ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Jessica Garza

Walt Disney Imagineering - Interior Design Intern

Sidney Lanier High School (2022); UT Austin



FUN FACT

I traveled out of the country for the first time my last year of college to Austria for one week! (I had to stressfully expedite my passport)

Career Journey

Your path from undergrad to where you are today — and what led you here.

After graduating from Sidney Lanier High School in 2022, I attended the University of Texas at Austin, where I received my Bachelor of Science in Interior Design with support from the Baumberger scholarship. Right after graduating in May of 2026, I moved straight to California in June to start my Interior Design internship with Walt Disney Imagineering. I've been fortunate to grow within the company building upon the skills I learned in college and working with an incredible team of Imagineers. Today, as an intern I am extremely grateful to be in this position and look forward to continuing on a path of growth as I enter the profession.

A Defining Moment

A hardship, resilience story, or turning point that shaped who you are.

Going to college as a first generation student in a city all by myself, it was really nerve-wracking, and my imposter syndrome was through the roof. Many days were really hard and I often felt like I didn't belong or like I wasn't good enough to be in the elite and often competitive collegiate environment. However, second semester I received my first "Design Excellence" nomination from my professor at UTSOA. This nomination wasn't just a "good job" to me, it served as a reminder that I deserve to be there and that my hard work pays off and I am right where I'm meant to be. I would go on to receive 4 more nominations throughout my time at UT.

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OUTSIDE OF WORK, I LIKE TO...

Outside of work I like to play volleyball, listen to music, and go thrifting!

Scholarship Impact

How the Baumberger scholarship shaped what came after high school.

As a first generation student coming from a single parent household, being able to afford college was always at the top of my mind. My mom was already supporting my other sister who was also in college at the time, so I knew I wanted to do whatever I could to help her out financially. The Baumberger scholarship significantly decreased not only my stress, but my mother's as well. Having secure support in college and a constant reminder that there are people out there rooting for me was crucial in college and I will forever be grateful.

Advice for a Scholar

One or two sentences for a current student.

Seize every opportunity and say yes to as much as you can. There are so many people out there who genuinely want to see you succeed. Lean on your superiors and peers and know that you genuinely are never alone!!