2015 – 2016 Tutor Bios
UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science Engineering Science Corps Outreach Programs

Arely Acosta
Chemical Engineering
4th year undergraduate

Hi! My name is Arely Acosta. I'm a fourth year Chemical Engineering student at UCLA. I graduated from Riverside Poly High School in 2012. I attended Riverside Community College before transferring to UCLA in 2014 and I am planning to pursue a career in the biomedical or biotechnology field after graduation. I am currently a member of the CEED program and the Society Of Latino Engineers and Scientists. I enjoy reading fiction and listening to music in my free time. I'm looking forward to help you with any questions you have and also hope to learn a thing or two from you.

Adam Andrews
Bioengineering
3rd year undergraduate

Hey there! I'm Adam Andrews, a third year Biomedical Engineering student planning on attending medical school and currently attending UCLA. I grew up in Lake Forest, California. I attended El Toro High School and Irvine Valley College, concurrently, earning my Associate in Social and Behavioral Sciences, and shortly after, my high school diploma. How did I earn the privilege of attending UCLA? I'd say that I'm very lucky in knowing, from an early age, that math and science were my passion. Although proficient in English, history, etc., those subjects were not the ones that engaged my mind to the degree math and science did. I'm glad to say that it was passion that earned me not only the test scores and grades, but drove me to participate in extracurricular activities and service that made me a competitive applicant to this great university.

Some hobbies of mine include Scouting, service, and tutoring. I also like to read and play video games. I love UCLA Engineering because it poses me with challenges that lead to growth. I've seen that challenges always come attached with opportunities to overcome them. I welcome both. My hope is that by participating in the Online Tutoring and Mentoring Program, I'll be able to answer questions not only about coursework and testing, but about anything else pertaining to engineering, especially here at UCLA.
Krishna Babu
Civil & Environmental Engineering
2nd year undergraduate

My name is Krishna Babu and I am a second year undergraduate civil engineering major, from the Bay Area. At UCLA, I love admiring the beautiful buildings and living in such an inspiring and diverse environment. I enjoy figuring out puzzles and am fascinated by the idea of making such a vast diversity of creations from just a few materials and minds. Besides school, I love music and have been learning classical Hindustani music and playing the harmonium. I’m excited to see students come together and develop a community of learning.

Calvin Brown
Electrical Engineering
Doctoral student

My name is Calvin Brown and I’m a first-year PhD student in Electrical Engineering. I earned my bachelor's degree at UC Berkeley in Engineering Physics, and before that I attended Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, California. My major at Berkeley allowed me a lot of freedom and I was able to build a strong physics knowledge base while also learning about its applications in different branches of engineering. I love electrical engineering because it makes possible some of the most impressive creations of modern humanity, e.g. radio communication, computation, and digital imaging. At Cal I served on the Engineering Student Council; conducted research in several areas, including blood flow analysis in the brains of stroke patients and nanoscale device fabrication; and was an active member of Triangle Fraternity. My favorite part of UCLA engineering is how well interdisciplinary research is enabled: there are sky bridges between all of the engineering buildings, which makes collaboration easy. For my lab in particular (Professor Ozcan), we even work with the UCLA Medical Center (just two blocks away) to test our imaging/sensing devices with patients. On weekends I enjoy backpacking, electric guitar, and college football. This year, I’m looking forward to helping lots of students get a better understanding of what exactly engineering is, and whether it is the right choice for them.

Claire Buzzelli
Chemical Engineering
1st year undergraduate

Claire Buzzelli is a freshman Chemical Engineering student from the Central Valley. She spent a lot of time in high school tutoring chemistry and math in her capacity as a French tutor. Thus far at UCLA, Claire has joined the American Initiate of Chemical Engineers and the Engineering Society of UCLA (also a Nerdfighteria and tea club, but that's not engineering-focused). She plans on rushing for the professional engineering fraternity Theta Tau but is not yet old enough. When she’s not in class or tutoring, she is probably eating, sleeping, or playing the flute. Combinations of these activities are rare but not unheard of. These activities may always combine with the watching of Doctor Who. Claire decided to be an engineer because she likes solving puzzles and has no common sense whatsoever outside of the knowledge obtained through AP science curriculum.
I'm Ryan Cheng and I'm from the Bay Area. I attended Acalanes high school in Lafayette, CA. Currently, I'm a first year civil and environmental engineering major, however, I'm looking to switch into chemical engineering. Personally, UCLA was always the school for me. The combination of high-level academics, athletics, and social life is unprecedented. However, my favorite aspect of UCLA is the thousands of easily-accessible opportunities. There is never a dull day at UCLA because there is always something to do. I look forward to helping younger students get excited about science, technology, engineering, and math.

