

Heart-to-Heart

Senior Has Passion for Helping, Future in Medicine

She could be typically found outside, in front of her battalion, giving commands. As Battalion Executive Officer of the Marine Corps JROTC, Aylin Alvarez¹² spent much of her time with the MCJROTC students directing the program.

"As the BN XO [Battalion Executive Officer] I am the second-in-command," Alvarez said. "I am the direct representative of the commanding officer, and all of my orders are issued as if they were the commander's. I manage the battalion staff to make sure that they accomplish their assigned tasks."

But behind the façade of the seemingly cold-hearted cadet major lay a warm-hearted passion for helping people. Aylin dreamed of becoming an emergency and trauma surgeon.

"I knew I wanted to work in the medical field since I was a little girl," Alvarez said. "However, at first I thought I wanted to be a pediatrician. Then, I realized that I am more passionate about the emergency room than pediatrics."

Her freshman year, Aylin was in a motorcycle accident with her father. After being rushed to the emergency room, she developed an interest in working there.

"It took a near-death experience for me to discover my passion for saving lives," Aylin said. "I was frightened at first, but I soon started noticing the confident manner in which the doctors worked around me. I was intrigued by how everything flowed seamlessly. I began to picture myself as one of them."

After her recovery, she began looking into a career as an ER doctor, and loved what she found. She fully researched every aspect of the job, and as she did, her interest grew.

"Once I got home, I was obsessed with the idea of becoming an emergency room surgeon," Aylin said. "I couldn't stop learning about the workplace, job criteria, and the importance of the job. It quickly progressed passed an obsession; it became my career goal."

She also actively participated in National Art Honor Society as vice-president, and was a member of the Superintendent's Academically Talented Scholars (SAT Scholars). Despite her interest in art, and her talent in MCJROTC, she knew that working in the ER was what she wanted to do.

"After going through personal experiences of family members and myself in the emergency room, I knew it is what I want to do," Aylin said. "The fast-paced and hectic workplace made me excited and I knew it would be a job I would enjoy so much that I would never get bored."

Aylin Alvarez¹²