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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
MATERIALS SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Welcome to another year of TeamMSE, the official newsletter of the MSE Department! Published twice a month, this is the place to turn for upcoming department events, announcements, and all the latest faculty, student, alumni, and research news. As always, if you have something you'd like to contribute, please contact Kristen at krisfres@umich.edu. Now, on with the issue (and yes, there will be a quiz at the end;-)

A NOTE FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR LIZ HOLM

After a long, quiet summer, it is a pure pleasure to welcome our MSE community back in full force! Please join me in a special welcome to our new students, both undergraduate and graduate. We are so glad you are here, and we stand ready to introduce you to the mysteries of the Dow building, the wonders of the Van Vlack Lab, and the rumors of a magical place called NCRC.

I hope that each of you had the kind of summer break you needed — rejuvenating, exciting, or simply restful. While you were away, we were busy here on campus, and you'll see some of the results. Dow features new bottle-filler drinking fountains, a remodeled Towsley Student Lounge, and an illuminating wayfinding system. The NCRC boasts a new conference room. And there are even whispers that the coffee situation has improved...

We're not slowing down now that you're back, either. We have so much planned to make this year a great one – from events and improvements to milestones and opportunities. Be sure to keep current with the Newsletter; watch the screens in the Dow Building; and expect classroom and email announcements.

I often say that MSE is a small but mighty department, but it is more accurate to say that our size is what makes us mighty. We have space and a place for each community member to learn, grow, and contribute. I look forward to navigating this year with you, from Picnic to Graduation.

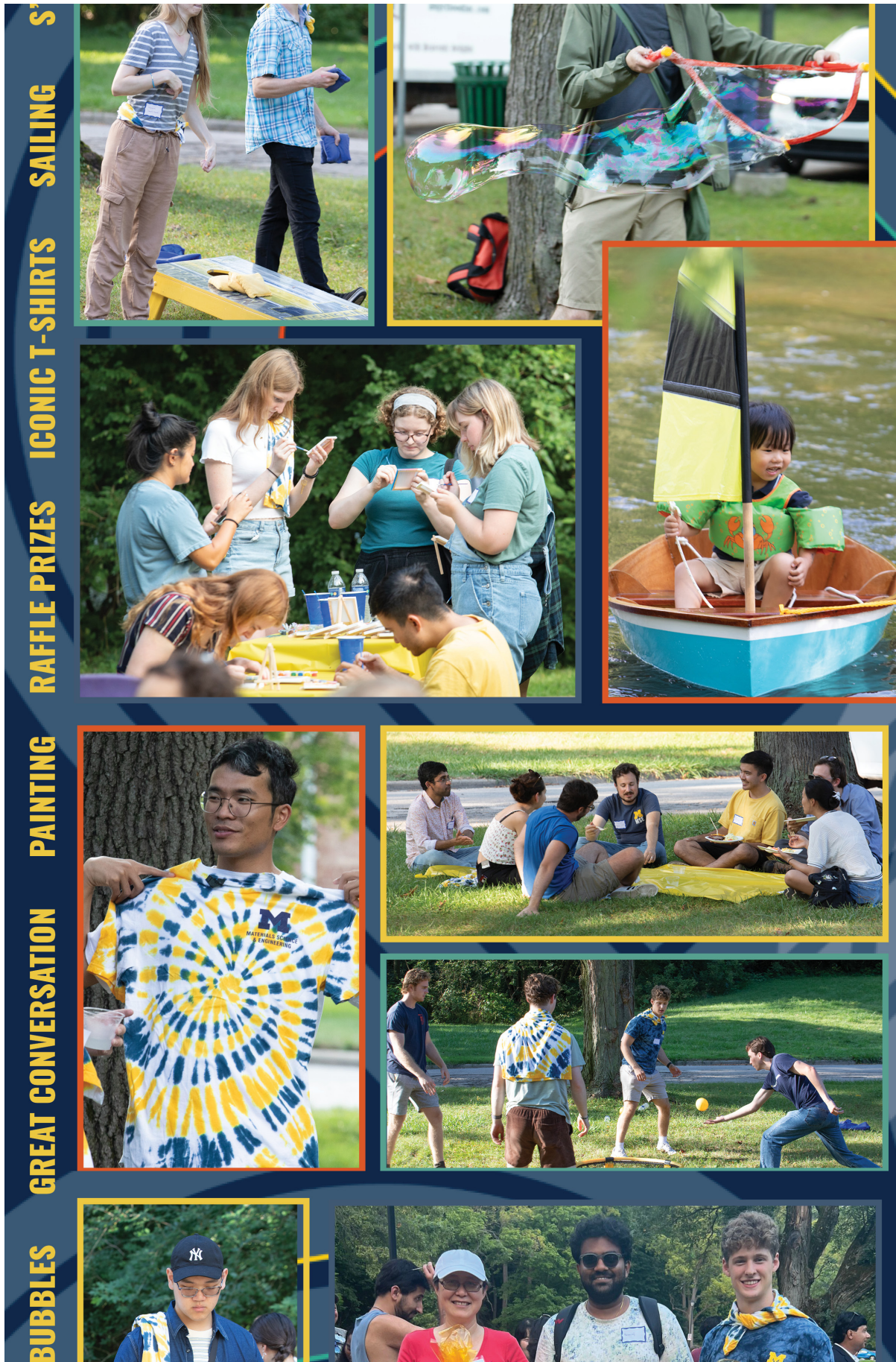
Welcome to AY24-25 – and as always, Go Blue!

Events look-back

WELCOME BACK PICNIC AN OVER-THE-TOP SUCCESS!

THANK YOU to all 220+ of you for joining us at Island Park last Thursday for the biggest and best Welcome Back Picnic EVER! What a fantastic way to kick off the new year! Click [here](#) to see more photos of all the fun.







