Colin - UCSD, mechanical

Nitya - UCSD

AVO - UCI, CS

Alison - UCLA, cognitive science, minoring in Stats

Mabel - UCSD, Cognitive Science and Machine Learning

How did you realize you wanted to do your major?

Colin: I can code pretty well. I can 3d model much better. Peers told him to go to comp sci.

Avo: Did computer science from a young age. Functions and algorithms.

Andrew: likes java, deployment

Mabel: Did not like the class. Logical thinking really helped. Robotics team - helped with mission planning. Aerospace engineering was not structured well.

Allusion: artsy business person, cog sci major, she wants to work on web design.

Nitya: took cs seriously in middle school and high school

What is the biggest challenge you have had with computer science?

Colin: Github throwing messages at you. There are solutions on the internet

Avo: clashing egos, focus on your own path, there is a lot of smart people out there, the next steve jobs is already beating you

Andrew:

Mabel:

Allison: Just starting, the temptation to BS, don’t cut corners, having the mindset to go above and beyond

Nitya: one of the biggest challenges is getting started in the area of computer science, very organized person and requires structure

Any PBL scenarios in college classes?

Colin: one hands on project in freshman year and one senior year

Mabel: College the first few years is general education, freeload of off you, they don’t expect interns to know much

Have you applied CS in your major if you have not applied majoring in CS?

Colin: coding will be everywhere, oh hey i can code this part of the project, matlab!! - important for mechanical engineering

Andrew: knowledge of CS can help any high level math courses

Allison: math classes will require programming, R - stats needed

For existing college students, do you have job?

Andrew: high school tutor

Computation aided manufacturing

In today's alum panel, I related to Nitya, Allison, and Mabel the most. The three alumni shared a common relationship with computer science at the beginning of their introduction to the field. They all found computer science challenging and did not like it. However, through taking the AP Computer Science Principles class, they realized the value of computer science and how, in the present day, it is required for almost any field. Alison, who will be entering UCLA this year with a major in cognitive science and a minor in statistics, said that looking at the course, she saw that she needed to know how to program in the language R. She continued to state that probably most people that will be taking the statistics course do not realize that they need to know how to program if they want to succeed in the class.

Mabel and Nitya both talked about how they liked structured classes and set instructions. I also am a person who wants an organized structure. I took Computer Science Principles last year, and the idea of being free to create any idea of ours was very new to me. Over time, as I gained experience with Ms. Naidu and Mr. Mortensen, I understood how to use the freedom we were given and became interested in computer science. Similar to my experience, Nitya, Allison, and Mabel shared how they began to enjoy computer science and understand its value. Now in college, they are pursuing their majors, to which computer science is vital.

A takeaway from today was when I talked to Colin at the end of the panel, where he explained that in any engineering major you choose, being proficient in computer science will make your life easier, and you will be able to perform better in college classes. As a senior who is concerned with what major to choose for college, I will always need to keep computer science in my toolbox and be able to apply it.