

Nathan Chen

Fast Track Student of the Month

Interviewed by Michaella Baltazar and Pranav Balgi

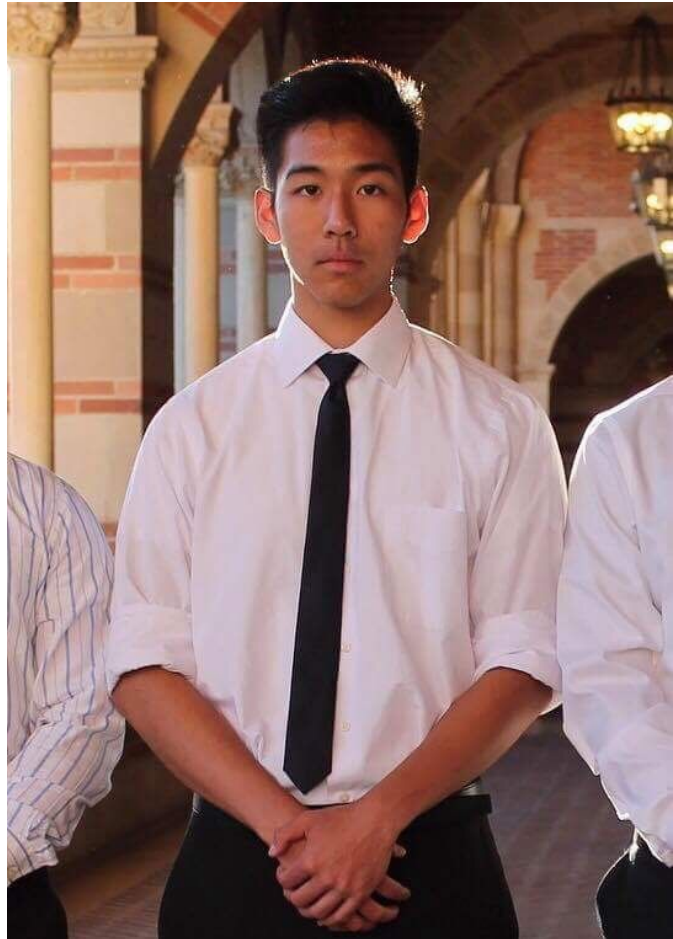
Born: January 14, 1999

High School: Lynbrook High School

Outside Interests: music, fitness

When did you know you wanted to be in EE?

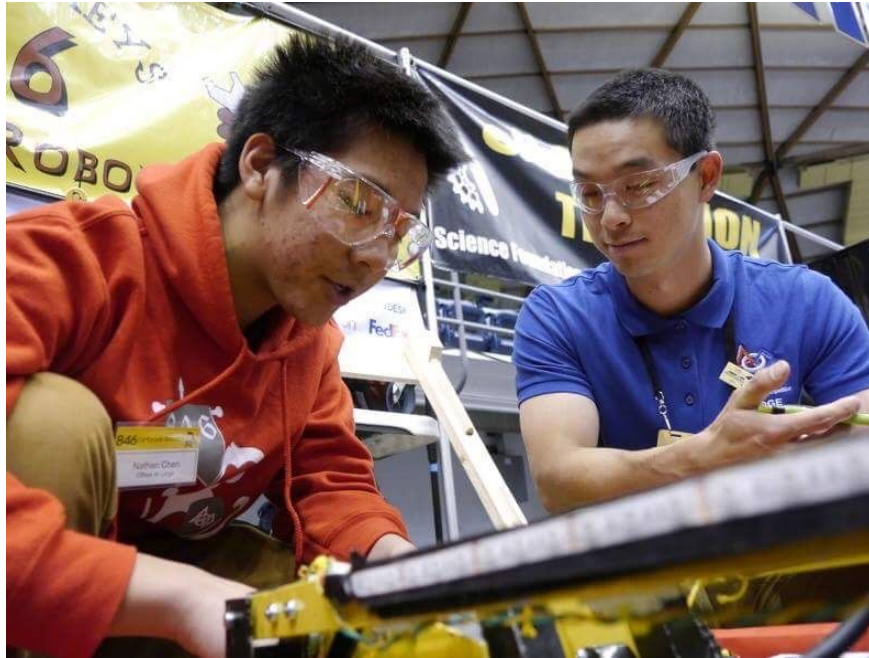
I got interested in EE when I came to UCLA for a month-long engineering summer program after 10th grade. I was assigned to a group that focused on electrical engineering, and I found the hands-on aspects such as making circuits very intriguing. What solidified my passion for EE was my involvement with my high school robotics team during 11th and 12th grade. I applied what I learned at UCLA over the summer and designed/fabricated printed circuit boards from scratch, while installing and troubleshooting sensors on our robots for competitions. Ever since, I've known that I wanted to be in EE.



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

One of the speakers I met at an event for new admittees to the University of Illinois mentioned that he used EE to pursue his passion in music. He specialized in signal processing and applied the concepts he learned to designing speaker systems in cars. I am an audiophile, so after talking to this

speaker I realized that I had found an intersection between two of my passions: EE and music.



Why did you choose the UCLA EE program?

I chose the UCLA EE program because I the opportunities available for undergraduate research appealed to me. In addition, the lab spaces available for tinkering were a big selling point.

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

I enjoy the extra walking that is necessary on a large campus; I get a light workout in the morning every day.

What are you interested in as a career?

I am interested in designing headphones, speakers, and sound systems in the future, but I am also interested in startups, venture capitalism, and designing smart devices back home in Silicon Valley.