

College Of Allied Health Professions

Master Of Science In Physician Assistant Studies

Monica Diaz, PA '09

All of my life, chaos and painful events have unfolded before my eyes. The lessons learned during these adverse times, and my mother's courage, has strengthened my soul and spirit, allowing me to complete my bachelor's degree. Subsequently, why would I want to attempt two more years of graduate school to my challenging overflowing plate of part-time employment, my role as an aunt, an older sister to three younger siblings and a boyfriend? The undeniable miracle of providing quality health care to people of all backgrounds and socioeconomic status is the inspiration for my desire to attend graduate school, ultimately becoming a physician assistant.

Margarita Gonzalez, PA '09

My motivations toward becoming a physician assistant are several, including the great desire to help minority communities. I was born in what is considered an underserved area with very limited possibilities for advancement in any sense. I personally suffered the unfortunate experience of not being able to obtain medical attention for myself or my family members because of financial needs and other reasons, such as the ignorance of my parents with regards to health. As a physician assistant I will obtain the right tools to help the underserved communities take care of one of their most precious gifts, which is their health.

Master Of Physical Therapy Program

Carlos I. Roel, DPT '10

In April 2005, I volunteered as a first-responder for the 5k and 10k Run, Walk and Roll. This event benefited the Center of Achievement at California State University, Northridge. The Center of Achievement is a nonprofit organization that provides both land-based and pool adapted therapeutic exercise for children and adults with disabilities. In January 2008, I assisted with registration, providing information to runners, and was part of crowd control for the 5k Fit Challenge in Pasadena, Calif. Starting February 2008, I will be volunteering as a student ambassador for the physical therapy program at Western University. I will be giving tours and answering questions from students who are interested in attending this university.

College of Graduate Nursing

Delfa Mejia, MSN-E '11

As an aspiring nurse practitioner, my intentions are to volunteer my time and efforts to underprivileged people both locally and globally. Nursing will be a learned universal language of expertise and caring that will open doors for me to many

places, affording me access to people in need worldwide. Additionally, I intend to begin as soon as possible. In fact, during my spring break on April 19, 2008, I am scheduled to conduct nursing assessments on patients in Ensenada, B.C., Mexico at a volunteer clinic. During my summer break for two weeks in August 2008, I will conduct nursing assessments on pediatric patients under the supervision of a local nurse in Kenya. Beyond check-ups and prescriptions, I want to meet women on an equal footing and “know” them. I want to remind them of their great worth and inspire them to remember and achieve their dreams.

College Of Pharmacy

Lay Hwa Kaw, PharmD '09

I have been involved in many community events in the past and present. I organized fundraising events with the help of California Society of Health-System Pharmacists' (CSHP) WesternU chapter officers. We were able to raise \$300 for the Salvation Army in Pomona with support from many students and faculty members. As a past external vice president of operation of the CSHP student chapter, I did the Poison Prevention Outreach in our community. In addition, I have been involved in many community health screenings and vaccination events. At Western University, I volunteered to become a campus tour guide, and also part of the College of Pharmacy interview team. Prior to Western University, I was involved in fundraising for the AIDS Research Fund. Volunteering has given me the heartfelt enjoyment that I have tried to make a difference for people's health.

Michelle A. Candido, PharmD '10

I am the class president of the College of Pharmacy class of 2010, where I have organized fundraisers this past fall 2007, raising \$675, and led events such as Thanksgiving Potluck and Welcome Back Breakfast. My involvement on campus extends outside the classroom as a member of the IPE Curriculum Team led by Gary Gugelchuk, senior vice president for executive affairs. Recently, I volunteered as a flu vaccinator at Western University's flu clinic held Nov. 5-7, 2007. As an Orange County Medical Corps volunteer for the County of Orange Health Care Agency, I participated in the Mass Vaccination Exercise on Nov. 3, 2006. I volunteered at University of California, Irvine College of Medicine Madres del Futuro Prenatal Clinic during the summer 2003. During my last year at UC Irvine, I tutored fourth-graders in math and reading at Rea Elementary School in Costa Mesa, Calif.

