As president of the Yale Undergraduate Aerospace Association (YUAA), Andrew Krzywosz ’20 spends a lot of time preparing and launching rockets.

“To win an altitude rocket competition,” Andrew said, “you’ve got to build and launch a rocket that can reach a set height. If you fall short it’s an obvious loss, but so is going above the target.”

Andrew, an electrical engineering major, loves the challenges of building as a way to reach a goal. “It’s great to work on something that produces a tangible result,” Andrew said. “It could be designing a rocket. It could be working on the next generation of drone technology. Whatever it is, there’s a problem that needs solving. Testing and discovering that solution is the best thing in the world.”

Andrew spends much of his free time in the Center for Engineering Innovation and Design (CEID), where he teams with friends to apply what they have learned. “Electrical engineering was a natural choice for me,” Andrew said. “It’s a hardware-focused major. At the CEID, there are great tools like 3-D printers that help us collaborate and bring our designs and ideas to life. Our faculty, like Rajit Manohar, help unlock the possibilities of what we can do.”

Andrew grew up in Shelton, Connecticut, where he and his family spoke Polish at home. “My parents emigrated to America,” he said, “and they wanted me to have the language. They sent me to Polish school when I was younger, and I still retain a lot of it.” He is the first person in his family to attend college. Yale’s generous financial aid enables Andrew to attend, freeing him to make full use of campus resources and pursue his passions alongside a group of like-minded peers.

“I’ve made the best friends I’ll ever have here at Yale,” Andrew said. “When we work together on something, we bring out the best in each other, and we achieve incredible things. I am so grateful we have these opportunities.”

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like Andrew to Yale, regardless of their financial circumstances. To learn more about ways to support these students, please visit giving.yale.edu or call 800.395.7646.