

Max (Buzz) Nguyen

Physics & Statistics Student

EDUCATION

Harvard, Class of 2030. **Leland High School**, Class of 2026, Unweighted GPA: 3.98/4.00, SAT: 1580

APs: Physics 1 (5), Calculus AB (5), Physics 2 (5), US History (5), Computer Science A (5), Biology (5), Macroeconomics (5), Research (5), Statistics (5)

Post-APs: Multivariable (A), Differential Equations (A), Linear Algebra (A)

HONORS

1st Author, 2 peer-reviewed publications: leading **Astronomical Journal** (2025), "*Metallicity regulates planet formation across all masses*"; **Astrophysics and Space Science** (2024), "*On the formation of super-Jupiters: core accretion or gravitational instability?*"; Discovery of metallicity trend, unifying planet formation

Regeneron Science Talent Search, STS, National Top-40 Winner (\$25,000, 2026): Presented research on planet formation and host star machine-learning prediction model.

STS, Edward O. Thorp Early Achievement Award (\$3,500, 2026): National sole winner (top ~0.05%).

World Division Winner (top ~0.2%, 2024), FIRST Robotics Competition. 4x Regional Winner + 18 other Awards

1st Award (Physical Science/Engineering)—Synopsys Silicon Valley Science & Technology Championship (2025). Bessie Stough Science Award (2025, 1/~1,200 contestants)

National Dual Winner, YoungArts (top ~0.3%, ~40/13,000 contestants, 2025), both Fiction & Nonfiction Writing categories

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards (2026), National Silver Medal; Regional Gold Key, 4 Silver Keys & 3 Honorable Mentions across Personal Essay & Memoir, Critical Essay, Short Story & Portfolio Writing

International Finalist (top 1.5% of ~10,000 contestants, 2025): New York Times Open Letters. 1 Runner-up & 2 Honorable Mentions: NYT Summer Reading Contests (2025)

Senator & Mayor Awards; Selected Delegate to UN ECOSOC: for contributions to youth mental health

ACTIVITIES

Board Member, Harvard Undergraduate Society for Artificial Intelligence (HUSAI) (9/2026 - present). Organized a social with 50+ attendees.

Attendee, Y Combinator Startup School, San Francisco (7/2026).

Research Intern, Stanford Univ. (Prof. Wang Lab, EE/MatSci) (1/2024 - present). Studied spin-orbit-torque memory to increase density & lower cost for edge-AI & space. Co-author: **Nature Spintronics**, "*High-speed, magnetic field-free switching in two-terminal spin-orbit torque magnetoresistive random access memory*" (in review); **Science Advances**, "*Radiation-hard, bit-parallel, high-speed SAS-MRAM for terrestrial and space computing at nanosecond timescale*," (in review); **US Provisional Patent** 63/730,974 (2024), "*Novel ultra-dense magnetic memory with selectors*."

Student Researcher, Institute of Astrophysics & Space Sciences (Prof. Adibekyan) (2/2024 - 3/2026). Address long-standing exoplanet question, clarifying how Earths formed vs giant planets. Released community-usable machine-learning model/code (GitHub.com/electrichunter1/abundances_ML)

Director of PR and Outreach & Tech Member, FIRST Robotics Competition, Team 604 Quixilver (6/2023 - 5/2026).

Contributed engineering designs, scouting, & auto-path. As PR Lead, revived outreach after COVID: 36+ STEM workshops, helped found 15 & mentored 10 FLL teams, co-founded rookie FRC 9504, judged local science fairs, led bilingual STEM media to 170K+ homes, formed Univision partnership, \$6K+ charity, organized 800+ totes of educational supplies for homeless youth

Founder & President, WellnessPlay.org, Global Youth Mental Health Non-Profit 501(c)(3) (2022 - present). Using gaming to reduce stress & build intergenerational connection. 200+ members, 12 global chapters. Led 40+ workshops; ~80% (n=72) reported better mood/connection. Organized UN#YouthLead & shared youth mental health ideas with UN policymakers. Coalition advocacy: CA mental health Bills AB 727 & AB 56 (signed into law on 10/10 & 10/13/2025).

Student Researcher, Summer Science Program, SSP (Astrophysics, MIT-affiliated, 6/2025 - 7/2025). Determined the orbit of asteroid 1656 Suomi through observations made at the Collins Observatory and with the Las Cumbres Observatory, submitted to Minor Planet Center.

Student Researcher, UC COSMOS (Astrophysics Cluster) (7/2024 - 8/2024). Analyzed gamma-ray bursts for light dispersion & quantum gravity effects; null result taught that science advances by questioning its own assumptions; group leader; presented poster

Founder & President, Habitable Worlds Club (10/2023 - 5/2026). Explore future for humans in space. Led 20+ members; ran habitability projects: Space Ethics, Mars Habitat Design, Crew Mental Health; mentored officers; wrote agendas & continuity guides for future club leaders

Volunteer & Organizer, TheCrossTeam.quest (8/2022 - 5/2026). Church-based organization providing aid to unhoused Vietnamese & other communities. Served 600+ meals; ran clothing/hygiene drives

Co-Leader & Tutor, Leland HS Tutoring Program & Schoolhouse.world (9/2022 - 5/2026). Co-led tutoring program for all Leland HS (30+sessions/wk); managed database; trained >100 new tutors; wrote mini-lessons; tutored math/science