

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

2021

*Yearbook*



ALPHA EPSILON DELTA

*Nevada Beta*

# What's inside?

- 3** Sadaf Akram  
Kirsten Alsua
- 4** Sebnem Aydogdu  
Ann Beck
- 5** Theo Buna  
Isabella Chung
- 6** Stephanie Melrose  
Valentina Okhovat
- 7** Crysty-Ann Olaco  
Gianni Terrana
- 8** Akna Wijekularatne  
John Yim



# AKRAM Sadaf

## LEARN MORE ABOUT SADAF!

It has been an honour to learn and to grow alongside all of my peers in AED. I have thoroughly enjoyed volunteering with the amazing people in this organisation and have gained so many experiences as well as memories to last a lifetime. I am looking forward to further pursuing my passion of becoming a physician. I hope to one day be serving the Nevada community, especially underserved areas in the Valley. My interests so far are in cardiology and internal medicine (but who knows where my path will take me)! It is bittersweet to be graduating but I am so excited to see what the future holds!



## FAVORITE AED MEMORY:

My favourite memory of AED is volunteering at Ronald McDondald House. It was great to connect with the families there and being able to share a meal with them that we had prepared ourselves felt surreal. It made me realise and reflect upon the importance of human connection. Definitely an experience that I won't forget!

## WORDS OF WISDOM:

This advice is a little cliché but you miss 100% of the shots you don't take. Make sure you give 100% to everything that you pursue and it will reflect in your work and in your accomplishments.



# ALSUA Kirsten

## LEARN MORE ABOUT KIRSTEN!

I am graduating with a bachelors in Biological Sciences with minors in Neuroscience and Psychology. My involvement in AED included attending Habitat for Humanity events, Las Vegas Rescue Mission and most importantly serving as AED Blood Drive Committee Chair. I am passionate about helping student peers as a supplemental instructor for general chemistry. Outside of school, I work as a fitness instructor for Trufusion and love to eat at new restaurants! I plan to apply for medical school this summer.

## FAVORITE AED MEMORY:

My favorite memories include all of the relationships I have been able to make with similar goal-driven students. I am lucky to have found friends in my blood drive committee and general membership overall!

## WORDS OF WISDOM:

Take your time! You will be happier when you succeed on your time and when you can give 100% to your goals. You are not alone in this! Use your resources and network with those around you.

# AYDOĞDU

## Sebnem

### LEARN MORE ABOUT SEBNEM!

My name is Sebnem, and I am currently the co-chair of the Bone Marrow Committee. I really enjoyed working with you all during our bone marrow drives on campus, as well as during other volunteer events with AED! I am graduating with a degree in Biological Sciences and plan to apply to medical school after graduation. In my free time, I like hiking, traveling, and spending time with my friends and family.



# BECK

## Ann

### LEARN MORE ABOUT ANN!

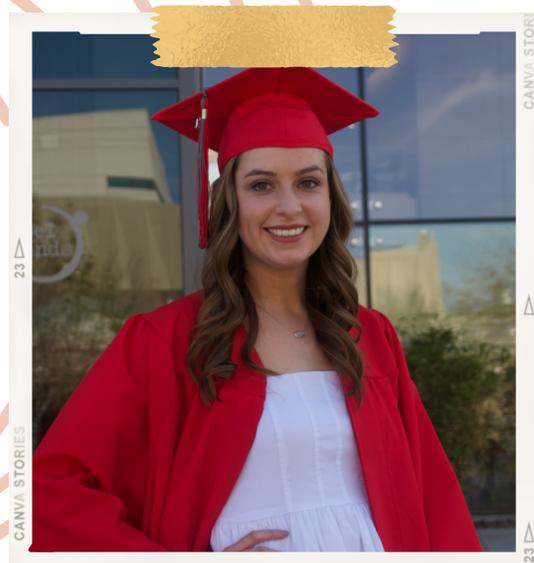
I'm Ann and I am a Biology major with a Neuroscience minor. I was born and raised in Colorado but have thoroughly enjoyed living in Vegas for the past 4 years. I am extremely grateful to have served as Secretary on the E-Board this year. I love to dance and hope to dance professionally in the near future. Some of my other hobbies include hiking, going to concerts, and getting coffee. After I graduate, I plan to take a gap year to gain more experience before applying to medical school, where I hope to specialize in either Genetics or Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.

### FAVORITE AED MEMORY:

My favorite memory with AED would definitely have to be serving as Secretary because of all the people I got to meet. Not only do I get to welcome new members to AED, but I have also loved getting to know all our members, committee officers, and the rest of the E-Board. Because of this position, AED has become such an integral part of my college experience and I will miss everyone so much!

