



# Michael Ince

## The Fight for the Mu Psi Crown

On February 9th at 6:11 p.m, the students of North Carolina A&T gathered in Harrison Auditorium to see who would be crowned the next Miss. Omega Psi Phi. This annual event is hosted by the Mu Psi chapter of Omega Psi Phi Inc, here at North Carolina A&T. This year, 10 girls would compete to see who best displayed the traits of a Mu Psi queen.

The competition was divided into four categories, intro, swim, talent, and Q&A. Each contestant would have the opportunity to show the judges their best work and be scored accordingly. After the last round, 4 talented girls would be crowned to represent the Mu Psi chapter as their reigning queens.

Michael Ince, a third-year Management and Entrepreneurship student from Charlotte, N.C. is the current Miss Purple & Gold. Ince surprised herself with her performance. Ince said, "This was my first big showcase since the end of my dance career. It felt great to not only place but to prove to myself that I could step out of my comfort zone and accomplish anything".

Ince spent over 4 months preparing for the pageant. Practicing five times a week for four hours each day, Ince spent her time perfecting

her pageant walk, and preparing a talent she thought would best connect with the crowd. She made sure to not only display a new side of herself but to stay connected to who she is with her bright personality and creative style choices. Although Ince is no stranger to performing she found herself nervous for this competition. During her time preparing for the pageant she struggled when it came to her public speaking. With the Q&A portion of the competition weighing the most for scoring, Ince put a lot of pressure on herself to perform well. On the other hand with her background in dance, she found that most of the showmanship aspects of the show came natural to her.

The day of the show Ince did not feel nervous. She knew that her time spent preparing for the show would set her apart from the competition. She was excited to show her friends and family her hard work. She had confidence in her performance abilities, and was ready to prove that to the judges. The portion of the show that she was most excited for was her talent. Ince prepared a tap routine to Stevie Wonder's "I Wish," one of her favorite songs. Going through the run of the show, Ince felt extremely proud of herself and the work that her competitors put into making it a great show her peers wanted to see.

From the cheers of the crowd Ince knew she had accomplished her goal. She was excited to have the opportunity to not only display her talents, but to shine light on parts of herself that

she didn't know were there. Ince hopes that through her reign as Miss Purple & Gold, she is able to be a role model to students like herself. She loves that North Carolina A&T provides opportunities like this for women who may be looking for ways to improve their confidence and learn the true meaning of perseverance.

Ince looks forward to her reign and the service the chapter and the rest of her court will do next school year. Ince alongside her pageant sisters are now responsible for creating and planning the service projects of the Mu Psi chapter. They are there to promote one of Omega Psi Phi Inc's cardinal principles of "Uplifting" the community surrounding North Carolina A&T's campus.

Because of her positive experience, Michael Ince looks forward to bringing in next year's queens and sharing the wisdom she's learned during her pageant process. She's excited to meet the girls and see how they will grow, just as she did before them. She understands the importance of the title and will guide the next court to uphold the same values and principles as her and her pageant sisters.

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