quality sections to a larger translation model.

UMD Computational Linguistics and Information Processing Laboratory (CLIP)

College Park, MD

Research Assistant

February 2024 - May 2026

- Explored translation of Classical Chinese texts using LLMs under a \$100,000 seed grant from the Artificial Intelligence Interdisciplinary Institute at Maryland advised by Dr. Marine Carpuat and Dr. Andrew Schonebaum in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures.
- Investigated LLM-as-a-judge methods of machine translation evaluation for domain-specific translation through a meta-evaluation of metrics based on a dataset of controlled perturbations specific to the Classical Chinese to English language pair.

Gemstone Honors Research Program

College Park, MD

Research Assistant

August 2022 - May 2026

- Conducted analysis on university course syllabi to quantify the rise of institutional and instructor-level recognition and sentiment towards the usage of generative AI tools in the classroom with advisors Dr. Jing Liu and Dr. Lucas Butler.

Special Competitive Studies Project

Arlington, VA

Research Assistant

June 2025 - August 2025

- Analyzed data regarding U.S.-China competition in emerging tech sectors including artificial intelligence, nuclear fusion, quantum computing, and 6G through an analysis of a novel dataset of 14+ years of Chinese state media output comprised of over 110 million words.
- Created data visualization published by *The New York Times* regarding U.S.-China competition in publications in the *Nuclear Fusion* journal, highlighting a sharp rise in Chinese publications since 2010.
- Evaluated structural and regulatory constraints on LLM development in China compared to the U.S. through the development of an interactive policy simulation used to highlight dilemmas faced by Chinese AI developers.

Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory

Research Assistant

Laurel, MD

June 2021 - June 2022

- Conducted research and presented a report on the State of Coronavirus Research Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, utilizing bibliometric models to create data visualizations based on research database metadata.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Howard County Public School System, Chinese Tutor

September 2025 - Present

- Tutoring Chinese II at the middle school level through weekly one-on-one sessions using personalized lessons that emphasize oral proficiency, spaced repetition, and application-based vocabulary retention.

PROJECTS

Cognitive Alignment – Reducing Order Bias in MCQ Answering

- Developed a novel approach to mitigate order bias in multiple-choice question answering by LLMs by decoupling answer selection from answer order, using free-response generation followed by semantic matching against answer choices via sentence-transformer embeddings.
- Reduced order bias by 22% (RSD) on English MMLU tasks across models tested (GPT-4o, Mistral-Small) using standard order bias metrics (RSD, RStd, FR) with smaller but consistent improvements in Mandarin.

Classical Chinese Translation Tool

- Developed a translation interface used by UMD faculty to translate large-scale corpora of Classical Chinese, including full-length novels, implementing intelligent, automatic chunking and model-agnostic translation through proprietary APIs and locally deployed LLMs using Ollama.

Designed marker-based alignment system enabling precise navigation between original and translated segments, facilitating downstream annotation and allowing users to maintain philological accuracy.

AWARDS

UMD Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society: University of Maryland Top Ten Freshmen Award

UMD School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures: Tsung Chin Chinese Calligraphy Scholarship Recipient

UMD: President's Scholarship Recipient

Boy Scouts of America: Eagle Scout Award

ORGANIZATIONS

- Tea Club at the University of Maryland, Cofounder
- Chris and Eric's Small Batch Pickles, Cofounder