



**Marshall B.  
KETCHUM UNIVERSITY**

# Meet Your Peer Advisors

Your Peer Advisors are second year students who have been selected for their academic excellence and student leadership. They are trained as your first level of support in transitioning to, and succeeding at MBKU. Peer Advisors provide informal advice from a student perspective about life and learning throughout your time at MBKU.

Though you are assigned a single Peer Advisor, you should take the time to get to know them all as they represent the best of what MBKU offers for students wishing to enhance their personal, professional, and leadership development.



## **Jasdeep Bassi**

### **Southern California College of Optometry**

Hi Everyone! My name is Jasdeep Bassi, and I am a second-year optometry student at SCCO. I was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, and made the big move to Fullerton to start my journey to be an optometrist. My first time visiting Fullerton was on interview day, and I fell in love with the campus, the MBKU community, and

the surrounding area. Having moved from a different country to Southern California was an extremely overwhelming thought at first, however the transition was seamless. It was easy finding a balance between my social and academic life, especially with the constant support of your SCCO and MBKU family. Personally, I love exploring different beaches around the area, and finding new places to eat. Fun fact about me; while living in Toronto, winter was my absolute favorite season, however that changed very quickly when I moved to Fullerton. Long walks on the beach, and watching the sunset by the water has definitely become one of my favorite ways to relax in SoCal.



## **Ethan Chan**

### **Southern California College of Optometry**

Welcome! Congratulations on this new journey in your life! I am very excited for all of you! My name is Ethan Chan and I am part of the awesome Class of 2023 (aka the Jed-Eyes). I am from the San Gabriel Valley, and I attended UC Riverside where I completed my biology degree. I am a huge Laker fan, and

I love playing basketball. When I'm not studying, I'm either looking up new

recipes to try out or I'm working out/staying fit. I know you all didn't expect to begin your optometric journey virtually, but just know that all of the peer advisors, continuing students, and the awesome professors of MBKU are all here to make this transition go smoothly for all of you. You all made an excellent choice in enrolling here at MBKU. The sense of community at MBKU is honestly the best; everyone here is in it together and we build each other up. There are plenty of resources on campus, and my biggest advice is to not be scared to reach out for help. Lastly, remember to take breaks and try not to overstudy! Give yourself some "me-time" that way you don't burn out. I'm sure you all will do great things during your first year, and please don't be afraid to reach out to me if you ever want to just talk. Again, congratulations, and I hope to meet you all in person soon!



## **Jacinda Chan**

### **School of Physician Assistant Studies**

I am so excited to meet all of you and help you throughout the next year. My name is Jacinda, and I am part of the PA class of 2021. I was born and raised in the Bay Area and graduated from UC Davis in 2018 with a B.S. in psychology. I have loved serving on leadership at MBKU through my roles as class president and VP of the Pre-

PA Club, and I hope to make a positive impact in this community. Some other passions of mine include hiking, baking, trying new foods, exploring new coffee or boba shops, and playing with other people's dogs. At MBKU, you will have so many opportunities to grow as a person, leader, and future healthcare provider. These next years will not be easy, but it will be some of the most rewarding years you will ever experience! When school gets rough, remember how far you have come and how hard you have worked to get here. Do not let imposter syndrome get to you--you were chosen for a reason and are capable of reaching your goals. Make as many memories as you can with your classmates. I am so lucky to be part of such a close-knit class with supportive faculty and staff, and I can't wait for you to experience the same!

*Meet Your Peer Advisors*, is published by Marketing & Communications, in collaboration with University Student Affairs. MBKU students have submitted information and are solely responsible for their content.

# Meet Your Peer Advisors



## Roseanne Chen

### College of Pharmacy

Hello! My name is Roseanne Chen, but most people call me Rosie. I grew up in Thousand Oaks, CA and graduated from UC San Diego with a B.S. in General Biology. I took a few years off before pursuing a career in Pharmacy. Returning to a full-time school schedule while continuing to work a few hours a week was something I had to adjust to. Good news: it was a relatively smooth transition! If you also took some time off in between school or just have questions about the workload and schedule, please feel free to reach out to me! In my free time I enjoy hiking, walking, or any activity that lets me enjoy the SoCal weather. Being a student at MBKU has been great for many reasons. The smaller class size really allows you to connect with your peers and faculty. The professors also take the time to ensure their students understand the material and are always willing to provide additional assistance through office hours, e-mails, or scheduled meetings. My advice to you all is to take advantage of the resources provided and reach out! Whether it is about school materials, organizations, or volunteer opportunities; the staff and faculty at MBKU are all there to support you in your endeavors!



