

Faith Edrosolano

IDEA Center's Spotlight for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



Quick Facts

Grade: Class of 2023

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Outside Interests: Binge watching shows/movies, crocheting, finding new places to eat

Questions about your experiences:

What personal significance does Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month have for you? How do you celebrate AAPI heritage month?

AAPI Heritage Month is a big deal to me. I am a first generation Asian American student since my parents immigrated from the Philippines and never received a bachelor's degree. Because of the sacrifices my parents have made, I am able to live the life I have; they never had the same opportunities I had growing up, so I make sure to take advantage of the position they set up for me. I celebrate this month by spending time with my family and educating myself on the contributions to this country made by my community. I know I am lucky to have had opportunities not available to others, but in the future I hope these opportunities will be more openly extended to others.

As an Asian woman engineering student, do you feel supported by UC San Diego and its programs? How have you overcome these challenges during your college career?

Being an Asian woman engineering student certainly comes with its challenges, but I do find support in the friends I have made here at UCSD. There are times where I sit in class and feel out of place but after exchanging stories with people who can relate, I feel more confident in the path I have chosen. Also, I do see the value of underrepresented orgs on campus, and I recognize that they can create a safe and happy place for students. At the end of the day I think it's important to find people here that you can feel comfortable to be yourself around.

You have been a Peer Educator for just over 3 years now. What inspired you to join? What has been the most rewarding moment in your tenure?

In my first year, I participated in ELCs as a student and appreciated how I was able to learn at my own pace while also having fun being surrounded by students in the same classes that I took. Spring quarter of my freshman year, I decided to take the leap and apply to be a Peer Educator despite my lack of college experience because I wanted to create that same comfortable environment for other students in the future and hopefully be of help in their studies. The most rewarding moment was in my junior year when my students presented me with a thank you letter at the end of the quarter; they filled the card with heartwarming notes that made me tear up. It felt good to know that the work I was doing was appreciated. And to this day, I still keep in touch with some students and it's always exciting to see what they're up to now and all the things they're accomplishing.

You are involved with the Society of Women Engineers here at UC San Diego. How did you get involved with the organization and what has been your favorite part about your involvement?

I am a member of the Society of Women Engineers here at UCSD, but am not as active as I was in my earlier years. Early on at UCSD I realized a lot of my classes were male dominated and I wanted to be a part of a community of women in the same position as me. My favorite part was definitely feeling welcomed and comfortable at every event I went to as I got to know some of my closest friends.

As a freshman, you participated in both Summer Engineering Institute as an IDEA Scholar and the Triton Community Leadership Institute. What was the most beneficial aspect of these programs and how have they made a difference in your UC San Diego experience?

These programs really prepared me for the engineering experience as a whole and even set me up with a good support system in the form of other engineering friends that have been there for me throughout these past four years. Sometimes the workload of all my classes got me extremely overwhelmed, but I always knew I had people I could fall back on going through similar situations and it made me feel like I wasn't alone. These programs also made me feel more comfortable branching out to attend socials and pursue academic opportunities outside of my normal classes. Ultimately, going into freshman year officially in the fall quarter, I already felt capable of diving right into college.

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! What do you plan to do after you graduate?

After I graduate, I plan to start working at Northrop Grumman's Strategic Space Systems Division in Redondo Beach in late August. I interned there this past summer and absolutely loved the company culture and location. It was really refreshing to be able to apply what I have learned academically to the "real" world and see my efforts be part of something bigger than a final grade, and I even had a life outside of work too! I'll even be working with some UCSD class of 2023 alumni too so it's all the more exciting!