

Welcome back!

We hope you were able to relax and refresh over break and are ready to face what we hope (fingers crossed!) is the last semester disrupted by COVID-19. Speaking of the virus, there's lots of Covid news you need to be aware of, so be sure to read the information carefully. We also have important career-related and DEI events for you to check out in this issue, plus a featured interview with our newest faculty member, Assistant Professor Abdon Pena-Francesch.

Happy reading and here's to a great start to the semester!

Questions, comments or ideas for TeamMSE? Contact Kristen at krisfres@umich.edu.

We'd love to hear from you!



U-M COVID testing requirements for undergraduates

If you are living in Michigan Housing, registered for any in-person courses, or will be coming to campus for work, to conduct research or use campus facilities (libraries, rec sports, dining, etc.), you are **required to get tested for COVID-10 weekly**. Undergraduate students who are required to be tested are expected to get their first U-M COVID-19 test within 72 hours of arrival to campus or the Ann Arbor area. You need to complete your first COVID-19 test at U-M before you engage in campus activities, but **no later than Jan. 25**. Register and sign up for testing here.

ResponsiBLUE

If you are returning for winter term, you are required to use the app

ResponsiBLUE, which will help provide a quick daily symptom check for COVID-19.

The ResponsiBLUE App now displays for all U-M Ann Arbor undergraduate students weekly COVID-19 testing verification by noting a "COMPLETED" or "EXPIRED" status at the end of the symptom check process. You are responsible for ensuring you have both a green symptom check and a green "Completed" COVID-19 test verification to be on campus. Please note, you may be asked to show your screen while on campus.

It's important that you download or update the App for the latest version from the App store. Visit **ResponsiBLUE** for more details.

New strain of COVID-19 in Washtenaw County

This past weekend a Washtenaw County woman who recently visited the U.K. became the first confirmed case of a new COVID-19 variant, B.1.1.7., in the state of Michigan. While this new COVID-19 variant is considered more contagious, it does not necessarily cause more severe illness. Based on early evidence, current tests and vaccines work for this new variant. Now more than ever it is important to follow public health best practices:

- Avoid large social gatherings (Reminder: Current public health orders restrict indoors gatherings to no more than 10 people).
- Wear a mask on campus and when around anyone outside your immediate household.
- Practice social distancing.
- Get tested for COVID-19 regularly.
- Watch for symptoms, and isolate and seek medical care immediately if symptoms develop.
- Use the <u>ResponsiBLUE</u> app daily.

Click here for U-M's COVID-19 Dashboard

Faculty News & Recognition

Welcome, Assistant Professor Abdon Francesch!



A heartfelt Wolverine welcome to <u>Assistant Professor Abdon Francesch</u>, our newest MSE faculty member! Though he won't be teaching until Fall 2021, we asked Prof. Francesch some introductory questions so you could start to get to know him.

1) What is the focus of your research?

My main research interests are in bioinspired materials. In our group, we combine polymer chemistry, soft matter physics, biology, and nanotechnology to develop advanced materials for applications in robotics, healthcare, bioengineering, and environmental science. Our ultimate goal is bringing synthetic materials and machines closer to living organisms by engineering new materials at the molecular, nano-, and microscale. You can find more details on the research here: https://www.apenafrancesch.com/

2) Why did you choose to come to U-M?

I believe U-M really stands out when it comes to its people. There is a big and healthy community in U-M working on important global challenges and making an impact on many different fields. It takes very creative and collaborative multidisciplinary teams to achieve that, from students to faculty and staff. I think this is what makes U-M one of the top research institutions in the world, and I am very honored and excited to be a part of it.

3) What are you looking forward to most about starting at U-M?

I am very much looking forward to sharing my research with students and building our team, and establishing new collaborations within the MSE department and also with other departments and programs like MACRO or Michigan Robotics.

4) What do you like to do in your spare time outside the lab?

Outside the lab I like to spend my time playing music (piano and other instruments) and listening to my vinyl record collection. I also like scuba-diving (certified PADI rescue scuba-diver) and travelling to new places.

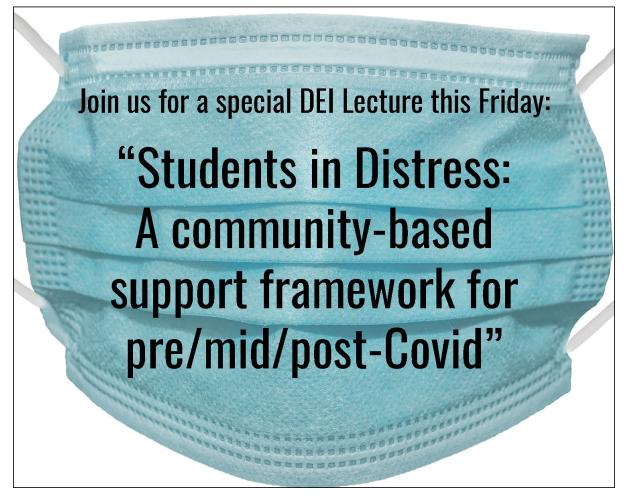
Liang Qi earns 2021 TMS
Materials Processing &
Manufacturing Division Young
Leaders Professional
Development Award

Assistant Professor Liang Qi will receive this special award on March 16 at a ceremony during the



TMS2021 virtual meeting. Congratulations, Liang!

