

Daniel Millstone, MS, 2017

What influenced your decision to attend graduate school at OSC?

After finishing my Bachelor's degree from OSC, I wanted to dive further into the material that I had studied.

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?

Start networking immediately. Learn to use office hours to master each class. The TA's want to help you and might even be in classes with you at some point during your graduate career. Get involved in events around the college and be sure to attend the Industrial Affiliates events. Put your phone and computer away during class. Don't get distracted and don't be afraid to ask questions. Get hands on experience in a lab. Become a good programmer if you haven't already.



Daniel Millstone and Nirantha Balagopal

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

OPTI 524, Optical Systems Engineering, with Matt Dubin is the MOST USEFUL CLASS YOU WILL TAKE IN GRADUATE SCHOOL. It was also clearly the toughest and most time consuming, but also the most enjoyable of all the classes that I took at OSC. It is a glimpse into the real world of engineering where you will learn new skills, while being challenged with actual engineering design requirements and delivery dates.

OPTI 512 with Scott Tyo was fantastic because he implemented an inverted classroom where we had the lecture notes and lectures pre-recorded. We would learn the material outside of class on our own and then talk about the material, ask questions, and do practice problems during our class time. It was very effective and was an extremely important class (Fourier Math).

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

My advisor, Matt Dubin, taught me countless skills and lessons throughout my tenure as a graduate student.

What was your research while attending OSC?

Instrument transfer function characterization of interferometers.

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

\$1,200/month.

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

2000 Lexus LS400.

What was your favorite restaurant/student hangout near campus?

Coffee Cartel, Time Market, and 1702.

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

Intramural indoor and outdoor soccer.

What was most memorable about your commencement ceremony?

Having my family in attendance and graduating alongside my friends.

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

Apple and Microsoft were the most popular companies that graduates were going to for their first job.

What was your first job after graduation?

Optical Manufacturing Engineer at 4D Technology in Tucson.

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

Paris Climate Agreement and Brexit vote.

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

Meet Me Downtown 5K and Agave Heritage Festival.

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

Find joy in the work that you do on a day-to-day basis. Never stop learning new skills. Don't forget to find a balance between work and your life outside of work. Enjoy having your nights and weekends back, free of homework/research. You will love them!