SPOTLIGHT
Julie Rider

DISCIPLINE
Electrical Engineering

CLASSIFICATION
Junior

MORE INFORMATION
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www.ou.edu/coe/wie
orgsync.com – OU Women in Engineering Program
Wie GroupMe

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 Julie Rider, a current OU Engineering student, and features her personal journey.

MOTIVATION Julie fell in love with math and science in high school and was fascinated by people who used those skills to invent new solutions to complex problems. Julie ended up choosing Electrical Engineering because electricity is awesome, and she wanted to help make a difference in the world by becoming a problem solver herself.

APPLICATION In the summer of 2018, Julie interned with Halliburton at their corporate headquarters in Houston, Texas. During her Research & Development internship, she obtained real-world experience by validating tool performance in lab, shadowing engineers in the field, and expanding her professional network. Julie received and accepted a return internship offer from Halliburton for the summer of 2019 in El Reno, Oklahoma where she will be doing engineering field work.

IMPACT From volunteering with Engineers Serving Others to mentoring through the Dean’s Leadership Council, the BP Women Mentoring Women Program, and the Halliburton Women’s Welcome, Julie has held multiple leadership positions. She is also heavily involved with Women in Engineering (WiE), Women in Electrical and Computer Engineering (WECE), and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and she is a member of the Honors College. The many engineering organizations she is involved with have introduced her to life-long friends and mentors, presented her with various networking opportunities, and encouraged her to never give up. Julie enjoys being so active on campus, especially with WiE, because she loves being able to give back to the organizations that helped her by serving as a role model to other young students in engineering and reminding them that they aren’t alone.

INSIGHT Julie shares, “Get rid of your GPA pride! I was Valedictorian in high school, but I made my first B ever in college and it was honestly really liberating. It taught me that GPA isn’t everything; it doesn’t define me or accurately represent my intelligence and abilities. Try your best, but if you make a B, it isn’t the end of the world!”

“Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough” – Og Mandino