

Devon Crowe, MS, 1980



What influenced your decision to attend graduate school at OSC?

I was working full-time having left the Air Force and just completed an MBA following my B.S. in Astronomy and Mathematics, all at the University of Arizona. I talked to then-assistant professor Jim Wyant before enrolling.

What do you wish you would have known your first day of graduate school? Was there anything you wish you had done to prepare more for graduate school?

There was an introductory student welcome briefing but as an experienced student, no introduction was necessary

Which classes did you find most enjoyable? Which ones did you find most difficult?

I chose the courses that most interested me, such as infrared detectors and remote sensing, and I skipped the core coursework. I did not feel a disadvantage in excelling without the core courses.

Was there an individual (professor, advisor, staff, friend, family member) who played a particularly important role in your education?

I knew Eustace Dereniak from when we had previously worked together at Kitt Peak National Observatory, and we co-authored the detectors text book. Then-OSC director Peter Franken was the largest single influence, and I collaborated with Peter until his death decades later.

What was your research while attending OSC?

Peter Franken and I collaborated on several diverse topics including improving on Michelson-Morley, laser spectrometry, and detection of lunar micro-meteor impacts, among several others.

What was the cost of rent in Tucson while you were in school?

I owned a home.

If you owned a car during graduate school, what year and model was it?

1976 Datsun 280Z.

What was your favorite restaurant/student hangout near campus?

I worked full-time and only visited the university area for classes.

What did you do for fun during your time in graduate school?

Riding motocross motorcycles, photography, amateur radio and hiking.

What was most memorable about your commencement ceremony?

I did not attend.

What was your first job after graduation?

I received and accepted an offer from SAIC, through the Peter Franken connection.

What was the most significant world event during your time in graduate school. How were you affected by this event?

Mt. St. Helens erupted. Penzias and Wilson won the Nobel Prize in Physics. My life was unaffected.

Was there a campus or community event in Tucson that was especially important to you?

When I was an undergraduate, Artist Series and athletic tickets were free to students, and I took advantage of that. Not so much in graduate school since I worked full-time off campus.

What advice would you give to this year's graduating class?

I always created my own path. I hope others will find that freedom.