



SMITHWRITING

Writing sample

These are sections from a brochure Rebecca Smith wrote for Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Admissions Office. Titled **What will you do?**, it is handed out to female students visiting the campus, and it serves as a recruiting tool at college fairs and on high school campuses.

Get the most from your experience.

It's all about opportunities at WPI: the opportunity to perform one-on-one research with faculty, the opportunity to intern at a leading company in your field, the opportunity to bring about real change in the world. With our flexible curriculum and accessible professors, your possibilities truly are endless. We'll help you discover your talents. You decide how you'll use them to make a difference.

On campus, you'll be part of a community of smart and enthusiastic women who excel in the classroom as well as on the stage, on the playing fields, and in the world as respected student leaders. And whether you choose to join a sorority, an athletic team, or the Women's Industry Network, you'll form strong bonds of sisterhood that will stay with you long after you leave WPI.

Reach for the stars.

From the time she was 8 years old, Bhalayogasthini "Gasthi" Sivayoganathan has wanted to be an astronaut. She first glimpsed a rocket on television in a refugee camp when she and her mother were displaced by civil war in their native Sri Lanka. Gasthi was mesmerized the moment she saw it, and it became her life's goal to travel to space.

In pursuit of her dream, Gasthi sought the best mechanical engineering schools in the United States. She ultimately chose WPI because of its academic reputation and its small class sizes—and she was thrilled to learn that Robert Goddard, the father of modern rocketry, was a graduate of the university.

Gasthi and a team of WPI faculty, students, and alumni recently competed in a national NASA-sponsored competition to develop new technologies to excavate soil on the moon.

When she's not working on space exploration, Gasthi can be found on campus leading tours, participating in student government, counseling female students about relationship safety issues—even salsa dancing!

"WPI has given me many opportunities to learn new things," she explains. "It's a great fit for me because I'm always looking for another adventure."

Transform yourself.

When Lynn Worobey first arrived at WPI, she was convinced that she wouldn't make the varsity women's soccer team. Four years later, she is a team captain, an Academic All-American, and a confident biomedical engineer.

"I'm a completely different person than I was four years ago," Lynn explains. "For me, WPI was a transformative experience."

Off the field, Lynn learned to work with peers in an academic setting, solving problems by capitalizing on each other's strengths. She and her project team spent seven weeks in Australia adapting hands-on science programs for children with disabilities. In that short time, Lynn not only made a tangible impact on young people, she also gained valuable experience that she'll apply to her next challenge: earning a PhD in rehabilitation engineering and building a better wheelchair.

In addition to playing soccer, Lynn also joined Phi Sigma Sigma, one of three sororities on campus. Both her teammates and her sisters provided her with the friendship, strength, and support she needed to thrive at WPI.

"The growth that I've seen in myself and my abilities is not only apparent on the soccer field, but in the classroom and in leadership positions I've held on campus," she says.

Drive toward success.

Many college students spend their summers waiting tables or mowing lawns. Not Saraan Vercillo. She spends hers working with car safety integration systems at General Motors Corporation in Detroit. Saraan first learned about this prestigious internship through WPI's chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers, a student group that promotes engineering, strengthens job-searching skills, and hosts networking events with industry representatives.

"Ever since I was a little girl, I've always had a passion for cars," Saraan says. "So I decided to major in mechanical engineering and make them."

At GM, Saraan crash tests cars to ensure that they are safe for the road. She credits her WPI education for preparing her to meet the challenges of her field.

"What I learn in class applies directly to my experiences in the workforce," she explains. "Compared to interns from other colleges, I'm farther ahead in the material I'm studying."

Saraan would like to be an automotive design engineer. She is particularly interested in exploring alternative energy sources for cars, such as ethanol gas and hydraulics.

"Knowing the car industry and our environment's needs," she says, "I'm hoping to make a significant difference in our world."