



the Honor Code Magazine

Fall 2020

staying disconnected

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“... despite the glaring evidence that this year is going down in many’s histories as “the worst,” there’s still good worth recognizing”

Lessons from Abroad by Jason Turk

Letter from The Editors

The University Honors Program has always proven to be exemplary in its academic, co-curricular achievements, as well as its welcoming, engaged community. In the midst of the pandemic, University Honors students continue to strive for excellence, academically and professionally, in their academics and organizations, but also continue to foster a strong sense of community, even when we are “disconnected” and challenged in this virtual reality. In this edition of the Honor Code, the Honor Code staff wanted to highlight the ways Honors students are persevering, connecting, and excelling despite the obstacles faced. We are incredibly moved by the resilience and strength of both our staff and the Honors community at large who continue to pursue their education and passions despite the limitations of the pandemic. Although physically distanced, we are all connected by the thread that unites us all— our persistence, dedication, and tenacity.

Sincerely,
Meghan and Berenice

The Honor Code Team



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A Photographer's Journey in Florence, Italy

Felicia Petrocelli studied abroad without letting COVID-19 interfere with her adventure

By Berenice Vargas

Felicia Petrocelli, a third year University Honors student majoring in Photography and minoring in Mathematics, was expecting to study abroad for the 2020 spring semester at the Florence University of the Arts in Florence, Italy; however, her trip was cut short due to COVID-19. Nonetheless, her experience studying abroad was still a memorable and unique experience that she will always remember. Petrocelli has always enjoyed traveling and seeing new places, so she was determined to study abroad during her college career.

"When I came to Long Beach, I knew that it was something I wanted and had to do. It's like one of those things that people say they regretted they did

"It's like one of those things that people say they regretted they did not do ... and I didn't want that to be me, I wanted to do it. "

not do when they were in college and I didn't want that to be me, I wanted to do it," she said, "And who wouldn't want to study photography in Europe!"

According to Petrocelli, the classes at Florence University were very "hands-on and explorative" which she loved because "you really got to

experience their culture and learn so much more than just walking around."

Other places Petrocelli was able to explore were Rome, Bologna, Pisa, and Florence, which were all her favorite destinations because "they were all a lot of fun to explore and learn about."

Petrocelli says that when she arrived in Italy, there was already talk about COVID-19; however, it was not a big deal at the time.

"Once it became more serious, the professors were really great about not making us overly paranoid, and they all had faith that it would be handled properly when it needed to be," she said.

Once the virus spread, Petrocelli's class trips around Italy got canceled, and eventually they were told they were going to have to leave Italy earlier than expected.

"It was really sad. All of my roommates and I had been planning spring break trips and other trips to go and explore more of Europe and Italy," stated Petrocelli. "In the little time we had, my roommates and I all got to know each other and ended up getting along really well, which made it even harder to say goodbye."

Petrocelli eventually finished her study abroad experience at home with online classes, such as watching videos, reading books, doing research, and listening to pre-recorded lectures. Although this was not what she expected, Petrocelli still values her study abroad experience, even when it was online.

"I enjoyed it while it lasted and am happy that I was able to go for the time that I did," she said. "I wish I knew how long I would have there, so I would

"I enjoyed it while it lasted and am happy that I was able to go for the time that I did."



have done more things, but that was impossible to know.”

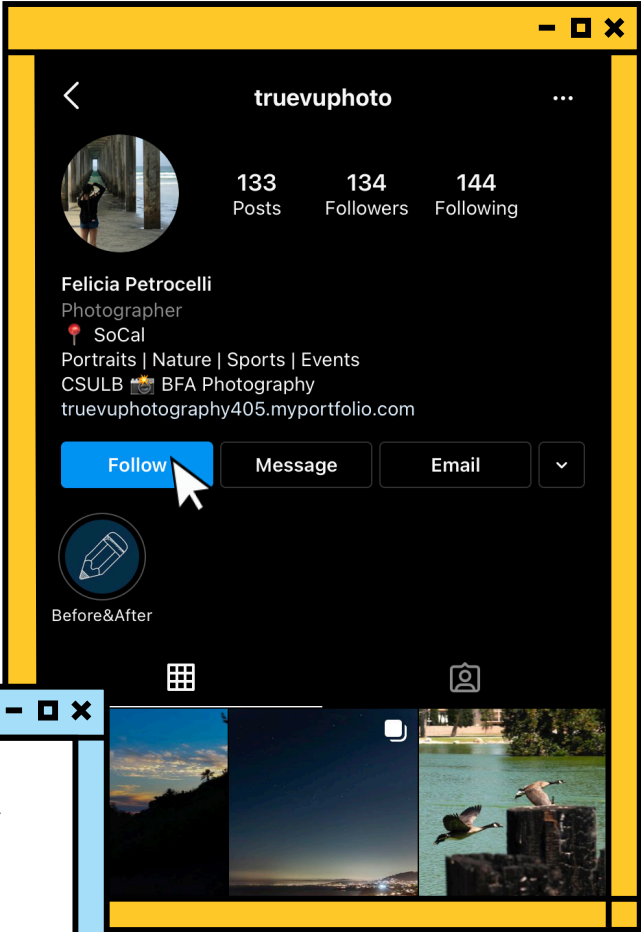
Petrocelli also planned to study abroad in Greece during Summer 2020, but it was also canceled due to COVID-19. Despite the cancellations, she hopes that she can study abroad again.

“If you want to travel and study abroad, do it! It’s worth every cent and minute. You get to explore another culture and learn what else is out there. There are so many programs, plans, scholarships, loans and people who are there to help you through the whole process,” Petrocelli advised.

She also mentioned that once you study abroad, you will want to do it again, even if it may not turn out as you planned. Petrocelli’s study abroad experience in Florence, Italy was an engaging and truly unforgettable experience that she encourages others to partake in because “you won’t regret doing it; you will regret not doing it.”



“ ... you won’t regret doing it; you will regret **not** doing it.”



You can follow along with this photographer’s journey by checking out her Instagram page [@truevuphoto](#).

