

Great (Un)Expectations

In July, 2015, I packed up my life and made the road trip from Houston, Texas, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to pursue a career in podiatry. I cannot believe I am already nearing the end of my first year here at the Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine. As most ambitious students do, I expected to go to school, get good grades, and maybe when I wasn't buried under a pile of books, explore a bit of the city in my free time. As I reflect back on this year, I realize that the unexpected things are the ones that have taught me the most.

Firstly, I expected rigid stability from a school established in 1963. I now sense a culture that is becoming increasingly responsive to change. As an undergraduate business major at McCombs, I learned the seven most expensive words of policy: "We have always done it that way." People are typically the most resistant part of a system to change. As future healthcare professionals, we need to be prepared to adapt and respond to the white water world we will be thrust into upon graduation, and this preparation should start now. TUSPM faculty and students lead in this preparation by example. Our faculty seeks to improve communication with students by not only holding open forums, but also following through to make proposed changes. Additionally, our extremely involved student organizations regularly provide the opportunity to hear from professionals in fields such as sports medicine, practice management, and wound care, to help supplement our theoretical framework with practical knowledge.

Secondly, I expected to make some friends at TUSPM. This feels much more like a family. As President of the Class of 2019, I am humbled to represent a class that exudes the essence of unity on and off campus. The TUSPM Alumni we have met always seem eager to visit and form lasting connections. It is not just current students and alumni that are part of our family, but also our wonderful faculty. This was highly evident at our annual formal, Spring Ligament, when we celebrated professors who make a difference. Surrounded by sharks and stingrays, we enjoyed a delicious three-course meal, got silly at the photo booth, and danced the night away with an incredible view of the Philadelphia skyline at sunset. Our class honored two professors in particular. While one has been with us for a couple of years and the other for more than a couple of decades, these phenomenal professors both take the time and effort to form personal connections with students. We really appreciate all they do to ensure our progress and success.

When I head out to the next place life takes me in 2019, I will certainly cherish all the unexpected personal enrichment bestowed upon me in addition to the expected academic rigor. I fully intend on making the most out of this opportunity and look forward to the remainder of my time at TUSPM and beyond.

Namrata Daru
Class President
TUSPM Class of 2019

(photo on the next page)

