

Yayu Monica Hew received her M.S. Aeronautics and Astronautics Engineering from Stanford University in 2015. She received B.S. Aerospace Engineering and B.S. Physics degrees from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2013, and graduated 1st in the college of engineering with the highest honor. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Stanford University in the Department of Aeronautic and Astronautic Engineering. She led the first student team from her UT Arlington to ever fly her research project (“wireless structural strain sensing system for space applications”) with the NASA Zero Gravity Flight Office. She has been selected as the 2016 Amelia Earhart Fellow. In 2015, she and her team won the 2015 Caltech Space Challenge with a feasible design of near earth asteroid mission. Same year, she and her colleagues made to the top 30 finalist in the NASA Centennial Challenge in 3D Printed Martian Habitat Design competition. She was named Gabilan Fellow under Stanford Graduate Fellowship in 2013. She was also named the Boeing/Flight Global Engineering Student of the Year 2012 as the first undergraduate recipient in the history. In 2013, she was awarded the “Twenty’s Award” by the Aviation Week Magazine as one the rising talents in their twenties in the aerospace industry. Since undergraduate, she won numerous national and regional student competitions. Her current research interest is in optical sensor development for hypervelocity impact generated plasma, and characterization of space environment. Outside of work, she is a certified open water diver, and also a certified full cave diver. She enjoys technical diving as it helps to train her multi-tasking capability under stressful environment, which can prepare her for possible future astronaut training. She is also a competitive ballroom dancer, and the Stanford Ballroom Dance Team Captain 2014-15. She also enjoys various martial arts, as an international 2nd degree black belt in taekwondo and a competitive Epee fencer, which helps to train her response speed and prepare her to be in a good physical state ready for future space missions. Additionally, she also enjoys playing tennis, rock climbing, playing guitar, and badminton.