Hi, my name is Emanuel Espinoza, a third year electrical engineering student at UCLA hoping to pursue a career in medical devices. I went to high school at University Preparatory in Victorville, CA. I chose UCLA because of its large haven of medical research, but immediately fell in love with the spirit of the campus: a bustling enthusiasm the likes of which I have not encounter at any other university I've visited. During my time here I have invested heavily in undergraduate research and have come to miss some of the high school hobbies I left behind: tutoring in this case. I am entirely confident that many of you are capable, talented engineers who need all the insight you can get in setting yourself on the right track; and I intend to help you do just that.
Thanks;
Emanuel

Hey everyone! My name is Derek Estrella and I am currently a fourth-year Chemical Engineering major. I am involved in the American Institute of Chemical Engineering (AIChE), Pilipinos in Engineering (PIE), and Samahang Pilipino Cultural Night on campus.
I have many hobbies, which include basketball, photography/videography, hip-hop dancing, Super Smash Bros Melee, and Japanese animation. UCLA engineering gives you access to a lot of amazing clubs, professors, and opportunities that many places do not, and that's why I love being here. I look forward to helping you in way to better your high school experience while it lasts!
Hi! My name’s Henry Garcia, and I’m a fourth year chemical engineering student attending lovely UCLA. I went to La Sierra High School in Riverside, and after three years of being here at UCLA, I’m excited to share with you my experiences and answer any questions you have about your homework and/or what UCLA has been like for me. I’m part of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and the Engineering Society of UCLA (ESUC), and I spent part of my first year at UCLA on a team of engineering majors that built a small car that ran by itself just on chemical reactions! Some other work I’ve done included making stronger composite materials with carbon nanotubes, producing renewable energy from seawater, and I’m currently working on using nanoparticles to target and destroy cancer cells in the human body. Aside from the more professional parts of my student life, I enjoy playing basketball, tennis, hiking, and rock climbing. I’m also an aspiring recreational lock picker and card manipulator, so if you have any expertise in fiddling with tension wrenches and playing cards, I could use a mentor in those areas as well! What I enjoy most about UCLA is the diversity of the people you meet here. What you get out of your time here comes from what you put into it, and it might take a little breaking out of your comfort zone to share stories with others and enrich yourself personally, but UCLA’s campus environment caters directly to and helps you with that. Speaking of diversity, I’m looking forward to talking to and meeting with you, and I hope we can take time to share homework problems, stories, and advice. I’m looking forward to hearing from you!

Hello! My name is Ron and I'm a second year chemical engineering major with a biomolecular concentration at UCLA. I'm originally from the Bay Area so if I say "hella" or talk about how cold it is where I am from, I don't mean to annoy you. I like to go hiking and play guitar, but recently I've been more interested in Netflix and just kicking back. Personally, engineering and science can sometimes be difficult and I completely understand. I used to HATE algebra back in the 7th grade. I mean the whole arithmetic thing was ok, but once they started adding the alphabet it sucked so much. I was tutored and that helped me not only do well, but see the applications it had (algebra is actually useful(I use it in my lab reports)). Hopefully I can do the same and make you see how awesome science and especially engineering really is.
Sadie Larson  
Electrical Engineering  
1st year undergraduate

My name is Sadie Jo Li Larson. I graduated from Beaumont High School in the spring of 2015. I am currently a first year electrical engineering major at UCLA - Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. My journey towards attending UCLA included speaking with alumni and current students about the benefits that UCLA provides its students with. I am currently signed up for the Institute of Electric and Electronics Engineering OPS program and a member of the Society of Women Engineers. In my free time I enjoy practicing ballet, pointe, and contemporary dance. I love that UCLA's School of Engineering provides me with endless opportunities for my future career because of the sort of family that the environment creates. There are endless amount of opportunities to socialize with people in every department which allows for a large networking system. I am looking forward to promoting engineering to students because it is a field worth looking into. I hope to inspire students who may not be the best in math or science to still be interested in the field because it is more than that: it includes designing, creativity, communication skills and more.

