

Fast Track Student of the Month: Gannon Earhart

Interviewed by Michelle Du and Julian Mendel

Born: Herndon, Virginia

Went to School at: Malibu High School, Malibu, California

Interests Outside of School: I do a lot of mathematics self-study, especially with graph theory, proof-based calculus, and geometry. I spend the majority of my time, however, practicing and performing with my band DUME, in which I play drums and trade lead vocal duties with our guitarist. I've played with this band for almost 6 years now, and we've played at lots of different venues all over Los Angeles. We're going to be entering a recording studio over the break to lay down 8 or 9 songs for an eventual online release, so stay tuned and check us out!



When did you know you wanted to be an EE major?

I had known pretty much my whole life that I would want to go into a hard STEM field, mostly just because I felt very adept with math and science early on. My desire to help create and build things came from my high school experiences with robotics and modeling, and engineering, I felt, is a fantastic way to apply the skills I had attained. Out of all of the fields of engineering, I felt I would do best as an electrical engineer because the study requires a very strong math and physics background, two subjects that on their own interest me greatly.

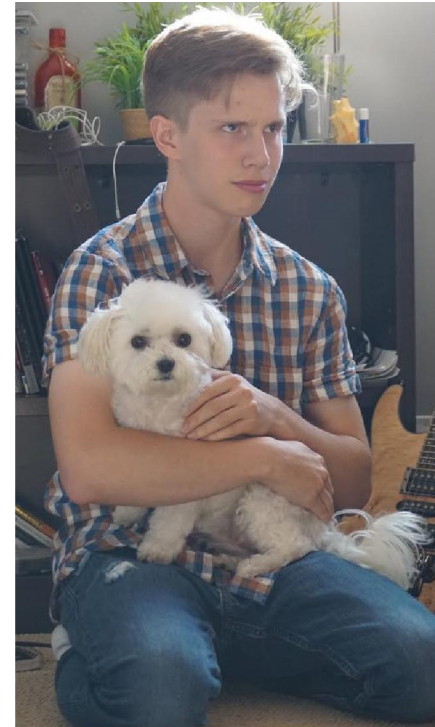


Why did you choose the UCLA EE program?

UCLA certainly has no shortage of benefits, but for me specifically, it is nice to be attending a university that is still very close to home and allows me to continue on with many of my pre-college extracurricular activities. In addition to the fact that UCLA is an incredibly prestigious and revered research and learning institution, attending here has allowed me to continue working at my part-time job and continue to rehearse and perform with my band, towards which I devote a lot of my personal time.

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

This person would undoubtedly be my math teacher in my senior year of high school, Mr. Henry Wadsworth. He led a 5-person class over the course of one year through a phenomenal introduction to multivariable calculus as well as a first course in linear algebra. It was an unorthodoxly structured class, with many days being spent simply as a class trying to work through each new section in our book completely on our own, working through and learning proofs and theorems as a group rather than simply being taught in a traditional manner. Mr. Wadsworth helped me understand the nature of guided self-exploration into math and the sciences, which has inspired me to try and self-teach myself many important key concepts I will utilize in my time as an engineer.



What are you interested in as a career?

I have no doubt that my experiences in the EE department will help shape my career interests before I finish my degree, but as of right now I feel like I could best apply my academic aptitude in combination with my personal skills to become an educator, at any level. It would truly be a fulfilling experience to pass on my knowledge and help get more students interested and involved in electrical engineering. I also am fascinated with computer architecture and am greatly looking forward to my first experiences with computer science next quarter.