

ETHAN HONG

Robotics Researcher • Humanitarian Technology • Student Athlete

High school student and founder of Project Food Angel, developing robots to address food insecurity and homelessness. Author and co-author of robotics publications and a bestselling Korean graphic novel; invited TEDx speaker; member of a RoboCup world championship team; varsity basketball and track athlete.

Public contact: ethanrobot@icloud.com • Instagram: @robot_food_angel • LinkedIn: @ethanhongrobot

01 Education & Academic Activities

Geffen Academy at UCLA | Class of 2027

GPA: 4.0

02 Robotics Research & Projects

UCLA RoMeLa (Robotics & Mechanisms Laboratory), 2022–Present

Project Food Angel | Founder & Team Lead, 2024–Present

Founded a five-student team developing approachable autonomous food-delivery robots for people experiencing homelessness. Led integration and field testing; collaborated with Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Union Rescue Mission, and Rolling Robots. The original robot has been permanently exhibited at Seoul Robot & AI Museum (RAIM) since August 2024.

Food Angel 2.0 | Field Deployment

Developed and deployed an improved wheeled robot in Los Angeles's Skid Row, delivering more than 100 meals and evaluating real-world robot-human interaction.

ARTEMIS Humanoid

Designed and fabricated a second-generation head prototype and vision data collection apparatus; collected and labeled robot vision data.

RoboCup | UCLA Team RoMeLa

Participated in RoboCup 2022 (Bangkok), 2023 (Bordeaux), and 2024 (Eindhoven); supported robot handling and vision datasets. Member of the 2024 AdultSize Humanoid League world championship team.

Q8Bot Miniature Quadruped

Assembled an early prototype and contributed to a hands-on legged robotics education initiative with RoMeLa and Geffen Academy; co-authored and presented a UR2026 conference paper.

Food Angel Hexapod Research | 2025

Explored a six-legged mobility concept for rough urban terrain; first author and presenter of a SCAIR2025 research poster. This exploratory project is distinct from the deployed wheeled Food Angel 2.0.

03 Selected Honors & Recognition

- Invited TEDx Speaker — TEDx ManhattanBeach, November 7, 2026 (upcoming; title TBD).
- Invited Banquet Speaker and Panelist — 22nd International Conference on Ubiquitous Robots (UR2025), July 2025.
- World Champion — RoboCup 2024, Humanoid League AdultSize, UCLA Team RoMeLa, Eindhoven.
- IEEE Robotics and Automation Society ICRA@40 Travel Award — \$2,000, September 2024.
- Permanent Museum Exhibition — Project Food Angel, Seoul Robot & AI Museum, since August 2024.
- Selected Student Representative — Conversations with UCLA Chancellor Gene Block, May 2023.
- People's Choice Poster Award — Southern California Robotics Symposium, September 2022.
- National Honor Society — Geffen Academy Bruin Chapter, inducted February 2025.

04 Talks & Presentations

- TEDx ManhattanBeach — invited talk, November 7, 2026 (upcoming).

- UR2026 — co-author and presenter, “A Co-Designed Legged Robotics Workshop for High School Students Using the Q8bot Miniature Quadruped,” Osaka, July 2026.
- SCAIR2025 — first-author poster, “Food Angel 2.0: From Wheels to Legs — An Empathy-Driven Hexapod for Food Delivery on Rough Urban Terrain,” Pomona, October 2025.
- UR2025 — invited banquet talk, “Project Food Angel: A Food Delivery Robot for the Homeless,” and panelist, “Robots with Us,” College Station, July 2025.
- UR2025 — first-author paper presentation on data collection methods for humanoid soccer vision, College Station, June–July 2025.
- IEEE ICRA@40 — sole-author video presentation, “Project Food Angel: Development and Preliminary Observations of a Food Delivery Robot for the Homeless,” Rotterdam, September 2024.
- SCR2024 — sole-author podium talk, “Preliminary Results and Progress on a Food Delivery Robot for the Homeless,” UC Riverside, September 2024.
- Robotics for Humanity Workshop — opening talk, Seoul Robot & AI Museum, August 2024.
- RoMeLa Weekly Robotics Seminar — research presentation, UCLA, June 2024.
- SCR2022 — first-author poster presentation on humanoid robot soccer vision; People’s Choice Poster Award, UCLA, September 2022.

05 Publications

Invited Book Chapter (forthcoming, 2026)

Ethan Hong. Chapter title TBD. In *Humans Through the Eyes of Robots*, associated with Seoul Robot & AI Museum (RAIM). Publisher details pending.