Aran Hong, PharmD '10

I want to continue learning about community work and civic involvement because I find that involvement in the everyday life of my community adds breadth and depth to my educational experience. I hope that these experiences will also help me in my mission to Bulgaria this spring. In the future, I also hope to volunteer not only in my community, but in Third World countries where medical attention is greatly needed.

My dedication to medicine that has grown with my volunteer and leadership experiences will drive me for years to come. I cannot imagine a more fulfilling and compassionate way to spend my life than by actively promoting the wellness of others, and I want to continue contributing to the community.

Crystal Pui Ying Lui, PharmD '11

During my undergraduate education, I was involved in multiple DNA workshops including Amgen Molecular Biology Workshop for Teachers in October 2003 and UCLA-Bridges Program DNA Workshop in December 2003 as a volunteer technician. Since there is a need to spread the word and educate others about life-saving skills, I volunteered as a CPR instructor on UCLA's Student Welfare Commission, sponsored by the American Heart Association, from September 2005 to June 2006. Working as a CPR instructor gave me the invaluable experience in mentoring ability as well as helping the association to spread the message. After beginning my pharmacy school education at Western University, I became an active member of California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP) and volunteered myself as a registration helper in the CSHP Seminar 2007. I decided to run for the board officers and was elected to be the director of education and San Gabriel Valley liaison.

Kolistin Tsai, PharmD '11

My service to the local community started before college. During that time, I would tutor immigrants and native speakers at the local library. I would also volunteer as a candy striper at a local medical center. Then, during the summers I would volunteer for the Summer Special Olympics. In college, I tutored Native American high school girls in math, science and SATs at a government-subsidized school to help them have access to higher education later in their lives. Furthermore, as the new Director of Community Service for National Community Pharmacists Association, I look forward to working more with the local community to assist them in any way I can. Giving back through all these services to the community just excites me to do more. I love providing these services to the community – especially applying what I have learned to benefit others.

College Of Veterinary Medicine

Eric Slessinger, DVM '10

My interest in birds of prey prompted me to become founder and director of the Northern California Raptor Research Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to investigating the diseases and injuries of Northern California birds of prey. Before I moved to Pomona to attend veterinary school, I managed the feral cat colony in the condominium complex where I resided, personally trapping, neutering and releasing dozens of cats. Since moving to Pomona, I have enjoyed volunteering for several feral cat trap/neuter/release clinics put on by a local group called Catnippers. I am the co-founder and co-director of the Western University Feral Cat

Control Program. Through this program we have trapped, neutered, vaccinated and occasionally adopted out dozens of feral and stray cats on and around our college campus.

Alice D'Amore, DVM '11

I volunteer several weekends per block at both the International Bird Rehabilitation Research Center (IBRRC) and the Marine Mammal Center in San Pedro, Calif. During the devastating wildfires affecting numerous points in Southern California this past fall, I worked with SCAVMA's Disaster Alert Response Team (DART) to build and clean emergency stalls for displaced horses relocated to the Orange County fairgrounds. I also collaborate throughout the year with several other veterinary students through the Student Chapter of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (SCASV) and Banfield to feed and trap feral cats for spaying/neutering in the area of Pomona surrounding campus. One of my most rewarding experiences, however, occurred on Jan. 26, 2008, when I worked with the Christian Veterinary Mission monitoring anesthesia and preparing animals for surgery to ensure that 65 pets at Camp Hope, a homeless encampment in Ontario, Calif., were spayed/neutered and/or examined by university veterinarians and veterinary students.

