

Titus Lungu

B.S. – Mechanical Engineering, May 2016

How did the Honors College help prepare you for success?

Where do I begin? The single most important thing the Honors College provides for its students is its students. Practically all of my classmates that I was closest to and still keep in touch with were in the Honors College, and they've helped shape my thinking and my career. That network is amazing and the Honors College creates a nucleus of exceptionally brilliant, creative, and driven students, which spur each other on and increase those qualities in one another. The mentorship and devotion of the College staff was another key component in guiding me along my college journey and even creating opportunities for me that I would not have had otherwise. Of course, the other resources provided, such as the lounge, student events, and donuts with Dean Lehfeldt are a huge plus, too ;) And, not to be diminished one bit, is the generous scholarship without which I'd be wallowing in debt and likely unable to be doing my startup. All these factors played a very significant role in my success at CSU and beyond.

What have you been doing since graduation?

A few months after graduation, I moved to Los Angeles to pursue grad school at UCLA, where I focused on robotics and Artificial Intelligence. I received my MS in June 2017 and have since been working on a fashion-tech startup with fellow Honors College alumnus Brahm Powell.

Do you have any advice for current Honors College students?

Stop being so focused...on one thing. Sure, when you find your niche you should focus on it and be the best at it, but in college you should explore first, and "settle down" later.

There's so much out there and so many cool things that you don't know about, so get out of your comfort zone and do things that are unorthodox. Are you an engineering major? Take a business class. Are you an art major? Learn to code. Medical field? Take a public policy class. What you explore can or can not be related to your field of study- it doesn't really matter, just explore. Also, network. Go to events, talk to people, follow up with interesting individuals. Oh, and you know how you have to do a semester of research your senior year? Don't wait until then. Find professors doing interesting things and ask to volunteer in their labs or help out on their projects. These aren't just cliché ideas I'm writing, they're what I actually did and they literally made my career into what it is. My only regret is that I didn't start exploring early enough. The world's a pretty awesome place, but you won't know it unless you leave your little corner.

Go Vikings!

What was the best part of being in the Honors College?

Again, I have to say, that it's the people. My classmates were the best- a wonderful mix of brains, jokes, adventures, and beautifully crazy ideas. The Honors College is also very blessed in its leadership. Both Dean Lehfeldt and formerly Dr. Meiksins are exceptional leaders and mentors whose sincerity and genuine care for students' success makes the College flourish all the more.



Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

With everything I'm doing right now in tech in California, I really have no idea! But as Brahm and I are plugging away at our startup, we hope to raise some initial funding early in 2018 and use that to give us a boost for the next year or so. In our space, 5 years is a ballpark target for hopefully getting acquired, so keep your fingers crossed for us!