Jonathan Lee  
Chemical Engineering  
3rd year undergraduate

My name is Jonathan Lee, and I am a third year undergraduate chemical engineering major. I've lived in SoCal my whole life and graduated from Diamond Bar High School in 2013. Here at UCLA, I am an active member of Theta Tau, which is a professional co-ed engineering fraternity that encourages brotherhood, service, and professional development. Although I am a chemical engineering major, I have a great interest in computer science, and some hobbies of mine include badminton, playing the piano and alto sax, and video games. I am looking forward to working with high school students to teach them the wonders of engineering.

Qixuan Li  
Undeclared Engineering  
2nd year undergraduate

Hey there! My name is Qixuan Li(Right now you may wondering how to pronounce my name...don't worry, just call me Michael!) I'm currently a second year undeclared engineering major, but I'm thinking about becoming a chemical engineer. I grew up in Beijing and attended 2nd High School Attached to Beijing Normal University.I decide to go to UCLA because my older cousin is an engineering student here and he tells me a lot about all those amazing things in UCLA. I enjoy running, playing badminton, video games and guitar. I like UCLA engineering because it has taught me many problem-solving skills that are useful in both exams and in real life. I'm really looking forward to help you out with any problems you may have, and to learn something about US high schools from you guys!
**Simon Liang**  
Computer Science (and Engineering)  
4th year undergraduate

My name is Simon Liang, a fourth year undergraduate studying Computer Science at UCLA. I was born in San Francisco, CA but grew up in Santa Rosa (about an hour north of SF) where I graduated from the aptly named Santa Rosa High School.

I am a member of Tau Beta Pi and Upsilon Pi Epsilon (both are engineering honors societies) and have been actively involved in tutoring incoming undergraduates and providing assistance with their lower division courses. In terms of hobbies, I enjoy playing the piano, watching TV, and playing video games. I also play badminton occasionally when the courts are open at our gym (free to all UCLA students!). I look forward to meeting all of you online and hopefully in person as well!

---

**Erika Lingo**  
Chemical Engineering  
4th year undergraduate

Hello! My name is Erika Lingo, and I was born and raised in San Diego, California. I attended Poway High School before going to UCLA, where I am now in my fourth year, studying chemical engineering! In high school, my favorite classes were math and chemistry, and that is why I decided to study chemical engineering. I love music and was a member of the UCLA marching band for two years! Outside of school, I enjoy logic puzzles (Sudoku, minesweeper, etc.), watching baseball, and being outside - I especially enjoy hiking and running. My favorite thing about UCLA is the diversity - you meet so many people from different cultures and perspectives. My favorite part about engineering is that it applies to our daily lives and explains a lot of things around us; it also has the potential to affect lots of lives, which is very rewarding! I am looking forward to helping you all and to share with you my passion for math and science - best of luck!
Yao Liu  
Civil & Environmental Engineering  
Master's student

My name is Yao Liu and I am from China. This is my first year as a graduate student at UCLA. I graduated from Bucksport High School in 2011 and then I attended University of Maine to pursue my Bachelor Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. During my senior year at Umaine, I decided to continue to pursue my master degree at Civil and Environmental Engineering. I had applied several schools and chose UCLA at the end; because UCLA has a very good reputation in the structural engineering field.

I joined ASCE and Chi Epsilon at UMaine, and I am looking forward to participating their activities and events at UCLA.

I usually stay at my room during my free time: watching TV program, reading comic book, doing my homework, and sometimes trying to learn new software. I also play instrument like Erhu (an Chinese traditional instrument) and learn new traditional instruments for fun.

I always think engineer is a pretty cool job and these people always come out some cool things. Engineers tend to spend their time solving the problems, overcoming the challenges and creating a new way to make things better. That is why I like my major and why I think it is cool. It is fun to do all these works and it also will bring you senses of satisfaction and accomplishment.

By attending the Online Tutoring & Mentoring Program, I hope to know more people, and let people know that although math and science sometimes are hard and challenge, but it is fun and interesting. To become part of this group, I can improve my skill in explanation while helping others. And I like teaching!! Joining this program will definitely be a meaningful and important experience for me.

