COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
MATERIALS SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

TEAMMSE

FALL 2024 - December 12 (Issue #7)

In this, the last issue of the semester, we bring you photo highlights from Monday's Holiday Party, a bunch of new research, and notable student and staff awards. Best of luck with finals, everyone, and have a restful break!

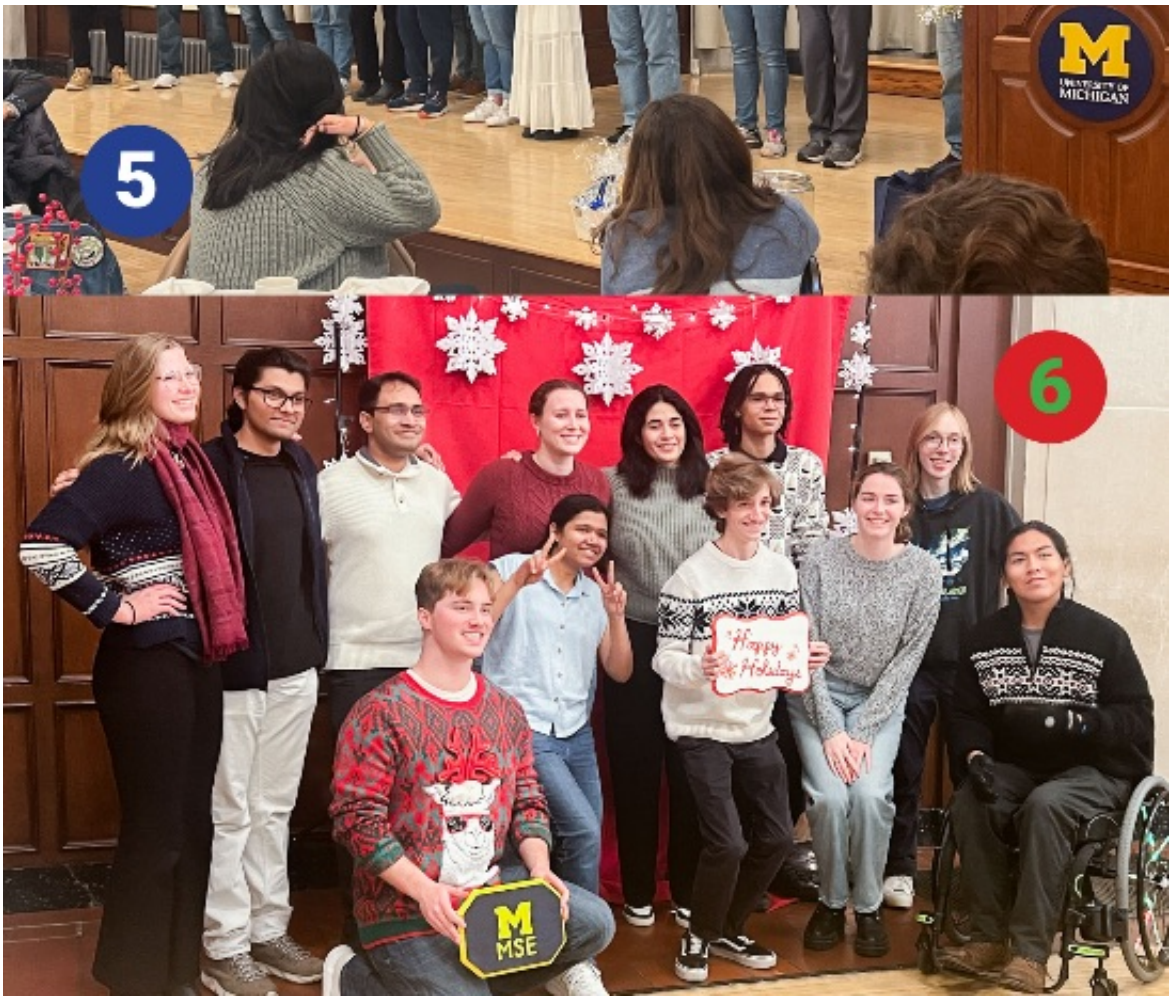
Events look-back

180+ ATTENDEES HAVE A JOLLY TIME AT HOLIDAY PARTY

Ho, ho ho what a fun time the MSE Holiday Party was on Monday! Congratulations and THANK YOU to GSC and MMS (special shout-outs to **Forrest, Gabi, Marisa, Zoe, Caroline, Andrew, Ellery,** and **Micah**) for planning such a merry party: yummy food, festive music (featuring our own uber-talented **Loulou Batta**!), scrumptious hot chocolate bar, and super fun activities (the traditional favorite Ugly Sweater contest and a new, engaging trivia contest that tested our local area and scientific knowledge). What an

upbeat way to close out the semester. Said GSC president **Forrest Wissuchek**: "We are happy we had such a robust turnout from our community and appreciate all the GSC members who helped put it together."