## Karen Chisholm

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hello and welcome to the MBKU Fam! My name is Karen Chisholm and I'm part of the SCCO Class of 2023 (go JedEyes!). I'm from San Diego and graduated from Scripps College in Claremont, CA. When I'm not studying, I love drinking boba, Netflixing, and exploring the Fullerton area with friends to find the best eats if you need any recommendations, hit me up! My advice to all of you is to make friends, don't be afraid to ask questions, and make time for fun! The people in your program will be learning and growing with you for the next four years - so take time to get to know them! Having a support system here helps me everyday, even with my studies. I learned after coming here that group studying makes learning and grasping concepts so much easier. Being able to discuss and ask questions truly helped me this first year! This new chapter in your life will be full of changes and new adventures, so remember to have fun! MBKU and Southern California have so much to offer, so join clubs, take advantage of the constant free food present on campus, drink tons of boba, and don't forget to live your life while you're here!



## Arah Cho

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hello! My name is Anne Arah Cho and I primarily go by my middle name, Arah. I am part of the OD Class of 2023 and am excited to be a Peer Advisor! I was born in Anaheim, but spent most of my childhood in Paraguay until I moved to Los Angeles to attend UCLA. At UCLA, I was an International Development Studies major and enjoyed taking humanities classes while also completing the science pre-reqs for optometry school. Currently, I have a slightly chunky dog named Gordi and enjoy going on boba and coffee runs during breaks between classes. I would encourage new students to make most of their time at MBKU by joining clubs that fit their interests and allow them to grow as future healthcare professionals. I personally enjoyed

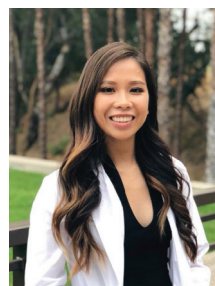
joining clubs as SOS, SVOSH and Lions Club where students practice their Spanish skills in a clinical setting and join optometrists and other healthcare professionals in offering free services to under-served communities. Studying and all that comes with it will be stressful at times, but there is a great community at MBKU to support you through all of it.



## Nghiem Croucier

### College of Pharmacy

Hello everyone, my name is Nghiem Croucier from the College of Pharmacy, class of 2023. I want to welcome all of you to the new chapter in your life at MBKU. I moved to the US from Vietnam 10 years ago and got my BS in Biochemistry from California State University, Long Beach (Go Beach). In my free time, I like to watch a show, have some ice cream and drink boba. I like to walk in a park or on a beach to relax my mind after studying. I recently adopted a three month old pug, and I am open to share my experiences with dog owners/ lovers out there. I understand it is hard to transition from an undergraduate to a graduate school, and it is even harder during this pandemic. Don't be afraid! You are NOT alone, we are in this together, and we are here to help all of you in this transitioning. My advice to you is to have some time to relax when you study because it gives your brain a chance to rest and digest our classes' materials. Welcome to MBKU!



## Oanh Doung

### Southern California College of Optometry

My name is pronounced like the number "1", but a lot of people also call me O-Wan. I respond to both pronunciations so you can pronounce my name any way that floats your boat! I graduated UCLA with a Biology major and currently live in Santa Ana with my parents, sister, and my cat Pico. I am a commuter so my car is my second home. During my free time I love to play board games, watch tv shows, and have picnics at the park. My most favorite part about first year was practicing my clinical skills with my classmates during the early mornings, late nights, and weekends



## Veronique Ferraris

### College of Pharmacy

Hi everyone! Congratulations on making it into MBKU! My name is Veronique (Vero-neek) Ferraris, and I am currently a second year pharmacy student. I am from Highland, California and graduated from Cal State Long Beach as a Biochem major. In my free time I enjoy going to Disneyland, watching scary movies, eating at Korean BBQ, and learning how to play the ukulele. I am also working part-time as a Pharmacy Intern. My favorite part about MBKU is its welcoming environment and atmosphere. With our small class size, it was easy to get to know classmates and faculty and I truly feel like everyone is rooting for one another here. You're all going to meet so many wonderful people during your time here at MBKU and it's important to always remember you're not alone through it all. I encourage you to get involved and make the most of these years. Good luck and welcome! I am looking forward to meeting you all!



