



Constance Lin is a fourth year Criminology, Law, and Society major from San Jose.
Constance's involvements include:

- Commissioner, Campus Climate Commission, Office of the President, ASUCI (2020)
- Intern, Legal Clinic Commission, Office of the Internal Vice President, ASUCI (2019)
- Intern, UCI Police Department (2020)
- Mentor, Chinese Association Mentorship Program (2018-2020)
- President, Tau Sigma National Honor Society (2018-2020)
- Student Conduct Caseworker, Office of the Student Advocate General, ASUCI (2018-2019)
- Treasurer, Archery at UCI (2018-2020)

How have you grown as a leader during your time at UCI?

My various positions on campus, primarily my services as the President of Tau Sigma and the Treasurer of the Archery team, have helped me define my leadership style. I am compassionate and offer support in all areas that I can, but remain firm in the organization's goals and needs. I have strong moral values that extend to my own behavior and the board's interactions with the general members to serve the UCI undergraduate student population. In almost all of my commitments, I've also implemented anonymous feedback surveys to better myself. Before UCI, I thought good leaders were organized, knew how to delegate, and just worked very, very hard. Today, my leadership style has evolved to include sensitivity and self-reflection, which has allowed me to serve my peers in a more holistic way.

Who or what has motivated you during college?

My dad is definitely my biggest motivation. I am incredibly privileged to have him help me pay for my tuition while at UCI, so I want to make him proud by getting good grades and achieving a lot during my time here. His story has also served as motivation for me -- he immigrated to the United States in his mid-twenties after serving in the military in Taiwan, and then worked two or three jobs during his time in school to support himself. After learning English in a few short years, he got accepted into a top Electrical Engineering program and has worked nonstop to support his family ever since.

What you are passionate about? Do you see yourself doing something with this passion in the future?

I am passionate about making resources accessible to people. In the past, I've achieved this by serving as a Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking Advocate. I was able to provide free groceries, clothing, victim resources, emergency housing, and much more to survivors of intimate partner violence. At UCI, I've achieved this by serving as the campus' first ever Student Conduct Caseworker to provide students accused of violating the Code of Student Conduct with resources to guide them through the sanctions process. Currently, I work with my team of amazing interns in the Campus Climate Commission to provide educational workshops and events to uplift marginalized communities. In the future, I hope to continue to volunteer at a family justice center or women's shelter in my free time.

Tell us about a time you failed. How did you deal with this failure?

During my senior year of high school, I got rejected from UC Irvine. My mother wouldn't allow me to attend any other universities I got into, and I ended up attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) for one semester when my mother moved to Nevada. I thought that the small name meant I failed -- I saw no future for myself, lost a lot of motivation, and felt like my efforts in high school were for nothing. Luckily, I moved back to California to live with my dad, completed the requirements to transfer, and was offered admission to UCI. Since then, I deal with failure by recognizing that almost everything is under my control. If I get a bad grade, I know it's because I didn't study hard enough. If I don't get an internship or job I was applying for, it's because I didn't prepare enough for the interview or personal statement. Although I started off with rough circumstances, my difficult journey getting to UCI is a constant driving factor in pushing me to do my best academically and in my other commitments.

What is your favorite memory during your time at UCI?

