

Nancy Ronquillo

IDEA Center's Spotlight on UCSD's Sloan Scholar Graduates

Quick Facts

Major: Electrical Engineering

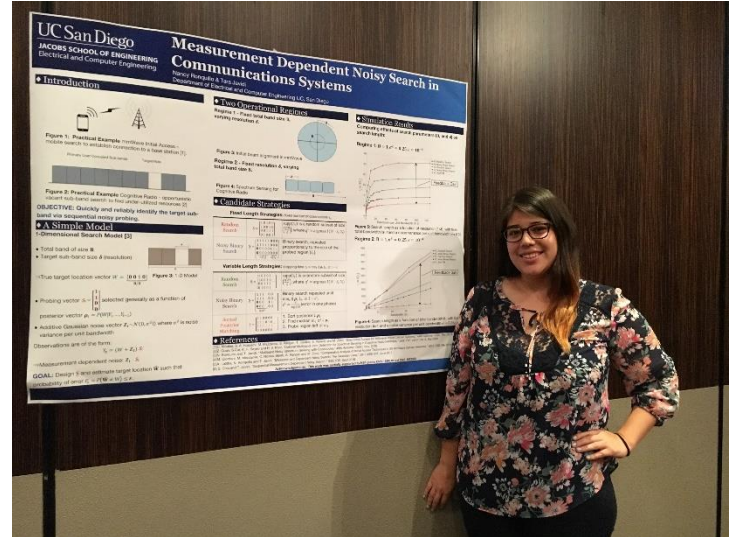
Outside interests: Baking, dancing, and going to Disneyland



Questions about your experiences:

How has the Sloan Scholars Program benefited you??

It goes without saying that the scholarship money from The Sloan Scholars Program has provided me with extremely helpful financial support. However, the program far exceeds that by providing me as well with educational support, a network of scholars and now friends, and most importantly a sense of community and accountability that otherwise would not have existed for me in grad school.



What is a UCSD highlight or favorite memory?

I am thankful for 11 years of memories at UCSD, first as an undergrad and then as a grad student. In my very first year, I was still learning effective study habits. I had a midterm coming up for a class and decided to join a study group that planned to spend all night in price center



studying. A couple hours into studying, we felt prepared and ready to stop studying, but we were committed to spending the whole night at Price Center, so we spent the rest of the night talking, listening to music, napping on the second-floor couches, and eating late night Burger King. In the morning we all walked together to our 8am final and mostly did very well. The all-nighter (as well as the many others that followed thereafter) was very inefficient and unnecessary, but I remember it fondly because it always reminds me that amid the stress of being an engineering student there is room for silliness and that it's also ok to stop studying when you feel prepared and just go to sleep.

What are you up to now?

I will be starting a position at the Naval Information Warfare Center here in San Diego later this fall. I interned for NIWC for many years during grad school and look forward to doing research there. I plan to stay active in my community, through the UCSD SHPEtinas group and the MANA de San Deigo Hermanitas program.

What are your plans for the next 2-3 years?

In the next couple of years, I hope to establish my style and niche as a researcher at NIWC. I am looking forward to traveling, buying a car, and revisiting some of my abandoned hobbies.

What is some advice you have for engineering undergrads or grad students?

Some of my best advice comes from the memory I shared above, and can be summarized as "Do not take yourself too seriously." While I agree that Engineering is tough and requires a lot of work, I also think it's important to make time for fun and relaxation because it refuels you mentally, and to allow mistakes and embrace a growth mindset to learn from them.



