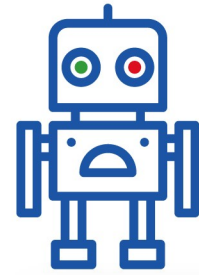


STELLAR



ALUMNI

NAME

Katherine (Katie) Gull

CAREER

Research Associate in Biosignature Analysis
at Design Interactive

EDUCATION

B.S. Psychology
University of Central Florida

TEAM

Team 3932, The Dirty Mechanics

YEAR(S) ATTENDED THE ORLANDO/ FLORIDA REGIONAL AS A STUDENT

2017–2019



HOW HAS FIRST IMPACTED YOUR LIFE PROFESSIONALLY AND/OR PERSONALLY?

Professionally, FIRST provided me with a strategic advantage, fostering a robust network and a uniquely diversified skillset that directly propelled me into my current role. Personally, FIRST gifted me an enduring global family. Through volunteering, I have had the opportunity to become close friends with people around the country. When I moved for college, this community became an invaluable source of unwavering support.

HOW HAS WHAT YOU LEARNED IN FIRST HELPED YOU SUCCEED IN YOUR CAREER?

FIRST has been a catalyst for my career growth, cultivating both resilience and a proactive approach to turning challenges into opportunities. My robotics experience enables me to strategically align engineering and stakeholder objectives, fostering clear communication and driving successful project outcomes. This ability to 'speak the language' of engineers has been instrumental in my project leadership. The time and project management skills honed from intense FRC seasons has empowered me to confidently manage multiple concurrent contracts, consistently exceeding deadlines and propelling my professional advancement.

WHAT HAVE YOU WORKED ON IN YOUR CAREER THAT YOU ARE MOST PROUD OF?

I find the greatest fulfillment in projects that improve physical and mental health. My work on projects that strengthen military individual service member well-being, improve military team cohesion, and reduce DUI recidivism are particularly meaningful to me. I am grateful for the ability to create real, positive change for individuals in my career.

IF YOU CONTINUED YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH FIRST POST-HIGH SCHOOL, WHY?

FIRST shaped my life, and I'm dedicated to paying it forward by mentoring and volunteering. Recognizing the impact volunteers have on student experiences, I strive to be a visible example, particularly as a woman in a non-traditional technical field, demonstrating that diverse voices are essential in STEM and that everyone belongs in FIRST. Over the past six years, I've had the privilege of witnessing students grow from tentative beginners to confident leaders. Few things are more fulfilling than seeing them grow through FIRST and propel themselves into success following their graduations.