Dear Prospective Woman Engineering Student,

Be you! Yes, be yourself.

Every year, the College of Engineering sponsors a few women to attend MSU's annual Women's Leadership Conference. With dozens of different sessions, lady Spartans, along with other women from the community, get the opportunity to learn and discuss an array of topics. One of the most memorable sessions was one called "Leading from the Inside-Out". Why was this session a favorite? Because we left that session knowing that being ourselves is the biggest, most underestimated tool we have as future leaders in this world.

When we try to mimic someone else, we lose the opportunity to leave our own imprint. Imagine if 'TIME's 100 most influential people' were all the same or if Beyonce attempted to imitate Taylor Swift. It would just be, well, a mess. So let Beyonce, be Beyonce. Let 'TIME's 100 Most Influential People', be themselves. And let you, be you! You, your thoughts, and your words bring something to the world that no one else can contribute.

No one could have put it better than our session leader, Bernadette Johnson: "It is quite simple. No one can be authentic while copying someone else."

We encourage you as you continue on with your high school career to find joy in your originality. Your authentic self not only shines in your everyday life but paves the way into your college career as you write your college essays, participate in scholarship interviews, and complete other college preparatory steps.

After all, no one enjoys reading a carbon-copy essay or interviewing a person who is the same as the next.

...just something to think about as you recover from your Thanksgiving dinner! :)

As always, we love hearing from you all. E-mail us with any questions, concerns, anything you may have liked or disliked from the article, or just to say hi! Enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Sincerely,

Your Women in Engineering Student Ambassadors

Meet Your Student Ambassadors!

Name: Mairin
Major: Computer Science
Year: Senior
Hometown: Brighton, MI
Email: chesne14@msu.edu

Name: Miriam
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Year: Junior
Hometown: Lansing, MI
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Name: Afton
Major: Chemical Engineering
Year: Freshman
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Name: Sam
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**Featured Student Organization:**

**Phi Sigma Rho**

Want to get involved with an incredible sisterhood whose main focus is engineering? Interested in going Greek but concerned about having time for homework? If this sounds like you, then Phi Sigma Rho is perfect fit for you!

ΦΣΡ

Phi Sigma Rho is a social sorority for women in engineering and engineering technology and other related calculus-based majors, such as physics and chemistry. Through Phi Sigma Rho, sisters develop the highest standard of personal integrity, strive for academic excellence, and build friendships that will last a lifetime. Phi Sigma Rho also holds numerous philanthropy events. The two main organizations that Phi Sigma Rho raises money for and participates in activities with are the American Cancer Society and the Girl Scouts of America. Michigan State was installed as an official chapter of Phi Sigma Rho sorority this past December.

"Phi Sigma Rho has been the perfect social outlet for me as an engineer because all of the girls in Phi Sigma Rho can understand the amount of work my classes require and the hectic schedule we all share sometimes. So even though we're all super busy, there's always time to have fun with my sisters!" - Emily Young, Phi Sigma Rho - Michigan State University Chapter

To learn more about Phi Sigma Rho visit their website: [http://www.egr.msu.edu/phi-rho/index.html](http://www.egr.msu.edu/phi-rho/index.html) or e-mail: phisigmarho.msu@gmail.com.

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**Featured Woman in Engineering Student:**

**Mairin Chesney**

When I told my high schooler sister I was on MSU’s Homecoming Court, I think she had visions of tiaras and sashes. It took me a while to convince her that, at least at Michigan State, it’s not quite like that.

In order to be on Homecoming Court, an MSU staff or faculty member nominates you. Shout out to the amazing Teresa VanderSloot, our undergraduate computer science advisor! Then you fill out an application that essentially asks you to compile all of your contributions to Michigan State over the past three-ish years. From the pool of applicants, around twenty are selected and interviewed by a panel consisting of students, members of the MSU Alumni Association, and other MSU professionals. Finally, ten are selected to serve as ambassadors the following year.

This year's group is quite an eclectic bunch. There’s me, the Computer-Science-slash-Chinese major. Other court members study Chemical Engineering, Neuroscience, International Relations, Genomics and Molecular Genetics, and on. As court members, we had a number of events this fall interacting with various MSU groups – alumni, students, and more! All the events leading up to Homecoming Week were crazy fun, but the weekend of the Homecoming football game was undoubtedly the best part of the whole experience. The theme was “Creating Spartan Superheroes”, and the focus was finding Spartan Superheroes in our daily lives. We kicked off Homecoming weekend by attending the MSU Alumni Association Grand Awards Ceremony. Each year the MSU Alumni Association honors a number of Spartan alumni for their contributions to the world. Among the dozens of people I met, I got to meet the president of Auburn University, a man working on rehabilitating injured veterans, and a woman who has taught dance for over fifty years.
Friday night we all rode in the Homecoming Parade. I got to ride in a convertible! By the end, my cheeks ached from smiling. Saturday was quite the whirlwind. We first went to the Green and White Brunch, basically a massive pep rally. Then I and one other court member had a radio interview, and then the football game began! The weather was perfect. It was beautiful. At halftime we all went out to the middle of the field and had our two seconds on the Jumbotron. It was AWESOME. And then, strangely and bittersweet-ly, it was over.

