

Fast Track Student of the Month: **Dana Tovey**

Interviewer: Andrew Yamisaki and Ria Qi

Birthplace: San Jose, California

Schooling: Los Gatos High School, Los Gatos, California

Interests outside of School: Basketball, basketball, and more basketball, hiking, eating unhealthy food



Siblings:

19-year-old sister named Nikita



When did you know you wanted to be an EE?

I really did not know I wanted to be an electrical engineer until the end of my first quarter here at UCLA. I had always been interested in math and science, and given that both of my parents are electrical engineers, following their footsteps seemed like a logical choice. My first exposure came from taking UCLA's Intro to Engineering Design

course, which gave me enough of a glimpse into what engineers can really accomplish for me to cement my decision.

Who has influenced you the most in your choice of electrical engineering as your major?

As shocking as it may sound, my electrical engineer parents had the greatest influence on my decision to study electrical engineering. They never explicitly encouraged me to make this decision, but they did pass on their passion for problem-solving to me. In addition, my hometown in the Silicon Valley also provided an environment that ignited my interest in electronics.



Why did you choose UCLA EE Fast Track program?

UCLA's well-regarded Electrical Engineering program was enough of an incentive alone for me to attend. Being admitted into the Fast Track program only solidified my desire to join UCLA. I also liked the idea of staying in California, and there are few cities less conducive to a fun college experience and an abundance of employment opportunities than Los Angeles.

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

Because many of my classes are in the same general area of campus, I often forget just how big this school is. It is only when I am tasked with showing family or friends around UCLA that I realize how little of this enormous place I have actually explored. I think students can make this campus as big or small as they wish; its "size" is dependent on how far away from their structured daily routine they are willing to roam.

What are you interested in as a career?

There are so many applications for electrical engineering and I have so little current knowledge of the field that I cannot really say what I hope to do yet. Given my love for basketball and sports of all kinds, however, my ideal career would see me working on products that merge electrical engineering with athletics.

