

**Alumni Profile**

**Laura Huang – Management PhD Program**



**Career**

Please provide a brief overview of your career path since graduating from UCI.

*After graduating from UCI in 2012, I joined the faculty at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and then in 2018, joined the faculty at Harvard Business School.*

**Your Time at UCI**

When did you attend UCI?

*I was at UCI from 2008-2012.*

What program were you in?

*I was in the PhD program in Organization and Management.*

Why did you choose to come to UCI?

*UCI provided access top-notch faculty, where I knew that I would be trained well, while still having the collegiality and tight-knit feel that I knew that I would want. It was the perfect blend of rigor and support.*

**Reflections**

What is your most memorable moment/experience at UCI?

*Gosh, there are so many memorable experiences that I'm not sure that I can name just one. There's the day I got the rejection for the first paper I ever submitted to an academic journal. There's the day I was told that I was receiving the Public Impact Award for my research. But most memorable are probably all the snippets of shared experiences that I had with the people in my cohort—classmates of mine who I will always adore. We have each other's backs and it's a special connection that I've realized many other people from other institutions don't have with people from their doctoral programs.*

Was there one thing or one person at UCI that really helped or made a difference in your graduate/postdoctoral career? If so, tell us about whomever or what it was?

*I wouldn't be where I am today without Jone Pearce, who was my doctoral advisor. But to say that she was just a doctoral advisor leaves out so much of the real story. Jone has always been so much more. She has been a champion, a mentor, a sounding board, and an inspiration. There are so many pieces of advice and words of wisdom that she has shared with me through the years—and I carry so many of them with me as I continue to navigate both my career and my personal life. Words really can't do justice to the impact she has had on my life.*

## **Alumni Life**

How did your education at UCI benefit you in your current life?

*I will be forever grateful to UCI. There's nowhere else that I would have rather have done my PhD. It provided me with all the hard skills that I needed, while also allowing me to develop so many tacit, implicit, inexplicable skills that have helped provide me with a sense of fulfillment and balance, which isn't always easy in an academic career.*

What advice do you have for a new graduate student?

*Take your time, trust yourself, and prioritize your sanity over everything else. It's a stressful journey, and I've seen too many people who have lost themselves and forgotten about the bigger picture. The temptation is to compare yourself with other people, to feel like you're an imposter, and to feel like you need to always be doing more. I think it's important to work hard, but also remember that it's a long road.*

What is the most unexpected life lesson that you gained from your time at UCI?

*A piece of advice that I once heard: you should never be envious of someone unless you're willing to trade lives with them on every dimension. Not just the dimension that you're envious about. You have to trade with them on all fronts. I think that helps to not only remind people to have empathy and compassion for what others are going through, but also reminds people of what they do have and all the things that they do have and should be grateful for.*