College Of Osteopathic Medicine Of The Pacific

Ken S. Ota, DO '08

I would like to mention a program that I am putting together at this time for the immediate community of the Inland Empire in Southern California, which involves raising awareness of the Human Papilloma Virus, (HPV) infection to preadolescents and their parents. I envision this program to be implemented within the next year. The program I am putting together, to be called Operation HPV Awareness (OHPVA), consists of sending qualified medical students/residents to middle schools and talking to students and parents about HPV and the newly-approved vaccine which is available. Since HPV is a sexually-transmitted infection, this is a topic that will require much cultural sensitivity. Because of this, I am consulting two pediatricians at UCSF and University of Vermont who are experts on this matter. The ultimate goal of OHPVA is to help prevent the detrimental effects of cancer-causing HPV and counsel parents about talking to their preadolescents about the consequences of unsafe sexual behavior.

Morag Nakoomaile Day-Scarinci, DO '08

My experiences as a medical student, a Native Hawaiian and a bilingual service-oriented community member have truly made me appreciate where I stand in my life as well as the lives of those families my service has sought to benefit. After all, medicine is more than just a diagnosis and a plan, it's about a history, an obstacle, and a shared goal between a physician and a patient. I want to be that physician that learns the history, recognizes the obstacle whether it be social or physical, and

works hand-in-hand to reach a goal for that patient and their quality of life. I want to incorporate good medicine, compassion and community service into everything I do and, in short, be the best doctor and health care partner a patient can have.

Edward Barawid, DO '09

I am proud to be recognized as one of the first Filipino American Osteopathic class presidents in COMP's history as well as all of osteopathic history; serving the first and second semester of the first year. As a minority and future physician, I hoped to be a good role model speaking with potential applicants of similar backgrounds and help them realize that they too, had a chance at making it and succeeding in medical school. One of my greatest accomplishments was organizing a fundraiser and bringing the various colleges of WesternU together to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina through the American Red Cross back in 2005. Making a difference within the community and assisting those less fortunate brings me gratification. I will continue to incorporate community service in my life even when I am a practicing physician and hope to inspire others to lend their talents to those who need them.

Dorien Louise Christensen, DO '09

My resume of community service dates back to my undergraduate days at Seattle University from 2000-04, where I was a part of Children's Literacy project. This involved tutoring underserved second- and fifth-graders at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School once a week for three years. I also was involved at Swedish Hospital, First Hill campus, as a volunteer on the pediatric ward for two years. I have always felt a drive to use my energy to do something with purpose and meaning, and find nothing more rewarding than reaching out to others in need. As a future physician I will strive to incorporate this into my practice with an emphasis on preventative care, education and strong community ties.

Salar Hakham, DO '10

My innate determination and positive endeavors have shaped me into a knowledgeable, experienced and compassionate person. One of my motivations in choosing medicine as my future career is to be able to offer emotional and medical assistance to society. It is with both excitement and confidence that I intend to take advantage of the opportunities given to me to serve society. I therefore anticipate being able to improve the health and lives of others in many ways and to be a source of pride for my parents, school and society, all of whom have invested in me and made many sacrifices on my behalf.

Lam-Phuong Nguyen, DO '10

Even when I know that medical school can be intense and rigorous, I still seek opportunities to take part in on-campus activity and volunteer within the community. I was the OMS-I class representative for Pediatric Club, helping to set up Halloween drives, clothing drives, Santa's Workshop, et cetera. Additionally, as a

member of AAHPA, I volunteered in the Chinatown medical clinics and helped with the Chinese New Year celebration and fashion shows. I am also a member of the Good Samaritan Medical Ministry that participated in this past summer medical mission to Vietnam. Similar to Operation Smile, this medical mission provides free medical supplies to indigent people of Vietnam. Overall, these experiences have helped me to become not only a better student now but also a great physician in the future.

Nina Almeda, DO '11

While pursuing my bachelor's degree at UCLA from 1999-2003, I was involved in multiple community service programs. Additionally, while pursuing a master's degree at Drexel University (2005-07), I volunteered for Drexel Medical School's Eliza Shirley Clinic, servicing women and children at Philadelphia's Center City Salvation Army Women's Shelter. Throughout it all, I have always believed that as much as people in need require a helping hand, every person needs to help others in order to attain a better fulfillment in life. Through each community project that I have participated in, not only have I had the satisfaction of helping others, but I have also had the opportunity to learn from others – both of which I hope and plan on pursuing throughout my years as an osteopathic medical student and physician.