Katie Luangkote  
Computer Science (and Engineering)  
1st year undergraduate

Hi. I'm Katie Luangkote, originally from Fullerton, CA where I attended Troy High School. I am now currently a freshman majoring at Computer Science at UCLA.

I first became interested in CS because of Troy Tech, a four year computer science program at my high school. Through this program, I was also able to gain internship experience as a software engineer. I also attended several programming competitions and recently attended my first hackathon.

In my free time, I also like to play tennis and practice guitar and piano. I'm also an enthusiast of trying new foods and drinks.

UCLA is a great place for engineering because it is a very collaborative and supportive environment for both beginners and experts alike. I hope to bring that sort of support to the high school level and encourage more students to become an engineer.
Hi! I'm Julia Lund and I am a fourth year (senior) student at UCLA, majoring in Materials Science and Engineering. I am originally from NorCal, so I went to a high school near Sacramento. When I began applying for colleges I chose to major in engineering because I really liked math when I was in high school. I also, however, felt passionate about finding a way to help people in whatever profession I ended up in. Engineering seemed like the perfect way to use the skills I was good at to help solve some of peoples’ and the world's biggest obstacles. I did not know, however, what specific pathway I wanted to take with engineering. Medical, environmental, and mechanical were all topics I considered. Materials science is what I landed on because it allows a lot of variation in career paths - nearly every form of engineering requires some type of materials science! I'm very glad that I chose the major I did because I have the opportunity with Materials Science and Engineering to learn about all the different forms of engineering and the way that the materials chosen or created for different applications have significant impact. In my free time I like to read, go hiking, explore LA, watch movies, and hang out with friends! I'm so excited to get to know you guys and hopefully help you figure out what major might be the best fit for you.

Ingrid Mattinger
Electrical Engineering
2nd year undergraduate

My name is Flavio, I am from Brazil, lived there my whole life and now I am pursuing my PhD degree in Electrical Engineering at UCLA.

Shashank Narayana Gowda
Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Doctoral student

Shashank N Gowda from Bangalore, India. I studied in C M R National Public School. Currently I am a first year doctorate student in Mechanical Engineering at UCLA. I did my undergraduate in Mechanical Engineering at National Institute of Technology Karnataka, India. I took part in a few engineering projects mostly on Micro electro mechanical systems (MEMS), mechanisms and fluid dynamics. I used to play a lot of soccer and DOTA 2. Now, I just try different sports and read a few biographies, novels and manga. I took engineering cause I liked science and math a lot. Now I like engineering a lot more because my work at UCLA could make a positive impact on the world. I have some experience teaching students math and basic engineering in India. I wish to know the differences in the learning and teaching culture here. The satisfaction in inspiring students is overwhelming. I hope to do so.
Hi everyone! My name is Helia (pronounced like the second element on the periodic table, Helium). I attended Schurr High School in Montebello, and I am currently a fourth-year Chemical Engineering student at UCLA. However, I did not start out as an engineer. Like most of the incoming freshmen population here at UCLA (or any college), I wasn’t sure where my passion lied or even what I wanted to do; all I knew was that I wanted to use my knowledge to help people and to better society as a whole, so I just chose to be pre-med and majored in Biochemistry because it’s the “easiest” way to directly influence others and even help end suffering. Towards the middle of my first year though, I realized that medical school might not be the path for me—not because of my grades, but because I realize that I’m not satisfied with just knowing how to do something. I wanted to know exactly why and how something works and apply these concepts to solve real-world problems and create something that can benefit all of society. So, I came to a conclusion that I wanted to switch in engineering. As for why chemical engineering? Well, I love chemistry (yes, it was as simple as that). But, as the years progressed, I realized that I really wanted to do something about the environment—human beings are not the only ones who are suffering, but all of Earth’s organisms are in agony because of what we are doing to the planet. As such, I decided to pursue a career in either the alternative energy or pollution control field. This summer, I helped Northrop Grumman improve their on-site wastewater treatment plant to decrease pollution rates. I am currently working alongside graduate students to make biofuel a more viable option as an alternative fuel source. I am also in Tau Beta Pi, the nationally-recognized honor society for engineers, and we strive to help all undergraduate engineers succeed in their college career. Of course, this doesn’t mean I’m all “work,” and no “play.” In my free time, I enjoy playing online computer games and watching anime. I also recently picked up archery at UCLA, so please let me know if you have any pointers for me! I think I’ve rambled enough about myself; this program is about all of you! I look forward to helping you find and develop into the person you want to be, and, of course, hearing all your stories along the way!

