THE WOMEN ENGINEERS OF VMASC

A Social Media Series

All about Gul Ayaz

WRITTEN BY JESSICA ZIMMERMAN

VMASC is excited to welcome Ms. Gul Ayaz to the Digital Shipbuilding team as a project scientist. Gul, who grew up in Virginia Beach, is a recent graduate of the ODU Department of Computational Modeling and Simulation Engineering, with a bachelor's degree in Computational Modeling and Simulation Engineering.

Gul is interested in augmented and virtual reality development. "When I was in high school, Google did a seminar where they used cardboard VR headsets for a demonstration, and from that moment, I knew I wanted to be involved in VR," Gul said.

While at ODU, Gul served as the Vice President of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), a not-for-profit educational and service organization. SWE empowers women to succeed and advance in engineering careers and be recognized for their life-changing contributions and achievements as engineers and leaders.

"My experience as a woman engineer has been mostly positive and a lot of fun. I have been given the chance to work on a lot of cool projects and bring a unique perspective to a lot of those projects. While working in this field, I've learned that as a woman engineer, you have to have a lot of confidence because there are a lot of times where you walk into a room, and you might be the only woman and it can be very daunting. It's not always easy working in a male dominated field and there are moments where your expertise will be questioned, and it is so important to be confident in yourself and your ability to complete a task," Gul said.

"It's not always easy working in a male dominated field. Be confident in yourself and your ability to complete a task."

In her position as a project scientist, Gul will be working on educational applications, helping to get kids in Hampton Roads interested in STEM, as well as supporting R&D projects related to shipbuilding/repair training and supply chains. "I'm really looking forward to growing here at VMASC, getting opportunities to learn, how to use different software, and meeting other people in my field," Gul said.