



Say it isn't snow...

Yes, the forecast for Ann Arbor today, *April 17*, is for 2-4" of snow! Comforting to know that even in the middle of a pandemic, you can count on spring weather in Michigan to be, well, not boring. Also exciting (we think!) is the content of this issue, which includes our pet photo contest winners, a new 3-part trivia contest, and a variety of virtual events -- including a lecture by Prof. Brian Love on the history and evolution of ski waxes (speaking of snow), so, let's get to it...



Wish you were here. Lecturer George Wynarsky teaches his MSE250 class virtually last week from an empty classroom in Chrysler. Talking about items made of composite fibers, he told his students, "I'm so sad that you're not here; I would love to pass these around for you to look at."

Chair's message: Feeling better by helping others

I write this note to you on April 15th, commonly known as "Tax Day" in the U.S. But, in this unusual year, even Uncle Sam has extended the deadline date by three months!

Mid-April means we are now in the homestretch for the Winter 2020 term, and to ensure timely graduation, universities and instructors across the U.S. have quickly adapted to remote instruction and assessments to get us across the finish line with pride and a sense of extraordinary accomplishment.

Before finals, CoE will host a virtual StressBusters event, traditionally held on the first "study day" of every term before finals, and I encourage you to participate. StressBusters is sponsored by the CoE CARE Center to provide scientifically proven methods of stress reduction.

Lastly, I leave you with the thought that doing good for others has the potential to boost our spirits and impart useful and hopeful lessons to our loved ones during these uncertain times. If and when you have the bandwidth to help your colleagues and friends, please do. Helping members of our community will make us feel better, so, remember, if you want to *feel* good, *do* good!

Stay healthy and safe!
Amit

MSE Pet Photo Contest Winners

We are excited to announce our MSE pet photo contest winners! In all, 120 votes were cast and it was neck-and-neck until the very end. Only *one point* separated our Top 3 finishers! Thanks again to all our participants for a "purr-fect" COVID diversion. Prizes will be given to Top 3 vote-getters as well as the three Honorable Mentions. **And the winners are...**

#1
(41 votes)

"Duncan is all of us right now!"
Submitted by Kevin Worth/Staff

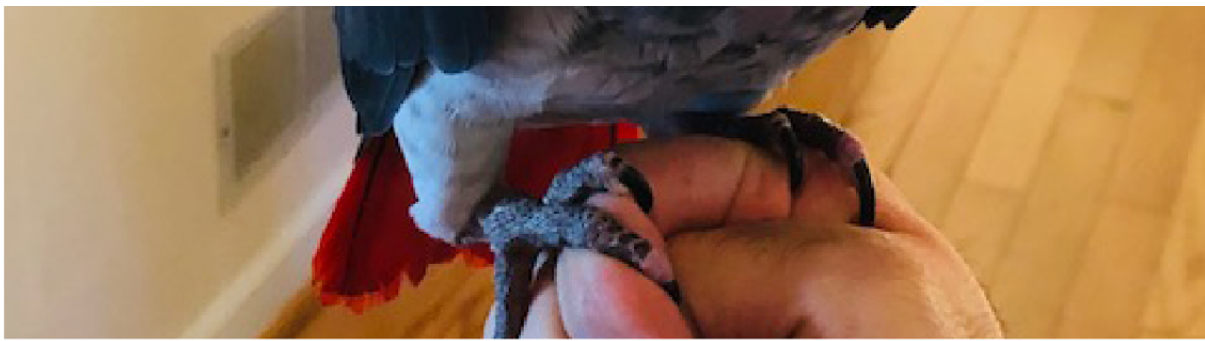




#2
(40 votes)

Nanu
Submitted by Ashwin Shahani/Faculty





#3
(39 votes)

Jefferson the ball python using the extra time to immerse himself in literature.

Submitted by Aaron Gladstein/PhD candidate



HONORABLE MENTIONS





Left: Maizey, submitted by Renee Hilgendorf. **Center:** Submitted by Kelsey Steinke. **Right:** Re-creation of 'The Sleeping Gypsy,' submitted by Alex Halvey.