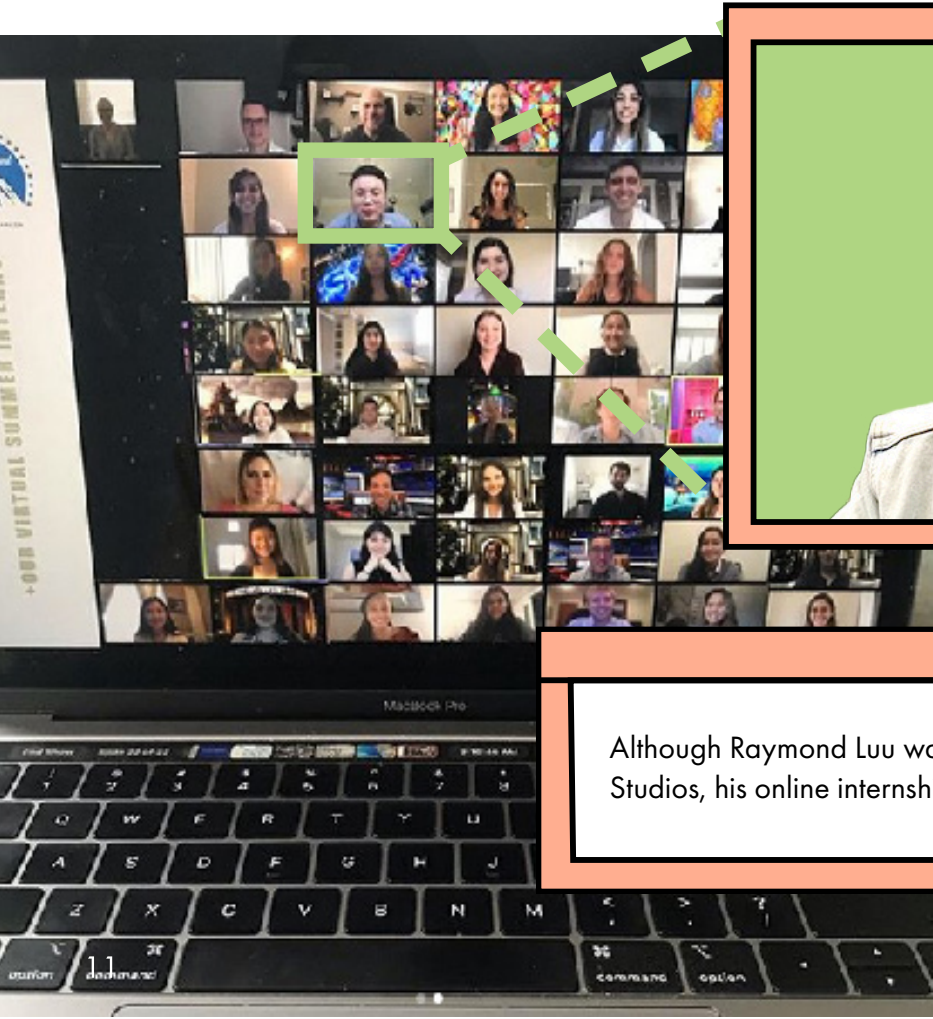
Sharpening His Sword

By Zadie Baker

Even in the time of COVID-19, online internship opportunities are available. Senior University Honors student, Raymond Luu, has taken full advantage of the occasion. Raymond is pursuing a double major in Finance and International Business and experienced a Finance and Accounting internship at Paramount Pictures this past summer. Having already interned with the Cetera Financial Group and Long Beach Transit, Raymond was well prepared to deal with the demands of this position and was eager to learn more about the industry.

"A major component of making films is not just the idea and the story... [and] how it contributes to the audience, but also the feasibility...of it, which includes the finance [and] the numbers aspect, like, is this actually possible?" he says.

"... you would never know what to expect, but I got a lot out of it, and I'm hoping to get more out of it later on,"



Although Raymond Luu was looking forward to be at Paramount Studios, his online internship has been an enlightening experience.



As a part of the Motion Picture Planning team at Paramount, Raymond worked extensively with Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems. He discussed learning the ropes of this program from his supervisor and counted this experience as invaluable in his professional development. He reflects that in the finance world, "The more you know technicality wise, the better." His academic background in International Business also helped him at Paramount, where complex, international transactions occur daily.

Doing an internship during the pandemic has had its ups and downs. Raymond was looking forward to taking the obligatory studio tour and networking with his fellow interns in person. Sadly, the virus has prevented both of these. After all, a film studio is an exciting atmosphere to take in. "You see all the moving parts, the production, the people...walking around, the dynamic, the personality of entertainment," he says.

However, Raymond has learned to make the best of his experience and is very glad he took the position. "Going in without any knowledge prior, you would never know what to expect, but I got a lot out of it, and I'm hoping to get more out of it later on," he says. Among other things,

the pandemic has allowed him to eliminate the commute to and from the studios in Los Angeles.

Raymond's work with Paramount has helped him fine-tune his expectations and desires for his future career. Since working in the entertainment business, he has decided it would be a promising route to take after experiencing first-hand exposure to the field with Paramount. Next fall, Raymond plans on entering the M.S. Finance program at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) with hopes of strengthening his candidacy for competitive financial planning and analysis positions. After earning his master's degree, he hopes to achieve a Chartered Financial Analyst (C.F.A.) or a Certified Financial Planner (C.F.P.) position, then finally earn an M.B.A. He calls the M.B.A. the "ultimate cherry on top."

In this pandemic where jobs are scarcer than usual, Raymond's ultimate goal is to put himself in the best position possible for employment and career advancement. He concludes, "We're all just a clump. A clump of people waiting to get jobs. So...what do you want to do in that meantime? It's a matter of...do you want to chill and relax, or do you want to sharpen your sword and be ready for battle when you head outside?"

Supporting K-12 Music Educators During the COVID-19 Pandemic

CSULB graduate student, Emily LaSalle, helps connect CSULB music majors to K-12 music teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

By Abbas Abdulhasan



Emily LaSalle is a senior University Honors graduate student pursuing a degree in music and minoring in political science; her chosen instrument is her voice. In her current thesis project, LaSalle explores the impact of service-learning in collegiate music education settings. In service learning, students learn educational standards through tackling real-life problems in their community. She studies the importance of service-learning and analyzes case studies on general college service-learning programs in all disciplines. Using this knowledge, she is planning on creating a blueprint for program duplication in music education settings. In her planning, she focuses on the program she created this summer and that is currently operating in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. While focusing on her graduate studies and busy with developing a thesis project, LaSalle continues to work hard to improve her service-learning music education program.

Over the summer, LaSalle worked remotely on a Massachusetts congressional campaign for a candidate who started a nonprofit that selects people between the ages 18-25 to participate in a year of service for an underserved public school. Community service has been a large part of her life, so connecting with this candidate, whose mission is to serve the community, inspired LaSalle. At the beginning of August, she considered how this candidate used the strengths of a community to help solve its challenges. The experience LaSalle received working on this campaign motivated her own creation of a service-learning program.

