
## Cue the confetti!

In this issue we salute our December grads - both undergraduates and graduates - and applaud them for the extra effort it's taken during these challenging times (remote classes, Zoom defenses, etc.). PLUS, the Covid vaccine has arrived on campus and our MSE holiday party is tomorrow, so lots to celebrate this week!

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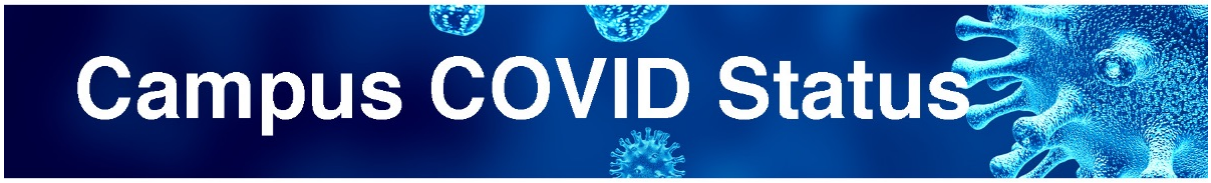
*Questions, comments or ideas for TeamMSE? Contact Kristen at krisfres@umich.edu.*

*We'd love to hear from you!*




## The COVID-19 vaccine has arrived!

Michigan Medicine received 1,950 doses of the Pfizer Inc./BioNTech vaccine yesterday and began vaccinating people against COVID-19 with an initial group of five frontline workers. U-M's academic medical center expects to vaccinate about 40 employees beginning today, ramping up the volume further as early as next week, depending on the supply of vaccine. Faculty, staff and students should receive a questionnaire later this week asking whether they want to receive the vaccine. The form also will seek health information to help prioritize vaccine distribution. The vaccine is not mandatory. **Read more**.

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

# Upcoming Events

*You're invited to our*

# MSE Virtual Holiday Party!

## Wednesday, Dec. 16

## 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Let's end this humbug of a year on a jolly note! Join us for our virtual holiday celebration, featuring:**

**Trivia game**

**Ugly sweater contest**

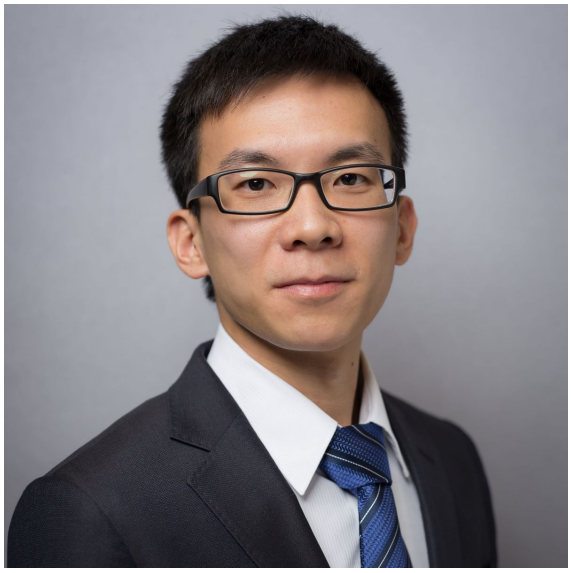
**Staff awards**

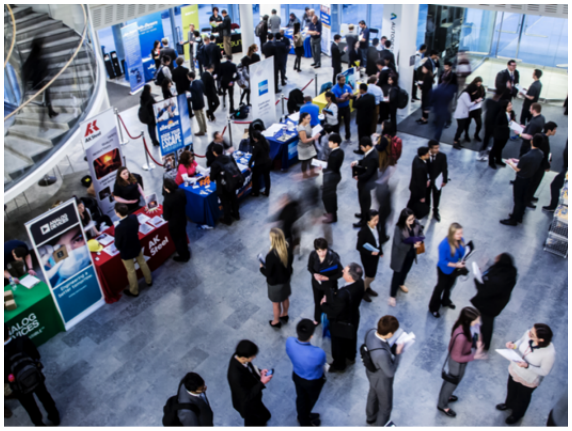
**Time to mingle in breakout rooms**

**Zoom link: https://umich.zoom.us/j/93139275820, passcode 019467**

## Michael Chen PhD defense set for Dec. 16 at 1:00 p.m.

A member of the Dasgupta group, Michael Chen will present "Rational Design of Electrode Architectures for Improved Performance of Li-metal and Li-ion Batteries" on **Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 1:00 p.m.** Zoom link is: umich.zoom.us/j/93464880955 with passcode 886760. Best of luck to Michael!





## Winter Engineering Virtual Career Fair January 27

Michigan Engineering's season of career fairs and networking events kicks off next month, so we will bring you all the dates and deadlines you need to know to find that perfect career opportunity. Stay tuned!

## Save the Date! 2020 Van Vlack Lecture with Nobel Prize winner Stanley Whittingham rescheduled for Oct. 8, 2021

The 2020 Lawrence H. Van Vlack Lectureship with M. Stanley Whittingham, winner of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his development of lithium-ion batteries, has been rescheduled for October 8, 2021. Whittingham is currently a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Binghamton university, State University of New York.

