

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



UCSF School of Pharmacy

ASSP | WINTER 2020



A Note From the Editor:



Despite the outside pandemic, I am happy to present to you Winter 2020 issue of 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:
Marianne Duran



—Roy Weng

P1 Student Spotlight: Marianne Duran



Proud student pharmacist right after the White Coat Ceremony.

ABOUT Marianne

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I grew up in a town called Bodø which is in the northern part of Norway. It's actually above the arctic circle, so in the winter we get the northern lights and in the summer we have the midnight sun. I love the nature in Norway, and I would go hiking and skiing very often. Ever since I can remember though, I always wanted to try living in a

different country because I thought it seemed so fun to learn a new culture and new language. When I was 17 years old, and in high school, I decided to study abroad for a year in the U.S. and I got placed with a host family in a small town in southern Minnesota. Following that year I knew I wanted to go back to the states, and I applied for college in Minnesota. I later met my now husband who is from El Salvador but lived in Los Angeles. After finishing undergraduate I moved to California and I absolutely love it here!

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

A: I hate watching scary movies or even just things that are sad. If I pick a movie to watch it usually ends up being a Disney movie because it usually has a happy ending.

Q: Where did you complete your undergraduate degree?

A: I went to the University of Minnesota for my undergraduate degree where I majored in physiology. Go gophers!

Why PHARMACY?

Q: Why did you choose pharmacy?

A: I honestly did not know I was going to choose pharmacy until my sophomore year in college. I knew I wanted to do something related to science, but pharmacy had never crossed my mind. I decided to take a class about exploring majors and careers and that's where I first realized pharmacy might be a good option for me. The ultimate reason I ended up choosing pharmacy was because I am really passionate about helping others and I am really fascinated by how the body works and how drugs can change its responses.

Q: What brought you to UCSF?

A: One of the reasons I picked UCSF was because my husband had just gotten into SFSU and I wanted to be close to him. I was also really impressed by the school and how diverse it is. Everyone I talked to that went to UCSF seemed to love it and they highly encouraged me to apply. The new curriculum also caught my eye and it seemed like a very good program.

REFLECTIONS

Q: Is pharmacy school like what you imagined?

A: I didn't really know what to expect starting pharmacy school, but I honestly thought it was going to be more challenging than what it has been. Not that it hasn't been challenging, because it definitely has. However, I think a big reason why it hasn't been as challenging as expected is because our class is really good at helping each other. In addition, all the faculty members are amazing, and they are always available to help as well. I was not expecting people, both classmates and faculty, to be so friendly and open to help.

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

A: I think a main challenge I had in the beginning of pharmacy school was being able to balance everything in my life. It was hard feeling like I had to do well in school, be part of RCOs, have leadership positions, get internships, workout and be healthy, and be a good friend and wife. I eventually realized that I had to prioritize what was important for me and not compare myself so much to everyone else.

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

A: My husband, my family, my friends, and my classmates are my biggest inspirations. My family has always supported me and been there for me, and even though they live across the world, they are always just a FaceTime away. My husband and I have a quote that we always use when things get challenging "What doesn't

challenge you, doesn't change you". This has helped me get through many challenges, from finishing a workout to facing my fears.

IF NOT PHARMACY...

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

A: When I was in high school, I thought I wanted to be an engineer because I was interested in science and many of my friends who were also into science wanted to go that route. When I started undergraduate, I was a pre-engineering major, but I quickly understood that this was not the right field for me, and I changed to physiology.

HOBBIES/ INTERESTS

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

A: I love being outdoors. I especially enjoy hiking, biking, skiing, and simply just going for walks in the neighborhood. It really helps me just be present and not think about school.

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

A: At the moment I am watching Masterchef

Australia. I usually don't watch too much TV (except when the bachelor(ette) is on), but I really enjoy watching people cook great food. It inspires me to explore more in the kitchen. My guilty pleasure is watching any of the Bachelor franchise shows.

Q: Favorite spot(s) to study?

A: I usually prefer to study at home as I am usually too tired after class to stay after school. However, I do like going to the Hub at Mission Bay to study with my classmates.

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

A: I think San Francisco has a lot of good food to offer. Some of my favorite places are Coqueta, Long Bridge Pizza, Sweet Maple, Mr. Holmes, and Pan Lido Salvadoreño.



One of my favorite activities to do is hiking. This is from a mountain called "Ryten" in the Lofoten Islands in Norway where my parents live.