In short, Michigan State University is the bees knees. I have had the most phenomenal time over the past four years, and I am so proud to be able to represent MSU as a member of this year’s Homecoming Court.

If you have any questions for Mairin feel free to send her an e-mail: chesne14@msu.edu.

Featured Faculty Member:
Laura Genik

Laura Genik is an academic specialist in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Genik began her academic career at the University of Portland in Portland, Oregon, and served as visiting faculty at Wayne State University before coming to Michigan State University in January 2007. Her scholarly research emphasizes engineering pedagogy and design of thermal systems. Dr. Genik has been recognized at various institutions with Outstanding Teaching awards, including the Withrow Teaching Honor at MSU. Student interaction is the main focus of Dr. Genik's day at campus: engaging students in lecture, working individually with students on homework, laboratory experiments, design projects and preparing for examinations. It is unusual to find her without a group of students in her office.

Dr. Genik teaches at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Most recently her courses have included: Thermodynamics (ME 201), Advanced Classical Thermodynamics (ME 802), Heat Transfer (ME 410), and Heat Transfer laboratory (ME 412). Dr. Genik is a strong advocate of the design and build aspects of mechanical engineering, incorporating one such hands-on project in the Heat Transfer Laboratory that competes at the College of Engineering Design Day each semester.

Laura Genik was born and raised in Livonia, Michigan and became a Spartan in 1987 when she enrolled here as a freshmen. She went on to earn her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan State University, so bleeding green comes very natural to her. Time away from MSU is spent raising her two children with her husband, Douglas Gatrell (BSCE '91, MSEN '93).
Recently at MSU: 
Grace Hopper Conference

Every fall MSU students anticipate attending the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing (GHC), a professional conference that celebrates women for their achievements and aspirations in computing and information technology. This year, GHC’13 did not disappoint!

Twenty-some MSU students joined more than 4500 attendees of GHC’13 in Minneapolis, MN on October 2-5th for three days of learning, bonding, and fun. Students had the wonderful and unique opportunity to meet leading computing professionals, faculty, and peers from over 42 countries across the globe. They attended inspirational talks by technology leaders, learned of new technologies and their implications for our futures, received and shared expert advice with mentors and peers, and learned of opportunities for summer internships and employment with more than 120 national and international companies in computing and information technology. But most importantly, they learned more about the wide field of computing through sessions in medicine, engineering, automobiles and social media to name a few.

Attending the conference as a group allowed MSU students to bond and get to know one another better. Students came back with many great memories to share.

Here are remarks from a couple of attendees:

“This year at Grace Hopper was a great chance to bond with fellow women in computing. We had a memorable drive up, getting caught in terrible Wisconsin traffic, but also spotting some Northern Lights before we hit Eau Claire. The various lunch and coffee conversations were awesome; I happened to meet women from all over the country who worked at all types of companies, from Pinterest to Intel. The career opportunities were also great, as three companies offered me interviews during the conference, and several followed up afterward.”  
~Erin Hoffman

“This will be my third time going to the Grace Hopper conference and, as usual, I had a great time! Although not the only fantastic speaker event, this year's big thing was the opening plenary session to the conference. It was a conversation including Maria Kawe, Sheryl Sandberg, and Telle Whitney. These amazing women, as you would expect, had a conversation about the topic of women in technical fields, about some of their experiences, and answered questions from the crowd. They, along with many of the speakers that presented throughout the week, were incredibly inspiring. For me, they encourage me to do as the title of Mrs. Sandberg's book suggests—to "Lean In"—to take advantage of opportunities, to speak up and out, and to strive to be seen in my field as more than my gender.”  
~ Danielle Guir
Your November To Do List:

**Finish and submit your college applications:** If you have not already done so, now is the time to finish and submit your college applications! Do not wait until the Holidays to submit your applications, the sooner you submit your application, the better chance you have of getting in!

**Schedule college tours:** Visit college websites and schedule college tours. The only way that you can be sure that a school is the one for you is by visiting. Be sure to schedule tours as early as possible and have an open mind, you might be surprised! To schedule a tour of Michigan State University's College of Engineering visit: [http://www.egr.msu.edu/future-engineer/](http://www.egr.msu.edu/future-engineer/) and click "sign up now" in the Engineering Tours section.

**Apply for scholarships:** Scholarship deadlines are fast approaching! Try to have your scholarship essays, letters of recommendation, and transcripts submitted as soon as possible.

**Did You Know?**

Did you know that Michigan State has more than 25 Varsity men's and women's athletic teams and over 15 different Intramural sports leagues?!

For more about sports at Michigan State, visit the [Spartan Athletics Homepage](http://www.spartanathletics.com)!