Katherine Nasif

UCLA Fast Track – Student of the Month – 2021

Hometown: Mountain View, CA

High School: Los Altos High School

Interests Outside of School: Music, Long Distance Running, Climbing Tall Things & Meeting New People

Siblings: A little brother

What inspired you to become an electrical engineer?

When I was applying to college, I wanted to pick a major that would allow me to work in literally any sector. I knew engineering was the right choice for me because I loved my experience as a FIRST robotics student (shoutout to Team 114!) and I had experience with hobby electronics in high school, so I figured why not electrical engineering?

Who inspires you?

Luckily, I have many people in my life who never fail to inspire me. I have an Aunt and Uncle who work in aerospace engineering whose hard work and dedication to their projects inspires me to work hard in my studies. I have a motivated group of friends who continuously encourages me to pursue my ambitions, and I have amazing professors who believe and me and help me

This is me! I am probably happy after finishing my last zoom class of the day. A positive aspect of online learning has been that I have had a lot of free time to dedicate to personal projects that I never had in high school. Online learning has its challenges, but I am still able to meet new people through various clubs and organizations on campus.

pursue my career goals. Being surrounded by brilliant people at UCLA constantly pushes me to work as hard as I can myself as well, though it can be intimidating at times.

Why did you choose UCLA EE?

I knew I wanted to live in Southern California while applying to college, so UCLA was actually my top school! I was overjoyed when I got a letter inviting me to the Fast Track, and summer research sealed the deal for me. Although I have not been on campus yet, I hear campus is beautiful and the student life is amazing. I am looking forward to experiencing it whenever we can!

How has your time at UCLA been so far?

My time as a Bruin has been great even though learning has been remote. I joined IEEE at UCLA, which is well-organized club that has provided students with hands on experience despite the pandemic. I love being a part of the Micromouse project and have learned PCB design, hardware programming, and PID loop implementation through it. I am

also implementing a floodfill algorithm to help our mouse navigate the maze. My favorite classes so far have been the physics honors series as well as the Engineering 96C class because I can see those classes being particularly applicable to EE in general. I have also started doing remote research in Doctor Wentai Liu's Biomimetics lab this quarter and am currently learning the nitty gritty of EEG signals processing to detect early-onset Alzheimer's Disease. I look forward to experiencing campus life though whenever I get that chance, but I will look back on this year fondly.

Do you have any career goals?

I am still defining what I really want to do, but I think I would like to work in the biomedical or climate science fields. I am really interested in signals processing for applications and embedded systems, but I also really enjoy physics and its various applications! However, as I take upper division EE courses, I am sure I will continue to refine my interests further and understand what exactly I want to pursue.