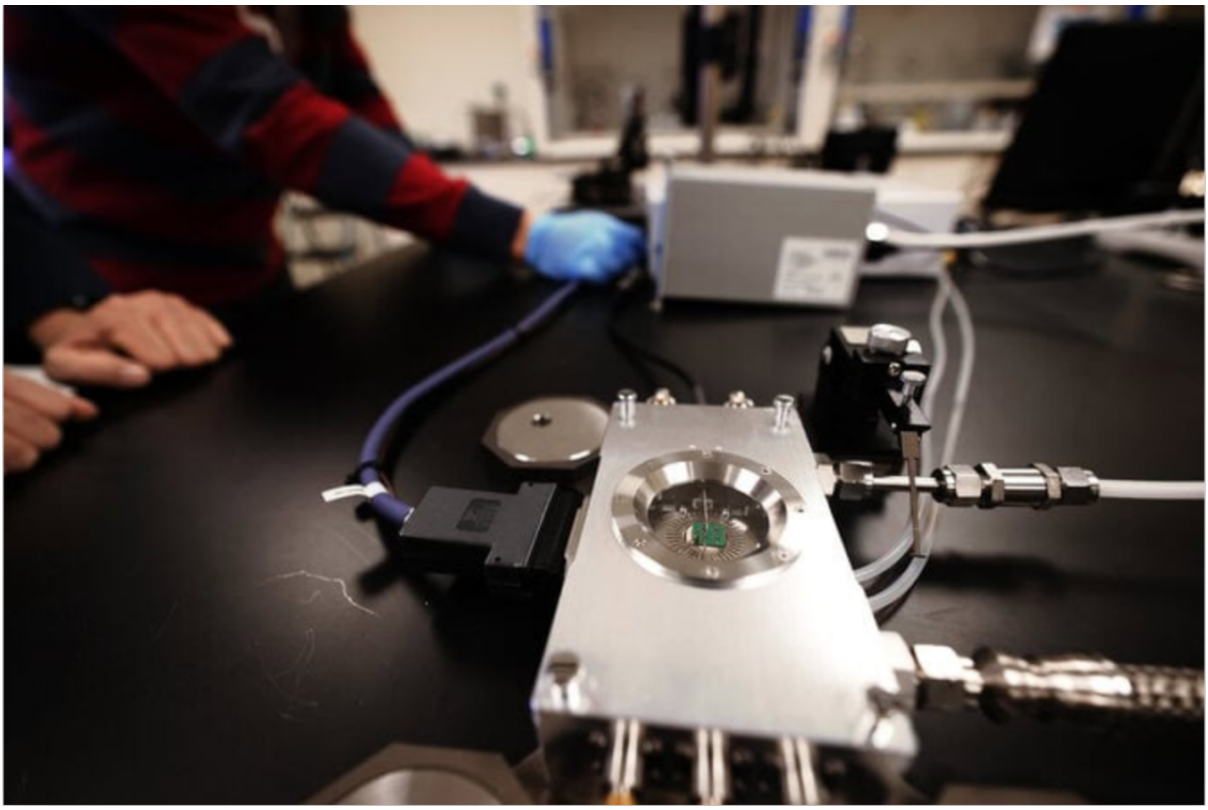
Check out all the smiles below. Click here to view the full photo gallery.



HOLIDAY PARTY photos above: 1) **Josh Willwerth** shows off a surprise feature of his entry for the Ugly Sweater contest. 2) GSC president **Forrest Wissuchek** plays **MSE chair Liz Holm's** swag game she held at her table. 3) **Vaidehi Menon** and **Vishal Subramanian** share a laugh at dinner. 4) **Loulou Batta** serenades the room with Christmas classics. 5) Twelve contestants vie for Ugliest Sweater honors. 6) A group of grad students pose at the photo wall.