Upcoming Events



Bring your questions to DEI Lecture this Friday, Jan. 22

Resume and Elevator Pitch Workshop

Prep for the Winter Career Fair at two MMS luncheons dedicated to professional development! Prof. Allison and Prof. Kioupakis will review resumes and Prof. Yalisove will coach students on pitches.

Friday, Jan. 22 & 29 12:30-1:30 PM EST

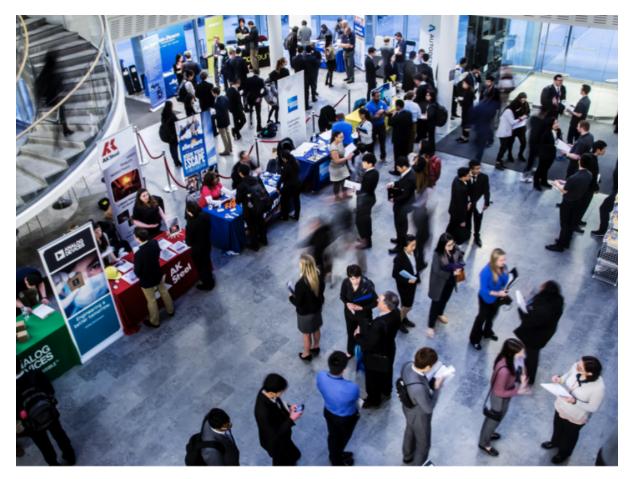
Zoom Link:

https://umich.zoom.us/j/96333994859

Submit resumes for critique here:

https://forms.gle/eCstmRVyyH3JjQAC8

Winter Engineering Virtual Career Fair Jan. 27



The <u>Winter Engineering Career Fair</u> will be a video-based, virtual event conducted through Career Fair Plus (CF+). CF+ allows students to connect with recruiters via video in pre-scheduled time slots. Sign-ups will begin on **Friday, Jan. 22 at noon**.

First Rackham North Workshop: January 20

TOPIC: Rackham North - Graduate Pathways: Leveraging Your Network

WHEN: Wednesday, January 20, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Zoom, details will be sent once you register

EVENT DETAILS: As we each continue to adapt to changing working and living situations, staying connected is important, and networking is critical to your job or internship search. Join this discussion to learn strategies for building your network in the virtual environment (including tips on using Linkedin and Rackham Connect), and how to leverage this network for career exploration as

REGISTER HERE: https://myumi.ch/yKNy7

Registration for TMS2021 is now open!



The TMS 2021 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (TMS2021) will be held as a fully virtual event on March 15-18, 2021. <u>Registration</u> for the conference is now open. <u>Visit the TMS2021 Virtual website</u> for a listing of planned speakers and events.





A message to students about the events of January 6

The distressing events of Wednesday, January 6 have left an indelible stain on our country and our collective conscience. What transpired on that day was truly nightmarish – from the desecration of our Capitol building to the frustratingly sluggish response of authorities to quell the violence. We never expected to experience an insurrection in real-time with our own eyes in our own country.

But, while the rioters may have trampled on our democracy and damaged windows and doors, they did NOT destroy our spirit. It's going to take time, but we *will* heal and come out stronger and smarter on the other side.

Now that the Winter term is starting, we want to take this opportunity to again assure you that we are dedicated to:

- ...peace, not violence. Domestic terrorism does not have a place in our democracy or on our campus. We will NOT tolerate it in any form or on any level.
- ...building up, not tearing down. We respect each other, even if we might disagree with each other.
- ...uniting, not dividing. We are one community, and we support our fellow citizens/colleagues/students in their right to have different opinions and protest peacefully, but we condemn ALL hateful speech and acts of aggression large or small, overt or covert.
- ...you and your well-being. We know how traumatic this moment is; even weeks later we are all still processing it. So please—and we mean this sincerely—reach out if the stress of the situation has been interfering with your mental health. We are here for you.

Yours in peace,

Kathy Sevener

DEI Department Lead and DEI Lecturer

ksevener@umich.edu

Geeta Mehta

DEI Faculty Ally mehtagee@umich.edu

DEI Student Allies Mailbox

Share your feedback on the DEI program and/or ask the DEI student allies questions: https://forms.gle/98uKGHPbcAMzCF3B7





Summer internships are now being posted on a regular basis on the **Corning website** (go to "search jobs" in upper right-hand corner and type in "intern"). Students who have at least completed their sophomore year are encouraged to apply.

Copyright © 2020, Materials Science & Engineering, University of Michigan

Our mailing address is:

2300 Hayward St. 3062 H.H. Dow Building Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

Copyright © 2020, Materials Science & Engineering, University of Michigan

Our mailing address is:

2300 Hayward St. 3062 H.H. Dow Building Ann Arbor, MI 48109