

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



UCSF School of Pharmacy

ASSP | FALL 2019



A Note From the Editor:



I am happy to present to you the Fall 2019 issue of the 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:
Angela Choi

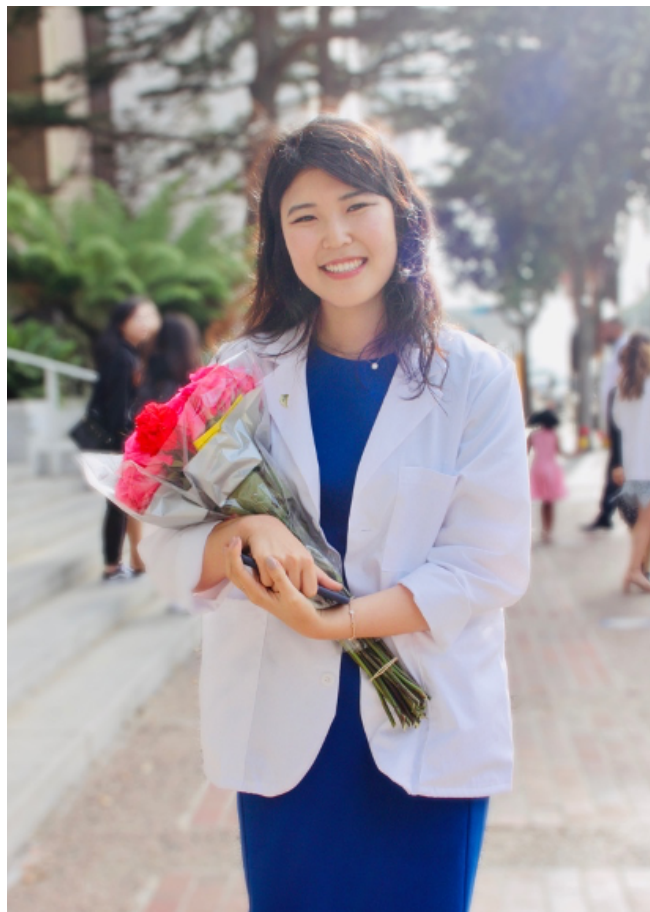


—Roy Weng



P1 Student Spotlight:

Angela Choi



August 30, 2019 | White Coat Ceremony

ABOUT Angela

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I was born in South Korea, and I moved to San Jose, California when I was nine years old. When I first moved to the United States, I found English difficult to learn, and it took me a few years to learn the language. Luckily, I met other students in my elementary and middle school who had similar backgrounds, and they made the transition easier and more enjoyable. Learning a foreign language was definitely challenging, but I grew up to be very patient with myself and others and wanting to help those who are in a similar situation. It has especially made me more passionate about breaking language barriers in healthcare. Additionally, having lived in two countries, I had the opportunity to experience two very different cultures, both of which I appreciate and find

meaningful. Ever since immigrating to the states, I've enjoyed exploring, learning, and understanding various cultures, especially when I meet new people, try out new restaurants, and travel to other countries.

Q: What is something your classmates/peers would not expect about you?

A: A few times a year, I work as an interpreter at K-pop concerts in the Bay Area. It all started when I helped out for an audition program in 2016. I also love learning Mandarin and hope to continue studying it until I can hold conversations and communicate basic healthcare terms with Mandarin-speaking patients.

Q: Where did you complete your undergraduate degree?

A: I graduated from UC Berkeley in 2019. I majored in Molecular and Cell Biology with an emphasis in Infectious Diseases.

Why PHARMACY?

Q: Why did you choose pharmacy?

