

Benjamin He

Fast Track Student of the Month

Interviewed by Kathy Daniels

Born:

Kansas City, Missouri

High School:

Lake Oswego High School, Lake Oswego, OR

Outside Interests:

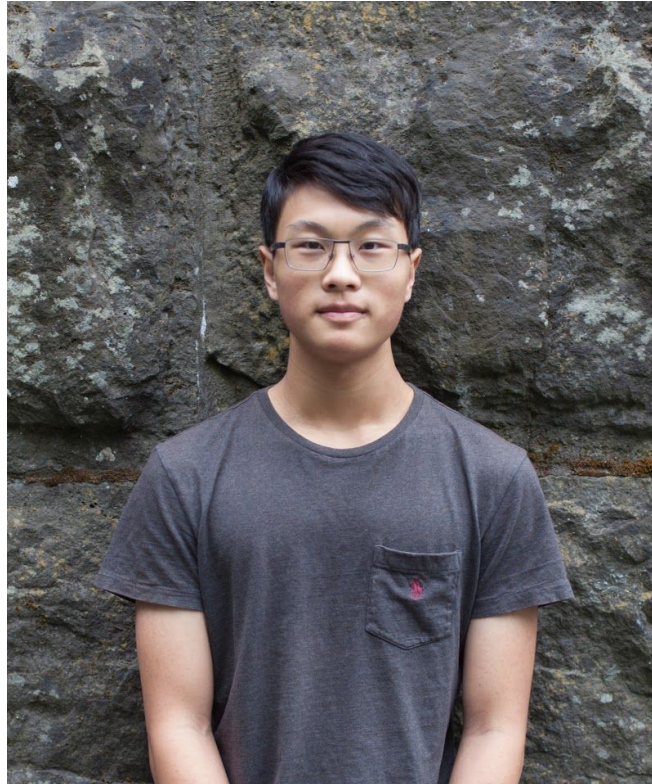
Tennis, food, skiing, video games

When did you know you wanted to be in EE?

Growing up, I had always found a particular interest in the fields of math and science, preferring to read books and watch videos of science-related topics over others. Near the end of high school, after doing a summer chemical engineering and a molecular genetics internship at MIT and OHSU, respectively, I was set on pursuing a career in STEM. When college applications came around, I finally decided to become an electrical engineer to help solve real-world problems with electronic technology, which I believe is at the forefront of the modern world.

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

The people who have influenced me the most by far are my parents, who are both chemical engineers. They were--and still are--very encouraging, and they helped me nurture my interests in science and technology.





Why did you choose the UCLA EE program?

I chose UCLA's EE program primarily due to the top-notch education, opportunities and resources provided by the EE department and UCLA as a whole. In the EE major here, there are many interesting classes to take, such as classes in machine learning or technology design/optimization. There are also several engineering-focused clubs like IEEE, DevX, ACM, and Bruin Racing in addition to

engineering honors organizations that provide students chances to interact with various technology companies and grow as engineers.

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

It was a bit overwhelming in the beginning, but I got used to it surprisingly quickly. With the initial shock gone, I've found that I really enjoy interacting with the enormous variety of people in this big campus. Because there are so many people, there are also countless clubs and organizations for me to pursue existing interests or discover new ones, which I really like.



What are you interested in as a career?

My current plan is to graduate with a BS in EE and find a job that involves robotics or perhaps optimizing the performance of electronic devices such as laptops and mobile phones. On the software side, I'm fascinated by artificial intelligence and machine learning, so pursuing a career centered around those topics is also appealing to me. However, I'm also considering applying to graduate school if I want to explore deeper subfields in EE within the topics I learn during my undergraduate studies.