Having grown up in Long Beach, LaSalle is very close to the choral community in Long Beach and at CSULB. She also has many friends across the state who are choral teachers. LaSalle thought about her friends during the summer and contemplated how the pandemic made their lives difficult: "How do you teach choir online [when] the whole point of choir is singing together. Now you can't sing together." LaSalle's concern also comes from witnessing her sister, a kindergarten teacher, who faces challenges of online

teaching. "Choir teachers and music teachers have to basically rewrite their curriculum because you just can't do the same thing," LaSalle said.

LaSalle spoke with some teachers about their plans to teach virtually during the school year. She also spoke with her friends at the Bob Cole Conservatory at CSULB on the limitations the pandemic presented this academic year, such as no field observations or teaching in classrooms. The final year before completing their degrees is, unfortunately, completely online. Seeing her friends who study and teach music and choir struggle during this pandemic, LaSalle decided to create a program to help them connect with each other. She discussed her idea with choir teachers: "What if we give you some students to help you, whatever you need." Every program is different because the student demographic is different, and their skill levels are different. Some

teachers agreed and thought it would be helpful to have people record part tracks, grade assignments, or help with setting up a virtual choir class. LaSalle saw the need and decided to do something to support music students and educators.

LaSalle started by first calling her thesis advisor and chair of the Choral Studies department at CSULB, Dr. Jonathan Talberg, to discuss her plan and how it would look like. Originally, she wanted to focus on Long Beach teachers, but Dr. Talberg encouraged her to think bigger and include teachers from other California school districts. He also encouraged her to reach out to the California Choral Directors Association (CCDA). LaSalle made an interest form for teachers to fill out and published it on the association's Facebook page. She also created a similar interest form for CSULB music education and music major students to



fill out. LaSalle mentioned, "The hardest part of creating this program was the matching-up process of teachers and students because every program and school district is so unique and has students and teachers that are so unique in their needs." She is very grateful to CSULB faculty Dr. Talberg, Director of Choral Studies, and Dr. Joshua Palkki, who leads the Choral Music Education program, for helping and providing guidance when she faced challenges.

LaSalle then created the entire overview and policy forms for the program, as well as contracts for the students and teachers. This program was possible because everything is virtual and a simple Zoom call away. "People want to help, they just don't know how. If you give them the opportunity they will take it." Currently, she has 27 teacher-student pairs. She sends out biweekly tracking forms for the teachers and student volunteers to assess how they are doing and if there is anything she can improve. "It has been great. Seeing the response every two weeks of what student volunteers are doing is amazing and inspiring, they are going above and beyond. They are getting great teaching experiences," LaSalle said. Some of the student volunteers have helped

teachers in setting up a music composition project for their students. Teachers have said their students are having so much fun and work so hard. They believe this is something they would have been unable to do in a normal school setting.

"I did it to help people, and it is helping people." LaSalle created this program for the teachers, and it ended up providing student volunteers great experiences to prepare for future aspirations. Student volunteers have also gained great networking opportunities that can help them establish their careers. LaSalle aims to expand and improve the program in her thesis research. She is happy and inspired by how trusting and cooperative the teachers and student volunteers have been. LaSalle's program helped alleviate the stress K-12 teachers faced due to the virtual class setting, shaped hundreds of middle school and high school students' music education, and provided valuable experiences to CSULB music education and music majors. LaSalle is really proud of the CSULB music and choral department students for their exceptional representation of our campus community.



"People want to help, they just don't know how. If you give them the opportunity they will take it."



Giving Quarantine Monotony the Coup de Grace

By Morgan Barragan

Students often turn to art to escape the monotonous routine of attending class and completing assignments. Now, they have turned to their artistic sides to escape the routine of quarantine and it has become the saving grace from quarantine boredom.

This is especially true for first-year University Honors student and Pre-Marine Biology major, Serena Chang, who found an outlet in craft and made a business to profit from her skill. Alongside her sister, Selene Chang, Serena has developed a platform through Instagram (@itsarealknockout) and YouTube into the hub of their creativity that encourages sustainability and transparency. Serena’s motivation to create, partnered with her drive and resilience to start a business amid a pandemic, is an incredible feat.

The self-proclaimed “tight-knit” and “chaotic” duo began Real Knockout. Inspired by Teochew art, Real Knockout showcases Serena’s and her sister’s talents and varied skill set among a plethora of mediums. Serena notes how they stand apart from similar businesses, for they take a bold approach to their work by implementing saturated and expressive theatrics instead of following the general trend within Teochew art of spotlighting pastels.

A great deal of thought is poured into Real Knockout. The naming process alone parallels the sisters’ dedication to every aspect of their

business. “Coup de grace,” a French phrase meaning “mercy blow,” was first intended to be their business name; however, after looking into it further, they discovered other platforms already using this name. Keeping the essence of the phrase and pursuing originality, they took to the thesaurus and found the word “knockout.” The “real” in Real Knockout comes from the letters within the sister’s names: the “R” and the “A” in Serena; and “E” and the “L” in Selene.

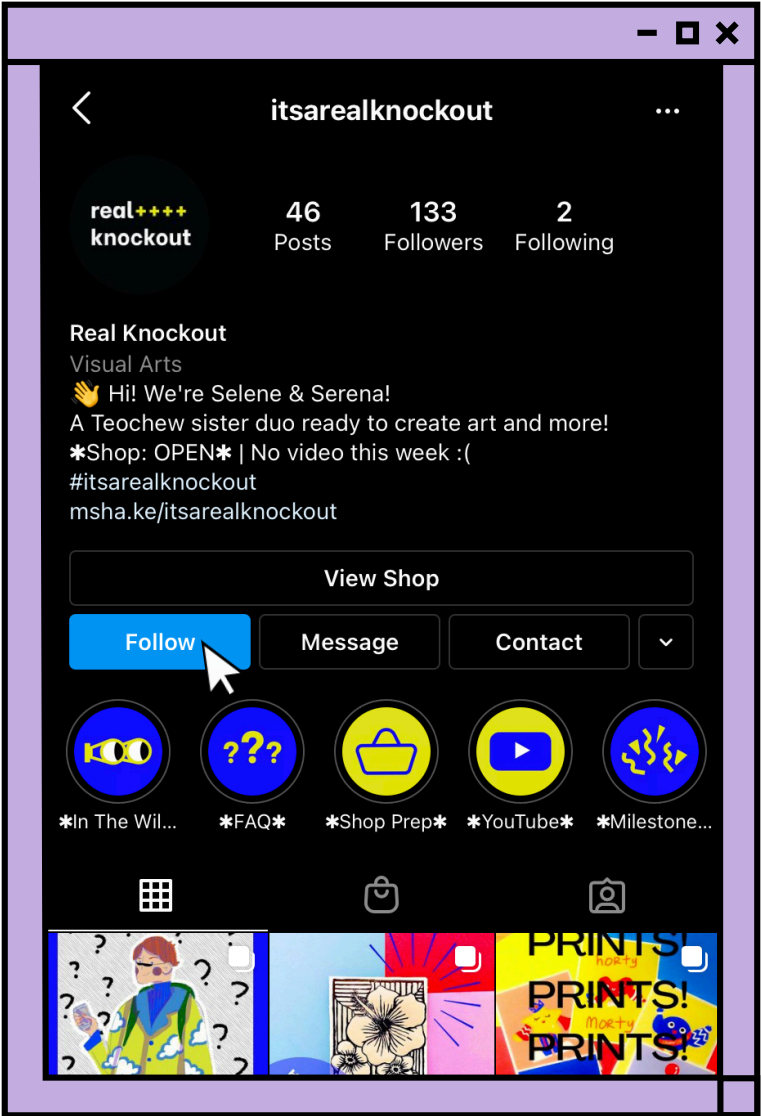
This same attention to detail flows over into their devotion to sustainability. A key part of their process to keep their business sustainable is to examine all options of production and ask the question: “This may be a cheap option, but is it sustainable?” For instance, the clay in their clay charms is made by the sisters in a two-hour process, the acrylic paint is 100 percent recycled, and the packaging is all eco-friendly (consisting of biodegradable glassine paper and mailers). They also try to keep their business local to minimize their carbon footprint. As a business, Serena believes that transparency is an

