

WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE



SHARHEA BELL

Occupation/Title

Building & Systems Engineer

Company

UPS – UNITED PARCEL SERVICE (Corporate Office)

College/Major

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Computer Engineering

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE YOUR PARTICULAR MAJOR?

I believe I was about 9 years old when I decided I wanted to be an engineer. I attended a program where I met a woman who was a mechanical engineer that calibrated traffic lights for the City of Memphis. As simple as configuring traffic lights may sound, of all of the speakers I thought she was the most impressive.

WHEN DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN GEE? HOW DID GEE HELP YOU TO PURSUE YOUR GOALS?

I became involved with GEE in middle school. The GEE program helped expand my knowledge on the many disciplines of engineering. I believe this program was great exposure to the numerous opportunities STEM careers can offer. The program was also very inspiring by seeing successful women engineers.



ENGINEERING/STEM PATHS REQUIRE A LOT OF DEDICATION. HOW DID YOU STAY MOTIVATED TO PURSUE THIS EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY?

School was hard and truly took a lot of dedication. If you asked my college friends I carried my laptop everywhere and I ALWAYS had homework. I personally believe a good community in class and outside of class really kept me motivated. Admitting when I needed help and visiting my professor's office hours played a major role as well.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR CAREER?

My favorite aspect of my career is knowing that I play a major role in the logistics of my company both domestically & internationally.

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WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHER YOUNG WOMEN WHO ARE JUST ENTERING THE GEE PROGRAM?

Allow the GEE program to inspire you. You are more than capable to excel in STEM. Even if STEM isn't fully in your heart, allow yourself to make connections with the amazing souls you may encounter.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY TO THE SPONSORS OF GEE?

I would like to thank GEE and the sponsors of such an amazing program. Your efforts truly inspired me. Female representation in male dominated fields is needed. I wouldn't be the engineer I am today if it wasn't for your program as a stepping stone in my life.



Thank you to our sponsors!



WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE

CORINNA CARTER

Occupation/Title

Analyst

Company

Department of Defense

College/Major

The University of Memphis
Mechanical Engineering



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE YOUR PARTICULAR MAJOR?

GEE introduced me to a huge variety of different engineering careers. There were a couple of engineering majors that interested me, but ultimately I chose Mechanical Engineering because of my love of cars and planes and other gadgets.

WHEN DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN GEE?

HOW DID GEE HELP YOU TO PURSUE YOUR GOALS?

After my first year of high school, my father (an engineer) found out about GEE and signed me up for it because I was unsure of what I wanted to do. Being an engineer himself, my father wanted me to explore the vast world of engineering, which GEE did for me! I thought engineers were just old nerdy guys like my dad, but I met so many amazing (and fashionable!) women who were doing such cool jobs and I was able to learn all about different things I could do. As I got older, being involved with GEE gave me countless opportunities to meet people directly in the industry – people who could connect me with amazing careers!



ENGINEERING/STEM PATHS REQUIRE A LOT OF DEDICATION.

HOW DID YOU STAY MOTIVATED TO PURSUE THIS EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY?

The friends I made both in my classes and in my work in the engineering department made a huge difference! Having a support network of people going through the same thing allowed us to keep each other accountable and help each other with classes.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR CAREER?

By far my favorite aspect of my career is the diversity of things I get to do. I always dreaded the thought of going into work and doing the same boring thing every day. My job, like many other engineering jobs, allows me to be in the office one day, on a test range the next day, and traveling across the country (or world!) the day after that! Even when I'm "stuck in the office," there are always new challenges that I have the opportunity to tackle!

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WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHER YOUNG WOMEN WHO ARE JUST ENTERING THE GEE PROGRAM?

Make the most of it! Whether you chose to be there or you were forced, you have to be there, so enjoy it! You should have seen my face the morning I rolled into GEE instead of sleeping in on my summer break. By the end of the first day, I was so glad to be there, that I ended up going to the other 2 weeks of that summer. Along with all of the summers after that until I graduated from high school! And then I worked at GEE in college! Using up part of your summer for an "engineering camp" doesn't sound very glamorous, but you will have so much fun and meet so many incredible people along the way!



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY TO THE SPONSORS OF GEE?

Programs like GEE absolutely make a difference. There is no doubt about that. GEE is an incredible program. After being involved with GEE for about 7 years, I have seen firsthand the difference it made not only in my own life but in the lives of the hundreds of other young women I interacted with over the years. Thank you, and please keep supporting these young women!

Thank you to our sponsors!



WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE



MICHELLE FIELD

Occupation/Title

Geographic Information Systems Analyst

Company

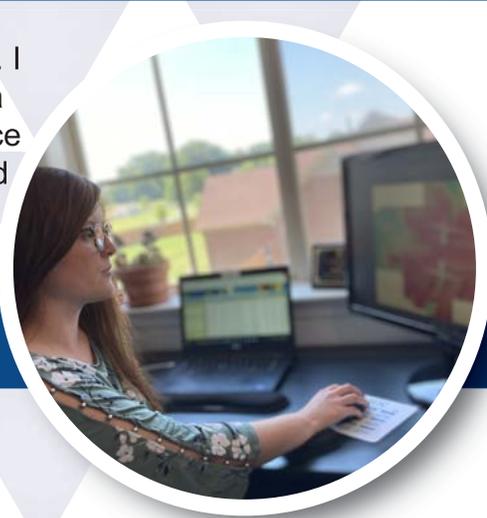
Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.

College/Major

The University of Memphis
Master of Science in Earth Sciences

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE YOUR PARTICULAR MAJOR?

Originally, I had absolutely no idea what I wanted to do. I switched my major two times before I figured out I wanted to pursue a degree in Earth Sciences. I had to step back and really take a look at myself. Growing up, I always had a fascination with the environment, the need to protect it, and observing it. Once I took my first class in the department, I knew I was hooked, and it introduced me to my love for Geographic Information Systems (GIS).



WHEN DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN GEE? HOW DID GEE HELP YOU TO PURSUE YOUR GOALS?

I attended GEE during the summer in high school after attending Engineering Day. Both Engineering Day and GEE opened my eyes to the STEM field and all of the cool things in which I could be involved. I learned about structures, transportation, computer engineering, all of the things I had no idea I could do. The best thing about GEE for me was the hands on experience and learning that a STEM career was possible for me.

ENGINEERING/STEM PATHS REQUIRE A LOT OF DEDICATION. HOW DID YOU STAY MOTIVATED TO PURSUE THIS EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY?

The first thing I had to do was to tell myself that it was not going to be easy. I had to learn to welcome challenge and to understand that it was going to make me grow. One of the main things I did when it got hard to push forward was to remind myself of my vision that I had. I had to remember why this degree was important to me and how I could make a difference by learning as much as I possibly could.

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WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR CAREER?

I cannot say that I have just one favorite aspect. My career has pushed my vision past anything I could have possibly imagined when I was getting my degree. Every day there is a new challenge. I am constantly getting to learn, grow, and expand my ideas. I spend my days both in an office at my computer and also out in the field. I get to create and analyze data and maps, fly drones and process their data, build web apps, teach others about and how to use GIS, meet with clients, and the list goes on.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHER YOUNG WOMEN WHO ARE JUST ENTERING THE GEE PROGRAM?

Dream big. I could have never imagined that I would be where I am now. You do not have to know exactly what you want to do. Learn as much as you possibly can, and when you find your passion and your vision, hold onto it. The journey is hard, but it is well worth it. Don't ever give up.



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY TO THE SPONSORS OF GEE?

Thank you for sponsoring this program and empowering young women in STEM. Thank you for believing in me and all of the young women that have and will attend GEE.

Thank you to our sponsors!



WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE

BRITTANY HOWELL



Occupation/Title

Technical/ Digital Project Coordinator

Company

Walt Disney Imagineering

College/Major

The University of Memphis
Electrical and Computer Engineering

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE YOUR PARTICULAR MAJOR?

I've always been fascinated by electronics and gadgets. With an interest in animatronics and robotics, I pursued electrical and computer engineering to gather a more holistic view of these and how they could be used for entertainment and problem solving.

WHEN DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN GEE? HOW DID GEE HELP YOU TO PURSUE YOUR GOALS?

I joined the GEE program in tenth grade. GEE motivated me by showing women who were successful engineers. It also exposed me to careers I'd never seen before and the endless possibilities with a foundation in engineering.



ENGINEERING/STEM PATHS REQUIRE A LOT OF DEDICATION. HOW DID YOU STAY MOTIVATED TO PURSUE THIS EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY?

I wanted to succeed! Anything worth having is worth fighting for; a degree is no different. My determination to reach my career goals allowed me to look beyond the obstacles in those moments.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR CAREER?

My job is different everyday! I can be in a conference room one day and on a construction site the next. Each project I am on redefines my roles and responsibilities, introduces me to new people and different cultures, and amazes me with the ideas we make into realities.



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Find something in this program that you can hold on to. I've seen young women try things they said they couldn't do and they did them, sometimes even coming in 1st place! Whether you choose to pursue engineering or not, the GEE program can better you as a leader, a team player and a problem solver, if you commit to giving 100%. You might even create lasting relationships - I did.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY TO THE SPONSORS OF GEE?

Thank you! I am still bragging about GEE to this day! GEE made us believe that we could do anything, and I've seen my GEE sisters and myself accomplish great things with the foundation that was set. Thank you for your words, time, sponsorship, and most of all your belief in young women!

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