# Meet Your Peer Advisors



## Vanessa Francisco

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hello there! Congratulations on becoming a member of the MBKU family! My name is Vanessa Francisco and I am part of the SCCO Class of 2023. I was born and raised in San Francisco and graduated from California State University, Fullerton in 2017 where I majored in Biology and minored in Chemistry. With my alma mater being right across the street from campus, you can say I've been a Fullerton local for a while now. More importantly, it's given me the chance to check out all the great places to eat & drink around town. So please hit me up for suggestions! I'm a huge foodie, but try (keyword: try) to keep up with my fitness while being a full-time student. Running, Netflix, and FaceTime calls with my dog Miko are a few of the ways I destress. I love coffee and have been exploring different brew methods this Summer. If I'm not studying at school, you can probably find me at your local Bodhi Leaf Coffee Shop. If you see me at school without coffee in my hand, please ask me if I'm alright (kidding!). If there was anything I learned from my first year, it was to always take time for myself away from school. You WILL have time for breaks and fun. Celebrate the end of every midterm with classmates, look forward to club events, and go on mission trips. First year is such an enjoyable time and I hope you're as excited for it as I am for you all! Congrats again and see you in the Fall!



## Jason Hannibal

### School of Physician Assistant Studies

Hello! My name is Jason Hannibal. I am a student in the School of Physician Assistant Studies at MBKU and a proud veteran of the United States Navy. I was born and raised in San Diego, California, to a rather large family. There were 11 kids total, and growing up was a blast. I moved to Las Vegas when I was 20 years old to work as an orthopedic technician. While I was there for six years, I was able to get a ton of work experience and get my undergraduate degree at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (go Rebels!). My wife, Hannah, and I have a Boston Terrier named Arnold. In my free time, I enjoy being outdoors, getting on my stand-up paddle board, playing my guitar, and hanging out with family and friends. I am honored to be representing MBKU as a Peer Advisor!



## Austin Hassenpflug

### Southern California College of Optometry

Congratulations on one of the biggest professional accomplishments of your life and welcome to MBKU! My name is Austin Hassenpflug and I am apart of the SCCO class of 2023. I am originally from Tennessee and graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a degree in Biochemistry. I love to golf, hike, enjoy days at the beach (something I couldn't enjoy in Tennessee which has been great) and watch football! (Go Vols). One major piece of advice I can give is to get involved on campus! Coming from out-of-state it was a very nerve-racking experience but everyone here is very out going and they make you feel welcomed! I promise no one here will make you feel unwelcomed and I say that with confidence, coming from the south everyone here will make this place feel like home. Another piece of advice is to make sure you know how to unwind and take your mind off of school and be able to de-stress. Take the time to do fun things around California and in

SoCal your first year. If you only focus on school 24/7 you will go insane so make sure to take care of your mental health. You all have already finished the hardest part of optometry school and that was being accepted! You all belong here and I am excited for all of us to experience this journey together!



## Alexis Hu

### College of Pharmacy

Hello everyone, and welcome to the MBKU family!! Congratulations on starting a new chapter in your life. My name is Alexis Hu, and I am a part of the COP Class of 2023. I grew up in both California and Alaska until now, where I live right outside of Corona. I spent my undergrad at UC Irvine with a degree in Public Health Science. Some of my hobbies include exploring new places, trying new food/restaurants, and binge-watching tv shows/movies (and YES, you do have time to catch up on some of your favorite shows in grad school). I am all about trying new things or exploring new places, so let me know if you know of any interesting places! My advice for you is to take advantage of all the opportunities and resources provided and put yourself up for new challenges. Pharmacy school can be intimidating but don't be afraid to reach out to your classmates, peers, or faculty if you ever need it. We have all been through the struggles, and we are here to be your pillar. Lastly, remember to make as many memories as you can and enjoy yourself in the process! Once again, congratulations and I can't wait to meet you all!



## My Huynh

### Southern California College of Optometry

HeYo. My name is My and I graduated from UC, Irvine in 2017. I spent my two gap years working for a marketing company and starting an online business. Fun fact, if I didn't pursue optometry, I probably would have gone to culinary school because I love cooking and my mom taught me how to cook when I was 8 years old. I'm stoked to be meeting the new and highly anticipated class and I definitely want to be there to help you all navigate through your first year of optometry school. My IG handle is myOhhmy, so if you have any questions before starting school, feel free to send me a message or email at myhuynh.od23@ketchum.edu.