A: In college, I had an opportunity to shadow a clinical pharmacist in the neonatal intensive care unit at a hospital. It was my very first time walking around hospital floors, and I saw tiny, premature babies connected to dozens of wires and a heart monitor. There were family members looking over their child to make sure they were breathing, and physicians and nurses were busy checking the baby's vitals and administering bright, yellow medications (which I later learned were called TPNs, a daily nutrition solution given intravenously). The most eye-opening moment for me was when the pharmacist gathered with physicians, surgeons, and nurses to talk about how to dose a medication for a baby who just got out of a surgery. I was fascinated to see the pharmacist working inter-professionally with other healthcare professionals to make a collective decision and realized the importance of the pharmacist's role in coming up with that decision. Since that experience, I became much more interested in the pharmacy field and began to explore other specialties such as compounding and retail pharmacies. Throughout my undergraduate journey, I became friends with other pharmacy peers who were also passionate about the profession, met pharmacists who I admire and learned so much from, and gained invaluable experiences, all of which further excited me to pursue a career in pharmacy.

Q: What brought you to UCSF?

A: In my third year of college, I was paired with a P3 mentor through the PhAMLI Mentorship Program. I had the chance to shadow her for a day to experience the life of a pharmacy student at UCSF. Even to this day, I still remember that day vividly – the warm, comforting environment established by the faculty who was very open to answering students' questions and the collaborative environment among my mentor's classmates. I am fortunate to be experiencing that now as a current student at UCSF. And of course, the thought of living in the city of San

Francisco excited me, as well as being close to home.

REFLECTIONS

Q: Is pharmacy school like what you imagined?

A: Before starting pharmacy school, I anticipated being overwhelmed with classes and extracurricular activities and not having enough time to have fun outside of class. While school definitely keeps me busy, it has motivated me to manage my time better, which has allowed me to have time to relax and enjoy social events. I still have time to hang out with my friends, explore the city, play sports, and watch Netflix! I also find it really nice that my classmates and I follow the same class schedule, which isn't something I thought about until starting school. It makes planning for hangouts or events much easier compared to how it was like in college, where everyone had varying class schedules.

Q: What challenges have you faced throughout pharmacy school so far?

A: At the moment with the COVID-19 pandemic, I find it challenging to not be able to see my classmates in-person. I miss bumping into them at the Med Sci building entrance and walking to HSW together, getting Moffitt breakfast during our 10-minute breaks between lectures, studying together, and just being with each other on campus.

Q: What inspires you to move forward/persevere when the going gets tough?

A: When the going gets tough, I like to think about these times positively and take them as a learning opportunity. I believe that whatever we come across in life happens for a reason, and there is always something we can take away from these moments.

IF NOT PHARMACY...

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



February 22, 2020 | UCSF Formal at the Exploratorium

A: If I wasn't pursuing pharmacy, I would probably be doing something related to photography, working in the fashion industry, or teaching calculus. I would also love to just travel the world.

HOBBIES/ INTERESTS

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

A: I like to go to open gym and play badminton either with my classmates or with others who come to open gym. I also started playing IM volleyball last year and realized how fun that was; I can't wait to continue playing once the pandemic ends. I love trying out new restaurants around the city as well, so when we have time, I would eat out with my friends. I also enjoy taking walks around my neighborhood while listening to music; it's relaxing to get some fresh air and have some time to myself.

Q: Favorite spot(s) to study? Favorite spot on campus?

A: When I study by myself, I focus best at home. When I study with friends, our favorite spots are one of the study rooms on the fourth floor of the library

or the S-rooms in the Medical Science building.

Q: Favorite food or drink spot in SF that you'd like to share for classmates to check out?

A: I love Perilla on 9th and Irving, a restaurant that's well-known for their Vietnamese garlic noodles. I also love going to LaLe for brunch because they have a cute interior design, and their dishes are delicious and affordable.

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

A: I've been watching a lot of Korean dramas on Netflix. My favorite at the moment is called Hospital Playlist, which portrays the lives of five doctors who went to medical school together and are very close friends working in the same hospital. It's heartwarming to see their tight-knit friendship and their dedication to patient care. Although dramas are fictitious, it makes me want to build this kind of friendship through pharmacy school and become a healthcare professional who makes a positive impact on patients, their family members, and the community.