

# STEM SPOTLIGHT

**Jessica Shemwell**

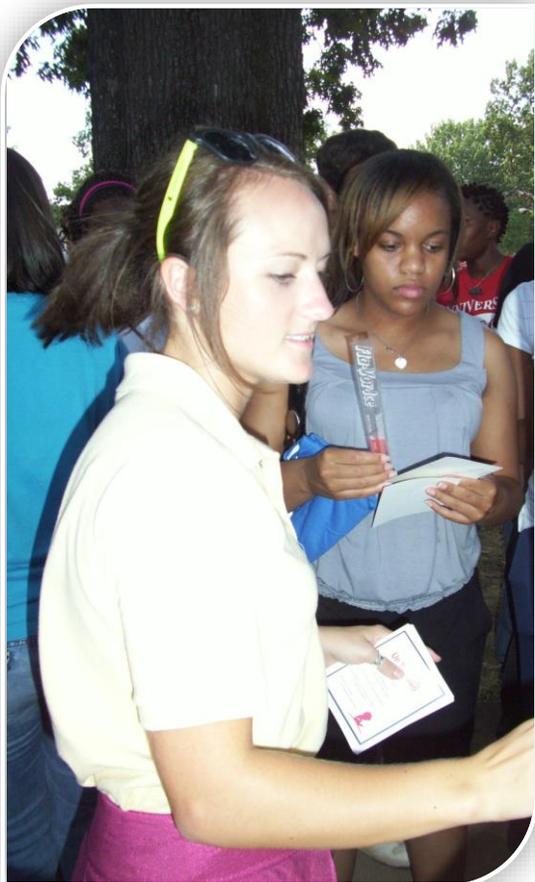
Associate Product Development Engineer  
Wright Medical Technology, Inc.

Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Engineering  
University of Memphis



**Q** How did you select your college major?

**A** I wanted to be in a career where I could help people, work with others and utilize my love for math. After speaking with my college academic advisor, I chose to pursue Biomedical Engineering.



**Q** What was the biggest influence in your selection of major/career?

**A** My biggest influence was passion. I am passionate about helping others and making a difference. I wanted a career that allowed me to do that and a degree in engineering was my way of getting there.

**Q** If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?

**A** Physics.

**Q** What is your favorite aspect of your job?

**A** I love seeing something go from a sketch on a sheet of paper to being used in a surgery. It is rewarding to see something your team has developed make a difference for someone.

**Q** How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?

**A** Our company makes a positive impact by developing orthopaedic implants that improve the quality of life for people around the world.

**Q** What is the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your career?

**A** The most interesting thing I have been able to do was lead a cadaver lab with surgeons to try out some new products our team was working on. I love learning about the human anatomy and techniques to preserve the function of the anatomy from the surgeons. It is truly a privilege to work side by side with some of the best orthopaedic surgeons in the nation.



**Q** What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?

**A** My team at Wright Medical is what excites me about my profession. I am a firm believer that you are an average of the people you spend the most time with. I choose to surround myself with people who are better than me, smarter than me, and passionate like me in hopes that I can become a better engineer. At Wright, I have that team of people and together we make a difference in the world by developing and improving orthopaedic implants.

**Q** What advice would you like to share with K-12 students who are considering your profession?

**A** Take as many math and science courses as you can at the highest level that you can. They will challenge your abilities and prepare you best for college. A degree in engineering isn't easy. It takes hard work and dedication. Familiarize yourself with this before college by taking the more challenging courses rather than the easy way out.