### WORDS OF WISDOM:

Take advantage of all the opportunities that come your way and don't be afraid to try for something new. Something that may seem out of reach can end up becoming one of your favorite college experiences but you will never know unless you go for it!



# BUNA *Theo*



## LEARN MORE ABOUT THEO!

I am a graduating biochemistry major/theatre minor and aspiring mystic/fortune teller. I served some time as a humanitarian officer where I experienced many wonderful, inspiring opportunities to connect with the Las Vegas community and other fellow AED members that I am sure to cherish. I once wanted to be firefighter, then a chef (due mostly in part by the immaculate animated film Ratatouille), but for now I am pretty set on pharmacy school. As of late, I have taken up hobbies in yoga, tarot card reading, voice acting, and interpretative dance to stabilize my energy with the ever-flowing universe. Today you will probably find me listening to music, working as a scribe, and making as much art as I can during my gap year.

## FAVORITE AED MEMORY:

So many volunteering opportunities that its impossible to pick! Also fun discussions with fellow members in meetings and when we would cross paths anywhere on campus... oh and bonfires! Those were always fun! :)

## WORDS OF WISDOM:

Follow your curiosity, as in expand your knowledge in whatever interests you- especially if it's totally different from your comfort zone. You never know what doors it may open and what lessons you may learn about yourself!

# CHUNG *Isabella*

## LEARN MORE ABOUT ISABELLA!

I served as AED Vice President during the Fall 2019 semester, and then as President from Spring 2020-Spring 2021. My time in AED has been such a blessing. I truly am so grateful for each of you and the organization that we have together. As for the future, I can't wait to serve as a physician alongside all of my AED pre-health friends.

## FAVORITE AED MEMORY:

Being President!!! Like I said, it was a blessing. But all of it was so fun, even when things got stressful! Fundraising events, meetings, volunteering, speaker presentations, social events, the AED National Conference, going through an entire pandemic together. I'll never forget ANY of it. AED has my heart forever.



## WORDS OF WISDOM:

A few things. First, not everything on your application needs to be medical. Do things that you genuinely enjoy because it's so much easier to remain involved that way. This is YOUR life, and if anything, those other experiences show you are unique. Second, take care of yourself!!! I find it easy to overwork as a pre-health student, but your needs come before anything else. If you're not healthy physically or mentally/emotionally, how can you help other people? Third, enjoy this time!!! I never realized how much I loved going to school, meeting friends in the library, grabbing some Starbucks on campus. I understand it's easy to want to get into professional school as soon as possible, but there is really no rush at all. Everything happens in perfect time.

# MELROSE

## Stephanie

### LEARN MORE ABOUT STEPHANIE!

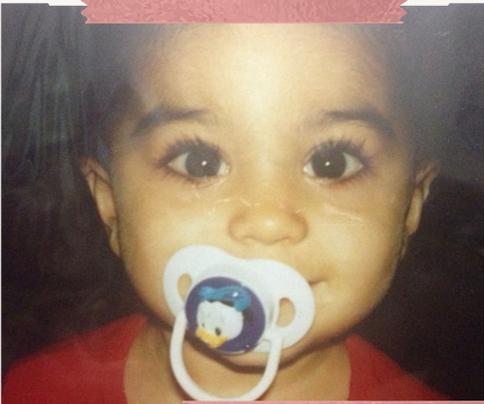
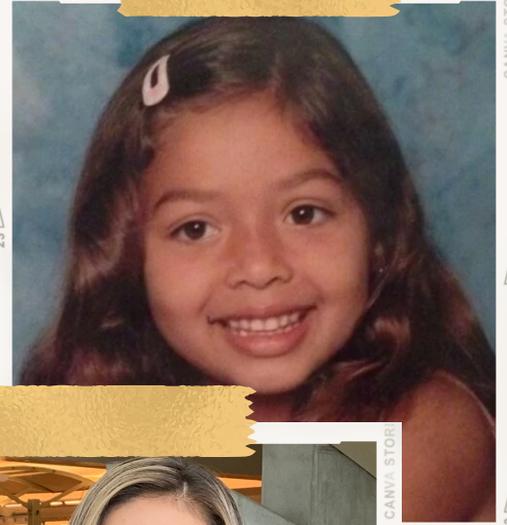
It has been such an honor and an amazing experience to be a part of AED for the last three years. My time as one of the co-chairs of the dental committee has been so rewarding as well. I plan to apply to PA school this upcoming cycle and am excited to enjoy some time off this summer to catch up on sleep and travel.