important element for their customers. To achieve this, Serena and her sister created a Real Knockout YouTube channel to document their company’s journey, shed light on their sustainable practices, and keep them accountable by their user base.

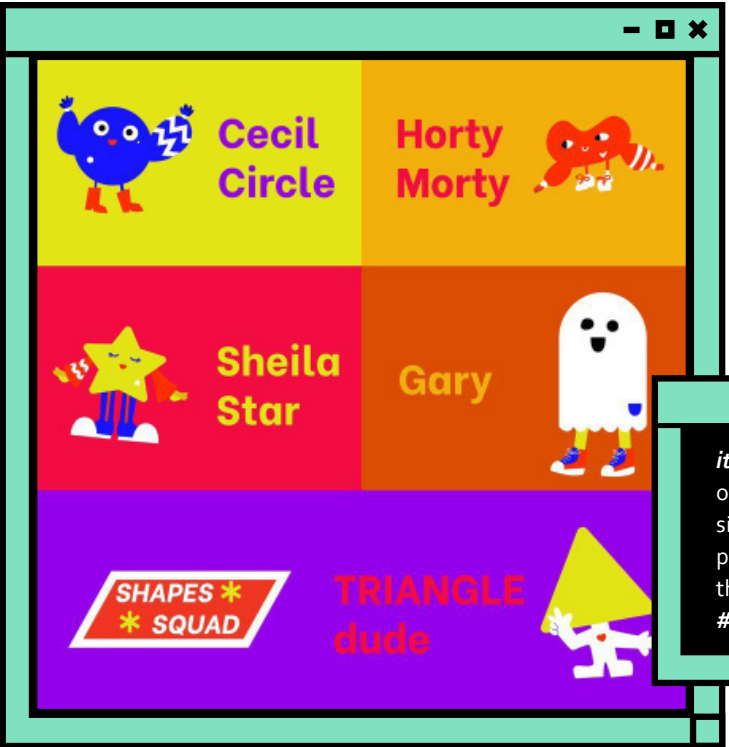
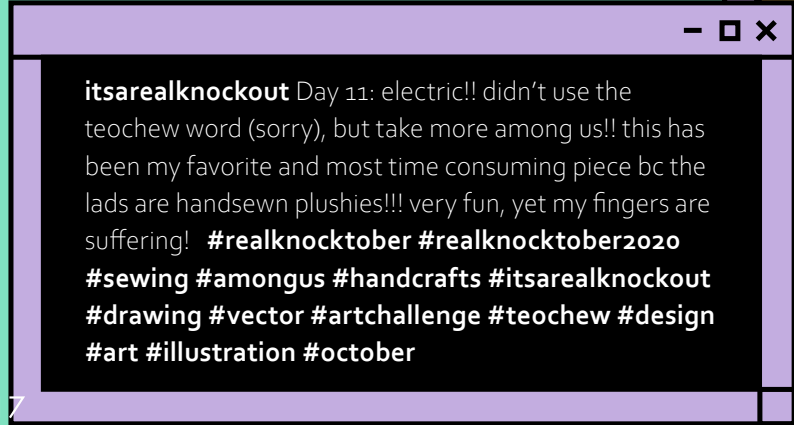
Real Knockout is proving to be quite a success. In their first launch of handmade clay charms, the pair sold the majority of their products. At the beginning of October, Real Knockout’s Instagram page hit 100 followers. Now, Serena and her sister are preparing for their next launch of a wider range of products including new designs for clay charms and the introduction of stickers and prints.

The sisters’ current goals are to expand their reach and products in order to serve their community. Ultimately, the duo hopes to develop Real Knockout into a brand that creates “a safe place for high school and college creators” and gives them the platform and resources to create their online businesses. Further, Serena and her sister intend on donating a portion of their profits to various environmental groups and, most notably, the non-profit supporting those of Teochew heritage, “Gaginang.”

Serena persevered in a time of utter confusion, broke free from the mundane nature that is life in quarantine, and, with the help of her sister, made her passion for art a business.



“Serena persevered in a time of utter confusion, broke free from the mundane nature that is life in quarantine, and, with the help of her sister, made her passion for art a business.”



“Vermillion applied to the UHP in hopes of finding a community and group of friends. What he ended up finding was all of that and more — a priceless experience that has allowed him to have great supporters and an amazing career today.”

