

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



UCSF School of Pharmacy

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:



I, the *Therapeutic Window* editor, am happy to present to you the 6th issue of the ASSP feature, *Student Spotlights*. With over 400 students in the School of Pharmacy, it can be difficult to get to know all of our amazing peers. I hope that this quarterly feature will serve as a way for you to get to know your fellow School of Pharmacy classmates. Where are they from? What are their hobbies and interests? Why did they choose pharmacy? What are their interests outside of pharmacy school? Read on to find out!

FEATURED INSIDE:

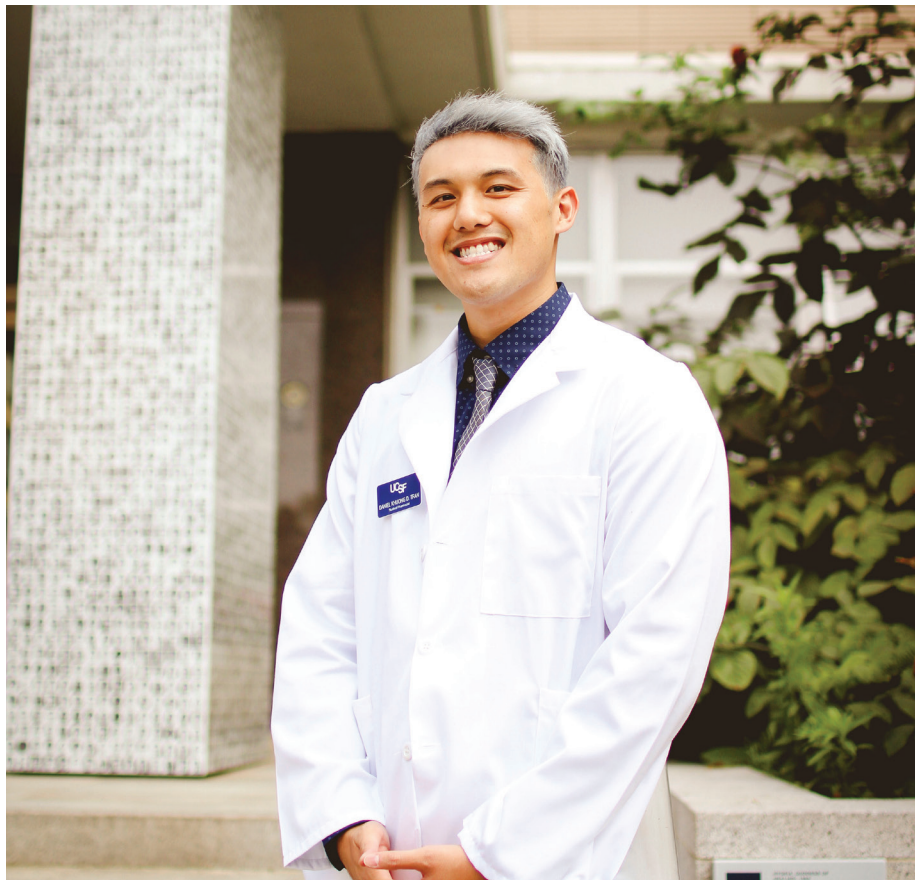
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—STEPHANIE SON

P1 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Danny Tran



Danny striking a pose after the White Coat Ceremony

ABOUT DANNY

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I was born and raised in Orange County in Southern California. My parents basically wanted to be in an area where there was a large Vietnamese population so that we could be close to our cultural heritage, which is ironic considering I've never lived in Garden Grove or Westminster.

Q: Where did you complete your undergraduate degree?

A: UC Irvine (ZOT ZOT!) with a degree in Sociology and Asian-American Studies.

WHY PHARMACY?

Q: Why did you choose pharmacy?

A: I spent the majority of my professional career working

in healthcare related service programs. One of the big ones was a program that consisted of benefits navigation for patients with chronic conditions like HIV, cancer, and hepatitis. I worked alongside specialty and ambulatory care pharmacists in that program, and it really piqued my interest in going back to school to pursue pharmacy. Ultimately though, the real tipping point for that decision was when I was diagnosed with HIV in 2014. It was the primary driving force that made me decide to steer my life in a completely different direction and take charge of my life.

