



The show must go on...online.

As we all scramble to feel a sense of normalcy in what is definitely ***not*** a normal time, we have decided to launch *MSE Quaranteam* as a way to stay connected to each other. We want to keep you in the loop as far as announcements and virtual events that are happening here on our end, but we also want this to be an open forum for you. Please feel free to send in (to krisfres@umich.edu) photos, videos, stories - anything, really, that you think others might find helpful as we all work to transition and make sense of our "new normal." We're in this together (at a safe six feet distance, of course:-).



A note from Amit Misra, MSE Chair

First, I want to thank all of you in the MSE community for adapting so quickly to working virtually while still maintaining the quality of work that is expected of a world-class educational institution. I realize it's not been an easy transition. As more and more of the country comes under stay-at-home orders, we are challenged to find creative ways to stay

focused, be productive and keep our spirits up.

With that aim, I wanted to give you some food for thought from another pandemic. When the Great Plague of London hit in 1665, Cambridge sent students home to continue their studies. Isaac Newton was a student at Cambridge's Trinity College at the time. Stuck at home for over a year, he continued to work on mathematical problems that later became early calculus, and performed clever experiments with prisms that later led to his theories on optics. Obviously, we don't expect you to discover gravity in the coming months, but I think it is worth asking yourself how you can use this time to your personal and/or academic advantage.

Lastly, I leave you with an uplifting video of California's Chino Hills High Chamber Singers, who, when their concert was canceled last week, improvised with an [online performance](#) - *from their individual homes*. In addition to being very moving, I think this is an apt metaphor for how we as a department (with a lot of help from technology), will get through this ordeal: separated, but united.

Stay safe and healthy, and keep in touch!
With an elbow bump,
Amit

MSE Virtual Events

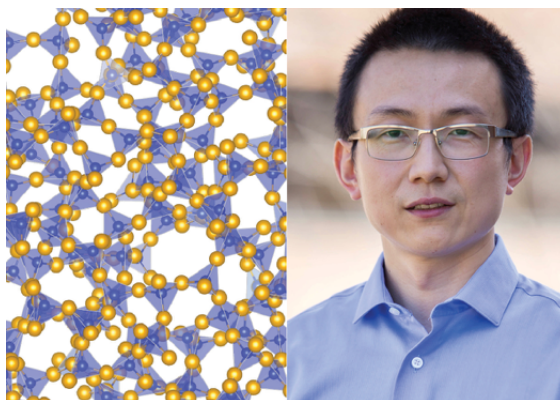


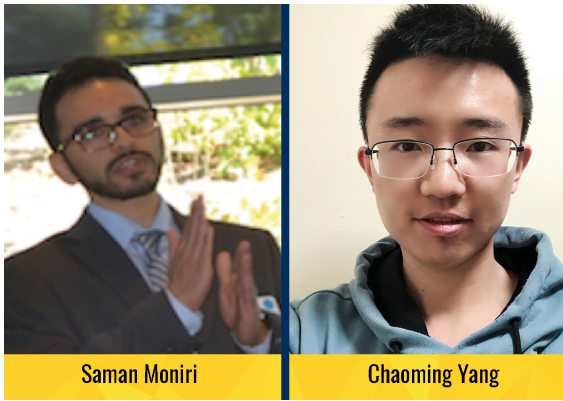
"Ask Amit" session this Monday at 11:00 a.m.

MSE chair Amit Misra will hold a special BlueJeans session to personally answer your questions. Join the conversation Monday, March 30 at 11 a.m. at bluejeans.com/994558177

Online lecture by Prof. Liang Qi coming soon

If you're missing our weekly seminars, MSE professors are stepping in. First up will be Assistant Professor Liang Qi: *Computational Designs of Materials: Machine Learning vs. Human Learning*. Stay tuned for more details.





Upcoming Defenses

Two MSE students are defending their Ph.D. theses next week via BlueJeans:

Saman Moniri (Shahani) on Monday, March 30 at 1:00 p.m. ([#595128074](#)) and **Chaoming Yang** (Qi) on Thursday, April 2 at 3:30 p.m. ([#736830695](#)). Good luck to both Chaoming and Saman! Feel free to join in and support them!

Virtual Visit with prospective graduate students a success

Last Friday 20 prospective graduate students from around the globe participated in MSE's first virtual visit, which, according to MSE graduate program advisor Renee Hilgendorf, went extremely well. "It had a more intimate feel to it, which was nice," she said. A smaller second virtual visit is scheduled for this Friday.

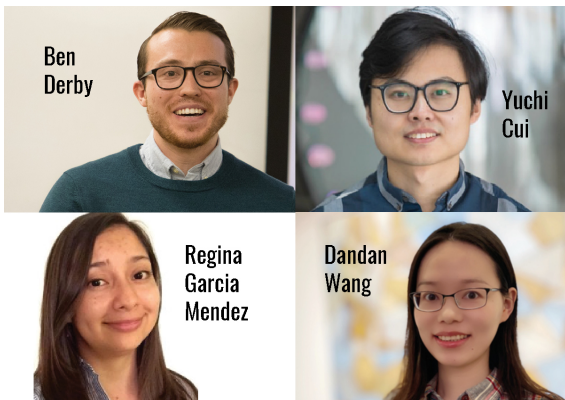


Ben Derby shares information about the Graduate Student Council during the prospective graduate student virtual visit on March 20.

Awards and Recognition

Congrats to our new PhDs!

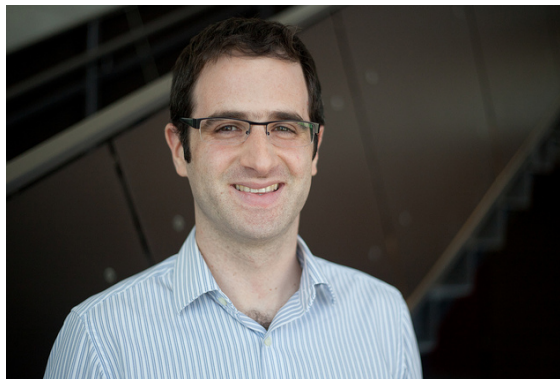
Four MSE graduate students earned PhDs this month: Ben Derby (Misra), Regina Garcia Mendez (Sakamoto), Yuchi Cui (Misra), and Dandan Wang (Thouless/Lu). Congratulations to all, but



special kudos to Regina, Yuchi and Dandan for changing plans at the last minute to defend virtually, with limited or no in-person audience. We applaud your flexibility under these challenging circumstances!

Manos Kioupakis earns 2020 MSE Faculty Award

Associate Professor Manos Kioupakis has been named the 2020 recipient of the MSE Faculty Outstanding Accomplishment Award, given for stellar research, teaching and service. Congratulations! We look forward to celebrating this achievement at an event sometime in the future, given that all U-M graduation events this spring have been canceled.



Stay Connected



Important COVID-19 resources are just a click away

Stay up to date with the latest COVID-19 news from U-M:

coronavirus.umich.edu and the College of Engineering: covid-19.engin.umich.edu.



The Freshman 15 has become the COVID 19

What made you smile today?

Let's spread our own infectious positive thoughts! Send us photos, videos, gifs, memes - anything you want to share. Email Kristen at krisfres@umich.edu, or connect with us on [facebook](#) or [Twitter \(#MSEQuaranteam\)](#). All submissions received by Friday will be considered for the following week's issue of *Quaranteam*. We want to hear from you!



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