

Michelle Lam

Fast Track Student of the Month

Interviewed by Kathy Daniels and Benjamin He

Born:

Baldwin Park, CA

High School:

Mark Keppel High School in
Alhambra, CA

Outside Interests:

Graphic design and drawing,
photography, trying new cuisines,
reading

When did you know you wanted to be in EE?

For a majority of my high school career, I was indecisive about what I wanted to pursue in the future and was leaning towards Biochemistry with the intent of doing Pre-Pharmacy. However, I wanted to pursue a major that involved design, while not being purely just arts. Since my older brother had been unsure about his major before, I asked my older brother what he did and asked for details about being an EE major. He described the varying paths that Electrical Engineering could create and it convinced me to take on the major. The major combines my interest in design and technology, while still allowing me to explore options within the major itself during my time at UCLA. Despite having no knowledge about the major prior to entering UCLA, I have learned a sizeable amount about the technical aspects surrounding Electrical Engineering and am glad that I had decided to take on this major.

Who has influenced you the most in your choice of your academic field?



My older brother, who is an EE major at UCR, has had the most impact in my choice of picking Electrical Engineering. Throughout much of our childhood, my brother and I just went with the flow of school and were not exposed to many different areas of study. We did well in school but were not really sure what we wanted to pursue in the future. Since I was aware of this, at the end of junior year of high school, I looked to my brother for advice in choosing a major, knowing that he had been in a similar position.



Why did you choose the UCLA EE program?

The UCLA EE program attracted me because of the hands-on aspect that accompanies the classes, starting from the first year. A few of my peers who are also pursuing engineering at different institutions have talked about their lack of exposure to technical skills. In addition to the EE program, the mainly electrical engineering student organization, IEEE at UCLA, was another factor, as my brother had talked about the social, professional and technical benefits that come along with it.

How has it been being on a big campus so far?

As an ambivert, the size of UCLA's campus has been the most suitable environment for me. Through participation in student organizations, such as IEEE, I have been able to find a community of friends and fellow engineers within the crowd of students on campus. While the club has taught me a majority of my technical engineering skills, it has also helped me create lasting relationships by introducing me to individuals that have been an essential part of my experience as a first year at UCLA. The community from student

organizations enables me to feel comfortable in a large campus. In addition, the large campus also appeals to my extroverted side by allowing me to meet new people almost every week, whether it be in classes or dining halls.

What are you interested in as a career?

Currently, I am unsure about what I am interested in pursuing as a career because I have not yet explored all the possibilities that accompanies Electrical Engineering. However, to stay informed, I am attending company info sessions and participating in summer research, in order to experience as much as I can.

