When did you know you wanted to be an engineer?

I knew I wanted to be an engineer when I learned that engineers are found in almost every field. I am indecisive in what I do and what I want to do so Mechanical Engineering, one of the broadest engineering disciplines, gives me the opportunity to apply my skills in many different areas. I also believe that engineering will allow me to contribute in fixing global issues like Climate Change.

What person, in your academic career, has impacted you the most?

I cannot single out one person who has impacted me the most. I have always received support from my family, friends and a few teachers along the way.

Why did you choose the UCSD program as opposed to others?

The Jacobs School of Engineering can provide me with many opportunities, and it doesn’t hurt that it’s in San Diego of all places.

What do you love so far about engineering here at UCSD?

I like that there are so many resources available to engineering majors. While the coursework is the main form of learning about the major, getting a hands-on approach through Engineering Organizations on campus provides me with the opportunity to see what my coursework will lead to. There are even some classes that are project-focused.
What are you interested in as a potential career?

At the moment, I’m not too sure. So far, the plan is to go to Graduate School and pursue either a Masters or a PHD in Materials Science Engineering. I’m currently interested in Biomimicry which is the approach of imitating the way nature handles problems in order to solve human problems, essentially nature-inspired design. My plan generally changes year after year when I get introduced to something new, but this is the current plan.

What activities are you participating in now as a UCSD college student and why those activities?

I am currently the Technical Chair for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. As Technical Chair, I led a committee that hosted the annual 24-hour hardhack competition called the Rising Engineers Advanced Challenge or REACH for short. Currently, I am overseeing various project teams that focus on specific fields of engineering and helping wherever I can within SHPE itself. I am also a research assistant in the McKittrick Lab where I am conducting research on the capabilities of jamming techniques.

Upcoming Event: EMPOWER - EMPOWER is SHPE’s annual High School Conference that welcomes current High School students from underrepresented schools around San Diego to come to UCSD and learn more about several engineering majors and be given true insight as to what type of work each major does. We are always looking for volunteers, look out for that sign-up form coming soon to a Facebook page near you!