

The School of Physical Sciences presents

Anteater Spotlight

Justine Trinh

Meet Justine Trinh, a fourth year Mathematics, Classics, and Asian American Studies triple major. Justine's ambition and accomplishments, such as being on the Dean's Honor List nearly every quarter as well as completing three majors in four years, are why she is our spotlight student.

Being from Huntington Beach, CA, Justine chose to attend UCI to be close to home. She recently did an Asian American Studies oral history interview on her grandmother, highlighting her grandmother's education and proficiency in English and French that made her a rare woman for her generation; this interview will be added to the UCI website sometime next year. Justine also received first place for a video that she made for an oral history project, which showcased her grandfather's record player that was handed down to her; a record player for which he risked his life for while escaping from Vietnam in 1975.

Justine volunteers her time with events on campus such as the Anteater Involvement Fair which promotes the Humanities Learning Language Program and UCI Lunar Festival. She is also part of a research group that looks at the establishment of the Asian American Studies Department at UCI. While Justine focuses her research in history, she understands the importance of combining science too, which is what draws her into being a math major and influences her career goals. She says, "[there is a] need for understanding of both science and history in order to take into account past mistakes and progress further into the future. For example, there were ratios influenced by Pythagoras that went into making the temples, such as the Parthenon's 4:9 ratio which shows that mathematics is part of culture and history, and through practical uses, mathematics is also able to advance."

Justine's diverse interests in her studies is also reflected in her many varied hobbies. Justine enjoys making and editing short videos. She says that "editing is like solving a puzzle in which there is not a wrong answer. Sure, there could be better answers, but it's fun to take all these pieces and put them together and make something that other people can see." Justine also enjoys doing origami, creative writing, as well as collecting old books.

Being a triple major, Justine believes that best advice to give to other students is not be afraid to study things that are interesting to them. In studying multiple subjects, Justine was able to pursue mathematics, but also discover more about herself while taking her Asian American Studies courses. Justine understands that while studying is essential, students should be aware that it is equally important to make time for themselves, as she says, "take the time to see a movie, read a book, or do something that you enjoy. It doesn't have to be the whole book or movie. Read a chapter a week or [watch] one third of a movie."

Justine will be graduating in Spring. As she finishes her scholastic journey at UCI, she moves to the next chapter in her life. While Justine's dream goal is to write a novel, she anticipates attending graduate school to explore the history of math.

Congratulations Justine! We think that you will achieve all of your goals!

