The Department Congratulates the Winner of the

2025 Donald Beall Student Award for Engineering Accomplishment

Mr. Wei-Hsiang Lo

Growing up in Taiwan, my parents' inquiries about advanced technology ignited my passion for user-centered design. In high school, as smartphones gained global traction, I observed the challenges my parents faced during this transition. For instance, they often ask, "How do I add a contact on my phone?" and "How can I see you on the phone?" This experience deepened my understanding of the need for products designed to be intuitive for everyone. Later, reading Steve Jobs's biography revealed the significance of understanding human behavior in product design, motivating me to pursue industrial design during my undergraduate studies. There, I gained not only theoretical knowledge but also practical experience in user-centered design. Additionally, I participated in an exchange program in Germany, which broadened my perspective on design and strengthened my ability to consider the diverse needs of users.

One specific project further drew me into the human factors field. After completing that project, I conducted a usability test where older adults evaluated my app design. Although it performed well for younger users, I noticed that some features were not as intuitive for older adults. This experience fueled my interest in inclusive design solutions and led me to pursue a Master's in human factors at San José State University. Here, I had a valuable opportunity to join Dr. Gaojian Huang's Behavior, Accessibility, and Technology (BAT) Research Lab, where I addressed complex challenges in human factors engineering and developed the technical and managerial skills needed to be a well-trained researcher.

Read further about Wei-Hsiang on page 2.....

Wei-Hsiang Lo, continued:

In my research, I focus on investigating the interaction patterns between humans and automated systems in transportation, examining how intelligent systems can enhance user experience and safety. My studies on how older adults respond to tactile alerts from a smartwatch when an automated system reaches its limit emphasize the need to bridge technological advancements with diverse user groups. I have also examined how different mental states can influence human behavior in critical scenarios, such as regaining manual control of an automated vehicle. Over the past year and a half, I have had opportunities to present my work to the human factors community at conferences. These experiences have allowed me to observe how other experts are dedicated to this field and have strengthened my passion for pursuing my dream of becoming an inclusive human factors researcher.

In addition to my research, I enjoy watching sports such as mixed martial arts, basketball, and American football. The hardworking and competitive mindset of these athletes inspires me to remain focused and persevere through challenges, while their teamwork enhances my collaboration skills, which are crucial for being an effective contributor to any research project. By embracing both academic rigor and a competitive spirit, I am committed to integrating inclusive perspective into advanced technology that bridges generational gaps and makes transportation accessible to everyone.