

Fast Track Student of the Month

Serene Kamal

Interviewed by Michelle Du and Gannon Earhart



Born in: San Gabriel, CA

Went to school at: Arcadia High School, Arcadia, CA

Interests outside of school: hiking, traveling, reading, playing piano

Siblings: Three older sisters (ages 26, 26, and 28)

What influenced you to choose EE?

Two of my older sisters graduated as EE's in 2012, and as a kid I always looked up to them. After researching career opportunities for different majors, I realized how versatile engineering is and decided to start out with EE.

What made you decide to stay in EE?

Last quarter, I joined two projects within IEEE: OPS and Advanced Projects. With OPS I got my first experience soldering, and in Advanced Projects I coded in Arduino for the first time and worked on getting two MCU's to communicate through radio. As IEEE is more directly applicable to EE than Multivariable Calculus or Physics (Mechanics), I based my decision to stay in EE more on my experiences with IEEE than on my classes. Although doing EE definitely takes a lot of hard work, I think it's way more worthwhile and rewarding than other majors.



Why did you choose UCLA?

I guess I didn't mention it, but the same sisters that are EE's are also Bruins. I remember visiting them when I was around 10 years old and being awestruck by how nice the campus was. The positive environment and energy at UCLA is definitely one of the main reasons I came here.

Where do you come from? What did you do in high school?

I've lived in Southern California my entire life, and I went to Arcadia High School. I played clarinet in the marching band there for all four years, and we won first place at SCSBOA Championships my junior year. I was also President of the Peer Tutoring and Outreach program for two years.



So, hardware or software?

Recruiters always ask that, but I haven't decided yet! Before I decide, I'd like to get more experience. By the end of the year I'll have built a quadcopter with Advanced Projects, and I'll also have finished taking my second Computer Science class, so hopefully I'll know by then.

