Loic Billaut

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

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Why did I choose UCLA ECE ?

I chose UCLA ECE because of the fast track program, as well as its collaborative environment. Through fast track, I'm able to take honors classes and work on projects with this amazing group. I've come to really like my honors classes because they never exceed a few dozen students. Since most of the class is fast track students, a lot of camaraderie and collaboration has formed through the quarters, and I'm very grateful to be a part of it.

How am I involved at UCLA?

I'm currently a part of three clubs at UCLA: IEEE, CRUX, and the Men's Ultimate Frisbee Club. In IEEE, I've been working on a digital audio visualizer with Joshua Burpee - one of my friends in fast track. The project's main learning curve involves programming an FPGA in System Verilog using Intel's Quartus Software. Crux is UCLA's neurotech club, and my group has been working on implementing a BCI (brain computer interface) with a simple robotic arm. Ultimately, the goal is to demonstrate how this type of interface could be extended to brain-controlled prosthetics. Finally, much of my time is consumed by Ultimate. UCLA's club team is a competitive team that travels across the country to compete at high level tournaments. Currently we're ranked 14th in the nation and we're hoping to make a deep run at nationals this year.

What are my educational and career goals?

As a first year, I think it's important to stay open and explore as many different paths as I can before choosing one. So, until my later years in college, my goal is to take any classes I find interesting and land diverse lab and internship opportunities.