Research highlights

BATTERY-LIKE COMPUTER MEMORY KEEPS WORKING ABOVE 1000°F

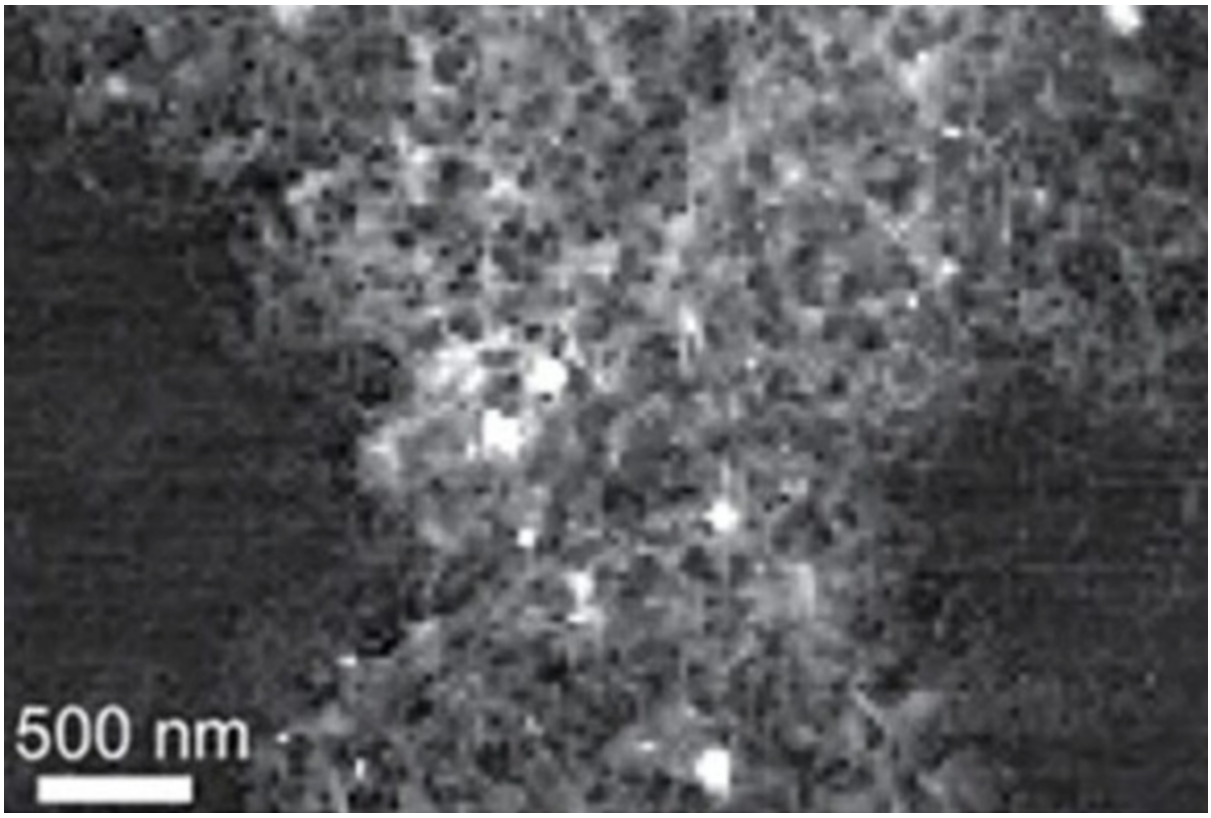


Computer memory could one day withstand the blazing temperatures in fusion reactors, jet engines, geothermal wells and sweltering planets using a new solid-state memory device developed by a team of engineers led by **Yiyang Li**. [Read more](#).

FASTER ORGANIC PHOSPHORESCENCE FOR BETTER DISPLAY TECH

Screens for TVs, smartphones or other displays could be made with a new kind of organic LED material developed by an international team, co-led by **Jinsang Kim**. The material maintains sharp color and contrast while replacing the heavy metal with a new hybrid material. **Read more**.

BURNED RICE HULLS COULD HELP BATTERIES STORE MORE CHARGE



A closer inspection of ash from burned rice hulls, the hard outer layer of rice grains, revealed a form of carbon that could nearly double the energy density of typical lithium-ion or sodium-ion batteries. This sustainable source of ‘hard’ carbon, which outperforms ordinary graphite in battery electrodes, was discovered by a collaboration between the MSE labs of **Rick Laine** and **Robert Hovden**. [Read more](#).

Student News

PO-YU KUNG RECEIVES RACKHAM INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CHIA-LUN LO FELLOWSHIP

Po-Yu Kung has received a Rackham International Students Chia-Lun Lo Fellowship for 2024-2025. The focus of Kung's research in the Li Lab is on the charge transfer properties of single-particle battery materials. **Read more**.

Congratulations, Po-Yu!

HOLIDAY PARTY WINNERS

Oh what fun it is to...win! Above: Ugly Sweater contest winners **Josh Willwerth, Ben Routhier** and **Pranavi Gudi.**
Below: Food drive donation raffle winners **Abrar Rauf, Kyle Burke** and **Ayesha Ulde.**

Staff News

2024 STAFF SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTED TO FOUR DESERVING STAFF MEMBERS

Congratulations to the 2024 MSE Staff Service Award winners (pictured above, clockwise from top left): **Meghan Connolly** (research administrator lead), **Sahar Farjami** (lab/classroom services supervisor), **Maya Mulchandani** (admin assistant), and **Shelley Fellers** (admin assistant). The awards were presented Tuesday by MSE chair Liz Holm at a special staff luncheon at Venue.

Thanks to all for jobs well done:-)!

MAYA MULCHANDANI ATTENDS PENULTIMATE TAYLOR SWIFT CONCERT IN VANCOUVER

Maya Mulchandani (MSE administrative assistant, pictured with her mom above in the lower right) traveled to "Swiftcouver" this past weekend to attend the next-to-last concert of Taylor Swift's two-year Eras tour. A lifelong fan of Swift's music and a hardcore Swiftie since 2020, Mulchandani won the ticket lottery for this concert way back in November 2023. When asked what it was like to live out the dream of so many, she just shook her head and said, "There are no words."

Alumni News

NIK CHAWLA NAMED NEW ASSOCIATE DEAN

Nikhilesh Chawla (PHD '97) has been named the inaugural associate dean for engineering at Purdue University in Indianapolis. A pioneer in the field of 4D materials, Chawla will be responsible for strategizing, prioritizing and coordinating all engineering programs at Purdue's new capital city campus.

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