Creating Her Own Vision of Engineering

By Brad Stager

With interests ranging from her chosen academic major of computer engineering to art, Amber Imeh plans on creating a career by weaving them together. She says that's one of the reasons she chose to attend the University of South Florida.

"USF has a wide variety of majors and opportunities, so instead of just focusing on one thing it allows me to experience a whole variety of different jobs, classes and experiences."

Imeh says she likes to draw and has enjoyed studying digital animation and video editing along with her computer engineering subjects. She is interested wearable technology as a way to combine fashion with science, such as giving hospital patient attire a makeover.

"I really like the idea of clothes with technology in it, like a medical gown in a hospital that helps monitor your blood pressure and heart rate."

The many resources that the College of Engineering provides students have been useful, says Imeh, who has earned scholarships through the College and The Women in Leadership & Philanthropy (WLP) program at USF.

"The advisors for the College of Engineering helped me in my first year to navigate the school and get the basics of being in college down and that helped a lot."

Imeh also took advantage of an opportunity to live among her college peers in on-campus housing with the Engineering Living Learning Community (ELLC), a partnership between the College of Engineering and USF's Housing & Residential Education department.

"It gave me a chance to study in a quiet environment and introduced me to people who are in the same classes so I can help them and they can help me."

Besides her College of Engineering studies, Imeh is also enrolled in USF Honors College classes and has found plenty of ways to spend her time in meaningful ways. She is a member of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and served as secretary of the Mechanical Electrical Computer Hub (MECH), an organization that meets in the College's Mini Circuits Design for X Laboratory to learn engineering through projects like building a laser harp or robotic arm.

Imeh says her interest in engineering came early in life, when she realized how it harnesses the powers of math and science.

"In grade school I always knew I wanted to be an engineer because I wanted to take math and science that I learned in the classroom and use it to make something of my own," she says.

There was also plenty of support for her aspirations at home, especially since her father earned degrees in electrical and mechanical engineering and owned a home medical equipment company.

"He would always take me with him to work, fixing the equipment," says Imeh. "He always has a way of fixing things, either in conventional or unconventional ways and that's what I want to do as an engineer; I want to see a problem and use creativity to think of my way of fixing it with the tools that I have."

Imeh also says she's interested in graduate studies after completing her Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering degree and plans to take the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam as soon as possible.