

Cindy (Cece) Chang

Fast Track Student of the Month



Birthplace: Bozeman, Montana

Hometown: Springfield, Virginia

Highschool: Thomas Jefferson High School
for Science and Technology

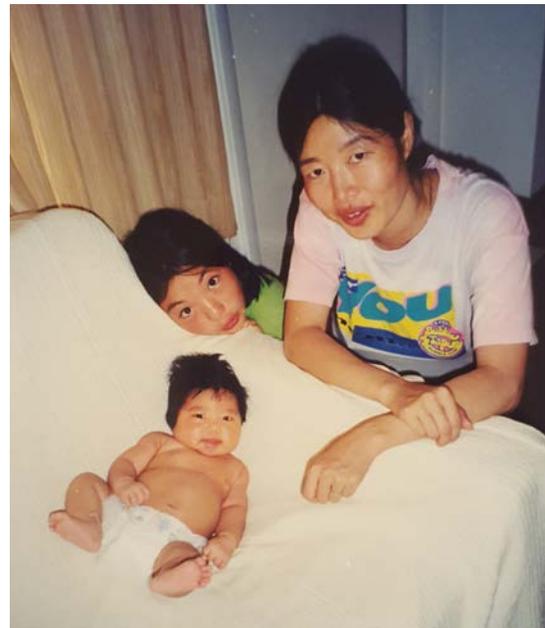
Outside Interests: Skiing, Art, Reading,
Traveling

Siblings: One older sister

When did you know you wanted to be ECE?

I grew up surrounded by physicists and engineers. Everyone in my family has a PhD, my parents in physics and my sister in electrical engineering. I always knew that I wanted to follow in their footsteps in the back of my mind, but I didn't realize I wanted to pursue electrical engineering until my freshman year in high school. Because my high school was focused on science, math, and technology, we were required to

take a Design and Technology course in the 9th grade. One of our projects was to design a robot that focused on maximizing either torque or speed. During this time, I developed an interest in coding and electrical circuits. I continued to explore this newfound interest through summer research internships and the subsequent courses I took during my high school career.



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

My sister, being 11 years older than I, has always been someone I looked up to. During her time at MIT's grad school, she would tell us about her research and the new things she learned. She always encouraged me to explore new things and helped cultivate my curiosity.

Why did you choose the UCLA EE Program?

I've always wanted to move to the west coast and experience a new environment with people who are passionate about what they do. Being accepted into the Fast Track Program also played an integral part in my college decision making. The opportunity of research as early as my freshman year and personal interactions with world class faculty were also driving forces behind my choice to move across the country for the next four years.



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

Coming here for the first time was slightly intimidating because of the large

scale of the campus; however, being part of clubs such as Bruin Racing and ACA has allowed me to meet a variety of interesting people. Fast Track has also played a role in making this large student population less daunting by bringing together a group of people with interests similar to mine.



What are you interested in as a career?

While I am certain that I want to pursue research in electrical engineering, I am undecided about which specialized field I want to pursue. Certain areas such as organic electronics and nanoelectronics interest me. I plan on making the most of the next couple years to explore the different areas of electrical engineering to find what best suits my interests.