Q: What brought you to UCSF?

A: UCSF was the dream school for when I decided to pursue pharmacy. To me, UCSF was a complete shift from the life I was living in SoCal, and I thought that if I was going to change my life for the better, then I wanted to strive for the best. I actually applied for this school twice and fell in love with it and this city the first time I interviewed here. I didn't get in the first time, so the second time I applied, I figured it was UCSF or bust. To be honest, I'm still in a state of shock that I'm actually here.

REFLECTIONS

Q: Is pharmacy school like what you imagined?

A: I definitely underestimated pharmacy school in so many ways. I have never imagined myself spending 15 hours on campus in study rooms trying to shove all

the information into my brain the way I am these days! That being said, I also never imagined I would meet such amazing like-minded people, and I have a lot of love for my fellow classmates already. Even with the challenges and the stress, I think we've managed to live our best lives and I'm excited to share this journey with my 'pharmily'.

IF NOT PHARMACY...

Q: If you were not pursuing pharmacy, what would you be doing?

A: Honestly, I'd probably be in culinary school. I love cooking and baking for other people and I've always appreciated how cooking is kind of science-y.

HOBBIES/ INTERESTS

Q: What do you like to do during the school year to decompress or destress?

A: I used to be a big fitness junkie, so I'm trying to rediscover that part of myself while balancing school and personal stuff. I haven't done it yet, but I really want to go exploring and hiking with my doggo and really take in the sights.

Q: What do you like most about living in San Francisco?

A: I know it's weird, but I really really like how it's always foggy here. I grew up in Southern

California and it's always sunny. I need it to not be sunny all the time so I can appreciate it when it's gone. Plus it's so funny to me how you can walk 5 blocks in any direction in this city and the culture is completely different.



Danny walking into the sunset with the only man he'll ever love

Q: What is your favorite book/movie/TV show of the moment?

A: I've been a huge fan of Grey's Anatomy since the beginning, and more often than not you can see me binge watching it all over again from season 1 on Netflix. Literally if it sounds like I know any medical stuff, I stole it from the show and have appropriated it so that professors think I'm a mini-genius.

LOOKING FORWARD...

Q: What are you looking forward to over the summer?

A: Taking a well-deserved break from this school and this city. Like I said, I needed time away from the sun to miss it, but now I need a tropical beachy vacation because this city made me pale.

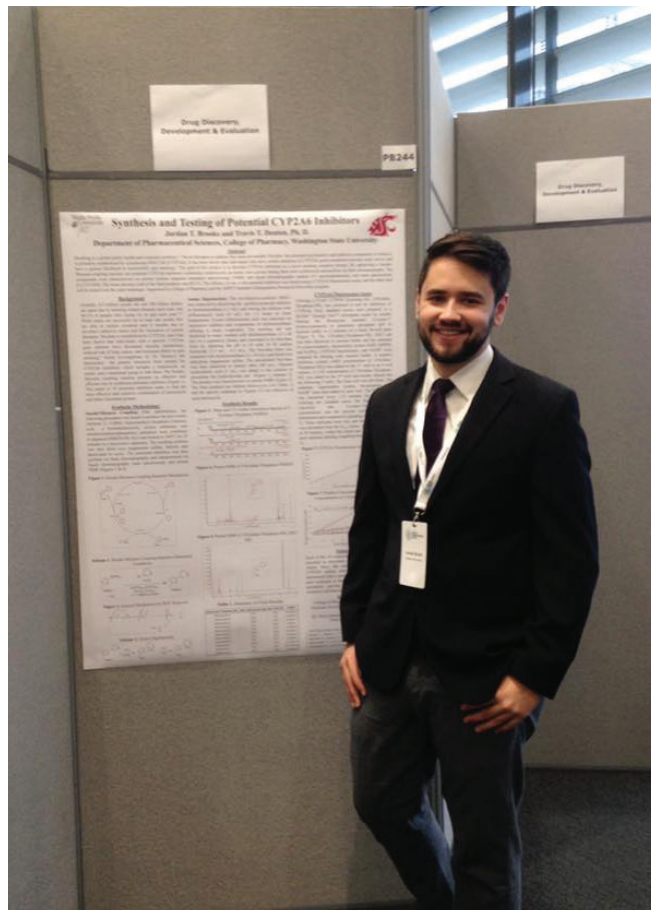
Q: For incoming pharmacy students, what is your best piece of advice?