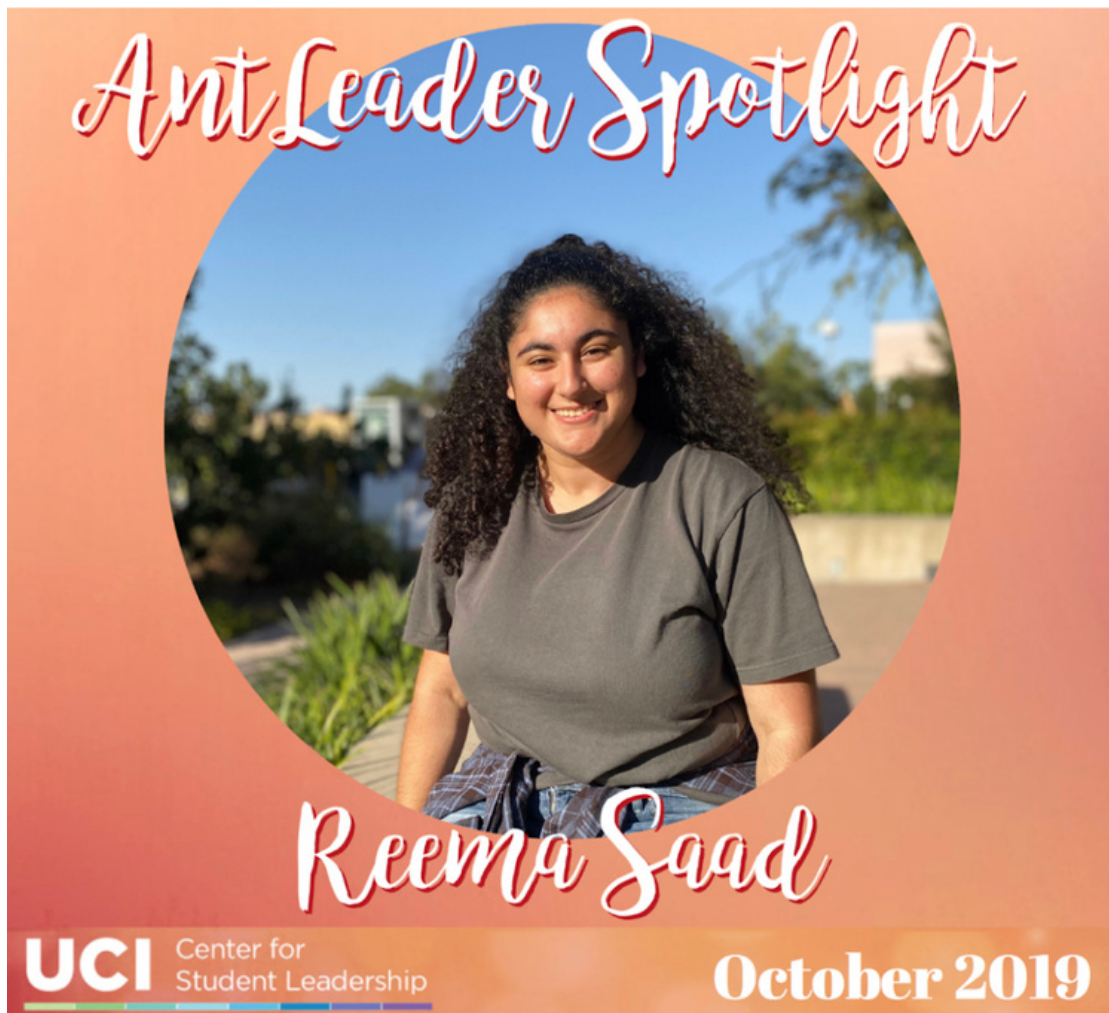
Some of my favorite memories are hanging out and getting food with the UCI Archery team. I've definitely found my closest friends and biggest support in the team members, and I'm very grateful to be part of such a successful and kind group of people. This year, I'm also lucky to have my younger sister be at UCI with me a freshman; I love giving her advice on her homework, running into her on campus, and cooking for her in exchange for swipes into the dining hall!

What is greatest piece of advice that you have been given?

Communicate your feelings and be receptive of how other people treat you. It's really important to surround yourself with people who respect your priorities, are emotionally mature, and will support you in your endeavors. It's one thing to have a team of hardworking and successful individuals, but make sure to also solidify friendships and relationships with people who genuinely care for you. Ideally, the people you work with can be your friends too!

What is something you have learned in college that you would like to share with other students at UCI?

Your mental and physical health is just as important, if not more important, than academic and professional success. Don't be afraid to ask for a day off, take time for yourself, and spend time doing things you enjoy even if they may not seem conventionally productive. I'm so grateful that the archery team board lets me skip one practice a week; after all, practices start at 6:00 AM, and having some time in the morning once a week on my busiest day helps me not burn out.



Reema Saad is a third year Sociology and Political Science double major from Redondo Beach, CA. Reema's involvements include:

- Campuswide Honors Collegium
- College Democrats at UCI - Treasurer (2018-2019), Vice President (2019-2020)
- KUCI News - Intern (2018)
- Planned Parenthood Generation Action at UCI - Co-Founder & President (2018-2019), President (2019-2020)
- Womxn's Hub - Student Assistant (2019-2020)

What would you say is your greatest weakness? What steps have you taken to overcome it?

