

July 25, 2019

To the Naturopathic Community:

With a heavy heart, the NMSA shares that one of the members of our community has recently passed away. Sharon Nova San Juan, a recent ND graduate from Bastyr University California, suffered from a medical emergency from which she was unable to recover. Set to excel in her board examinations and begin practice this autumn, we all join in honoring her during this time of grievance and transition.

Our community is tight-knit and will forever support the health and longevity of one another. To be informed of this loss is tremendously impactful, especially as we learn more of the breadth of influence Sharon had on more than those at Bastyr alone. Wherever you may be, take a short moment and reflect on those who have altered your views, supported your path to success, or have benefitted your healthcare journey in any way. To be able to honor those who are still with us may lessen the blow of being unable to do so in the future.

Sharon was a leader in all regards, working diligently with the Texas Association of Naturopathic Doctors (TxAND) and others that support holistic healthcare in a population currently underserved by our medicine. At school, her classmates describe her as a young woman whose smile could light up a room with her inspiring heart and passion to care for others. Her time at Bastyr consisted of personal herbal preparations to care for her friends and colleagues, strongly demonstrating her dedication to the field of naturopathic medicine. Her time as a healer has not ended, even with her passing. With her mission to heal others, she was able to provide organs that saved the lives of six other so that they and their families may live on for their own legacies. The halls of the hospital were filled with family, friends, and loved ones that were able to send her onto her next journey.

The loss of a student, a young mind, is unbearably difficult. Although the vitality, drive, and passion of Sharon may be currently lost from this realm, her legacy will live on in the heart and spirits of all who are within the naturopathic medical community. As we mourn her passing, we also take comfort in the support and efforts of each individual that comprises our family.

If you feel so inclined, the family of Sharon welcome you to help continue her legacy by [donating to the TxAND](#). As always, please [contact me](#) if you have questions or concerns.

In light,

Blake Langley, Dipl. Ac.

President, NMSA International