Dean Taylor, DO '11

So sincere is my desire to help out in the community that in 2002, I left my friends and family and moved from Massachusetts to California to work as a full-time AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in San Bernardino. My first one-year term of service was so fruitful and rewarding that I signed on for a second term. Those two years of service to my community changed my life completely and put me squarely on a path that I find myself today. To me, the best feeling in the world is effecting real, positive change in someone's life and knowing how much that means to them. My ultimate goal is to eventually use my training and education to treat those most in need of help by joining Doctors Without Borders or a similar organization.

Beulah Chan Wong Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to a pharmacy student in financial need. The scholarship was established by Dr. Eugene Chan and Michael Wong, DO '91, in honor of Dr. Chan's sister and Dr. Wong's mother, Beulah. Dr. Chan is a retired physician in Los Angeles, who serves on the East West Scholarship Committee and was a member of the former Asian American Scholarship Committee and a 2001 Honoree. His nephews, Randall Shue, DO '83 and Michael Wong, DO '91, are graduates of the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific.

Melinda Mah, PharmD '10

...I retired from my job as a high school counselor and returned to school to pursue a degree in pharmacy. The goal was to jointly own and operate a small community

pharmacy with my sister. This pharmacy would be located in a small rural town on the Mexican border in a medically underserved area serving predominantly low-income, Spanish-speaking Mexicans. As a native Spanish speaker and a future pharmacist, it is my intent to return and serve my local community. The pharmacy finally opened its doors for business in August 2007. The goal of the business is to develop and nurture relationships with our patients. The pharmacy is centered on the immediate needs of the patients with the objective of developing future programs that will help our patients manage more chronic and long-term health needs.

Melanie S. Lim Memorial Scholarship

The Melanie S. Lim Memorial Scholarship is an award established in loving memory of Melanie, the only daughter of Soojung Kim, PharmD. Melanie passed away in 2005 from brain cancer. Dr. Kim started this scholarship along with an endowment pledge which will assure continuation of the Melanie S. Lim Scholarship in the future. Melanie would be very pleased to know the scholarship in her honor will be going toward pharmacy students who have expressed an interest in going into a community pharmacy practice.

Arpie Mikaelian, PharmD '09

I was always involved in Montebello, Calif.'s Homenetmen Armenian scouts and basketball team; I used to be a member since I was five-years old and then managed to become the leader of the girl's chapter. Some of the other volunteer work I've done is Project Read. I became the leader of organizing students to volunteer at a homeless shelter, taking care of kids between the ages of five to 10. During pharmacy school, I was very involved in NCPA (National Community Pharmacists Association). I was the vice president during my first year and director of legislative affairs the following year. I have also volunteered to help out pharmacies during the flu season by giving flu shots. I have also traveled to different Armenian communities where they take care of older adults, certain nursing homes such as Ararat home.

Dr. □T.G. Wing Chow Scholarship

This scholarship provides financial assistance to an osteopathic medical student. Dr. Chow is a strong supporter of Western University and also was the 1992 honoree of the former Asian American Scholarship Fund Dinner. His brother, Frank Wing Chow, DO '82, and his son, Bruce W. Chow, DO '96 are graduates of the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific.

Hsiang-Hwa Chen, □DO '10

With many volunteer experiences, I also feel strongly about seeing more foreign students rotating at Western University Medical Clinic to promote our school. Therefore, as an officer of the International Federation Medical Student Association, I have been involved in planning the observational clerkship at Western University

Medical Clinic of two foreign medical students. These experiences allow us to learn and become aware of culture of other countries. Last but not least, I am a member of Sigma Sigma Phi (Honor Society). I joined the organization because I want to be more involved in bringing osteopathic awareness in the community and also continuously contribute my time in serving the public. My long-term goal is to become an internal medicine physician, specialize in geriatric medicine and volunteer at a free clinic to continue to serve those in need of treatment to alleviate pain caused by diseases and promote patient education and prevention.

