Rachel Yen



Hometown: Milpitas, CA Hobbies: Dancing, Hiking, Baking

Hello! My name is Rachel Yen and I am a second year electrical engineering major in the Fast Track program at UCLA. In high school, I was in various school clubs and activities including Color Guard, Winter Guard, and Chinese Club, as well as outside organizations such as Formosa Association of Student Cultural Ambassadors (FASCA), Tri-City Band Corps (TBC), Girl Scouts, Wisdom Culture and Education Organization (WCEO), and MathEasy TutorBridge. In my free time, I like to dance, take long walks, listen to music, explore TV shows, and read romance comedy novels.

Why did you choose ECE?

I had always favored STEM, and after watching the entirety of Star Trek Voyager, Deep Space 9, and Enterprise, I chose to take Introduction to Python at my local community college, as well as AP Computer Science A and AP Physics 2 in high school to explore my interest in engineering. Being able to combine my knowledge from these classes into making sense of technology and its behavior highly intrigued me and prompted me to pursue electrical engineering.

How are you involved at UCLA?

At UCLA, I have become involved with my major through various design courses, for example E96I: Internet of Things. In this course, we utilized embedded systems and neural networks, and I collaborated with a partner to program a SensorTile to recognize motions made by the user and guide a Pac-man avatar to move in a randomized maze. We learned and coded in C while completing the project and concluded with creating a video detailing the aspects of our project.

What projects are you taking on in your own time?

In my own time, I participate in IEEE projects as well as research in the Sensors and Technology Lab (STL) under Professor Rob Candler. With IEEE, I previously participated in the Open Project Space (OPS), where I built various small projects with components such as the Arduino Uno, 555 Timers, and a HC-05 Bluetooth module. This year, I'm a part of the Digital Design, Architecture, and Verification (DAV) project, where we are using sequential logic, Fourier transforms, and signal processing to program a VGA display with graphics that reflect real-world signals. This past summer in STL, I simulated magnetic shields for superconducting devices, and worked with different designs to change parameters to optimize shielding factors.



What are your career and educational goals?

In the future, I hope to enter a graduate program and receive my master's degree before entering industry. I'm looking forward to pursuing a career in the semiconductor part of electrical engineering with a focus in chip design and development. Outside of academics, I am having a great time getting to know Southern California and meeting new friends! Visiting LA's beaches and other attractions, as well as UCLA's campus itself, has made me fall in love with my new life at college. I love spending my time exploring all the corners of this new world with my friends, whether it's a planned trip to a well-known tourist location, or just spontaneous adventures to someplace we've never been before. My current favorite spot that I've visited is Will Rogers State Park!



I can't wait to further my engineering skills, explore more of LA, and see how the rest of my university experience plays out!

Extracurriculars!