Kathy Daniels

Fast Track Student of the Month

Interviewed by Nathan Chen and Michaella Baltazar

Born: Los Angeles, California

High School: Westview High School, San Diego, CA

Outside Interests: Graphic Design, Animation, Music, Traveling

When did you know you wanted to be in EE?

I didn't know I wanted to go into electrical engineering until my senior year. I was initially leaning towards bioengineering, but I eventually realized that electrical engineering would be the best option for me as it's a much broader field and I have the freedom to take it in many different directions.

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

Both of my parents are STEM majors, so I naturally grew up loving science and engineering. My mom graduated with a computer science degree and has always encouraged me to explore electrical engineering, as it is an extremely versatile major and can lead me to many opportunities in the world of technology. She was the main reason I ultimately decided to choose EE, and I'm still really glad I did.

Why did you choose the UCLA EE program?
The UCLA EE program has a lot of great resources and opportunities for undergraduates to do research, which I am very much interested in. The engineering clubs and organizations on campus also offer countless opportunities for networking, projects, mentoring, tutoring, and more.

How has it been being on a big campus so far?
The transition to college was actually pretty difficult at first; getting used to the lifestyle, freedom, and workload was a lot for me to take in. But over time, I feel like I've found what works best for me, and things have gotten a lot less overwhelming. Despite all this, UCLA has always been my dream school, so being here is always really exciting. I love the Los Angeles area and it's not too far away from home!

What are you interested in as a career?
I'm not completely sure at the moment, but I am very interested in exploring the interface between electrical engineering and the biomedical field. I would also be very interested in working with artificial intelligence and machine learning.