Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship
Class of 2024

Amber Willitt

Amber Willitt is currently a graduate student in aerospace engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) and a proud alumna of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. While in academia, Amber had the wonderful opportunity to work with several leading aerospace organizations, including Delta Air Lines, the FAA, and NASA. During this work, she specialized in several research areas related to flight data predictive modeling, supersonic aircraft certification, and sustainable aviation (both vehicle and systems engineering). Her primary research area is flight safety, where she utilizes various data sources, automation capabilities, and investigation techniques to predict safe practices for operations. Amber's professional goal is to leverage her unique aerospace engineering research with flight safety and contribute to the progressive aviation safety industry.

Outside of work, Amber enjoys exercise, spending time with her family, and spoiling her dog, Prince. Some life values that Amber lives by are: 1) live a lifestyle of humility, 2) believe that hard work can overcome almost any deficiency, and 3) always be true to yourself.

Amber is very excited to be a National Air Grant Fellow and eager to meet everyone!

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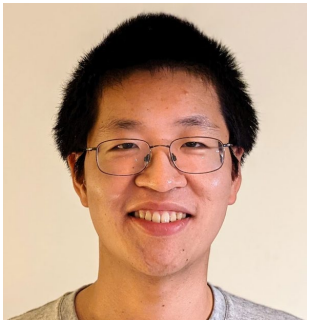

Geoffrey Ding

Geoffrey recently completed his master's in Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT, where his research has broadly centered around next-generation air transportation systems. He has studied issues such as novel privacy implications of drone regulations, incentives for service providers in Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), and notions of fairness in systems with multiple independent entities. Previously, Geoffrey earned a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at UC Berkeley, where he also conducted research on control algorithms and multi-agent systems.

His work experience spans several industries: aerospace (SpaceX), autonomous vehicles (Zoox), electric vehicles (Lucid Motors), and grocery automation robotics (Fulfil). In his free time, he enjoys traveling, eating, and a variety of outdoor activities.

He is looking forward to working with everyone in his first foray into policy this year, after which he will be returning to MIT to continue with his doctoral studies. Longer term, Geoffrey hopes to work on applied research that pushes at the boundaries of the known and the possible.