My greatest weakness has been saying 'no' to additional involvements. When I first started taking on leadership positions at UCI and in the greater community, I thought it was so important to have a laundry list of involvements to make me competitive for the job market. However, I realize eventually that it is more important to get involved with and dedicate your energy to those things you're most passionate about. I had to remind myself that in addition to being a leader, I am a student with needs, such as proper rest and a (decent) social life. Moving forward, I will only take on roles in which I can have a great impact and that value me properly for the skills I am able to bring to the table.

What is your proudest accomplishment to date?

My proudest accomplishment to date was being recognized by the Humanities Core program and UROP for my research paper titled "The Afghan Girl's Role in Creating a Pathway for White Feminism and American Intervention in Afghanistan." After receiving this Student Award in 2018, I was able to hone my speaking and presentation skills at the Humanities Core-UROP Symposium. Being recognized for my work on the research paper has encouraged me to take research in my academic classes seriously. I am also considering graduate school because of how much I enjoyed working on the topic I selected.

Who is your role model at UCI?

My biggest role models at UCI are my peers and fellow campus leaders who continuously do amazing work to make UCI a better place for all students and faculty. Day in and day out, student leaders at UCI are tasked with overcoming structural barriers to success, and it is often a physically, mentally, and emotionally exhausting task. On a mission for more positive campus climate, these student leaders spend their time making sure all students' needs are met by advocating in the classroom, to administration, and to their respective organizations.

What is something that you have learned in college that you would like to share to the other students at UCI?

Something all Anteaters should do before leaving UCI is taking advantage of all the amazing resources made available on campus! The Center for Student Health and Wellness Promotion offers a variety of health-related services, the Division of Career Pathways will go over your resume and provide interview skills, and the various resource and identity centers host educational programs. We all pay to be here, so the best thing we can do for both our academic and professional development is use these resources made to guide us.

If you could drop all of your responsibilities for a day and do anything with this free time, what would you do?

I'm a sucker for libraries and bookstores. I tend to pile on a large reading list and buy books without ever getting to them. If I could drop all of my responsibilities for a day, I would read as much of this list as possible and rekindle a love for reading that I had before becoming so busy with academics and leadership at UCI.



Ashley Chen is a fourth year Business Administration major with an emphasis in Organization & Management from Diamond Bar, CA. Ashley's involvements include:

- Active Member of Gamma Phi Beta (Fall 2019)
- Campus Contributor at Her Campus (Fall 2019)
- Intern at Women in Leadership (Winter 2018-Spring 2018)
- Member at Undergraduate Business Associate (Spring 2018-Spring 2019)
- President of Anteater Ambassadors Network (Fall 2017-Fall 2019)
- President of Merage LEADS (Spring 2018-Fall 2019)
- Student Representative at Merage Undergraduate Student Association (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)
- Undergraduate Research Assistant to Dr. Santagata (Fall 2019)

What are three words you would use to describe yourself?

Ambitious, Outgoing, Able

How have you grown as a leader during your time at UCI?

The first thing I did during my freshman year in both high school and college was excitedly run to the involvement fair to sign up for every single campus organization that slightly interested me. From a young age, I have always put my boundless energy and ambition into volunteering and developing leadership skills to help guide fellow peers and colleagues. Not only am I heavily involved in various clubs and organizations on campus, but I also take on leadership roles whenever I can. I love improving processes and creating a welcoming atmosphere for other students to pursue their passions and give back to their campus and community. Since my first year, I have taken upon the responsibilities of multiple leadership positions and board positions. It's not just the titles I've picked up, but the skills and knowledge of being an effective leader people respect that I've learned throughout my three years at UCI.

What are you passionate about? Do you see yourself doing something with this passion in the future?

My passion for leadership, integrity, and customer satisfaction stem from my family background. My father has built his empire on the backbone of global trade, sales, and connections. My competitive nature and intense curiosity were harbored from watching my father grow his import/export auto parts business from scratch. The need to constantly innovate and discover creative solutions to never-ending problems pushed me to create better user and customer experiences. I will take my passions to start my own business in either international trade or hospitality and tourism in the future.

What is your life motto?

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." - Walt Disney
Walt Disney has always been one of my biggest inspirations. I've grown up with Disney characters in movies and shows; I went from being an annual passholder to a Cast Member because of it. Walt Disney has changed the world through entertainment and magic. Through this quote, I am inspired to work hard for what I want. With hardwork and determination, I will be able to accomplish anything I set my mind to.

What is something that you have learned in college that you would like to share with the other students at UCI?

