A number of current graduate students in the Michigan State University College of Engineering are adding to MSU’s national research reputation.

**Mariana Desireé Reale Batista** of Brazil upheld an MSU tradition this summer by winning one of the five national scholarships presented by the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition (ACCE) in June in the Detroit area. The award includes an invitation to present her composites research during 2017 SPE ACCE.

She won for her topic: Hybrid Cellulose Composites: Lightweight Materials for Automotive Applications.

“As a Spartan and a Brazilian researcher abroad, I feel dually proud because I am contributing to MSU's national reputation on the advancement of composite materials as well as representing my country abroad,” Batista said. “My research goals aim to develop biobased composite materials that contribute to the advancement of global sustainability.”

Batista is among five students cited nationally for their innovative research by SPE ACCE in 2016. [Read more.](#)
Her MSU advisor is Lawrence Drzal, a University Distinguished Professor of chemical engineering and materials science. MSU students have an established tradition of winning one of the select national honors.

**Aida Amroussia,** a PhD student in materials science and engineering from Tunisia, presented her research during an end of summer poster session at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Tennessee in early August.

She spent the summer at Oak Ridge engaged in research on irradiation effects on metallic alloy systems, and was selected by ORNL to spend two more research semesters at the U.S. Department of Energy science and technology facility.

Her MSU advisor is Carl Boehlert, professor of chemical engineering and materials science.

**Related Website:** [MSU College of Engineering Graduate Program](https://www.egr.msu.edu)

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