Conference Paper — UR2026

“A Co-Designed Legged Robotics Workshop for High School Students Using the Q8bot Miniature Quadruped.” Elizabeth Ashforth, Joanie Banks-Hunt, Stefan Grunspan, Yufeng Wu, Ethan Hong, Dennis Hong. 23rd International Conference on Ubiquitous Robots, Osaka, July 2026.

Poster — SCAIR2025

“Food Angel 2.0: From Wheels to Legs — An Empathy-Driven Hexapod for Food Delivery on Rough Urban Terrain.” Ethan R. Hong, Federico T. Parres, Dennis Hong. Pomona, October 2025. First author.

Conference Paper — UR2025

“Evaluating Data Collection Methods for Vision-Based Learning in Humanoid Robot Soccer.” Ethan Hong, Ji Sung Ahn, Sangjoon Lee, Arturo Moises Flores Alvarez, Shiqi Wang, Dennis Hong. College Station, June–July 2025. First author.

Springer Book Chapter (2025)

“RoboCup 2024 Adult-Sized Humanoid Champions Guide for Hardware, Vision, and Strategy.” Fernandez, G. I., et al. In *RoboCup 2024: Robot World Cup XXVII*, LNCS 15570. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-031-85859-8_43. Co-author.

Video Publication — IEEE ICRA@40 (2024)

“Project Food Angel: Development and Preliminary Observations of a Food Delivery Robot for the Homeless.” Ethan R. Hong. Rotterdam, September 2024. Sole author.

Extended Abstract — SCR2024

“Preliminary Results and Progress on a Food Delivery Robot for the Homeless.” Ethan R. Hong. UC Riverside, September 2024. Sole author.

Poster — SCR2022

“Evaluation and Comparison of Data Collection Methods for Machine Learning Vision Model in Autonomous Soccer Playing Robot.” Ethan R. Hong, Ji Sung Ahn, Sangjoon Lee. UCLA, September 2022. First author; People’s Choice Poster Award.

Book — Robot Eleven (2019)

Robot Eleven (로봇 일레븐). Dennis Hong and Ethan Hong. Influential, South Korea. ISBN 979-11-899-9504-1. Co-author of a bestselling Korean graphic novel.

06 Athletics

Basketball | Geffen Academy Varsity Starter, 2023–2026

Most Improved Player, 2024–2025. Competitive club basketball with Sterling Blue Chip (2022–Present); national tournament semifinalist (2024), quarterfinalist (2023), and runner-up (2023).

Track & Field | Geffen Academy Varsity, 2023–2026

Coach's Award, 2024–2025; Coastal League All-League First Team (4 × 400 m, 2023–2024) and Second Team (4 × 100 m and 4 × 400 m, 2024–2026). League 4 × 400 m relay champion (2024); competed in CIF Southern Section Division 4 preliminaries.

Taekwondo

Kukkiwon-certified Second Poom Black Belt (2019); First Poom Black Belt (2018).

Swimming

UCLA Bruin Swim Club, 2018–2019.

07 Community Service

Project Food Angel | Founder & Project Lead, 2024–Present

Led humanitarian robotics development and deployment, including delivery of more than 100 meals in Skid Row.

Los Angeles Regional Food Bank | Volunteer, 2025

More than 30 hours of service.

Geffen Academy Admissions Ambassador | 2024–2026

Represented the school to prospective students and families.

08 Television & Media

Krazy Rich Koreans (크레이지 리치 코리안) — KBS 2TV, Episode 7, July 2025; featured guest. [View](#)

Robotics for Humanity — SBS, August 2024; interview on Project Food Angel. [View](#)

Finding Prodigies (영재발굴단) — SBS, Episodes 194–196, March 2019; three-part robotics special. [View](#)

Humanity 4.0 (4 차 인간) — EBS, March 2018; featured in Episode 1 of award-winning documentary. [View](#)

09 Selected Press Coverage

IEEE Spectrum, “How a Teen Built a Robot to Feed the Homeless” — July 2025. [View](#)

IEEE Spectrum, Video Friday — Project Food Angel feature, August 2024. [View](#)

UCLA Newsroom, “UCLA Engineers Become 6-Time RoboCup Soccer World Champions” — July 2024. [View](#)

Geffen Academy Newsletter — Student Spotlight on SCR2022 People's Choice Poster Award, September 2022.

10 Professional & Academic Affiliations

IEEE Student Member (since 2024) • IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (since 2024) • National Honor Society (since 2025)