My name is Kushal Nimkar, and I am a freshman studying chemical engineering. I went to high school at Henry M. Gunn high school in Palo Alto. I am part of AIChE’s chapter in UCLA, and will participate in the Chem-E-car project. In my free time I like to read the news, run long distances, and play classical music on the piano. What struck me about UCLA is how friendly all the people I have met have been and the fact they are all eager to help you if you ask. For that reason, I am excited to participate in the Online Tutoring and Mentoring Program because I get to lend a hand, just like how others at UCLA have done for me.
Kelly Nocon  
Chemical Engineering  
3rd year undergraduate  

My name is Kelly Nocon, I am a native of San Diego, attended Valhalla High School, and am currently in my third year of study for a Chemical Engineering degree at UCLA. In my two fulls years here, I have spent extensive time in activities outside of my coursework. For exercise and stress relief, I've been a member of intramural Futsal, Soccer, and Dodgeball teams. I also took tennis lessons and spent time on the student tennis club. Additionally, I've been a member of AIChe, The American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and am currently a member of the organization's technical project, "ChemE-Car." The project goal is to develop a small car powered entirely by chemical reactions that will be submitted in a regional later this year.Outside of these activities, you can often find me at the movie theater in Westwood, or at a local coffee shop reading. I also enjoy playing music, and like to spend time practicing on a piano if I can find one to play. Further, I am a big sports fan and often spend free time on weekends watching my local San Diego Chargers or attending a UCLA football game.
I've come to appreciate the fact that at UCLA you are never without a challenge and that upon completion of one, there is always another just as stimulating and just as difficult endeavor to tackle. I am looking forward to working as a tutor and a mentor because during my time in high school, I often had questions that went without answers and often found myself unchallenged. I hope that this opportunity will allow me to answer some of your questions, like mine, that aren't necessarily covered in the curriculum and to encourage to you to think critically as you continue to pursue your interest in engineering.

Emily Paluch  
Materials Science  
3rd year undergraduate  

My name is Emily Paluch. I am originally from Altadena, California which is just north of Pasadena. I attended La Salle High School, graduating in 2013. I am currently a third year materials engineering undergraduate at UCLA. I chose UCLA after participating in their High School Summer Research Program during the summer before my senior year in high school. I was placed in a hybrid materials lab in the Materials Science Department and assisted in some research involving zinc oxide. I had a wonderful experience which taught me a great deal about what to expect from an engineering education and helped me decide to apply to UCLA as a materials engineering major. I am currently the Outreach Director for the Society of Women Engineers as well as the Social Director for the Materials Research Society. I am also involved in a research project regarding solar technology this year. Besides my involvement in engineering clubs and projects, I have a passion for filmmaking, specifically screenwriting. My first year at UCLA, I wrote a short film for the Film and Photography Society; the film advanced to the finals at UCLA's fall film festival. Ultimately, I truly love how diverse UCLA is as a community. I am able to meet brilliant professors and fellow students in my field of engineering, but I also have the opportunities to work on student film sets with north campus majors. In regards to the Online Tutoring & Mentoring Program, I am looking forward to being your resource for questions regarding your classes, projects, and any inquiries you might have regarding engineering.
My name is Thien Phan, and I'm a 2nd year Civil and Environmental Engineering major from Garden Grove, California. Aside from my fascination in engineering and my love for the environment, I enjoy listening and playing music, and being outdoors. What I love about UCLA is that it is a place that provides so many opportunities and so many resources. It truly is your own responsibility to be grateful of them all and act in your best interests - there is very little room for excuses. I look forward to helping you all, and hopefully inspiring you to pursue a STEM career in the future!

Hi my name is Miguel Plascencia, I was born and raised in Bakersfield, California. Before I came to UCLA I attended UC Irvine where I received my Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. I am currently a first year PhD student in Mechanical Engineering. My research project involves studying combustion instabilities for applications of aircraft and rocket engines. Some of my hobbies include playing/watching soccer, running, and watching baseball. I look forward to helping students succeed in their classes which will give them the opportunity to attend a university after high school.