## Irene Hwang

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hello! My name is Irene Hwang and I am excited to be one of your SCCO peer advisors this year. As much as you may be nervous and excited about your first year in optometry school, I am also very expectant of how this year will unravel for all of us. I grew up in Cerritos, California, and studied Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley. During my first year at MBKU I joined a few clubs of my interest including the Spanish Optometric Society, Lions Club, SVOSH, and Omega Delta. Although there are so many more awesome clubs at MBKU, if you are particularly interested in serving your local community or learning essential Spanish phrases to conduct an eye exam, I'd be more than happy to share my personal insight. Aside from school, I enjoy traveling, idly drinking coffee, attending concerts, and delving into old-school pastimes. So if anyone would like to destress over a nice cup of coffee, tea, or boba, please don't hesitate to reach out!

# Meet Your Peer Advisors

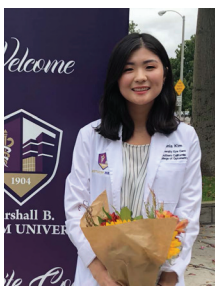


## Vanessa Janovick

### College of Pharmacy

First and foremost, CONGRATULATIONS on your acceptance to Marshall B. Ketchum University! My name is Vanessa Janovick and I will be your peer advisor for the Class of 2022. My role is to help prepare you for entrance into the PA program as well as to support you in your transition. I was born and raised in southern

California and I currently live in San Clemente. Additionally, I serve as Class Historian for the MBKU Pre-PA Mentorship Club and MBKU PA Class of 2021. I graduated Summa Cum Laude from Chapman University-Orange in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science Human Communication Studies. I worked as a Director of Marketing for radiology and ophthalmology practices for several years. I knew I always wanted to become a physician assistant, so I followed my passion and I began my career clinical healthcare as an ER Technician at Hoag hospital in Newport Beach, CA. I feel blessed to be part of the MBKU family where our faculty has been extremely supportive, and I want you to know that you are part of this family now. I have a tremendous amount of advice to share with you in order to help you be successful in PA school, and you have the best experience possible. I am excited to meet all of you this fall. Once again, congratulations on your acceptance to MBKU School of Physician Assistant Studies!



## Sonia Kim

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hello and welcome incoming future optometrists! My name is Sonia Kim and I am part of the SCCO class of 2023. I grew up in Los Angeles, California and graduated from UC Irvine with a major in Biology. My hobbies include baking, painting, drawing, playing tennis, eating, sleeping, and eating some more! I believe that MBKU is such a

friendly and inviting environment and am excited for you to join us! If I were to give any advice, I would say to be involved as much as possible. It may be difficult with how things are now, but I encourage you to join zoom meetings when possible and try to get to know your classmates. Everyone in the MBKU family is very welcoming and approachable and I encourage you to seek for help when needed. We are all here for you whether it be to talk about studies or to have a friendly chat. Congratulations for making it this far and we are very excited to meet each and every one of you!



## Kaitlin Lee

### School of Physician Assistant Studies

Hello and welcome to the MBKU family! Congratulations to everyone; I am so excited for you all to start your journeys here at MBKU! My name is Kaitlin and I am a part of the PA class of 2021. I am an MBKU Pre-PA mentor and currently serve as the class of 2021 Social Chair. I was born and raised in Orange County,

graduated from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, and am so happy to be finishing off my education back home in SoCal. Prior to PA school I worked as a nursing assistant at an otolaryngology hospital, a medical assistant in dermatology, and a medical scribe in the ER. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, hiking, going to the beach, and mostly hanging out with good friends! My biggest piece of advice for starting graduate

school is to get to know your classmates. Grad school is stressful enough on its own and having support from people who know exactly what you are experiencing makes the process easier and more enjoyable. I know times are different right now and there are a lot of unknowns but please know that the peer advisors and the whole MBKU family is here to support you whether in person or via the internet. Although this may not be how you envisioned your first year starting, I am confident you will all adapt and be successful during your time here. Welcome again, I am so excited to meet you!



## Caroline Marhefka

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hello! Congratulations and welcome to the MBKU family. My name is Caroline "Marf" Marhefka and I am part of the OD class of 2023. I was born in Anaheim, California, grew up in Boston, Massachusetts, and graduated from Clemson University with a major in Biological Sciences and a minor in Microbiology. Traveling

across the country for graduate school seemed daunting at first, but the endless support from the faculty and other students ensured that I had a comfortable transition into the program. Optometry is such a unique field with endless opportunity, and SCCO has been an invaluable start to this journey. When I'm not in the library or seeking out a new coffee shop to study at, I enjoy kickboxing, volunteering at local clinics, and breaking it down at dance parties in my friend's living room. I always have caffeine in hand, so feel free to ask me about the many study spots off campus that I have explored this past year. My main piece of advice is to find the balance between school and time for yourself early on in the year. It may feel like optometry school is consuming your life, but I promise there is always the option to take some time to have fun and enjoy sunny California. Try and get involved with campus organizations that ignite your passion and enthusiasm. Getting involved and reaching out to others can help you find a group of people that will not only keep you on track, but also keep you sane throughout your time at MBKU. I cannot wait to meet you all this fall as you hit the ground running!