A: I think my best piece of advice for the incoming class is to come here with an open mind and an open heart. Undergrad was competitive and cutthroat and you want to be the best, trust me I get it I have a type-A personality too. But once you're here loosen up a bit. You're going to be amazing. So while you're here being

amazing, make friends and make strong connections because these are the people that you're going to be living through the next few years with, and will most likely be around for the rest of your life. Make the most of it, because studying 24/7 only takes you so far.

P2 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Jordan Brooks



Jordan presenting a medicinal chemistry poster at the British Pharmacological Society's annual meeting, London, 2016.

ABOUT JORDAN

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I grew up in Redlands, CA which is in the Inland Empire about an hour east of Los Angeles.

Q: Where did you complete your undergraduate degree?

A: I went to school at the small-but-bright Walla Walla University in eastern Washington. Home to a whopping 1,900 students, WWU is a tiny university with a big heart, and I greatly enjoyed my time there.

WHY PHARMACY?

Q: Why did you choose pharmacy?

A: There is a spectrum of reasons that led me to decide on a career in pharmacy. In addition to sitting at the crux of science, patient care, and the complexity of the healthcare system, it seemed to me that pharmacist can pursue uniquely flexible career paths that can range from clinical work to entrepreneurship and that often contain many changes in a single career. This flexibility in specialization on top of the necessity of daily critical thinking

and problem solving, pushed me toward the field of pharmacy.

Q: What brought you to UCSF?

A: Once I decided on pharmacy, it seemed that UCSF was the best option for getting a great education. In addition to the excellent standing of the Doctor of Pharmacy program, I was attracted to the institution as a whole. I am interested in becoming a clinical pharmacist and researcher, so UCSF's amount of NIH funding and consistent ranking as a top medical center made the institution appealing.

REFLECTIONS

Q: Is pharmacy school like what you imagined?

A: I would say pharmacy school is roughly how I imagined it; however, I think it is impossible to grasp the experience of something until actually doing it. On the whole, pharmacy school is fun and interesting! As 2nd year is off to a good start, I am enjoying diving further into the topics I imagined would fill the curriculum.

IF NOT PHARMACY...

Q: If you were not pursuing pharmacy, what would you be doing?

A: This is a great question! Before entering undergrad, I considered pursuing degrees/careers in either philosophy, neuroscience, or history. As these are still topics I love to talk and learn about,

I think it is safe to say I would definitely still be in school, but the content would be a whole lot different.

HOBBIES/ INTERESTS

Q: What do you like to do during the school year to decompress or destress?

A: I love to play board games with friends, go on hikes, play racquetball, watch films, and explore coffee and cocktail places around the city (there are so many!).

Q: What do you like most about living in San Francisco?

A: I honestly love the cool and foggy weather here! Of course, the

plethora of great food, music, shows, museums, and art make the city feel culturally alive. (This is in stark contrast to the inland empire, where I grew up!)

Q: What is your favorite book/movie/TV show of the moment?

A: The Detectorists. If you are a fan of dry British humor in the most unassuming setting, this show is for you! I thoroughly enjoyed it.

LOOKING FORWARD...

Q: What are you looking forward to over the summer?

A: Summer seems so far away, but I know it will be here quick. I am looking forward to traveling with my wife, but the destination is yet to be determined!

Q: For incoming pharmacy students, what is your best piece of advice?

