

Christy Yu

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EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University

Masters in Human Computer Interaction, School of Computer Science

4.0 GPA | Aug. 2025 – Aug. 2026

Pittsburgh, PA

UC Santa Barbara

B.S. Computer Science, Statistical Science Minor

3.75 GPA | Aug. 2021 – Jun. 2025

Santa Barbara, CA

EXPERIENCE

UI/UX Design Intern

Dawdle AI – Science-backed Anti-Procrastination App Startup

Jun. 2025 - Aug. 2025

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 Frontend Web Engineer & Designer

JAFFX — open-source guitar pedal startup

Oct. 2024 – Aug. 2025

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

Lorentz Solution

Jun. 2024 – Aug. 2024

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 troubleshooted on the updated libraries for upcoming release of PeakView software

Data Analyst Research Fellowship

Human Wildlife Conflict emLab

Jan. 2023 – Aug. 2025

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

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

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

Other projects on [GitHub](https://github.com/qwistaycat)