LIZ HOLM PROFESSORSHIP CEREMONY



The week before school started, on August 20, MSE department chair **Liz Holm** was officially installed as the Richard F. and Eleanor A. Towner Professor of Engineering at a special ceremony officiated by new Michigan Engineering dean Karen Thole. Click [here](#) to watch the ceremony, including her lecture, "We all might be giants: Lending our shoulders to the next generation," (which received rave reviews) and [here](#) to see photos from the event.

Upcoming department events

06
SEPT

DIRECTOR RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR JINSANG KIM

Join us tomorrow to thank Jinsang Kim for serving as the Macro Director for 7 years.

Date: Friday, September 6, 2024

Time: 2:00-3:00 pm

Where: 3158 Dow (Pod Room)

13
SEPT

MSE ALUMNI LUNCHEON

Join us as this year's MSE Merit Award winner, **Clinique Brundidge** (BSE '06, PHD '12), shares her journey from U-M to her current managerial position with the Naval Surface Warfare Center. Lunch will be provided for everyone who registers [here](#) by Monday, Sept. 9.

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Where: 1013 HH Dow

24
SEPT

MSE CAREER FAIR

This event is intended to help connect MSE students with organizations recruiting for full-time, internship and/or co-op positions. A list of participating companies and event location will be

available within the Events section of [Engineering Careers, by 12twenty](#) and within [Career Fair Plus](#).

Date: Tuesday, September 24

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm

01
OCT

STUDENT LOUNGE REOPENING CELEBRATION

Come see the lounge's new, updated look and enjoy a free cup of coffee!

Date: Tuesday, October 1

Time: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Where: Towsley Student Lounge, 2nd floor Dow

10
&
11
OCT

VAN VLACK LECTURESHIP

We are excited to welcome back former MSE professor **Tresa Pollock**, now at UCSB, as our 2024 Van Vlack Lecturer. During her time on campus, Pollock will give two lectures as detailed below.

Thursday, Oct. 10: 4:00 p.m. | Johnson Rooms

Friday, Oct. 11: 10:30 a.m. | 1670 Beyster

Special Announcements

MSE TIE-DYE T-SHIRTS

If you missed the picnic last week, you can still pick up a spectacular MSE blue and maize tie-dye t-shirt in the MSE Main Office, #3062 H.H. Dow. While supplies last.

Research highlights



19 PARTICIPATE IN MRSEC CMI SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The REU and REY programs, which drew undergraduates and high school students from around the country, gave participants the opportunity to research semiconductors/2D materials or sustainable polymers.

Said one REY participant: "...I made bonds that will last a lifetime with the other participants and lab members. The experience solidified my plans to pursue a career related to STEM and attend higher level education in the future."

[Read more](#)

YIYANG LI PART OF NEW DOE-BACKED RESEARCH HUB FOR CLEAN ENERGY STORAGE

Researchers will advance battery technologies going beyond current lithium ion capabilities

"We plan to not only train students enrolled at U-M but



will also begin a program for visiting undergraduate students from across the state and the country to work with us at U-M on energy storage research.”

-- Yiyang Li

[Read more](#)



ABDON PENA-FRANCESCH FEATURED RECENTLY IN THE CONVERSATION

Turns out, the properties found in squid sucker teeth could lead to self-healing materials that can repair their own cuts, punctures or scratches.

“The nanocrystals that hold together the squid teeth proteins can reform after they break. Materials made in our lab inspired by squid nanocrystals could lead to [self-repairing medical devices or robots](#). These materials would last longer and require less upkeep, which would be useful in dangerous environments or inside the human body.” -- Abdon Pena-Francesch

[Read more](#)



FIRST 3D VISUALIZATION OF AN ALUMINUM NANOCOMPOSITE FOR THE AUTO INDUSTRY

The lightweight material could extend EV range or fuel efficiency once its microstructure is understood.

"We have known for a long time that nano-sized particles could improve the performance of metal matrix composites, but the materials could not be produced at scale. We now understand the formation mechanisms that will enable our industry partners to optimize the process for lightweighting applications." -- Alan Taub, Robert H. Lurie Professor of Engineering and Director of EVC

[Read more](#)

Alumni News

**GRACE HSIA HABERL FEATURED IN DOCUSERIES
CULTURE CAPITAL**



Grace Hsia Haberl (BSE '12), founder of the company [Warmilu](#), is one of nine diverse entrepreneurs featured in a new 3-part docuseries called ***Culture Capital***. Warmilu, which grew from Grace's senior design project as an MSE undergrad, is a global non-electric warming technology manufacturing company. The ingenious blankets Warmilu makes are used by organizations like Doctors Without Borders and annually warm more than 11,000 babies born in 106 hospitals in 23 countries.

"It was honor as a female and minority founder to be at the table with game-changing entrepreneurs," she commented. "I love how we took turns sharing lessons and methods to turn visions into legacies."

You can watch the *Culture Capital* trailer [here](#) and the full docuseries on [Comcast/Xfinity](#), Peacock or [Xumo Play](#).

Oh, and if Grace's lab scenes look familiar, that's because they were filmed in our own Van Vlack Lab:-)!

Education Highlights

CHECK OUT SEASON 2 OF UNDERCOOLED PODCAST

Season 2 of the Undercooled podcast is already four episodes strong. In the most recent episode, Tim interviews MMS president Micah Gendich. Click on the image below to watch it. As always, you can find the Undercooled podcast wherever you get your podcasts.



(Fun) Quiz time!

To ease you into the rigors of another academic year, we're giving you a quiz - but, no worries, it will not be graded:-) Can you guess which faculty member did the following activities over the summer? (Answers will be provided in the next issue of TeamMSE.)



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