



WIE NEWSLETTER

The McMaster Women in Engineering Society's Monthly Newsletter

WIE INTERVIEW SERIES: DR. ELIZABETH HASSAN

Dr. Hassan is a licensed professional engineer and assistant professor in the faculty of Mechanical Engineering at McMaster.

What made you pursue engineering when you were younger?

My dad was an engineer too and explained that in other professions like dentists and lawyers, people come to see you when they are experiencing pain or difficulty, but engineers work with people who want to create something new. To him, engineering was the profession of optimism and that insight always stuck with me.

How did you get your start working in the industry/ academia once you graduated?

My first job after graduation was an internship at a university in Germany the summer before I started grad school. It was the most incredible experience working abroad and doing academic work at another institution, in another culture. I still use some of the things I learned there to this day.

What is one piece of advice you think more engineering students need to hear?

Being here at one of the best engineering schools in the country is a genuine pleasure and privilege so you should find ways to enjoy it. Treating our work like drudgery or something you "have to do" limits the value and enjoyment of your experience. Even if it's stressful at times (like midterms), realize that you don't "have to" do anything, you "get to" have experiences where you learn interesting things and connect with amazing colleagues who might become lifelong friends. Time and experiences are gifts.

Who has been your biggest role model, and why?

My first research supervisor, Dr. Urs Wyss at Queen's. He would answer the phone "Hello, Urs Wyss, so glad you called" even before he knew who was calling (in the days before caller ID), because he genuinely was happy to be at his job and talking to people. That energy, that we are all so lucky to be here, so lucky to be working in a university, permeates a lot of what I do now.



What everyday habits do you think have helped contribute to your success?

I make exercise and diet a non-negotiable part of my life. There's times when I have more or less time for it, but I work out almost every day because it drives my performance in every area of my life. Figuring out what those habits are for you that allow you to perform well, and making them immovable is so important because if you wait until things "quiet down" you might be waiting a long time. It's better to just start small with something you can do consistently every day.

What is a trait you think every engineer should have?

My first boss always said "You'll be late once but you'll be wrong forever". I think when it comes to our technical work we have to be really committed to getting it right. This weekend I was working on analysis for a paper and I tried the analysis three separate methods with two softwares to make sure I was right, even though the stakes were relatively low. You need to be committed to validating your answers.



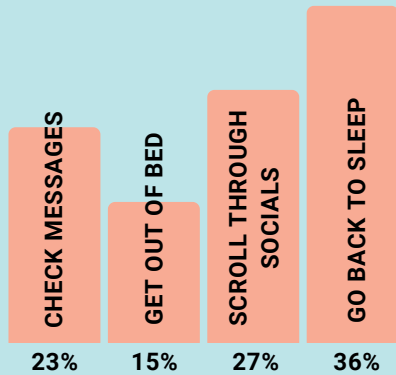
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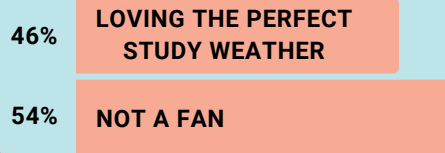
MONDAY POLL RESULTS

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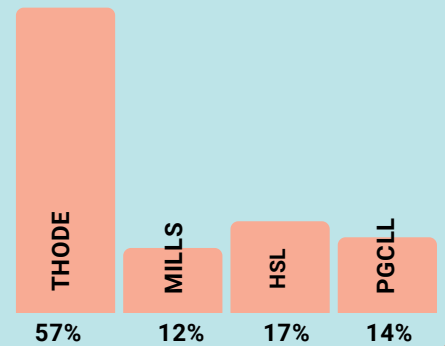
WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU DO IN THE MORNING?



THOUGHTS ON CHILLY/RAINY NOVEMBER WEATHER?



WHERE DO YOU STUDY DURING EXAM SEASON?



EXAM SEASON GIVEAWAY

The highly-anticipated WIE Exam Season Giveaway launches on December 8th! Stay tuned into our Instagram stories (@mcmasterwie) for details on how to enter and win. Until then - here's a sneak peek at some items included in the basket!



Blume Matcha Blend



WIE Mug and other merch!



Mala the Brand Matcha-Scented Candle



Milk Frother



Zebra Mildliner + Pen Set