

Medicine with Heart: Soroush Zaghi

Soroush Zaghi's life has been defined by accomplishing the impossible. From maintaining a pristine 4.0 in his neuroscience studies, along with placing in the 99.7-99.8th percentile in the MCATs, Zaghi's achievements have molded him into the perfect candidate for Harvard, one of the nation's top medical schools, where he will attend after UCLA. Yet there is still much more to this multidimensional Bruin, whose diverse interests range from ballroom dancing to Spanish literature.

As the director of the Student Welfare Commission Blood Drive committee, Zaghi's efforts were responsible for accumulating a record 1722 units of blood, saving the hospital over \$350,000 during the 2004-2005 year. During his tenure as Publicity Director for SWC, Zaghi masterminded 'Bloody', the drop-shaped blood drive mascot that has become synonymous with every SWC blood drive since its inception.

Zaghi spread his passion for medicinal issues to other projects as a CPR instructor and as a patient escort, and as a participant in the UCLA Mobile Clinic, bringing much-needed medical assistance to the homeless. In the lab, under the tutelage of Dr. Homsher, Zaghi spent over ten hours a week studying the differences between heavy meromyosin and native myosin. After countless dead-ends and failed experiments, Zaghi's perseverance won out and his findings were

submitted for publication in the *Journal of Biophysiology*.

Outside of the lab, Zaghi expressed an equal passion for the arts by occasionally tickling the ivories and trading in his lab coat for his dancing shoes. Zaghi was a mainstay at various Salsa classes offered at Wooden and translated these skills into participating in the Ballroom Dance Club. Zaghi has done everything from tango to swing to the cha-cha.

Within his Spanish Literature minor, Zaghi quickly impressed his professors with his enthusiasm and intensity. "[Zaghi] was one of the finest young people it has been my privilege to teach... He has a genuine respect for learning and...is broadly curious about life and knowledge," acknowledged Professor John Dagenais.

It is often said that good physicians treat the disease, but great physicians treat the patient, forming a relationship that transcends medicine. Likewise, Zaghi is quick to point out that his success was not single-handed. "It is through our relationships with others that we grow, learn, and work to achieve our dreams." While Zaghi's intellect is unquestionable, it was his compassion and devotion to humanitarian causes that separated him from the pack. A firm believer in self-discipline and determination as tools to success, Zaghi proved that drive and hard work could accomplish anything. | *story by erica liu, photographed by jasmin niku, design by marissa gilman.*





"The most important things I learned (at UCLA) did not come from the classes I took, but from the meaningful activities I participated in and the diverse people I met along the way."