MSE Virtual Events



Streaming now: "The history and evolution of ski waxes" by Brian Love

Learn about the origins of skiing and how the subtle differences in ski wax properties can be the difference between winning or not for elite skiers. [Watch now.](#)

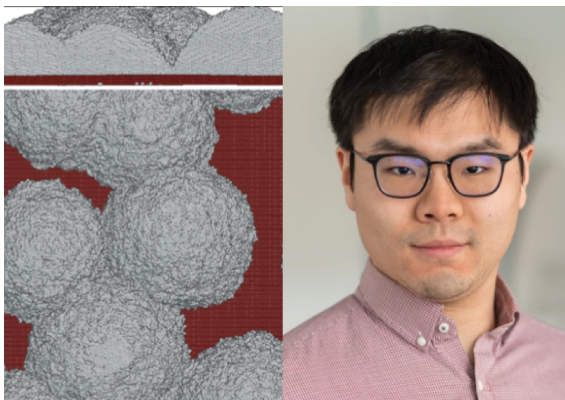
Streaming now: "Epidemiology and dynamics of the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic"

Join ChemE Professor Robert Ziff as he takes an epidemiological deep dive into the spread of the virus in China, and what it may mean for the U.S. [Watch now.](#)



Zhang defense April 20

Mingfei Zhang will present "Atomistic simulations of thermodynamics and



kinetics related to advanced ally processing" via BlueJeans on Monday, April 20 at 10 a.m. Join in if you can: bluejeans.com/624316460

GSC holds first 'Nerd Nite'

GSC kicked off its virtual 'Nerd Nites' last night with Max Powers presenting on Chile and Mark Main talking about baseball. If you have a nerdy passion you'd like to share (while practicing those all-important presentation skills in a low-pressure environment), fill out [this form](#). ALL students are welcome to participate!



MMS to host webinar with Ford next Friday

MMS will be hosting one final webinar with **Ford on Friday, 4/24, from 1-2:00 p.m.** Garret Huff (BSE/MSE '13) will be speaking about MSE at Ford and their recent materials developments and strategies. Click [here](#) for more info and watch your email next week for how to join the webinar.



Awards and Recognition

PhD defense 'once-in-a-lifetime' event for Yang and Qi

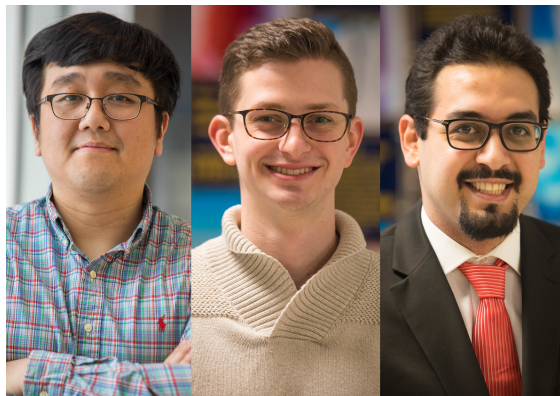
As Assistant Professor Liang Qi's first



student to earn his PhD, Chaoming Yang's defense on April 2 represented an important milestone in Qi's career. [Read more.](#)

Three earn Rackham Predoctoral Awards

Ph.D. candidates Wonjin Choi, Peter Meisenheimer, and Mohsen Taheri all received Rackham Predoctoral Fellowships for the 2020-21 academic year. *Note: We are running this story again this week as the link wasn't working in last week's issue.* [Read more.](#)

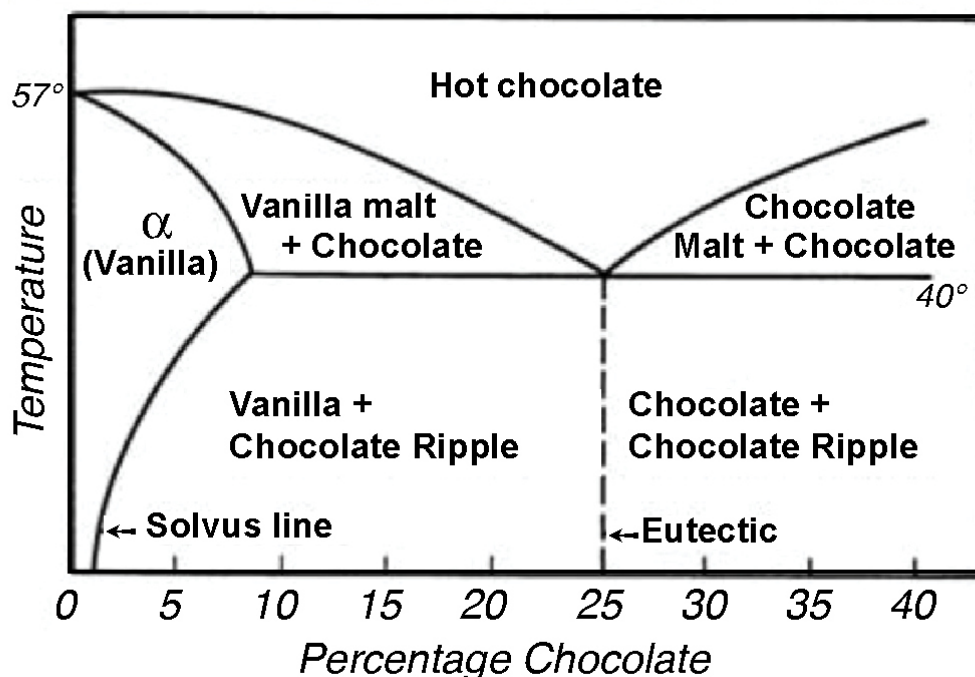


This Week's (Literal) Food for Thought

Chocolate-vanilla phase diagram!

