



Gabriela Marcu

Junior, Informatics major

SAGE Scholar

INSA President

WICS Vice President

Microsoft Student Partner



Why did you choose the Bren School of ICS?

I knew Bren ICS would be at the forefront of computer science education because of its very rare status as a separate computer science school. I was also impressed that the dean of the school was female. I had heard of Dean Richardson's commitment to increasing the participation of women and other minorities in computer science.

Why did you decide to become an Informatics major?

When I was considering a computer science education, I knew what I did and did not want. I wanted to work with people AND I did not want to look at a computer screen all day. After I was admitted to UCI, I started to read all about Informatics and saw how good a fit it would be for my dual interest in computers and people. I changed into the major before my freshman fall quarter began.

What would you say to those considering the Informatics major?

The curriculum is very unique and we're really breaking new ground. I'm hearing from companies that we're the kinds of students they want. In addition to programming, we study how people use computers, how computers affect people, and look for innovative ways to make computers more useful for people and their environments. The professors are especially committed to students. I just completed a SURF-IT research fellowship with Professor van der Hoek, and hope to continue my work in animation under Professor Tomlinson's guidance.

Why did you decide to form the Informatics Student Association (INSA)?

My first year, I got a taste of the efforts behind starting a new major from some of my professors. I wanted to help by telling others about the Informatics major, the great professors, and the possibilities and options this major offers. I also wanted to help those in the major to succeed and have a great college experience.

What other activities do you engage in on campus?

I'm also involved with early outreach and mentoring through SAGE Scholars 4 Scholars (SS4S) and the Women in Computer Sciences (WICS) club. I like going to the ARC to work out or take a hip hop class, and I even participated in an intramural flag football team.

Intrigued? You can read the full interview with Gabriela online @ <http://www.ics.uci.edu/gabrielamarcu>