## Sherin Mathew

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hello and welcome to MBKU! Congratulations on your acceptance and know that you are about to join a great support system while working towards your dreams. My name is Sherin Mathew and I was born and raised in Culver City, CA. I attended the University of California, Los Angeles and graduated with a degree in Psychobiology. Even though I did

not really read or travel much growing up, something changed and now I love them both! I also like to dance and spent much of my life doing Indian classical dance (called Mohiniyattam), some liturgical dance, and even a little bit of hula! Reading and dance are some hobbies that I also reserve to re-energize and ground myself. First year is going to be really fun, memorable, and challenging at times, so it's important to take some time for yourself and de-stress when needed. Next year is also going to go by fast because everyone knows time flies when you are having fun! Definitely try to take that extra opportunity to enjoy the present moment, whether it's having that conversation with a classmate who will end up becoming your best friend or just sitting on the grass lawn of the beautiful campus to enjoy the sun! Remember that you were chosen to be here, so you have entered into a whole MBKU family who wants nothing but the best for you! Again, Congratulations!



# Meet Your Peer Advisors



## Maeve McDonnell

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hi everyone! My name is Maeve McDonnell and I am a second-year optometry student from Orange County, California. I received my undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University where I majored in Biology and minored in Spanish. One of the things I love most about MBKU is the wide variety of extracurricular activities that you have the opportunity to be involved in. I am the co-Vice President for SCCO's Class of 2023, the President of Omega Delta, the Secretary of the Spanish Optometric Society, and your Class Mom! In my free time I enjoy running, yoga, and spending time with my fabulous classmates. I am so excited to welcome all of you to the MBKU family!



## Emily Nearing

### School of Physician Assistant Studies

HELLO! My name is Emily Nearing and I am in the PA class of 2021. I was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. I'm a huge sports fan (go A's) and also played soccer for a majority of my life. Prior to PA school I earned my bachelor's degree in Exercise Science and then worked as a Clinical Exercise Physiologist in Cardiology.

When I am not studying, I often travel back to Colorado to visit my three fur-babies (seeing my fiancé is nice too, I guess). My biggest piece of advice is to keep an open mind throughout the year. There will be a lot of new information given to you and this will help keep you grounded through stressful times. Congratulations on this amazing accomplishment and I can't wait to get to know you!



## Eric Ng

### College of Pharmacy

Congratulations and welcome to MBKU! My name is Eric Ng (pronounced like -ING), and I am part of the College of Pharmacy class of 2023. I grew up in Manteca, California (farm town in the middle of nowhere) and moved to San Bernardino for undergrad. I graduated from California State University San Bernardino in 2018 and achieved

a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry. Living in southern California was such an amazing experience, so I decided to designate four more years of my life here. Being a SoCal resident complements my beach and food addiction because they are littered everywhere! During this pandemic, I utilize my free time to attempt to teach myself how to cook and working out at home. I was on the fence on whether I should attend MBKU or not but was instantly reeled in when I was faced with some of the best faculty members I have ever encountered. Everyone at MBKU are willing to aid in your success. Therefore, do not be intimidated and try to get to know everyone here. Additionally, seize the numerous opportunities that MBKU presents, whether they are leadership positions or networking opportunities. Congratulations again on making it thus far, I am thrilled to meet the incoming class of 2020 and excited for them to begin their journey here with us at MBKU.



## Nathan Nguyen

### College of Pharmacy

Welcome to the MBKU Family! My name is Nathan Nguyen and I am a second year student in the College of Pharmacy. I grew up in various cities all over Southern California and I graduated from the University of Arizona in 2017 with a major in Chemistry and minor in Biochemistry. In my spare time, I like to cook, play different sports, and spend time with friends and family. What I love most about MBKU is the close-knit student body and the helpfulness of the faculty. I am so thankful for my cohort, upperclassmen, and faculty for helping me get through my first year of pharmacy school. My advice for you is to spend some time to get to know your classmates. You'll be digging through the mud with each other for the next few years and hopefully you'll build friendships that last beyond graduate school. There are so many clubs on campus to join which provide opportunities for community outreach and networking. My biggest takeaways from my first year was prioritizing my time, not being bashful to ask questions, and putting myself out there to meet new people. Remember to have fun along the way but don't lose sight of your educational and career driven goals. Congratulations!