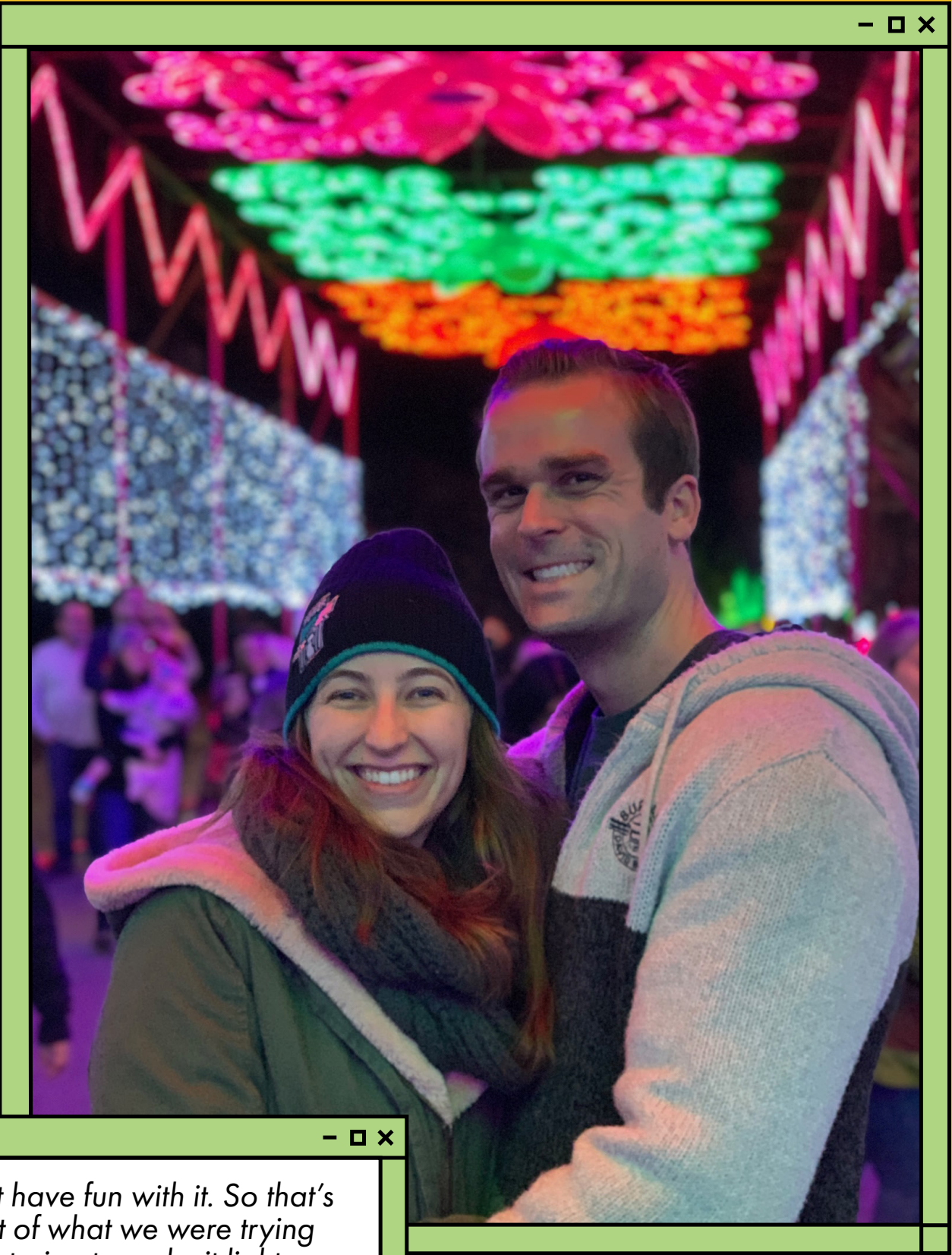
You Really Can't Beat Long Beach

By Saren Martinez

Nick Vermillion, 27, is a manager of Corporate Planning at The Irvine Company and alumni from CSULB. He applied to the University Honors Program in hopes of finding a community and group of friends, and now credits much of his success to being a member of UHP at Long Beach State. Not only did he find great supporters through a priceless experience, but UHP changed his life forever by granting him the opportunity and confidence to attain his career.

Vermillion got his foot in the door of the UHP executive board by attending meetings and events, including Halloween parties and the Relay for Life. During his sophomore year, Vermillion and his close friend, Alex Villaneda, both ran to be members of the executive board. Vermillion became Community Outreach Officer and Villaneda assisted in founding *The Honor Code* magazine. The famous “Nick and Alex Semi-Tri-Annual Spring Picnic,” complete with a bouncy castle, was their favorite event to organize. One of their goals as board members was to try to encourage people to get out of their shells and plan fun events that didn't feel like an obligation. One of the best ways of getting people together was events such as milk and cookies night and watching movies.

“Having those kinds of events where it's like, okay, everyone's outside of their comfort zone for this, and we can either make it awkward for everyone, or everyone can realize we're in the same boat, and we're not social people, like let's



“... let's just have fun with it. So that's a big part of what we were trying to do, just trying to make it light, make it fun, you know it's an honors program but it doesn't have to be super serious all the time.”

just have fun with it. So that's a big part of what we were trying to do, just trying to make it light, make it fun, you know it's an Honors Program but it doesn't have to be super serious all the time."

Vermillion could not emphasize enough how important his experience on the board of the UHP was for him.

"The opportunity of showing that I can take on the responsibility of planning out events being in charge and semi-running the small organization was a big help for me in that regard, in kicking off my career and getting my first internships."

