Wait, what day is it again?

While the days blur together in our "new normal," we know YOU know what day it is: the second day of final exams! Obviously, we can't help you with your final project for 365, but we hopefully can help with a little levity, including some fun faculty and staff throwback photos and Part 2 of our MSE Trivia Quiz (that won't count toward your final grade)! So, enjoy...and then back to work!:-)

Class of 2020

Like it or not, the Class of 2020 will always and forever be associated with COVID-19. But that does not and should not define this amazing class. So, we look forward to dedicating next week's issue of MSE QuaranTEAM to the Class of 2020 and their awesome accomplishments. No masks required!
Chair's message: Boketto

We made it! The Winter term classes are now over and I thank the instructors and staff for their tireless effort in keeping up the learning environment remotely, and the students for their patience and understanding. Today is the study day, also known as CoE’s Stress Busters Day, to help students stay calm and relaxed through the final exam week to follow. Hopefully many of you were able to participate in the Stress Busters activities, such as yoga, laughter therapy, rip up negative thought, express gratitude, and meditation.

Stress, however, is not limited to tests and exams in academia. Life continues to surprise and test us in new ways every day, even after graduation and learning that keeping oneself rejuvenated is the key to a high quality of life. Even seemingly simple acts, such as pausing to enjoy the precious quanta of do-nothing moments can be rejuvenating and destressing. Japanese culture has a word for it, Boketto, which literally means ‘gazing vacantly into the distance without thinking of anything specific.’ Boketto is a rejuvenating, destressed state of being. Let us try to embrace gazing into the distance for a moment. Nothing may come of it, but seeing where the future of our past has led to our present, we know that an answer will eventually be revealed.

At a time when our world has been rattled in ways we have never encountered before, we each need to discover our personalized recipe for rejuvenation.

Go (Boketto) Blue!

As always, stay healthy and safe!
Amit

TBF/S (Throwback Faculty/Staff)

In honor of the Class of 2020, some MSE faculty and staff have submitted their own senior/graduation photos. Enjoy this brief trip back in time (and note that one of the photos you’ve probably walked past countless times in the 2nd floor hallway of Dow!).
1972
Professor Alan Taub
High school senior photo
John Mansfield, Associate Research Scientist Emeritus/University of Bristol (U.K.) graduation photo

Kevin Worth, Senior IT Administrator
MSE undergraduate graduation photo
MSE Virtual Events
(Who needs Netflix?)

"The history and evolution of ski waxes" by Professor 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.

"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.

First 'Nerd Nite' a success

GSC kicked off its virtual Nerd Nites last week with Max Powers presenting on the history and culture of Chile and Mark Main talking about how to be a better baseball fan. Click here to view their talks. The next Nerd Nite will be Monday, 4/27 at 7 p.m. If you have a nerdy passion you'd like to share, fill out this form.

Awards and Recognition

(MC)2 team wins CoE's 2020 Excellence in Staff Service Award

The collaborative approach of Bobby Kerns, Allen Hunter, Nancy Senabulya, Haiping Sun and Deanna Wendel have made (MC)2 a 'unique and creative hub
Well wishes for the Class of 2020 have been pouring in all week from MSE alumni. Their thoughtful messages will be included in next week's issue of *QuaranTEAM,* but we just had to share this amusing (and relatable!) graphic sent by Jeremy Lipshaw (BSE '17 and MSE (ME) '18), now a Product Development Engineer at Applied Process, Inc.
Contest rules: This is the second 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 28 at 9:00 p.m. EST. Prize winner(s) and answers to all three quizzes 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 element was used to create the first solar cell?

#3 U-M History: What building is now located at the original home field of the Michigan Wolverines football team?
As always, stay up to date with the latest COVID-19 news from U-M and the College of Engineering.