

Stefano Young, PhD, 2012

What influenced your decision to attend graduate school at OSC?

Sunlight, a better male/female ratio than other optics schools and financial aid.

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?

I wish I had known that some of the people I met would become lifelong friends; I would have been kinder to them. ☺ I also wish I had reflected more at the beginning of graduate school about what I would like to do *after* graduation.

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

I liked making digital holograms (I believe it was Tom Milster's lab). Harry Barrett's 72-hour take-home exams were pretty excruciating



Garam, Stefano and Sofia Young, 2016

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

Many thanks to my PhD advisor, Matt Kupinski, and my classmate-turned-wife, Garam Yun Young, for all they taught me.

What was your research while attending OSC?

My PhD was titled 'Task-Based Assessment and Optimization of Digital Breast Tomosynthesis' (also known as 3D mammography)

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

\$550/month, split equally towards the end of graduate school between my wife and me.

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

1988 Mercury Cougar, Bostonian Edition.

What was your favorite restaurant/student hangout near campus?

Frog & Firkin on University Blvd.

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

Lots of things—road trips, ski trips, plane trips and Sports Fridays!

What was most memorable about your commencement ceremony?

I did not attend because I finished my PhD remotely. Garam's valedictory speech the semester before was pretty special.

At the time of your graduation, what were the most sought-after jobs/most popular industries/most popular companies?

Apple snatched up a lot of OSC grads.

What was your first job after graduation?

Postdoc at UCLA.

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

The 'Great Recession' of 2008 was big news. I had a piddling sum in the stock market, which became even more piddling.

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

The 'Very Happy Hour' was instrumental in connecting me with classmates early on. The Student Optics Chapter's (SOCK) underdog victory in the campus-wide 2010 Club Olympics was pretty magical. Garam and I enjoyed rueda-style salsa dance classes with many of our classmates, and the fun sometimes spilled over to El Parador on Broadway.

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

Relationships are as important as research, if not more so.