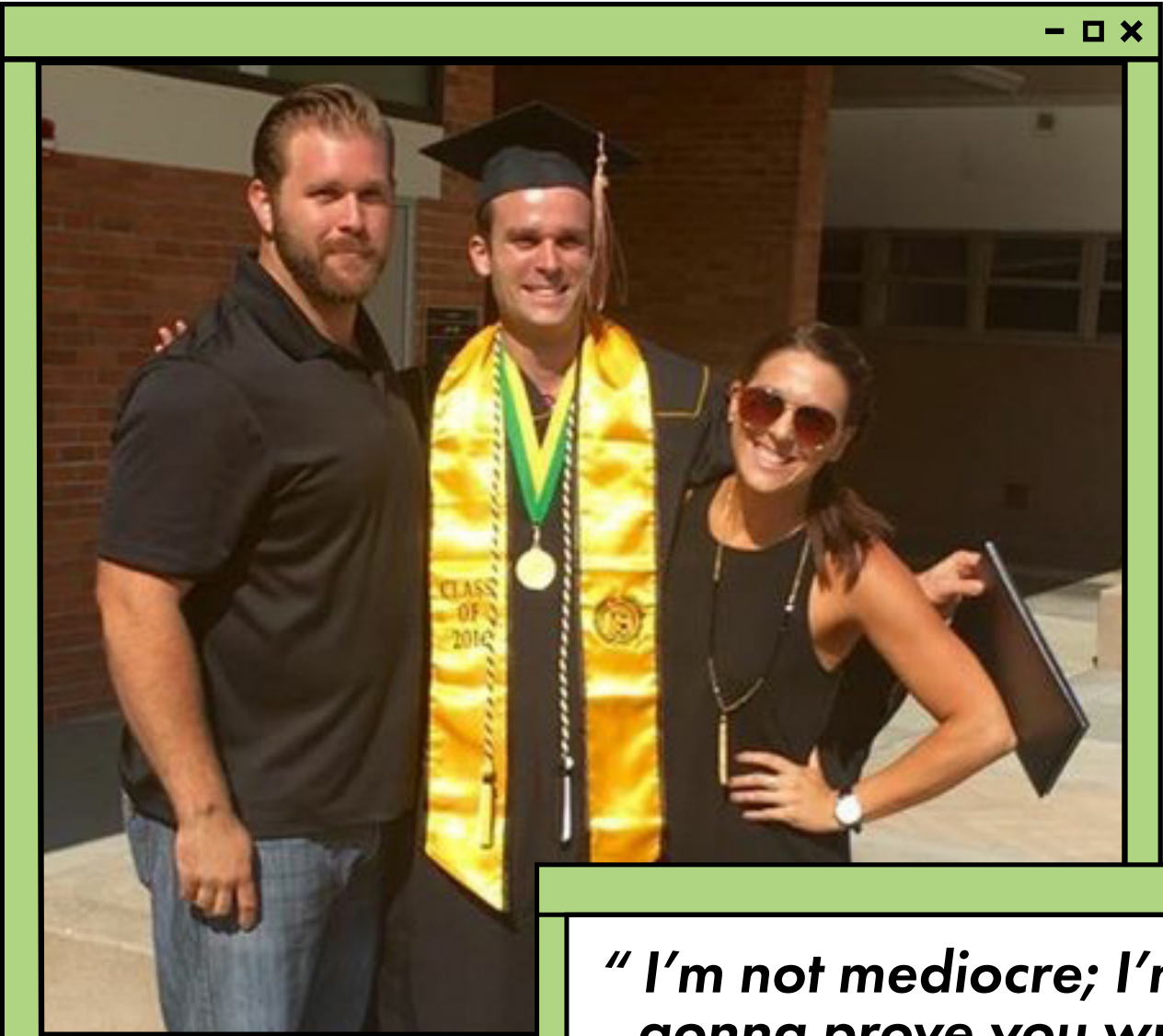
He also gives a lot of credit for his success in internships to Dr. Tomlin, his junior year Marketing 300 professor. On the first day of class, Dr. Tomlin asked people to raise their hands if they had an internship yet. The students most likely expected some advice or a lecture on the importance of

internships. Instead, they received a brutally honest, jarring wake up call: Dr. Tomlin said those without an internship yet were mediocre. This jolted Vermillion to instantly start applying for internships.

"That kind of got to me 'cause I'm the kind of person where it's like you know what, I'm not mediocre; I'm gonna prove you wrong."

He was able to complete two programs during his last two years at CSULB. Reflecting on his internships, Vermillion says that equally important to the experience of working in a professional environment is gaining a clearer insight into the career path one wants to pursue.

Besides focusing on his work outside of school, Vermillion still had to complete the UHP Senior Thesis project. There is no question, however, that the hours of tedious work it required paid off



in the end. When applying for his job at The Irvine Company coming out of college, Vermillion sent his now-boss the thesis he wrote for the UHP.

"I'd say that by showing my boss that I have the knowledge to do extensive research to create financial models and kind of show off my skills that way, coupled with the internship experience I had, was definitely critical in me getting the job I have now."

Even though he is still a manager at The Irvine Company, Vermillion is now back at CSULB, working towards his Master of Business Administration degree.

"When I was trying to think of schools I wanted to go back to, Long Beach was at the top of the list and kind of the only one I applied for. You really can't beat Long Beach."

This successful alumnus wants current students to realize the valuable skills they are learning through their classes. He encourages his peers to view their classes as preparation for entering the workforce.

"Even though some stuff may seem like this is a huge drag, like you just don't want to do it, as the public speaking stuff, it's a safe environment within your classes to be able to practice that and then gain pointers from your professor on it, on what you can do better so you can hone that skill."

Vermillion has been able to achieve his goals through dedication and community support from his fellow honors students. His current position as manager at a prestigious company highlights the significance of his time in the UHP at CSULB.

Lessons from Abroad

By Jason Turk

It's been a rough year. And yet, despite the glaring evidence that this year is going down in many's histories as "the worst," there's still good worth recognizing. For University Honors student Mikayla Afusia, that good emerged in the form of a willingness to tread into the unknown.

Pursuing degrees in both Criminal Justice and Human Development, Afusia already has what many might consider a full plate. But when Professor Rosy Wellborn reached out to her about an internship opportunity in Spain, Afusia was enthralled. After passing through a few interviews, she was on track to go to Spain.

Next came the difficult part. Afusia, who had never lived outside of California, was about to spend more than half a year in a country thousands of miles away from her home and friends. Reflecting on this, Afusia described how "the biggest thing that scared me was having to leave a lot of friends, because up to that point I was surrounded by friends all the time..." There was also the anxiety about entering an entirely new country. Luckily, the language barrier wasn't a major worry. Afusia noted how she "went to a predominantly Hispanic school, so everyone spoke Spanish around me...I was able to go to friend's houses and their parents would speak Spanish to me and I was like 'Okay, I can understand this.'"

Afusia arrived to Barcelona in October and was greeted into a host family, consisting of two parents and their elementary-aged children. At first, the culture of the city seemed similar to the hustle and bustle of Southern California. However, in exploring more of Spain, she discovered that "people were a lot more focused on what they had versus like, here in California, we're very nonstop, one thing after another... that was a big culture shock."

She adjusted quickly with her fellow interns, who were also studying abroad. With them, she began teaching English to toddlers who were also being taught Spanish and Catalan. At first, she noted, "I was a little more nervous, thinking, 'okay, can they

comprehend all of this?' But what blew me away was that, at such a young age, their brains just sort of take everything in, and they can just sorta piece together things, and then later on they'll be able to separate which language they're speaking or understanding."

This observation helped Afusia realize exactly how pressing childhood education is. She remarked how "those are your prime years of learning. You could get so much into a kid at that age. I used to think like 'oh, you won't be able to understand it until

"People were a lot more focused on what they had versus like, here in California, ...



... we're very nonstop, one thing after another ... that was a big culture shock."



you're older,' but these kids are like, three, and they're understanding pretty much everything."

Despite planning to stay until June, Afusia was called back mid-March due to the pandemic. Nonetheless, her time in Spain allowed her to realize that "there's so much more to the world than here in California." She now wants to travel around the entirety of Europe, with particular hopes to visit Switzerland.