## Sara Noori

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hi and welcome to MBKU! My name is Sara Noori and I am a part of the SCCO Class of 2023 aka The JedEyes. I was born and raised in Southern California and currently live in Chino Hills. I graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in 2018 with a BS in Biology. In my free time, I enjoy baking, spending time with my friends and family, and

trying out new food and dessert places. I have a big sweet tooth so desserts are my go-to study treat! My first year at MBKU has been amazing despite the COVID-19 situation. MBKU did a great job in transitioning everyone into online learning and I know that the incoming class is in great hands. I'm excited for all of you to start this new journey at MBKU. My favorite part of MBKU is all the opportunities and events that students are able to take part in and learn more about their respective professions. I enjoyed going on local mission trips, attending conferences, and other networking events that allowed me to connect with several local optometrists. My advice to you all is to take part in as many events as possible so you're able to connect with your classmates, local health professionals and other graduate students from nearby schools. I look forward to meeting you all this upcoming fall!!



## Cade Oost

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hi all, my name is Cade! I'm a UCSD grad and was born and raised in LA, so SoCal has been my home pretty much my whole life. On campus, I'm a part of our class board and the concurrent OD/MS program, and when I'm not holed up in the library, you can usually find me binge watching the Bachelor or driving through Taco Bell at 1 am!

# Meet Your Peer Advisors



## Lindsey Perez

### College of Pharmacy

Welcome, incoming class to the MBKU Pharmily! My name is Lindsey Perez (you guys can call me Linz) and I am part of the COP class of 2023. I was born and raised in California, my family and I moved to the country in New Mexico where I completed my undergraduate studies and we started our ranch. I like to describe myself as charismatic, outgoing, easy to talk to and a great friend. I made many new friends at MBKU and that includes faculty. Most importantly here at MBKU we are ALL here for you. Faculty at MBKU have an open-door policy and I must admit that is what got me through some tough obstacles my first year. I want to give you some advice, save time for yourself to unwind and relax. Study smart and stay on top of your academic responsibilities (do not fall behind) and if you can try to participate in extra-curricular activities. Your P1 year will be a force to reckon with, but you will get through it. Do not try to tackle it all alone. Creating a study group is very helpful for exams. MBKU will be the last place before graduation, it will go by fast I promise. There are no more curves and we have a common goal now that we are in the same program. I will reassure you that you are in a friendly, noncompetitive atmosphere here at MBKU. Lets make the best out of our adventure together. Big congratulations to each of you again I cannot wait to meet ya!!!



## Neha Quraishi

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hi there! My name is Neha and I'm in the OD program, class of 2023! I was born in Houston, Texas and raised in Southern California pretty much my whole life. I graduated from UCLA in 2018 with a degree in Psychobiology and a minor in Applied Developmental Psychology. I love coffee, going on adventures, and traveling!

I also love exploring new places throughout SoCal -LA, OC, and the IE! If you have any questions about cool spots to visit in your spare time, feel free to reach out! I also commute about 40 miles to school from Rancho Cucamonga so if you need tips on commuting you can talk to me anytime! My time at MBKU so far has been nothing short of my expectations. Don't get me wrong-school's hard, but at the same time, you meet the most amazing people all going through the same things as you and you find the time to enjoy it all, in the midst of the craziness. My biggest piece of advice is DON'T COMPARE YOURSELF TO YOUR PEERS!! With everyone taking the same classes and having the same exact schedule, it gets so easy to compare yourself to your peers. You may find yourself comparing what you're doing to what one of your classmates posts on their instagram/snapchat. Although it appears that someone may be studying more than you are, or some people are having more fun, just remember that everyone is different, has different habits, and different ways to relax :) That being said, optometry school is a lot different than undergrad, so use first quarter to find study habits and ways to unwind that work well for you! Don't be scared to ask for help and get to know people early on, everyone is SO NICE AND FRIENDLY, and very open to making new friends, especially in the beginning of the year. Can't wait to meet all you wonderful people soon, congrats on the start of this amazing journey :)



## Guadalupe Remark

### Southern California College of Optometry

Congratulations and welcome! My name is Dorothea Remark, but I go by my middle Guadalupe (long story). I was born in the US, however, grew up in Germany but then moved back here for high school. Then, I went to UC Riverside where I graduated with a major in Biology and minored in Spanish. In my free time, I love watching Netflix (especially rewatching the Office for the millionth time), exploring new coffee shops, hiking and traveling. My favorite part about MBKU is that there are a lot of events and opportunities to get involved in, which are great ways to take a break from studying! My advice to you all for this upcoming year is to try to get to know your classmates as well as you can despite current circumstances, as it will make this optometric journey so much more memorable and a little easier for you; in the future, you can study in groups together and help each other out, especially as you will be spending a lot of time practicing your skills together. By the way, I am also a commuter from La Verne, CA, so if you will be commuting too, feel free to reach out for some tips! Congratulations again and we all can't wait to meet you virtually, and eventually in person!



