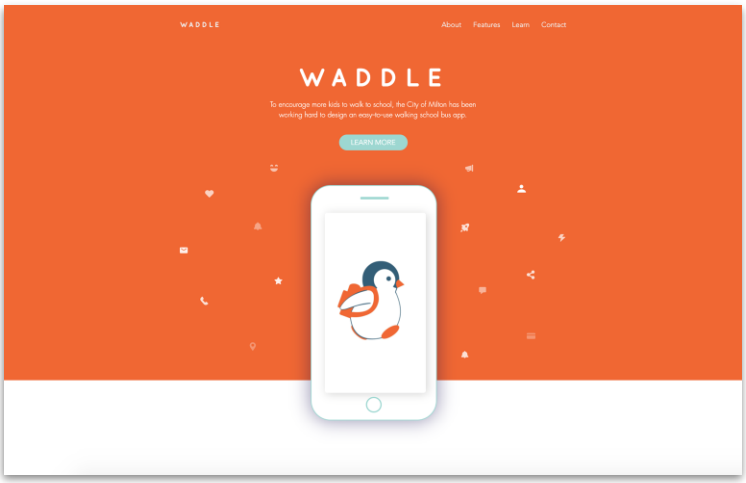
I think I was extremely lucky when I applied to the SCC internships this year. The City of Milton was looking for a student with skills in UI/UX (user interface/user experience) and graphic design, which are all things that I had experience in. To me and my supervisors, it was pretty much a perfect match.

The Milton project is centered around a walking school bus app, which is an app that would organize students into groups to walk to school together while being supervised by a parent. This idea came from concerns on traffic congestion (common during rush hours) along with environmental and health concerns on the students' part.



Although the Milton team already had app screen designs done by the company they're partnering with, they needed somebody to redesign and give a new perspective, which was where I came in. I spent most of my internship redesigning the app from scratch, which went from deciding the font and color scheme to new layouts of the app's features.

It could often be frustrating and challenging because I came into the project as an outsider (they've been working on this for at least a year) and the company the Milton team was working with often wouldn't take in my input as well as I hoped. However, the opportunity to design something from scratch was valuable. It's not everyday that you get to design so much for something that would be used in a real life project, especially as a student! The experience of explaining my design concepts to people that didn't have a UI/UX design background was also something novel. I had to learn how to explain my ideas and break it down in a way that was

easily understandable. Thanks to this, I think I can consider this aspect of the internship an overall win.

Besides app design, I was asked to create some promotional material. For example, I got to design the website, which will be used as a place to answer questions parents and students may have, especially how to use certain features on the app. I also made an invite graphic that will be used for a virtual event that will showcase the app to stakeholders of this project.

I'm grateful for my two supervisors, Michele and Shubha, who would always take my input and ideas seriously. Georgia Tech researchers Dr. Watkins and Dr. Guin were also very helpful during my internship. Thanks to them, this long-distance internship went very smoothly. I hope to hear from them in the future as they develop the project further.

Duo-Wei Yang

Microsoft

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