And her advice for students considering to travel and step outside of their comfort zones



themselves? "I'd say, if there's any hesitation, just go for it. I had hesitation going into it, but I feel like that set me back just a little bit. It's one of the best experiences you'll have. Just be open to everything coming your way...don't be afraid to go out there and do it...If you have any self doubts, like 'Can I go out there on my own?' then go out there. If it works, it does, and if not, it's a learning experience."

" Just be open to everything coming your way ... don't be afraid to go out there and do it. "

The Adventures of Aliyyat Afolabi: A Daring Tale of An Internship with the CDC

By Michael Lam

It requires no stretch of the imagination to find individuals focused on salaries and other amenities along the beaten college-career-life pathway. But, when have we ever been in awe by doing what is **ordinary, mundane, and altogether, the norm?**

CSULB biology and University Honors student, Aliyyat Afolabi, better known as Ali, dares to dream of greater things beyond expectations and resolves to accomplish her every ambition. Ali is the role model that reminds us why we pursue the careers we chose and why we should not settle for less. After graduating, Ali intends to start medical school and become a physician.

At some point, all pre-meds have uttered the words, "I want to help people." However, Ali's pre-med path strays from the general guidelines of research and medicine. While this can be perceived broadly, Ali's narrative is driven by a unique community approach to medicine. Having immigrated from Nigeria, a country with a lacking health infrastructure, Ali intends to become a doctor to benefit those lacking access to health information and give back to her community.

Throughout college, Ali continuously found herself serving pivotal roles in the Long Beach community as a residential assistant in the University Honors dorm, a research assistant in a reproductive biology lab, and an intern working at two hospitals as a COPE Health Scholar and Neighborhood Med Fellow. **In every role**, Ali was intentional about her actions and played key roles in producing a positive atmosphere. For example, as a residential assistant in charge of several dorming students, who were experiencing living away from home for the first time, Ali created a "home away from home" environment. Ali enamored people by her ability to create a family out of strangers and a community out of her students.

Given her commitment to community, Ali pursued her passion in public health, a field where community and medicine overlap. During the summer of her sophomore year in college, Ali worked as an intern with the Summer Health Professions Education Program at UCLA, where she learned relevant health issues, such as the social determinants of health and health disparities. In the following year, she furthered her foundation in public health by applying to and getting into the CDC Public Health Undergraduate Program (CUPS).

In the program, Ali spent eight weeks at UCLA learning about public health, the role of the CDC, as well as being a community figure and proactively tackling public health issues. In her classes, Ali



learned how public health professionals handle and combat issues like health policies, reproductive rights, and infectious diseases. Moreover, Ali's lectures were taught by Ph.D. students who specialize in these areas. Through the program, Ali was able to connect with these Ph.D students, and ask questions to broaden her own knowledge.

Outside of class, Ali interned at a designated community site, Being Alive, a community clinic that provides affordable HIV treatment to underserved communities in downtown Los Angeles. Ali assisted in planning pride events, surveying clinic users, and collecting data for her research project. In addition to Ali's work being used for the final presentation for the program, her research "allow[ed] the clinic to continue their wellness program" which would "provide resources[food, affordable housing, medication] to people coming to the clinic." One of her favorite memories while working at Being Alive was interacting with a client who rarely showed up to their appointments. Ali "connected" with them because of their common immigration from Africa. She also found humor and comfort in their conversations about everything from Nicki Minaj to concerns about the client's lack of adherence to their medication. Over time and thanks to Ali's presence, this infrequent patient would show up more and more often.

Outside of class and her personal research, she also was tasked with working with other interns to create a research project tackling an unaddressed public health issue. Ali and her teammates decided to study incarcerated Black male populations and their incidence of HIV/AIDS. For their project, they performed literature review, citing the historic numbers observed of Black males in prison populations as well as lacking contraception, and proposed condoms as a potential intervention for these populations to mitigate the spread of HIV/AIDS.

To conclude the program, Ali presented her personal research findings at the CDC in Atlanta, Georgia. Throughout her summer research and internship, Ali surveyed and collected data that was now presented in her poster, "Do Social Disadvantages Play a Role in Accessing Quality HIV Care." She recalls her poster, a summation

of her entire summer of hard work and effort, and the elation she felt "seeing people engaged in it and asking questions." Moreover, she shocked herself with the realization: here she was, a "20-year-old educating these directors and staff for the CDC.

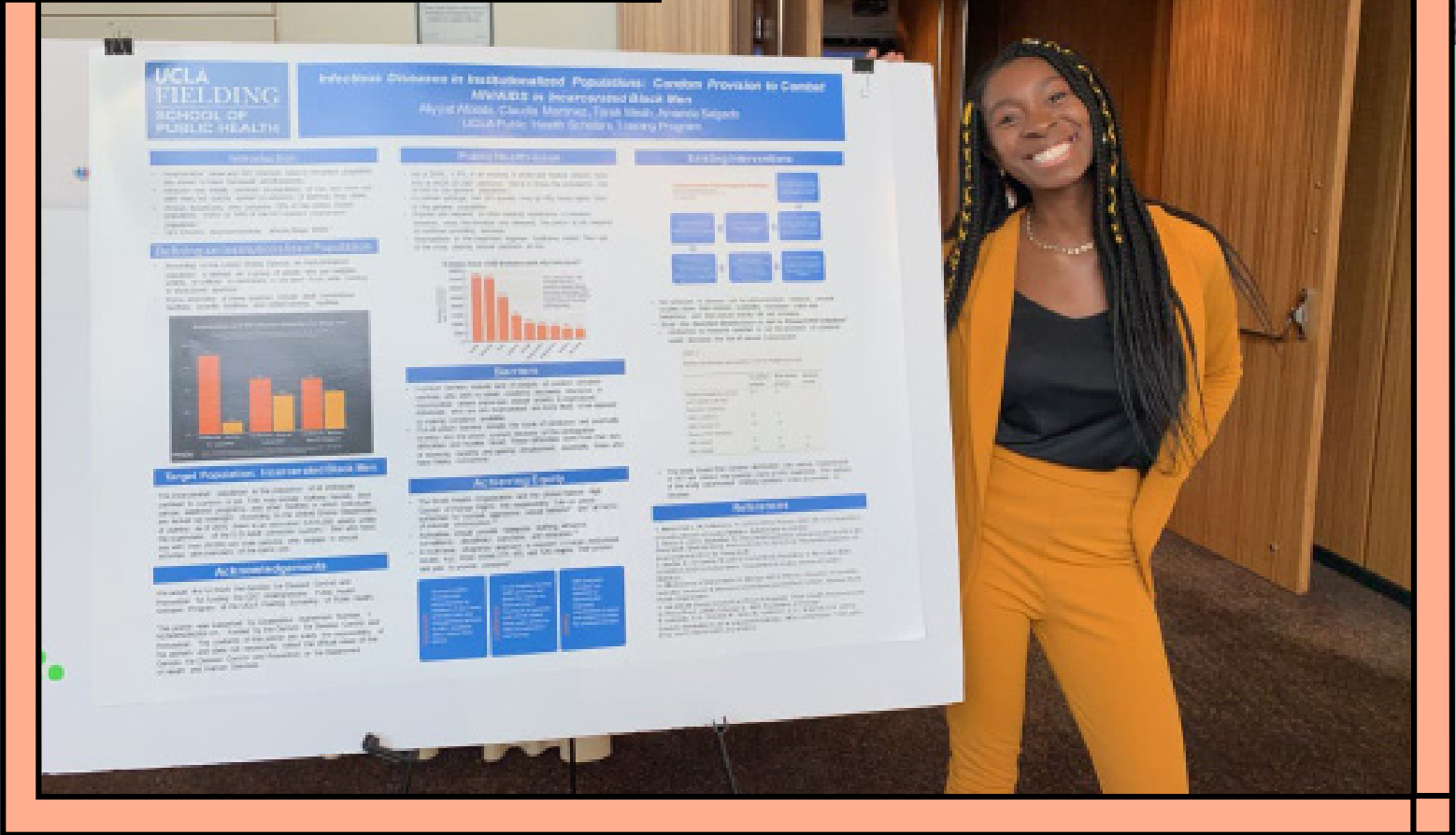
Ali reflects on her time in CUPS as "one of the best experiences of [her] life and something [she] will never forget." She feels especially proud of having been a part of the CDC, considering how the CDC has "done so much to combat the pandemic."

