2020 Foundation Annual Report: Naba Rizvi

(250 words)

**Tech Graduate Hopes to Break Gender Barriers in Computer Science**

Sheltering in place in sunny California in spring 2020, **Naba Rizvi ’20** missed the bells.

The University of Toledo first-generation college graduate was in San Diego, taking her final classes online before starting remote work for Microsoft Research and also beginning Ph.D. studies in computer science and engineering at the University of California at San Diego — her top choice.

“My favorite memory will always be hearing the bells from University Hall first thing in the morning when I lived in MacKinnon Hall,” said Rizvi, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in information technology. “I hope I will someday get to return to Toledo, walk across Main Campus again, visit my former professors and colleagues at Engineering College Computing, and say goodbye in a proper way to the University that played a big role in shaping the person I am today.”

Rizvi, who has published research on human-computer interaction, interned with tech giant Adobe in Silicon Valley. She also was one of nine students to win the Adobe Research Women-in-Technology Scholarship and one of 20 students to win the Google Women Techmakers Scholarship.

**Callout: Watch Naba tell her story in her own words at** [**utfoundation.org/naba**](https://youtu.be/6FKTVUHvc3M)**.**

Rizvi credits the Jesup Scott Honors College for providing access to additional scholarships and opportunities.

“Naba exemplifies what we hope all UToledo students experience — a passion for a subject and for helping others,” Dr. Heidi Appel, dean of the Honors College, said. “What makes her extraordinary is that she’s using her experience and volunteer activities to shatter glass ceilings in her profession. We couldn’t be more proud.”