### FAVORITE AED MEMORY:

Volunteering at Catholic Charities

### WORDS OF WISDOM:

If it was easy everyone would do it. The road to professional school is long and draining but don't forget to take time for yourself and make memories along the way.



# OKHONVAT

## Valentina

### LEARN MORE ABOUT VALENTINA!

Hi everyone! I am the chair of the pre-pharmacy committee and I lead most of the events taken place either in person, with my partner at the time (before she graduated) Ciarra and now I have led this committee by myself in person and through Zoom! I am graduating with a degree in Biology! My hobbies are painting, roller skating, and playing pinball! My future plans are either to go through with the Pharmacy route or take the PA route, both are which sound very exciting to me! I am really gonna miss AED and the people in it!

# COLLEGO Crysty-Ann

## LEARN MORE ABOUT CRYSTY-ANN!

Hello everyone! My name is Crysty-Ann, and I'm a Biology major with Psychology and Neuroscience minors. This past year as Communications Director was such a fun experience for me! I got to connect with all of you and use my creativity and (totally valuable) social media knowledge. Over the years, I've bounced from almost every career path possible. After an early-onset quarter life crisis, I've realized that my main interest lies in being able to help others. A future in healthcare is truly the best of both worlds because it gives me the chance to give back to my community, while also channeling my unrequited love for biology. I'll be taking a year off before applying to medical school in the Fall (and don't worry - I'm 100% sure this time!). I enjoy spending time with friends and family and reading. I'm also an avid coffee and boba lover, and I've made it my mission to find the best cafes for both #justgapyearthings!!

## FAVORITE AED MEMORY:

I loved being in charge of social media and seeing how passionate everyone was about our chapter and service projects!! Oh and playing lowkey aggressive Kahoot games during our Thanksgiving potlucks was definitely a highlight, too!

## WORDS OF WISDOM:

Everyone always says this, but it's the truth! Always make time to take care of yourself - you can't pour from an empty cup!



# TERRANA Gianni

## LEARN MORE ABOUT GIANNI!

I am Gianni Terrana, and I was born and raised in Las Vegas. I like to play soccer and go off-roading in my UTV in my free time. I will be attending UNLV's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program this summer for the class of 2024.

## FAVORITE AED MEMORY:

My favorite memory is working the Kid's Cafe Kitchen at Three Square because there was never a dull moment and the experience was filled with many laughs working with Valentina.

# WIJEKULARATNE

## Akna

### LEARN MORE ABOUT AKNA!

Hey everyone! My name is Akna Wijekularatne and I am an officer in the Educational Outreach Committee! I will be graduating this semester with a degree in Biology and a minor in Neuroscience. My future plans are to apply to professional school and hopefully be accepted so that I can continue to help out my community on a broader scale!

### FAVORITE AED MEMORY:

Every event that I have volunteered with AED has always been full of fun and laughter! One of my favorite memories with AED is from pre-COVID times when we used to have potlucks for the holidays!

### WORDS OF WISDOM:

As a person that has always "planned" my life one of the biggest lessons that I have learned throughout college is that sometimes it's okay if things don't happen the way you expected them to. Don't beat yourself up over it and instead take it as an opportunity to learn from. Reflecting back on those moments will allow you to see how much you have grown as a person over time!



# John



### LEARN MORE ABOUT JOHN!

My majors are Biology and Kinesiology. My minors are Chemistry, Psychology, and Neuroscience. Hopefully, studying for these classes will aid me on the MCAT so that I can be a competitive medical school applicant. Within AED, I've been apart of Physician Shadowing for about three years. I've also served as SAA, President, and/or Treasurer for four other clubs. My hobbies include exercising, sports, playing the guitar, and watching anime. To me, a perfect day is where everything goes right. It can be small things like getting a great parking spot, great weather, getting great news, meeting great people, getting everything done for the day. I think people have more "perfect days" than they think, but sometimes it's hard to see.

### FAVORITE AED MEMORY:

Those that have met me, I really like to volunteer. The semester after I cross 100 hours of service, a certain former AED member walked up to me and challenged me to see who could do the most. We both crossed 100 hours that semester and we are still good friends now. Since we volunteered so much as saw each other at nearly all the events and it made them all so much more fun. The following semester, more people tried to complete the most hours and I really enjoyed seeing more people get into volunteering. Whether it was for fun, competition, or purely for our applications, I believe that the community benefited from having so many eager AED members ready to service.

### WORDS OF WISDOM:

College is a small but important portion of your life, there's no need to force yourself to get through this period of your life as fast as you can. Timelines will be placed on us throughout our lives by others, try to let yourself enjoy the spontaneous and little things in life.