

## Anael Guilmo, MS, 2011

### What influenced your decision to attend graduate school at OSC?

I was a French student at the Institut d'Optique in Paris, and wanted to study and live in the U. S. for a couple of years. OSC was the best opportunity to fulfill this dream in a way that was relevant to my career path.

### 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 didn't know anything! I missed the graduate student orientation because I was finishing an internship, so I felt poorly prepared. I just assumed I would simply be going to class, doing homework, and having an 'internship' type of job as a Research Assistant. I just wish I had known how specialized the job of being a student researcher actually was. This was the hard part of grad school, not the classes!



Dean Koch and Anael

Some of the things I wish I had known were that you should choose an advisor based on how well you think you can work with them, rather than the research topic; push your advisor to help you graduate, and not the other way around; and define and agree on clear, short-term goals with your advisor.

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

OPTI 501 was very useful. I thought I knew Electricity & Magnetism (E&M) and would not learn much, but Masud Mansuripur had a great way of explaining the physics of E&M in depth.

OPTI 505, Physical Optics, was perhaps the best class to connect it all together, and make you really grasp the nature of light and what optics really is. Plus, the class notes were amazingly well put together.

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

Many special relationships were formed at OSC—being in my 20s probably helped. I formed some of my best friendships there, and I am extremely grateful to the OSC staff for their friendliness and help throughout the painful administrative process. (I'm thinking of Gail Varin, Tammy Orr, Jamie Grace Bommer, Anabelle Garcia, Kailee Bialaszewski and others.)

### What was your research while attending OSC?

I worked on electro-optics polymers, characterization and applications; and the study of the ocean's surface reflection from the NASA-CNES CALIPSO space-based Lidar.

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

It was around \$450 per person for a shared house with one or two roommates.

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

I didn't own a car for the first year or two, then a deliciously ugly electric-blue PT Cruiser!

### What was your favorite restaurant/student hangout near campus?

La Aldea (the on-campus student housing where all international students lived), Bookend Café outside the Main library, Nico's Tacos, The Taco Shop, 1702, Café Luce, Allegro Gelato, and others.

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

Hiking all around Tucson, lots of going out on Fourth Avenue and in downtown Tucson, and all the sports, including soccer, climbing and OSC Sports Friday.

### What was most memorable about your commencement ceremony?

Having all of my family come to Tucson!

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

Defense/Aerospace (Raytheon, Ball), large tech companies (Apple, Google, Intel), and National Labs.

**What was your first job after graduation?**

Optical Engineer at Apple.

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

In 2008, soon after I started OSC, Barack Obama was elected President which was a wind of positivity as an International student. The 2008 great recession hit around that time and was an added incentive to stay in graduate school and pursue more than a MS degree. The 2011 shooting of Representative Gabrielle Giffords, and 18 others, triggered a wave of 'alerts of armed individuals' on campus, and brought general fear.

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

Perhaps not that important, but I have good memories of the OSC Student Optics Chapter (SOCK) winning the campus-wide Club Olympics in 2010.

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

Other than those things I mentioned already in the 'first day' question, just enjoy your social life while at OSC. That is where you will make friends for life!