In the far future, Ali hopes to work for the World Health Organization where she can apply dual expertise in medicine and public health.

Ali reminds us to be all of who we can be and strive for our actions to match our ideals. By always pushing to be not ordinary, Ali lives her life to make others marvel at not only what she has already accomplished, but also at what she has yet to achieve.

Showing results for

Do Social Disadvantages Play a Role in Accessing Quality HIV Care."



"Ali reminds us to be all of who we can be ...



... and strive for our actions to match our ideals."

Creative Contributions

Brandon_Gorme_poem



20

By Brandon Gorme

Hello 24 I am 20 I have been lost
My confidence lies with my doubt
What would you do
What is everything like
Does the sun feel warm again
Do I keep my promises I made to you
Was I enough

Hello 20 I am 24 I come not before but after.
You believe me to be your salvation
I do not precede you
Nor do i feed you
You look upon me for guidance
Yet I have not taken my first steps
I know not of what will be only what has been done
Upon the 4th we will talk
When the right angle has been seen
Follow it
At the end there I will be

Jayden_Maree_poem



10:53



Fingerprint.
The ripple of a splash made somewhere
else.
Consequence.
a body that isn't mine, a mind that runs. I'm
being pushed.
I've been determined.
I'm just watching, from outside, through a
lens, blurry, and fraying.
Fingerprints left behind|



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English (US)

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Serena_Chang_artwork



I love you, always
by sarah sasaki

"you didn't mean to do it leta, so it wasn't your fault."
"...oh newt, you never met a monster you couldn't love."
fantastic beasts: the crimes of grindelwald

a child who didn't know better, sister to a crying baby brother
just wanting him to stop, the cradle she exchanged
a moment that left her a husk of who she once was,
broken, only she knew
others saw only the lestrange flower, their whispers a constant echo
failing to see the single, descending white petal
her guilt was hers to cradle
the monster in the mirror she looked upon, with its innermost cracks
but yet, beyond them bestowed a gentle, beautiful soul haunted
a heart for creatures, who scamander took the fall for
redeemer of house slytherin,
her last farewell to the elder scamander, in anguish beating against the flames in tears
as she fell and saved the men she loved, looking upon their faces and at last seeing her own

leta lestrange

"hide her - hide them all, I beg you."
"what will you give me in exchange, severus?"
"anything."
harry potter and the deathly hallows - part 2

a man whose life was for the boy who lived,
the son to a father who hurt him far more ways than one
the one, his one happiness in the world he conjured for solely himself
lily
a flower he desperately tried to save,
the spring he hadn't asked for in his muted despair as a child,
beckoning him with a kindness his half-blood hadn't felt before
but like all seasons, her time had come and gone
to only be able to see her now in the eyes of the chosen one,
a relentless reminder belonging to the man she chose
with his childhood and last embrace, his patronus secluded, he could've welcomed the darkened abyss
the path pursued would provide an unbreakable isolation, a cursed, continued pain
but through his last tears revealed, one of the most hated men became the bravest as each droplet was cast

severus snape





Georgie_Sucio_poem

#1; tv memories
i get lost in stories
and white lit dreams
that blacken with a click,
electric blue an aftershock
on my eyelids.

i am swept up
in the maze of someone else's story
and i worry
that my own is
paper trees
and cardboard towns
scripted scenes,
tissue paper gowns
a movie set, a bookstore shelf
i build out of dreams and not
life.

i have left remnants of myself
on the cutting room floor,
and present art edited
to permissible imperfection.

- Georgie Sucio

Georgie_Sucio_poem

#2; for auntie manang
a heap of clothes
that i can't remember you in.
a messy shed
that you used for storage.
a pair of hoop earrings
studded with white diamonds.
a red coat from London Fog
that i'd never seen you wear.

remnants of you fill up your spaces
in dusty boxes piled up in the garage;
abandoned and used
and missing you.
hands that held them close.
your absence is a
black hole that draws me
to an emptiness
and to wonder.
it consumes your smile and
the shake of your hands and
the crushing sound of the walnuts
you taught me how to chop.
i leave them in that darkness,
and alone i search for the dreams
that came too early to pass you by.

the memory
of you tastes bitter and rich,
and looks like fear.
i am afraid of many things, but
most of all
your empty spaces.

- Georgie Sucio

Georgie_Sucio_poem

#3;
You fill me up
with so much love
that I am bursting at the seams,
overflowing, gleaming.
my head is full of music,
your voices on replay,
but it feels like
my body is too small
for your love to stay -
i am cracking at my edges
ripping holes into myself
to catch a glimpse of what you see
because the unsurety
keeps me up at night.

my mouth has learned to smile
my face has learned to laugh
my eyes cry like a crocodile's,
but i am not half
of what I have been made to be

i am a stretch of desert
drowning in sand
but you went looking for something and
hallucinated an oasis.

- Georgie Sucio

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