



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT SYDNEY BRATTON

By Megan Ward, Biochemistry '21

Sydney Bratton attended Bryant High School in her hometown of Bryant, Arkansas. Knowing she wanted to go out-of-state for college, she took a tour of Louisiana Tech University and instantly fell in love with the campus, community, and all that Ruston has to offer.

While Sydney was certain about pursuing engineering, she could not decide between chemical or civil engineering. She originally declared chemical engineering as her major, however as the fall quarter of her freshman year progressed, Sydney became more interested in civil engineering and joined the Concrete Canoe team. Toward the end of the quarter, she decided civil engineering was the field for her. When she began the process of changing her major, she realized the system already had her listed as a civil engineering major and took it as a sign she had made the right choice. This decision has borne out because she loved her classes and professors.

Through her time at Louisiana Tech, Sydney participated in various organizations. She was president of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and Civil Engineering Honor Society, Chi Epsilon. Additionally, she was a student recruiter, College of Engineering and Science ambassador, and a member of the Engineering and Science Association Freshman Council. Sydney was also a member of the Kappa Delta Sorority and led a small group at the Bridge Community Church. Her involvement allowed her to network, develop leadership skills, and embrace the community aspect of Louisiana Tech.

During her last two summers at Tech, Sydney completed two internships. In 2019, she worked in Little Rock for the Arkansas

Department of Transportation. While she did not necessarily do engineering design work, she got to see the application of civil engineering at the construction site of a bridge. In 2020, Sydney interned for the Crow Group in Morrilton, Arkansas. The hour-long commute was worth being able to see the design aspect of engineering. She worked on a sewer system improvement project and explored environmental and water engineering.

Since graduation, Sydney has worked at Halff Associates in San Antonio, Texas, as part of their water resources team. Through ASCE, she was able to meet with employees and learn about the company's culture. When asked about her plans for ten years from now, Sydney responded with, "A lot can change in a decade. Ultimately, I want to look back and be excited to see the progress that's happened."

Most of her free time at Tech was devoted to organizations, but she tried to be intentional and spend as much time with friends as possible. She enjoys various sitcoms, such as *Parks and Recreation*, *Brooklyn 99*, *New Girl*, and *The Office*. While quarantine presented challenges, she made it through and rekindled her love for books. Her favorite book is *Where the Crawdads Sing*.