

CIAN COSTELLO

Fast Track Student of the Month

Interviewed by Alex Baldauf



Birthplace

Mountain View, California

Hometown

Saratoga, California

Schooling

Saratoga High School

Interests

Soccer, piano, hiking, reading

Siblings

Twin sister Caitriona (19) and younger brother Aidan (12)

When did you know that you wanted to be an Electrical Engineer?

I have always been interested in the applications of math and science and I've had meaningful summer internships related to computer modeling and embedded systems. After working on a prototype for networked nano-satellites at NASA Ames Research Center, I joined UCLA's first CubeSat mission (ELFIN) during my freshman year. Ultimately, these hands-on experiences affirmed my interest in electrical engineering.

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

Both of my parents studied electrical engineering and they supported my interests in software development and hardware design. Throughout their careers, they exposed me to some of the applications of the field, and I saw that engineering provides opportunities for both personal and professional growth.





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

I really like the big campus -- there is never a shortage of things to do. I joined the Men's Club Soccer team to continue playing the sport that I've loved since I was 5 years old. The workout facilities are excellent and the dining halls are second to none. No matter your interests, you are sure to meet similar people, as well as students that have very different backgrounds and hobbies. Joining multiple organizations has made the school seem smaller, which has given me a group of close friends within the enormous student body.

Why did you choose the UCLA EE program?

The Fast Track Program offers personalized learning, academic advising, and career counseling (all things that would normally be found at a small private university) in the setting of a premier research institution. I couldn't turn down the chance to take honors classes (with only 20-30 students) while experiencing all of the benefits and resources of a large public school. The location in sunny Los Angeles was perfect and I was attracted to UCLA's atmosphere and supportive academic environment that would allow me to have a meaningful and enjoyable college experience.

What are you interested in as a career?

Although my past experiences have been related to the aerospace industry, I do not want to limit my future career opportunities. I have an interest in embedded software that can make an impact on the world. I'm not afraid to branch out and work on interdisciplinary projects that require me to develop skills that go beyond computer science and electrical engineering.