(Reprinted from the April 1949 issue of *Metal Progress*)

The chocolate-vanilla ice cream phase diagram as shown below, was developed at the U.S. Navy's famous Steerage Research Laboratories, located in Annapolis. The men responsible for this development are Dr. Christian of Cornell University and Dr. Thor of the University of Arizona. As can be seen, the most important area lies at the vanilla end of the diagram. The chocolate end is of minor importance; the only commercially sound product is pure chocolate (13 phase). The eutectic is, of course, chocolate ripple. An interesting feature of the diagram is the sloping solvus line. When a composition within the proper range is allowed to thaw slightly, into the α region (a solid solution of chocolate in vanilla), and is then cooled to a temperature below this line, flakes of chocolate precipitate out, forming chocolate chips. Contributed by D.C. Lind, Midshipman, U.S. Naval Academy. EDITOR'S NOTE: This interesting phase diagram was printed originally in the Log, undergraduate publication of the Brigade of Midshipmen, U.S. Naval Academy. When the Editor first read this report, he was tempted to verify Dr. Christian and Dr. Thor's results. Perhaps some of *Metal Progress* readers will wish to do the same.



Our thanks to Ph.D. candidate **Kathleen Chou** for sharing this fun diagram. If you come across something you think others would find interesting, please email it to Kristen at krisfres@umich.edu.

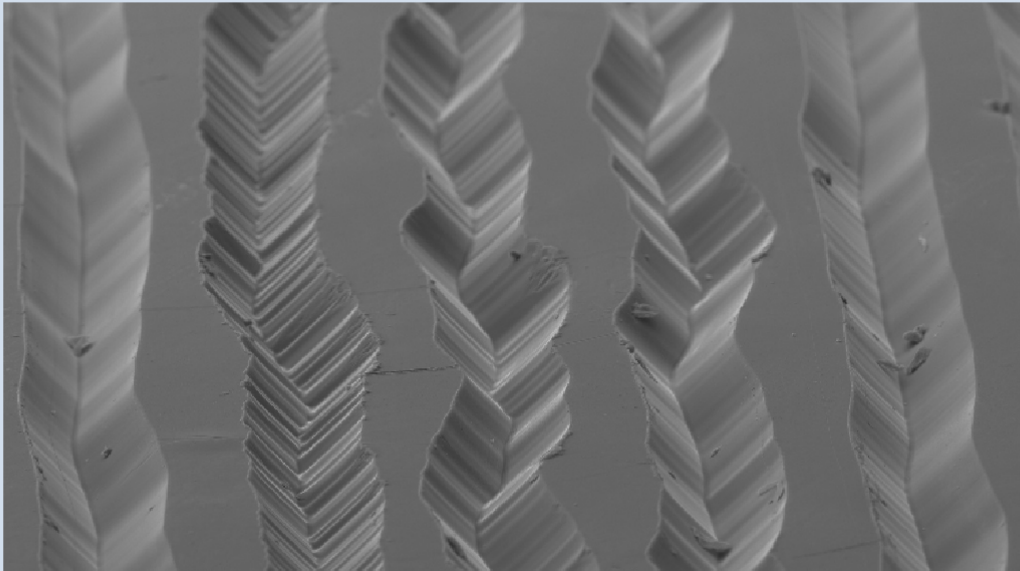
Introducing our **MSE Trivia Contest: Part 1**



Contest rules: This is the first of three installments of trivia quizzes. All MSE students, research fellows and staff are eligible to participate. Please submit your responses for this round by **Tuesday, April 21 at 9:00 p.m. EST**. Prize winners will be chosen based on participation in all three weeks of trivia quizzes, and number of correct responses. Prize winner(s) will be announced the first week of May. To answer this week's questions, click on the button below. Best of luck and have fun!

#1

What is this object?
(scale bar intentionally removed for difficulty!)



#2

MSE History: What was the year of discovery of the “secret ingredient” element in Pyrex that gives it great resistance to thermal shock?

#3

U-M History: Legend has it that young couples kissing under this structure are destined to marry. What year was it built?

RECORD YOUR TRIVIA ANSWERS HERE

Stay Connected



As always, stay up to date with the latest COVID-19 news from [U-M](#) and the [College of Engineering](#).



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