Take every opportunity you can get! Sign up for every club and organization that even slightly interests you at the Involvement Fair! Apply for positions and get involved! You never know what you're missing out on if you don't try and grasp opportunities.

Ant Leader Spotlight



UCI Center for
Student Leadership

December 2019

Joshua Cao is a fourth year Computer Science major from Moraga, CA. Joshua's involvements include:

- Advanced Power and Energy (APEP) undergraduate researching (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)
- Association of Gamers club member (Fall 2016-Spring 2017)
- Chess club co-founder member (Winter 2018-Spring 2019)
- Chinese Association club member (Fall 2016-Spring 2017)
- Member on Cool Campus Challenge first place student team WeAllGotCalves
- Powerlifting club member (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)
- Secure Systems and Software Laboratory (SSL) undergraduate researcher (Fall 2019)
- ZOWA (Zero Waste Anteaters) undergraduate researcher and ZotBins co-founder (Spring 2017-Fall 2019)

What is an obstacle that you have overcome as an undergraduate at UCI?

The greatest obstacle that I faced was feeling like I belong at UCI. When I first came here as a freshman, I felt that I was losing all my friends from back home and was replacing them with meaningless friendships. I did not enjoy staying at Irvine and wanted to go home. I was gradually able to overcome this obstacle as the school year progressed. When I spent time with my old friends during break, I found that we were still close even after being apart for months at a time. I also realized that the friendships I created at school were very valuable; it just took time for those relationships to develop.

Who is your role model at UCI? How have they shaped you into the person you are today?

My role model at UCI is my good friend, Owen Yang. Owen was the first one to introduce me to research positions with ZOWA and APEP, which turned out to be the basis of producing even more opportunities. I admire Owen's passion for promoting sustainability and contributing to the community. He is active in organizing sustainability awareness events and helping out his friends. Before I met Owen, I often would sit at home and had no interest in being an active community member. After spending time with Owen over the years, he inspired me to pursue more and more opportunities and become a leader at UCI.

What are you passionate about? Do you see yourself doing something with his passion in the future?

I developed a passion for sustainability during my time at UCI. Circumstances surrounded me with sustainability advocates, and their passion for improving the world grew on me. To contribute my part in saving the world, I joined sustainability projects focused on zero waste and reducing vehicle emissions. I am also experimenting with a vegan diet in an effort to combat the climate change effects of the meat industry. Looking towards the future, I can see myself taking my zero waste project to a larger scale. My team has already considered the possibility of moving it towards a campus wide, or even city wide project. I would also like to explore potential job positions or further education programs that are centered on sustainability.

Tell us about a time that you failed. How did you deal with this failure?

My most devastating failure during my time at UCI was when I injured my back in deadlift training. During a training set, a small region in my lower back area suddenly tightened up as I pulled the weight off of the floor. By the time I realized I had injured my back, I quickly removed all back-strenuous movements out of my training program and focused on stretches that would relax my pain points. It took me couple of months before I reintroduced deadlifts into my training. The most difficult part about this process was not being able to lift the heavy weights I did before. I overcame this difficulty by always remaining positive. I would tell myself "Although I have previously lifted heavier weights in the past, this is the best set since I injured myself, so this workout is a success!" Looking back, I can view my injury as a happy accident instead of an injury. I improved my abilities to manage injury and remain positive through adversary, and I can now confidently claim that I am stronger today that I ever was before.

What is something that you have learned in college that you would like to share the other students at UCI?

My piece of advice for other students at UCI is to be involved in your community. As a freshman I would attend club meetings and various social events, only to find that I did not enjoy any of it. I decided that socializing was not meant for me and solely focused on academics. Later on, circumstances introduced me to a research opportunity, where I worked on a project that promoted zero waste. The experience working on the project was fulfilling because I was able to collaborate with other students to build a project that will benefit the campus. This opportunity encouraged me to seek other possibilities as I became more engaged in the community. My message is that although you may not like the first club meeting or job fair you attend, you will eventually find the organization that fits you best. UCI has so many opportunities that I can guarantee that every student has a place where they can fit in like home. Classwork is important, but it is the extra curricular experiences and people you meet that will be the most memorable experiences at UCI. I suggest that all students take advantage of what UCI was to offer and explore as many opportunities as possible.



Chloe Looc is a second year Business Economics major from Sacramento, CA.
Chloe's involvements include:

- Alpha Chi Omega
- Student Life and Leadership: Office of Academic Integrity & Student Conduct

What are three words you would use to describe yourself?