1). My name is Alexandra Polasko. I am from Scottsdale, Az and I attended Notre Dame Preparatory high school. I did my undergrad at UC Berkeley and majored in environmental science. I am currently a 1st year PhD student at UCLA in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.  
2). I came to UCLA because of the intriguing research in Dr. Mahendra's lab.  
3). I have been a part of engineering labs all throughout high school and undergrad that worked on engineering biological systems and groundwater structures.  
4). Triathlons (swimming, biking, running), dancing, flute, Society of Women Engineers  
5). I love knowing that the core theoretical engineering principles I learned in high school can be put to use to build almost everything around me.  
6). I am looking forward to helping students feel good about their math and science abilities and create a supportive, fun environment for students to ask even the simplest of questions!
Hello! My name is David Qiao, and I'm a third year bioengineering major, and I graduated from University High School in Irvine. I feel lucky to be a student and UCLA, and my background in math and science was probably what got me admitted. I chose bioengineering because I wanted to apply my skills to healthcare and learn what it's like to be on the product development side. I work as a health educator assistant and the Venice Family Clinic, and I am a member of various committees in the UCLA Student Wellness Commission. I also participate in research on the role of bacteria motility in the formation of biofilms, an exciting subject with applications ranging from combating drug-resistant bacteria to producing nanowires for the military! What I love most about engineering is how you get to apply all the cool knowledge to cool uses. I look forward to sharing my enjoyment of math and sciences with you all and hope that you learn whether the engineer's path is the right one for you!

Hi everyone! My name is Caroline Quigg and I am a first year Computer Science student. I grew up in Costa Mesa, California and attended high school at Newport Harbor High. I consider myself very fortunate because I was able to identify my love for science and math from a young age and have been working towards an education in STEM fields since then. I took AP Computer Science during my sophomore year in high school, with absolutely no previous experience, and fell in love with the field. I am new to UCLA, but I plan on being involved with Association of Computer Machinery (ACM) and Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). I absolutely adore reading; some of my favorites include Harry Potter and Ender's Game. I also enjoy playing video games. I was drawn to UCLA by its incredibly diverse student body and all the wonderful opportunities on campus, ranging from undergraduate research to free dance workshops. What I love about UCLA Engineering students is their determination and love for learning. I can't wait to get involved with the Online Tutoring & Mentoring Program and meet other students who share my passion for the STEM fields.
Hi! I'm Stephen Samples, a first year Ph.D. student in Aerospace Engineering at UCLA, originally from Lakeland, Florida. I went to high school in Florida and got my Bachelor's degree at Auburn University (for Aerospace as well). At Auburn I was in our High Altitude Balloon and Cubesat (a small satellite around 10cm on each side) clubs, and learned that I really enjoy space technology and exploration. After I graduated from Auburn, I knew that I wanted to do research on space propulsion so the natural choice was UCLA. I'm a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Tau Beta Pi. Outside of school I enjoy camping and hiking, cooking and trying out new food, and tinkering on electronics projects.

One thing I love about engineering is that seemingly useless discoveries and inventions can completely transform the world (radio, internet, etc), and we have no idea where our next big leap in understanding of nature will come from. I'm excited to be a tutor to help some students figure out what they want for a career, and to let them know that engineering is an exciting place to be!

Hi I am Agraj Sobti, a first year graduate student at UCLA pursuing my masters in Aerospace Engineering. I come from Kolkata, India. Getting admitted to UCLA was one of the turning points in my life. Having went through the application procedures and the rigorous application forms, I feel qualified to guide the upcoming generation in their mission to make it to UCLA.

I have done a ton of engineering projects. I have fabricated hovercrafts, remote controlled aircrafts, to name a few. I have worked in NGOs in India to help the underprivileged children.

I like playing tennis and cricket in my free time.

I love the atmosphere of the campus the most. The liveliness and the burst of activities that take place on the campus entire quarter round is really mind-blowing.

I am looking forward to interacting with the students and helping them in their process to understand their academic work better and to motivate them in pursuing whatever field they are interested in.

Thank You!

