

ject by Dr. Roger D. Augustine. While Dr. Augustine was Assistant to the Dean of Engineering at Michigan State University, he conducted a study of engineering students at three Midwestern universities. Among other things, he found that students who persevered in engineering had the following characteristics. They tended to come from working-class and upper-middle-class socio-economic backgrounds as opposed to lower-middle-class origins. They tended to come from suburban high schools as opposed to city and rural high schools. They generally enjoyed repairing things and thinking about how things work; they had an inclination to "tinker around the house." Often, a close relative or father was an engineer. Their commitment to engineering was made at an earlier age than those who left engineering. They met their first exposure to sophomore technical courses with enthusiasm.

Students who quit engineering seemed to have a strong need for upward social mobility; they attached more importance to working with people than with things; and they had tended to choose engineering studies for materialistic and prestige purposes or to acquire a "good" background for careers in other fields. Many left because the technical courses were too difficult; they felt unable or unprepared to succeed in their engineering programs.—Editors.