Alumni Spotlights

Francisca Rivera
*Muir College*
Transferred from: Citrus College
Major: Global Health; Sociocultural Anthropology
Involvement: UCSD Flying Samaritans, Center for Global Mental Health
Future Plans: UCSD Global Health MA
Advice: Take your time, reach out to people, join an organization, find your passion.

Jasmine Nguyen
*Marshall College*
Transferred from: DeAnza College
Major: Pharmacological Chemistry
Involvement: Pre-Pharmacy Society, Research in Budin Lab in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department
Future Plans: Pharmacy School
Advice: To enjoy the two years (or more) you have at UC San Diego, and get as involved as much as you can.

Veronica Vickers
*Marshall College*
Transferred from: Cabrillo College
Major: Clinical psychology
Involvement: AED (Pre-Health Honors Society), Faculty Mentor Program, Research in Alzheimer's and Pancreatic Cancer, Sanford Consortium
Future Plans: Working as a Senior Research Associate at Sanford Consortium
Advice: Take advantage of all the events, programs, free stuff, and everything you pay tuition for! There is so much to do and very little time to do it!

Natalia Victoria
*Marshall College*
Transferred from: Glendale Community College
Major: Communication
Involvement: University Events Office, University Events Office, UCS
Future Plans: Working full time
Advice: Stay on top of your grind! Don’t worry about the name recognition of the university and just be yourself. You will find the right group, the right support to get through your time at UCSD :)

Rodrigo Cruz
*Sixth College*
Transferred from: Pierce College  
Major: Psychology  
Involvement: Pierce College, Calpig  
Advice: Don’t take your time trying to settle in. You gotta get going quick because it goes really fast and you don’t want to fall behind.

Kenia Garnica
Sixth College  
Transferred from: Santa Monica College  
Major: Real Estate & Development  
Involvement: Alpha Chi Omega  
Future Plans: Full time job as General Manager  
Advice: Stick with it & don't give up. The quarter system might scare you a bit on your first quarter as a transfer but it gets better I promise.

Raymond Hallmen III
Muir College  
Transferred from: Southwestern College  
Major: Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience  
Minor: General Biology  
Involvement: UC San Diego Recreation, Muir Peer Mentor, Intramural Basketball, Research in Cognitive Science Department - studied attention using EEG  
Future Plans: Gap year before Pharmacy School!  
Advice: Have fun! Your experience is what you make of it. Once I got involved with work and other programs at UCSD, I felt part of the campus culture and I thoroughly enjoyed my time here. I wish I had gotten involved sooner!

Audrey Yeung
Sixth College  
Transferred from: Diablo Valley College  
Major: Real Communication  
Minor: Business  
Involvement: Alter Ego, AMSA, ACTA, UCS, The Triton, Research on geotagging, influencers, and wanderlust in the age of social media  
Future Plans: I will be working full-time in San Diego.  
Advice: Don’t be afraid to do things on your own. You have infinite amount of resource and waiting for someone to push you to do something will prevent trying something new. Allow yourself to be scared but don't stop until you created the community want want at UC San Diego.

Vincent Aguilar
Revelle College  
Transferred from: San Diego Miramar College
Major Microbiology
Involvement: Research in Gene regulation, Biology Department
Future Plans: Work in a research driven biotechnology company.
Advice: Be courageous. Take control of your education. Don't make excuses for yourself. Rise to the challenge. Ask questions all the time. Watch the class podcast to take notes. Use your time wisely.

Qiao Rong
Warren College
Transferred from: DeAnza College
Major: Math-Computer Science
Involvement: Research in SDSC
Advice: Build your resume and try out different things at UCSD

Nadia Villanueva
Warren College
Transferred from: DeAnza College
Major: International Relations - Political Science
Minor: Sociology
Involvement: CALPIRG
Advice: Join as many clubs and organizations you can, time goes by really fast.

Amber Herrel
Muir College
Transferred from: Saddleback College
Major: Psychology
Involvement: Psychology Club, Psychology Department Transfer Mentor,
Advice: Take the opportunity to get involved on campus. There is literally something for everyone. If a club you’re interested in doesn’t yet exist, create it! Get to know your professors and cultivate those relationships. They are amazing people and excellent resources.

Disha Divyesh Bhakta
Eleanor Roosevelt College
Transferred from: College of Alameda
Major: Sociology
Involvement: UCSD StRIVE, Research in Benefits of Puppy Therapy - Merritt College/Psychology || Seals Barking - UCSD/Psychology
Future Plans: My plans after graduating from UC San Diego are to either get into a post-baccalaureate program or to take my remaining pre-medicine classes at an extension school or community college.
Advice: My advice to current and upcoming transfer students is that it is okay to explore other majors. You may never know you found something you’re more passionate about than what you had initially planned when you first got into UC San Diego.

Mary Alarcon
*Eleanor Roosevelt College*
Transferred from: Santa Monica College
Major: Neurobiology
Minor: Psychology
Involvement: Minority association of premed students, Aerial silks recreation, Genetics IA, Cellular neurobiology IA, Research in Neuroscience; learning about memory
Future Plans: Masters in biology at UCSD and TA for cellular neurobiology
Advice: Make sure to take advantage of all the opportunities UCSD has to offer! Take as many recreational classes as you can, that’s how I found my love for aerial silks!

Theresa Mrazkova
*Warren College*
Transferred from: Palomar College
Major: Electrical Engineering
Future Plans: Seeking full-time employment so that I can narrow down my interests before potentially seeking a master's degree.
Advice: Hold in there. Make friends. Try not to get overwhelmed by the already existing community as UC San Diego, participate in creating your own or expanding an existing one. Take advantage of the available resources and don't be afraid to ask for help. The professors and faculty are really dedicated and it is their pleasure to help or give advice. Just be yourself and be transparent and honest and you will make an impression and long-lasting connections.