James Yee Ginn & Mae Ginn Memorial Osteopathic Scholarship

Established in 1998 , the James Yee Ginn and Mae Ginn Memorial Osteopathic Scholarship Fund provides a \$1,500 award to a deserving student chosen for academic excellence, community service and financial need. The Ginn scholarship fund was established through a generous donation from Geri and Robert Witt to honor Mrs. Witt's parents. The Witts have been avid supporters of osteopathic medicine and WesternU's College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific for many years. Their son, Dr. Rick Armour, DO is a 1989 COMP graduate now practicing in Upland, Calif., and his son, Dr. Ryan Armour, DO (COMP '07) is currently an intern at Cleveland Clinic.

Yvonne Yen, DO '10

While attending UCLA, I volunteered to help research in anxiety disorders and social phobia. I also committed 10 weeks to training for an anonymous counseling hotline, after which I was selected to become a phone counselor. Prior to my acceptance to Western University during fall 2006, I studied at Drexel University during which I volunteered at the Free Chinatown Clinic in Philadelphia. We worked with the first and second-year Drexel medical students to improve health care accessibility to immigrants. □ I often translated for Mandarin-speaking patients to facilitate better communication between the student doctors, physicians and the patients. While at Western, I volunteered for the annual Health Screening in Osteopathic Manipulative Therapy at the Chinatown Senior Citizen Center in November 2006. □ I became involved with Montclair Clinic since April 2007 and I have enjoyed every patient interaction. Montclair Clinic is truly an important experience for all of us.

Wong Family Scholarship

The Wong Family Scholarship is awarded to an osteopathic medical student for academic excellence and outstanding service to the community. The award was recently established by Dr. Stanley Wong and his son, Andrew Wong, in honor of Dr. Wong's mother, Yan-Hai Choi Wong. Dr. Wong has been a WU faculty member since 1981, and is the chairperson of the East West Scholarship Committee. Andrew Wong is a practicing attorney and a board member of the Pomona Unified School District.

Eric Tung, DO '11

I chose the field of medicine, first and foremost, because I have always had the strong desire to help people on many different levels. As a doctor, I will be called upon to care for my future patients by treating their illnesses. However, I also believe it will be my duty to see my patients as whole individuals, apart from their sicknesses. Ultimately, when a patient comes to me for help, what I hope to treat is not simply the "illness," but rather the whole patient, and, by extension, the community he/she is a part of. Throughout my life, I have always been passionate about helping others and because of this passion I chose to volunteer my time through a variety of different organizations. I am thankful for all of my experiences as a volunteer because I feel they have challenged me and helped me grow as a person.

Dr. □ Tai-Hing Wu Scholarship

Established in 2003, the Dr. Tai-Hing Wu Scholarship provides a \$1,500 award. The scholarship is funded by Tai-Hing Wu, MD, PharmD, a physician with a family practice in Los Angeles' Chinatown. Dr. Wu has been a supporter of the former Asian American Scholarship Fund Dinner for more than 12 years.

Hon Lim Wong, DO '11

I was born and raised in Hong Kong and came to America by myself at age 17. Since then, I have actively participated in different community services. One of the organizations I have volunteered is called "Women Alive." It is an organization for women who have HIV or AIDS. Recently, I participated in the annual health fair event at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center as a student doctor volunteer and the Chinatown clinic as a clinic coordinator. As a student of doctor of osteopathic medicine and master of public health, I care not only about an individual's health but also the whole population's health. Therefore, I am going to follow Dr. Mangalwadi's advice and participate in the Foothill AIDS Project as my MPH practicum experience in the summer 2008. The basis of FAP's premise is that "Housing IS Healthcare" and that HIV-positive people who have stable living situations are able to manage their disease better.