Charming, Charismatic, Caring

What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about my community and the people that surround me.

What is the best advice you have received about leadership?

The best advice I have received is that leadership is not about the title or position. It is about being able to account for every member of the group and to create unity and teamwork amongst the people you are leading. True leadership shows itself in the form of group unity.

What or who has motivated you during college?

I am so thankful for the opportunity to be a UCI student. I know there are people who are unable to attend due to financial or personal reasons and having the resources and ability to attend this institution motivates me everyday. I know college can be challenging and overwhelming, but I am so thankful for the opportunity to have these challenges.

What is an obstacle that you have overcome as a student at UCI?

An obstacle I have learned to overcome is taking time for myself. There are always things to do, people to meet, and events to go to. It can be very overwhelming, but I have learned that its ok to not show up to everything and to take time for yourself and self-care without feeling guilty about it.

How do you deal with failure?

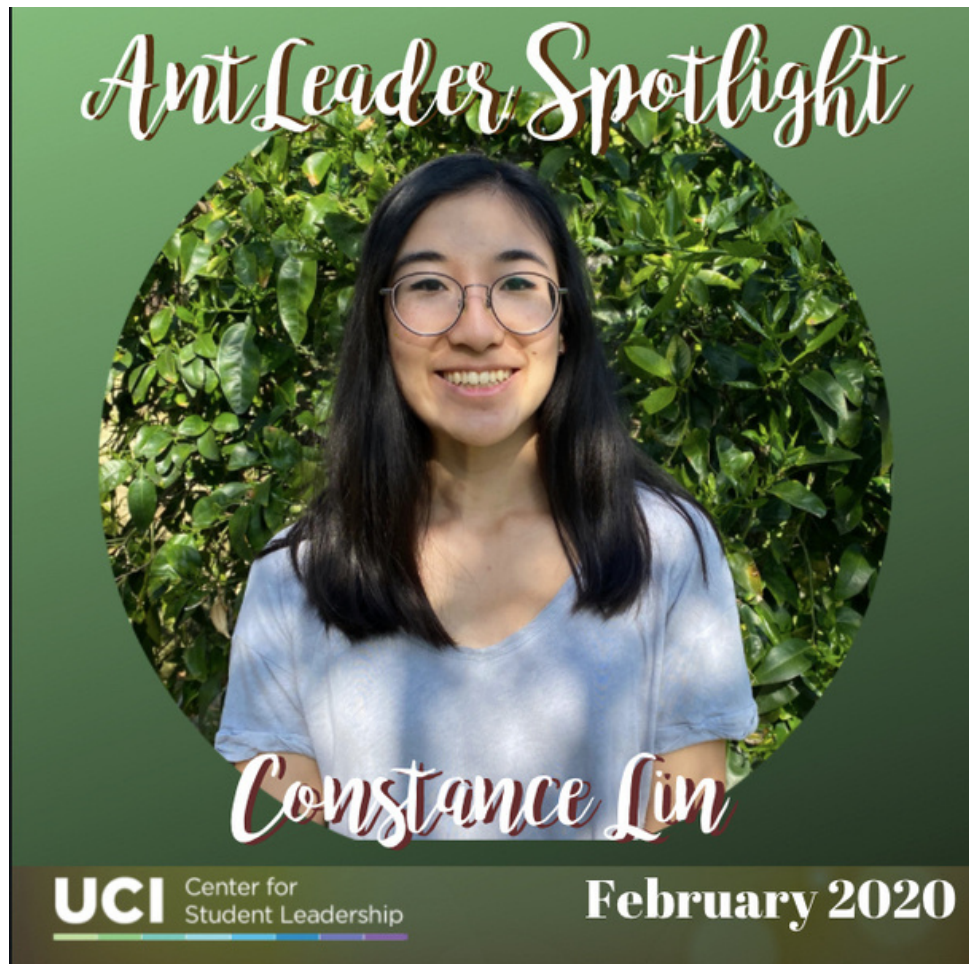
Rather than allowing these failures to define me, I have learned to use them as learning experiences. Growth comes from failure.

What is your life motto?

Trust the process.

What is something that you have learned in college that you would like to share with the other students at UCI?

You never really know who you'll meet or what opportunities you will find. Take advantage of this time and really explore. Figure out your like and dislikes, and enjoy your time in college, it goes by fast.