## Kelsy Rice

### School of Physician Assistant Studies

Hello! My name is Kelsy Rice and I am about to be second year PA student. I was born and raised in California and I graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a degree with Applied Health. My husband and I lived in Kansas City, MO for the last three years --- Go Chiefs! In Kansas City, I worked in the OR as a surgical first assist for organ transplants. I loved being in the operating room, but I am thrilled to be studying to be a PA. In my free time, my husband and I love to take our dogs camping or hike local trails. I also love to travel and I am already planning my next trip to Patagonia once I graduate. I am so excited to be a peer advisor this year!



## Brad Salus

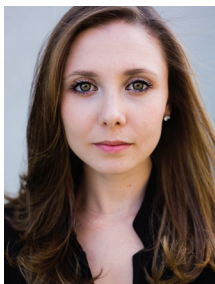
### Southern California College of Optometry

Hello and welcome to MBKU! My name is Brad Salus and I'm a second year SCCO student from the Class of 2023. Growing up, I had the opportunity to live in multiple states but still call Mesa, AZ my hometown. For my undergraduate studies, I attended Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO and completed my B.S. in Chemical & Biological Engineering in 2013. Go Rams! I then worked as an engineer for six years near Salt Lake City, UT before choosing to step away to pursue my dream of becoming an optometrist. I can confidently say it's been one of my best life decisions alongside choosing MBKU as my choice university! You'll soon experience the tight-knit MBKU community that closely pairs students with faculty, provides engaging clinical and didactic studies, and a general ease amongst classmates (and across disciplines, too!). The university also has a host of clubs and volunteer opportunities to supplement your education, which I strongly suggest you explore during your time here. And, although transition to graduate school is sometimes stressful, don't forget to take time for yourself and enjoy some



# Meet Your Peer Advisors

of the wonderful amenities and incredible year-round weather Southern California has to offer! My parting words: Enjoy your summer and try to meet as many of your classmates (and some from the other disciplines) during your first two weeks of the quarter. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions and see you very soon!



## Sierra Sanchez

### School of Physician Assistant Studies

Hello! My name is Sierra Sanchez and I am in the PA class of 2021. My classmates and I are so excited to welcome you all to the MBKU family. I know how much work you put in to get here and I am hoping to help make your transition into PA school as easy as possible. I am originally from Colorado, where I worked as an Emergency

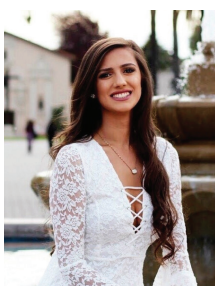
Department Nurse for 4 years prior to coming to PA school. Medicine is honestly my passion and I love to discuss interesting cases or hear about your past medical experiences. When I am not engrossed in the amazing world of medicine, I enjoy yoga, reading, chilling with my cats, and anything Harry Potter. I am so grateful to be a Peer Advisor and can't wait to meet you all.



## Angelo Shimada

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hi everyone, My name is Angelo Shimada and I'll be a peer advisor for this upcoming school year. I'm from Monterey Park (close to LA) and I'm still commuting from there. I did my undergrad at UCSD as a Biochem/Cell Biology major, and took two gap years before starting at SCCO. I enjoy volleyball, board/video games, surfing, and playing with my dog!



