

Fast Track Student of the Month: Andrew Chen

Interviewed by Alex Baldauf and Christine Chen



Birthplace: Rochester, New York

Hometown: Saratoga, California

Schooling: Saratoga High School, Saratoga, CA

Interests: Baseball, basketball, football, running, reading

Siblings: Two younger sisters Emily (17) and Caroline (16)

When did you know you wanted to be an EE?

It took me a while to really know that I wanted to be an EE. Academically, my strengths have always been in math and science, so I leaned towards engineering when picking a major. Electrical engineering appealed to me because it covered a broad range of subjects and had some cool applications in computers and other related technology. After my first year at UCLA, I feel that I made the right choice of major. I have had the opportunity to work on some really interesting projects, in classes like Engineering 96 and in clubs like IEEE. Having seen more of what opportunities exist as an EE, I am more confident that this is what I want for my future.

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

My father has probably influenced me the most in terms of choosing my academic field. He is also an electrical engineer, and he has helped pique my interest in this field. Although I have never been able to fully understand everything he does at work, he has helped expose me to possibilities that lie in electrical engineering.





Why did you choose the UCLA EE program?

For me, one of the main factors in choosing UCLA's EE program was the Fast Track program. It sounded like a promising opportunity and it has worked out well so far. I also really liked the location of Los Angeles, which was at a reasonable distance from my home in the Bay Area. Finally, I really enjoy watching sports, and UCLA has many successful teams to follow and cheer on.

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

I have enjoyed being on a big campus. There is always someone new for you to meet and there is enough diversity to find your niche. Being at a large university also improves school spirit, making sports games even more fun. But to avoid feeling overwhelmed by the size it is easy to find smaller groups and clubs that give you a sense of home and belonging.

What are you interested in as a career?

While it is difficult to say exactly what I hope to do in the future, I would be most interested in working on computer hardware of some sort. From the brief experience I have had with circuits, I have found them to be very fun to work with and hope to explore their wide ranging applications. Ultimately it would be really cool to contribute to a product or idea that makes a significant impact on society.