Constance Lin is a fourth year Criminology, Law, and Society major from San Jose.
Constance's involvements include:

- Commissioner, Campus Climate Commission, Office of the President, ASUCI (2020)
- Intern, Legal Clinic Commission, Office of the Internal Vice President, ASUCI (2019)
- Intern, UCI Police Department (2020)
- Mentor, Chinese Association Mentorship Program (2018-2020)
- President, Tau Sigma National Honor Society (2018-2020)
- Student Conduct Caseworker, Office of the Student Advocate General, ASUCI (2018-2019)
- Treasurer, Archery at UCI (2018-2020)

How have you grown as a leader during your time at UCI?

My various positions on campus, primarily my services as the President of Tau Sigma and the Treasurer of the Archery team, have helped me define my leadership style. I am compassionate and offer support in all areas that I can, but remain firm in the organization's goals and needs. I have strong moral values that extend to my own behavior and the board's interactions with the general members to serve the UCI undergraduate student population. In almost all of my commitments, I've also implemented anonymous feedback surveys to better myself. Before UCI, I thought good leaders were organized, knew how to delegate, and just worked very, very hard. Today, my leadership style has evolved to include sensitivity and self-reflection, which has allowed me to serve my peers in a more holistic way.

Who or what has motivated you during college?

My dad is definitely my biggest motivation. I am incredibly privileged to have him help me pay for my tuition while at UCI, so I want to make him proud by getting good grades and achieving a lot during my time here. His story has also served as motivation for me -- he immigrated to the United States in his mid-twenties after serving in the military in Taiwan, and then worked two or three jobs during his time in school to support himself. After learning English in a few short years, he got accepted into a top Electrical Engineering program and has worked nonstop to support his family ever since.

What you are passionate about? Do you see yourself doing something with this passion in the future?

I am passionate about making resources accessible to people. In the past, I've achieved this by serving as a Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking Advocate. I was able to provide free groceries, clothing, victim resources, emergency housing, and much more to survivors of intimate partner violence. At UCI, I've achieved this by serving as the campus' first ever Student Conduct Caseworker to provide students accused of violating the Code of Student Conduct with resources to guide them through the sanctions process. Currently, I work with my team of amazing interns in the Campus Climate Commission to provide educational workshops and events to uplift marginalized communities. In the future, I hope to continue to volunteer at a family justice center or women's shelter in my free time.

Tell us about a time you failed. How did you deal with this failure?

During my senior year of high school, I got rejected from UC Irvine. My mother wouldn't allow me to attend any other universities I got into, and I ended up attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) for one semester when my mother moved to Nevada. I thought that the small name meant I failed -- I saw no future for myself, lost a lot of motivation, and felt like my efforts in high school were for nothing. Luckily, I moved back to California to live with my dad, completed the requirements to transfer, and was offered admission to UCI. Since then, I deal with failure by recognizing that almost everything is under my control. If I get a bad grade, I know it's because I didn't study hard enough. If I don't get an internship or job I was applying for, it's because I didn't prepare enough for the interview or personal statement. Although I started off with rough circumstances, my difficult journey getting to UCI is a constant driving factor in pushing me to do my best academically and in my other commitments.

What is your favorite memory during your time at UCI?

Some of my favorite memories are hanging out and getting food with the UCI Archery team. I've definitely found my closest friends and biggest support in the team members, and I'm very grateful to be part of such a successful and kind group of people. This year, I'm also lucky to have my younger sister be at UCI with me a freshman; I love giving her advice on her homework, running into her on campus, and cooking for her in exchange for swipes into the dining hall!

What is greatest piece of advice that you have been given?

Communicate your feelings and be receptive of how other people treat you. It's really important to surround yourself with people who respect your priorities, are emotionally mature, and will support you in your endeavors. It's one thing to have a team of hardworking and successful individuals, but make sure to also solidify friendships and relationships with people who genuinely care for you. Ideally, the people you work with can be your friends too!

What is something you have learned in college that you would like to share with other students at UCI?

Your mental and physical health is just as important, if not more important, than academic and professional success. Don't be afraid to ask for a day off, take time for yourself, and spend time doing things you enjoy even if they may not seem conventionally productive. I'm so grateful that the archery team board lets me skip one practice a week; after all, practices start at 6:00 AM, and having some time in the morning once a week on my busiest day helps me not burn out.