## Nina Stroud

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hi there!! My name is Nina Stroud, I am a 24 year old optometry student from Sacramento, California. I did my undergrad at Santa Clara University and have a degree in Public Health Science. I always knew I wanted to work in healthcare but didn't decide to pursue optometry until about halfway through college

when I began working at a private practice. I became very passionate about the field and the impact that vision can have on a patient's day to day life. I also enjoyed the idea of building lasting relationships with my patients and seeing them on a routine basis. To this day pursuing this career has been the best decision I've made for myself, but second best decision was choosing SCCO to help me do it!! I am so thrilled for all of you to see what this field and this school has to offer you, and I have no doubt that you will fall even more in love with optometry with each passing day, week, and quarter. I found some of my absolute best friends in optometry school and I can't wait for you to do the same!! Currently I am the AOSA Trustee-Elect for SCCO, which means that I act as the liaison between SCCO and the American Optometric Student Association as well as sit on the national Board along with representatives from the other optometry schools. I am here to answer any questions regarding what being a member of the AOSA means, as well as help you transition to being a member of the AOA upon graduation. In

my free time (lol) I enjoy working out and going out with my friends! I am always down to scout out the best happy hour deals in OC so hit me up.



## Mimi Trieu

### College of Pharmacy

Hi! Congratulations on this amazing accomplishment! My name is Mimi Trieu and I am part of the pharmacy class of 2023. I am looking forward to meeting all of you once campus is reopened! I have called Orange County my home since I was five. I graduated and received my Bachelor's degree in Biology

from California State University, Fullerton. I have over 14 years of experience in retail pharmacy. Along with all the experience I have in pharmacy, I love to travel and am a big foodie! So there are many tips I have to share with you about the profession and the community. My advice for you as you begin your journey here is to be open to adapt but also do not lose yourself in the process. Graduate school is definitely a challenge, but can be tackled once you have the right foot forward. We are a family here at MBKU so do not ever hesitate to ask when you need help or just a friend to talk to. Everybody from your fellow classmates, upper class, and faculty are all here to support you along the way! Once again, Congratulations and I can't wait to meet you!



## Alyssa Wakamiya

### Southern California College of Optometry

Hello Everybody! My name is Alyssa and I am a 2nd year OD student. I was born and raised in SoCal and have lived here my entire life! I have stayed local for every school that I've attended so that I can stay home with my family and puppies! I went to CSULB for undergrad and now commute to SCCO from Cerritos. So if you're thinking of commuting and have any questions

for me, feel free to contact me! I'd love to meet as many of you as possible. In my free time, I love to hang out with my family, friends, and dogs and go on adventures and hikes throughout SoCal! I hope you're all staying safe during these uncertain times and looking forward to this exciting next chapter in your lives!"



## Marianito Wauneka

### College of Pharmacy

Hello! My name is Marianito E Wauneka and I am part of the COP Class of 2023. I was born and raised in Farmington, New Mexico and moved to Fullerton to attend pharmacy school. I graduated from Grand Canyon University with a degree in Biology. Some of my favorite hobbies include movies, Video games, Pokémon Go and art. I also enjoy spending time with family and

watching Baseball! My Advice to you is to find or form a study group. Trust me this helps you as much as it helps them. I tell you this because one thing we all learn, we are not alone in this journey. So, study with others, you will find others who better understand a concept than you or something you may have missed. This is not a competition, because in the end we all will become the same thing, a Pharmacist.!



# Meet Your Peer Advisors



## Jessica Wongsrichartnon

### College of Pharmacy

Hello, my name is Jessica Wongsrichartnon and I am a 2nd year pharmacy student. I am a native to Orange County and got my undergraduate degree from Cal State Fullerton. In addition to being a peer advisor, I am also on the Extracurricular Committee, the Health Committee, and hold a position on our new College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacist (CPNP) Committee. Away from school I love spending time with my family and friends. Especially if it involves the beach! During my time as a peer advisor I really want to be resourceful and make all of the advisees feel welcomed into our large MBKU family. I know how overwhelming the first year can be, especially during this pandemic, so if you ever need anything don't hesitate to come ask! Welcome to MBKU!



## Avisssa Zomorrodian

### College of Pharmacy

Hello all! Congratulations and welcome! My name is Avisssa Zomorrodian and I am a part of the Pharmacy Class of 2023. I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and then moved to Irvine, California at the age of five. I have been in Orange County ever since. For undergrad, I graduated from the University of California, Riverside with a degree in Biology. In my free time, I love doing anything that has to do with the outdoors. Some of my favorite hobbies include hiking, swimming, and going to the beach. If you are new to Orange County, there is definitely an abundance of activities to do. My piece of advice to the incoming class would be to enjoy every minute of it! Your first year will be over before you know it. Take the time to get to know your classmates, as they will be your support system away from home for the next couple years. By forming a good network of peers early on, you will be able to go through both the fun and stressful times together. You have made a great decision choosing to come to Marshall B. Ketchum University. It is a great environment to be in and everyone you meet is so friendly and kind. Congratulations again on this great achievement and can't wait to meet you all soon!

