Amanda Garcia

OVERVIEW The mission of the WiE Student Series is to inform and inspire current female students in the University of Oklahoma (OU) Gallogly and Mewbourne colleges through the elucidation of the diversity of opportunity related to positively impacting society through academic pursuits. This WiE Series edition highlights Amanda Garcia, a current OU Engineering student, and features her personal journey.

MOTIVATION Amanda grew up surrounded by engineers in her family and excelled in math and physics, so she always knew that she wanted to go into engineering. Between working on the electrical components of cars, her dad being an Electrical Engineer himself, and an interest in Power Engineering, it was a no brainer for her to pursue Electrical Engineering.

APPLICATION In the summer of 2018, Amanda had her first internship with Valero Energy Corporation where she did Instrument Engineering at the Valero Port Arthur refinery. She loved it and returned for a second internship in the same department. Throughout those two summers, she upgraded outdated instruments and completed major projects to bridge critical instrument gaps. In the summer of 2020, she went to San Antonio, Texas at the Valero headquarters where she reviewed unit control schemes, reviewed instrument performance at all 14 refineries, and researched and recommended analyzer technologies and installations. At OU, she has also done undergraduate research at the Advanced Radar Research Center with modeling backscatter of miscellaneous objects.

IMPACT Throughout her time at OU, Amanda has been able to give back to those around her. She has been a lead mentor, a volunteer, and a committee member for the Halliburton Women’s Welcome in 2017, 2019, and 2020, respectively. Her mentors paid it forward for her, so she did the same in the organizations in which she helped.

INSIGHT Adopt the Wonder Woman Mentality: “Become your own Wonder Woman. Don’t rely on the energy of the outside world to fuel you. Find out what makes you strong and what makes you awesome and run with it.”

“I believe that fortitude is key. More than anything, be consistent. Go at it. Go at it. Go at it. When you succeed, don’t forget the responsibility of making someone else succeed with you.” – Antonia Novello