Christy Yu

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EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University   Aug. 2025 – Aug. 2026
Masters in Human Computer Interaction, School of Computer Science   *Pittsburgh, PA*
UC Santa Barbara   3.75 GPA | Aug. 2021 – Jun. 2025
B.S. Computer Science, Statistical Science Minor   *Santa Barbara, CA*

EXPERIENCE

UI/UX Design Intern   Jun. 2025 - Aug. 2025
Dawdle AI – Science-backed Anti-Procrastination App Startup   *San Jose, CA*
- Designed UI for anti-procrastination app using AI coaching and productivity timers, delivering 30+ screens shipped to App Store launch with 200+ users and 5-star rating
- Featured in KCBS radio (San Francisco) and UC Santa Barbara's The Current
- As sole designer, collaborated with founder and engineers to iterate on AI coaching features based on beta feedback throughout development
- Built 40-component design system in **Figma**, enabling consistent UI across features and reducing design-to-dev iteration cycles by **25%**

Founding Designer & Web Lead   Oct. 2024 – Aug. 2025
JAFFX — open-source guitar pedal startup   *Santa Barbara, CA*
- Created pitch deck that secured **2nd place and $7,500** in funding at UCSB New Ventures Competition
- Designed complete brand identity (logo, typography, color system) and company website, establishing digital presence for hardware startup
- Built responsive website using **(Next.js)** (live at jaffx.audio), translating brand vision into functional digital experience

Software Engineer Intern   Jun. 2024 – Aug. 2024
Lorentz Solution   *Santa Clara, CA*
- Migrated all 44 dynamic libraries from compiler RHEL6 to RHEL78 for PeakView chip-simulation**(Bash scripting)**
- Reduced **10%** in backup storage and production release package by automating library clean-up process
- Executed regression unit tests on circuit simulation cases; analyzed, debugged and troubleshot on the updated libraries for upcoming release of PeakView software

Data Analyst Research Fellowship   Jan. 2023 – Aug. 2025
Human Wildlife Conflict emLab   *Santa Barbara, CA*
- Co-authored (3rd author) research manuscript (under review) on climate-driven human-elephant conflict in Namibia
- Build and tune **habit suitability machine learning models** with bioclimatic variables and land cover data to explore how climate change drives human-elephant conflict in **R**

PROJECTS

Disability Accommodations Advocacy LLM | UX Researcher & Designer   Nov. 2025 - Present
- Designed conversational AI webapp helping students with disabilities navigate accommodation requests, leading user research through 3 interviews and usability testing
- Performed literature review on accessibility solutions and designed system prompt enabling students to chat with AI and draft application materials
- Usability testing showed all users found LLM-assisted workflow **reduced mental load by 20%**

Empowering Small Instagram Artists in the Age of GenAI | UX Researcher   Aug. 2025 - Dec. 2025
- Conducted 10 directed storytelling interviews with small Instagram artists to understand their generative AI experiences, synthesizing 200+ interpretation notes by affinity mapping, empathy mapping, and cultural modeling
- Presented research insights and design recommendations at course showcase, proposing AI transparency features, community trust initiatives, and creator protection tools

Refract | Anti-deepfake ID Protection ML software   Jan. 2024 - May. 2024
- Built AI model and frontend app **(Tailwind/Javascript/CSS, Figma)** that disrupts identity-theft deepfakes model training, research poster winning 2nd in annual showcase
- Cloaked images **disrupts deepfake models by 70%** with no visual difference to the human eye

Other projects on GitHub