My name is Ethan Tran and I went to Fountain Valley High School. I'm a first year mechanical engineering major. I enjoy playing basketball with friends and more recently, table tennis. One of the main reasons I'm so interested in engineering is how so many new innovations come from it. I look forward to the positive environment created by common interests and goals in this Mentoring Program.
Shakthi Visagan  
Bioengineering  
1st year undergraduate

Hello! My name is Shakthi Visagan, first year undergraduate Bioengineering major at UCLA. I'm from Santa Clarita Valley, the home of Six Flags, and I attended Valencia High School for my freshman year and Academy of the Canyons for the rest of my high school career. UCLA has always been my dream school from the day I moved to Los Angeles, and ever since then, I decided I could change the world by attending such a great institution. Apart from studying bioengineering, I have a Premed oriented career plan and I plan on attending medical school in the near future. At UCLA, I personally enjoying reading, finding new things to eat, and playing basketball, tennis, or League of Legends when I get the chance.

Studying and exploring engineering is a noble pursuit, and engineering at UCLA makes it that much more of an exciting and rewarding experience. I hope that by participating with the Online Tutoring & Mentoring Program, I can reflect and instill the honorable values that come with not only being an engineer, but being a student of the math and sciences as well. I look forward to meeting and helping anyone willing to learn and overcome any challenge they face.

Michael Wang  
Chemical Engineering  
1st year undergraduate

Hello! I'm Michael Wang. I went to school at John P. Stevens in Edison, New Jersey. I am currently a first year chemical engineering major. In high school, I played varsity volleyball and played oboe in the wind ensemble. The thing I love most about engineering is that it gives you the mindset and creativity to tackle any problem. I look forward to finding creative ways to break down a problem to help students understand how to arrive at the solution.

Jennifer Xu  
Computer Science (and Engineering)  
1st year undergraduate

My name is Jennifer Xu, and I attended Norco High School in Norco, CA. Currently, I am a first year majoring in Computer Science. In high school, I always enjoyed my math and science classes the most, but since there were no engineering specific courses, I didn't take my first computing class until the summer after my senior year. That was the class that got me really interested in coding and made me realize how important it is to expose people to engineering subjects early on. As of now, I am very excited to be able to pursue computer science much more deeply than I was able to before, and through joining computing clubs such as ACM, I hope to not only further my own knowledge, but surround myself with people who are just as passionate about the subject as I am. The creativity and subjectivity that are at the core of software engineering and finding unique approaches to solving a multitude of problems are what drew me to the subject initially. Outside of coding, during my free time, I enjoy running and reading novels. Through this online tutoring program, I hope to provide other high school students with the resources and information that I lacked. Engineering is such an integral part of the world, so I hope that through my involvement, as well as many others, students will recognize and develop their own distinct passions within the field.
Hi! I'm Emily Yan, and I'm currently a first-year Computer Science student at UCLA. I grew up in the valley and graduated from Granada Hills Charter High School. My favorite subject has always been math, and that, along with my interest in coding and technology, is what led me to UCLA engineering. I love sports, especially volleyball, track, and freerunning. And I also spend a lot of my free time watching anime :). I really look forward to meeting aspiring engineers and helping them accomplish their goals!

Hello! My name is Julius Yee, and I am pursuing a degree in bioengineering. I am originally from Walnut, California, which is a small suburb on the edge of LA County. I graduated from Walnut High School in 2013 and am currently a third year here at UCLA. Some activities that I am a part of here at UCLA include Coaching Corps, Biomedical Engineering Society, MentorSEAS, and research in Seidlis Lab. My hobbies include playing basketball, weight lifting, video games, and swimming. What I love most about UCLA engineering is the sense of kinship within engineering students. We are all passionate about our respective engineering fields; at the same time, the combination of our knowledge and skills drive society forward every day. Without engineers, today's technology and health care would fail to exist. I greatly look forward in tutoring each and one of you in hopes that you too will pursue a degree in STEM and aid in bettering society through science and math!

Hi! My name is Mingjie Zhao, and you can call me James. I am an international student from China, currently in my 4th year as a Civil Engineering student. I have been involved with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) since my freshman year, and I also was part of the research team with one of my professors. Besides, I am currently a mentor in the UCLA Engineering Mentorship Program (MentorSEAS). I am a huge basketball fan, and I also love traveling and classical music. The thing I love the most about UCLA is that the people here are very friendly and nice to each other, and the professors always give me a sense of belonging. With this Online Tutoring & Mentoring Program, I really look forward to helping middle/high school students on their pathway toward STEM fields or UCLA, increasing their interest in the STEM subjects, and spreading out the love as a proud Bruin.