A: I have found that when I redefine success in terms of things that I can do every day, life seems a little less daunting. I think it is important to do a couple of things daily:

1. Remind yourself of what is most important to you
2. Learn a little bit
3. Help someone else out



Jordan and his new wife, Brooke, on the day of their wedding this past summer. St. Helena, 2018

P3 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Jessica Li



Photo op with Oski and my girl, Sae, while volunteering with Children's Health Hut.

ABOUT JESSICA

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: Born in SF, raised in the East Bay.

Q: Where did you complete your undergraduate degree?

A: UCLA!

WHY PHARMACY?

Q: Why did you choose pharmacy? What brought you to UCSF?

A: Throughout college, I was involved in health fairs and enjoyed being able to educate people about health and diet. So, I chose pharmacy, because I liked being a resource to others, whether it is a team, patients, or other health professionals. I did not realize

the scope or responsibilities of pharmacists until I spoke to a student at USC School of Pharmacy who emphasized teamwork and communication.

REFLECTIONS

Q: Is pharmacy school like what you imagined?

A: I was surprised to find a sense of community at UCSF, not only within my class, but the classes above as well. Being a pharmacy student isn't easy, and I'm glad there are people that can support me throughout my time here. Despite the exams and stress of being a student, it's still been fun going to school in SF. We are pretty lucky to be in a city with so many events and activities that I feel like I can never get bored and I'm glad I'm surrounded by people who also enjoy getting out and exploring when not studying. Those are things I didn't expect.

IF NOT PHARMACY...

Q: If you were not pursuing pharmacy, what would you be doing?

A: Definitely something in the music industry. I enjoy event planning, and music has been a huge part of my life since I was really young. I met a lot of people from going to shows and they were my first community outside of school. Through that, I wrote some CD and concert reviews for a music press website, went to random events in LA, and took a

music industry course. I learned a lot about the business side while in LA, but I realize I enjoyed music the most on the other end, as a concertgoer and not from behind the scenes.

HOBBIES/ INTERESTS

Q: What do you like to do during the school year to decompress or destress?

A: Haha, probably no surprise that it involves going to concerts... Besides that, I recently started running again during pharmacy school and have been trying to read more. I'm horrible at finishing TV shows, and I've probably started a new show every round of midterms/ finals (how else to escape?!) that I'm working on. I also think the longer I live in a city, the more I feel a need to get out of the urban areas. I hike once awhile and go on a few camping trips here and there.

Q: What do you like most about living in San Francisco?

A: To reiterate an earlier point, I'm never bored. Even though I grew up in the Bay Area, there are always new restaurants to try, new places to explore, and events happening every weekend.

Q: What is your favorite book/ movie/TV show of the moment?

A: I've been watching Grey's Anatomy from the beginning and just started Queer Eye and the Office. Also jumping around Terrace House locations, because

it takes awhile for new members to grow on me. Modern Family is the only one that I'm currently following in real time (and a little bit of Grey's).



*Happiest when fed. Even happier when it's dessert.
Ft. a delicious crepe from Harajuku (Tokyo)*

LOOKING FORWARD...

Q: What are you looking forward to over the summer?

A: That is so far away, that I haven't even thought about it... I'll be in rotations, which I'm excited for. I learn so much from applying what

I learn from school at work and at rotations, and I'm starting to get tired of sitting in the lecture halls (like my back and arms literally hurt, because those desks have

no support). Sacramento isn't quite as exciting as SF, but I'm exciting to be going there with my APPE cohort. I'm thinking of doing a trip to the East Coast to visit some friends during my one week break though.

Q: For incoming pharmacy students, what is your best piece of advice?

A: Take it from Parks & Rec: treat yo'self! It's so easy to get lost in networking, social events, work, exams, and everything else, that sometimes you lose yourself. Do what you need

to hit the reset button, whether it's seeing friends, taking a daytrip out of the city, using facemasks (those solve everything obviously) etc. I've hit my breaking point a few times in pharmacy school, because of the pace and doing a million things at once (which was me in college), but pharmacy school is definitely more draining. Gotta treat yo'self once in awhile and prioritize yourself over everyone else.