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Alex Rodriguez attended Cluster 7: Biological Motivations for Tensegrity Structures in the summer of 2010. He is currently a first-year Computer Engineering major at UCSD. Alex SUHVHQWHG KLV WHDP · V ILQDO SURMHFW DW WKH 2010 Nobel Laureate Dinner at the Getty Center in Los Angeles. We asked Alex to respond to a few questions for us:

Why did you choose UCSD?
I chose UCSD because it was one of options I had in attending my undergraduate career. I was debating the choices I had and after many decisions, I selected UCSD. After experiencing the atmosphere of UCSD at COSMOS, I knew I pick the right college. Sincerely, college is what you make of it, I made new friends and fell in love with my department. Also, because of COSMOS, I knew UCSD had a strong engineering department overall in the nation. This was a great place to be and graduate from in the near future.

Why did you choose your particular major?

I choose Computer Engineering because it was one of the options I had in attending my undergraduate career. I was debating the choices I had and after many decisions, I selected UCSD. After experiencing the atmosphere of UCSD at COSMOS, I knew I pick the right college. Sincerely, college is what you make of it, I made new friends and fell in love with my department. Also, because of COSMOS, I knew UCSD had a strong engineering department overall in the nation. This was a great place to be and graduate from in the near future.

Dr. Nathan Delson has been with the UCSD COSMOS faculty team since the beginning of the program in 2005. He is a lecturer for Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department at UCSD and is lead instructor for UCSD COSMOS Cluster 2: Engineering Design and Control of Kinetic Sculptures. Dr. Delson took time out of his busy schedule to respond to our questions:

What courses do you teach at UCSD? Are you involved with any other academic or student organizations/programs/initiatives on campus other than COSMOS?

I teach hands-on engineering design courses. I have an introductory design class, MAE3, where students build robots to compete in a head-to-head competition. This is often their first hands-on design experience and empowers many students to go into internships or work as research assistants on campus. I also teach a senior level design class where student teams work on industry and research problems. Our projects include medical applications, defense industry projects, consumer products, environmental monitoring, and devices for developing countries. You can see examples of student work at:
Student Robots in MAE3: http://www.maelabs.ucsd.edu/mae3/Robot_Contest/Contest.htm
Senior Design Projects in Mechanical Engineering: http://www.maelabs.ucsd.edu/mae156/student_projects.htm

What are your current research topics and initiatives?

I am working on a medical device that will help surgeons and first responders learn how to intubate a patient. The process involves