

U C S A N D I E G O

C O S M O S

A v n m n i

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

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COVID - 19

We are sad to share that due to health and safety concerns surrounding COVID-19, COSMOS has been canceled for the summer of 2020. We know that all of the students who were accepted into the program are very disappointed with this news. We share their disappointment, and look forward to welcoming the next generation of students in the summer of 2021.

We hope that our COSMOS alums will join us in wishing the best to those who were not able to attend this summer. We also wish all the best to the graduating seniors who were not able to walk at their commencement ceremony! Please email us at cosmos@ucsd.edu to share with us the school that you have selected to attend this coming Fall. We always like to highlight the accomplishments of our Alums in this newsletter.

Wishing you all good health!

Marit Bessessen

Assistant Director of UC San Diego, COSMOS



A l u m n i S P O T L I G H T



Ricardo Ozuna

Harvard 2024

Major: Molecular and Cellular Biology Minor: Psychology

2018 UCSD COSMOS Alum

Cluster 6: Biodiesel from Renewable Energy

Bio: Ricardo is from Calexico, California, a small town near the US/Mexico border. Some of his hobbies include writing poetry, reading books, running, and driving around his county to explore new places. He is a blackbelt in Taekwondo and has placed first at Nationals twice. He enjoys coaching his fellow athletes in local competitions because it helps him grow as a leader. He has also involved in Cross Country, Swimming, First Robotics, and the Engineering Club MESA.

Q: How did you decide on your particular major?

A: My major/concentration at Harvard is Molecular and Cellular Biology. I will also follow through with Premedical Studies since I plan to attend medical school in order to become an oncologist. Several years ago, my late grandmother passed away due to a stroke. Before that, she had cancer. I always knew I wanted to go into the medical field, but I was never sure what my specialty would be. After my grandmother passed away, I decided to focus on oncology and cell studies. Apart from that, I plan to minor in psychology, since that could help me further deal with my future patients' medical problems.

Q: What are you most excited about starting college this fall?

A: I am most excited to be involved in a community where people learn and thrive for the sake of making the world a better place. I find that there is no point in becoming a professional in any career if you are only doing it for the money. The point is to give back to the world which gave you the lemons necessary to make your lemonade in the first place. I feel that Harvard will be a place in which I can meet likeminded individuals who also want to improve themselves to ultimately change the world for the better.

Q: How did COSMOS help prepare you academically and professionally?

A: COSMOS was an eye opener for me. When I first arrived there, I felt like I really didn't fit in. Everyone would be talking about how many AP classes they had taken and their perfect SAT and ACT scores. I hadn't even taken any standardized exams and had barely taken one AP class.

I decided not to let this get to my head. Instead, I made the most out of the program and learned from it. I remember how useless I felt when I first got there and how much better I came out of the program simply because I decided to work on myself. Because of this, I now know I can do just about anything as long as I don't let a little adversity get to my head.

Q: What are some of your future aspirations?

A: I plan to involve myself in efforts to regulate carbon monoxide emissions in my county since that is the main cause of asthma and other breathing problems within my area. Going into medicine, I plan to work in an effort to find a cure to lung cancer, since that is a common issue within my area as well. It might sound ridiculous in your head, but that won't stop me from doing it. I hope that is a mindset you can also learn to adopt, being part of the future of the world

Q: Do you have any advice for your future fellow COSMOS Alumni who are still in high school?

A: Some advice I would give to COSMOS students still in high school is to keep your head up. Only you decide how you are going to impact the world. When others laugh at your dreams, say nothing. Instead, prove them wrong with your actions. Make the most of what you have. I understand that situations can be very difficult for some people, but remember you only need one lemon to make your glass of lemonade. Don't wait for opportunities to come to you. Does the lemon tree put lemons in your hand, or do you have to go and pick them? Keep that question in mind next time you feel you don't have any opportunities to grow as a person and professional.

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Emna Sellami

UC Berkeley 2024

Major: Environmental Engineering

2019 UCSD COSMOS Alum

Cluster 3: Living Oceans and Global Climate Change

Bio: Emna Sellami recently graduated from Carlmont High School in Belmont, California. She was on the leadership committee of Carlmont's environmental club, Green Team, for two years. She attended COSMOS UCSD in the summer of 2019, as a part of cluster 3: Living Oceans and Global Climate Change. "That experience-- the things I learned and the friends I made-- was one of the best of my entire life. "

Q: How did you decide on your particular major?

A: I have been interested in the environment since elementary school, and throughout high school I got more and more invested in combatting climate change using advocacy and science. Hopefully, environmental engineering will let me be a part of the scientific solution to global warming.

Q: What are you most excited about starting college this fall?

A: I am most excited to, first and foremost, go! This pandemic has made me appreciate how lucky I will be if I actually get to live and study on campus.

Q: How did COSMOS help prepare you academically and professionally?

A: COSMOS helped me realize what I wanted to do in college. My cluster was all about marine biology and climate change, and it showed me how much of a problem we have on our hands. It also gave me hope that the problem is fixable, as long as there are people willing to put forth the effort. The first step in my personal effort will be majoring in environmental engineering. Additionally, COSMOS was a great way for me to experience a bit of college life, and it convinced me that college was the right path for me to take after graduating high school.

Q: What are some of your future aspirations?

A: I would love to study abroad at some point during college. After undergrad, I'd like to go to grad school for engineering, or else law school focusing on the environment. Hopefully one of those routes will lead me to a job that will let me make a meaningful impact on society and the environment.

Q: Do you have any advice for your future fellow COSMOS Alumni who are still in high school?

A: Do the things you love and you'll find the right college (or other endeavor-- trade school, work, etc) for you :) And keep in touch with COSMOS friends and professors!

SURVEY

Sign up to receive our semi annual alumni newsletters.

Email us photos and tell us about your accomplishments for our next issue!

[Click Here for the Google Form](#)

Join the COSMOS Alumni LinkedIn Group and stay current with other COSMOS Alumni. [Click Here](#) to be redirected.

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