# Student News

### Two MSE students win Chia-Lun Lo Fellowship

MSE Ph.D. student **Jiadong Chen** (advisor Wenhao Sun), pictured above right, and master's student **Tao-Yu Huang** (advisor Rachel Goldman), pictured below, were recently awarded a Rackham International Students Fellowship/Chia-Lun Lo Fellowship for 2020-2021. Read more**.** Congratulations, Jiadong and Tao-Yu!

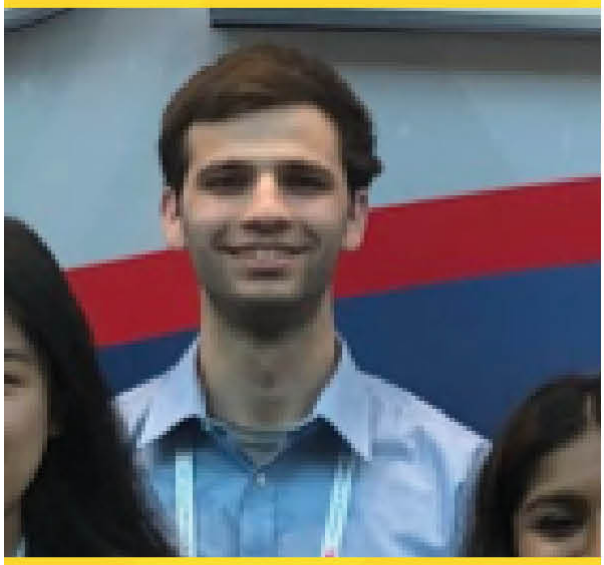

# Undergraduates

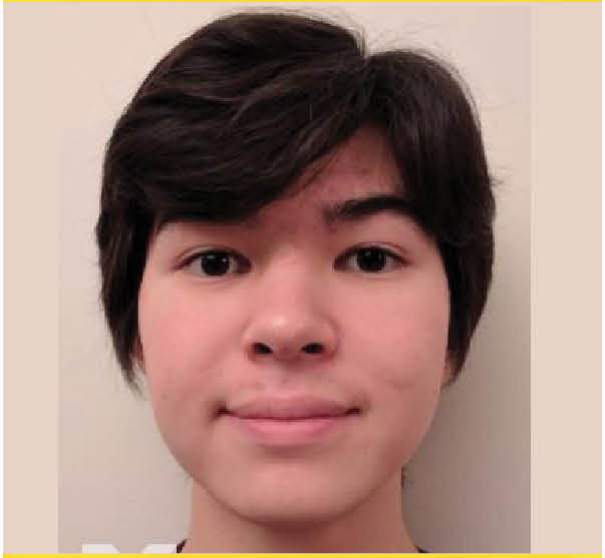
Kayla Byrd

Hailey Kuntz*

Malhar Kute*

Kenneth Peterson



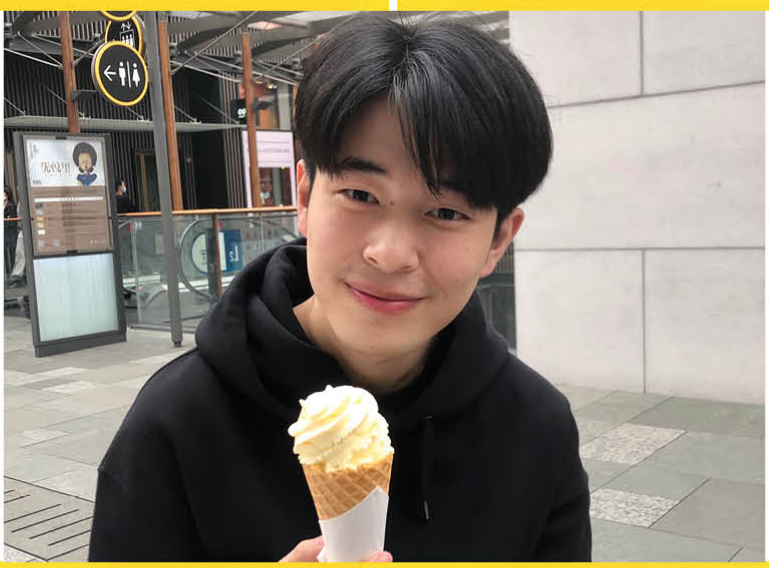


Grant Saxman

Joseph Spielman

Gloria Grace Vanrenterghem*

Lucas Wightman



Xiting Zhang*

** See answers to a special graduation questionnaire below.*

# Master's

Albert Chang

Tony Chang

Matthew Higgins

Chao Huang

Huai-Fu Huang

Tao-Yu Huang

Ju Won Lim

Javier Lopez-Nieto

Sudeep Nerlige Manjunath

Keara Saud

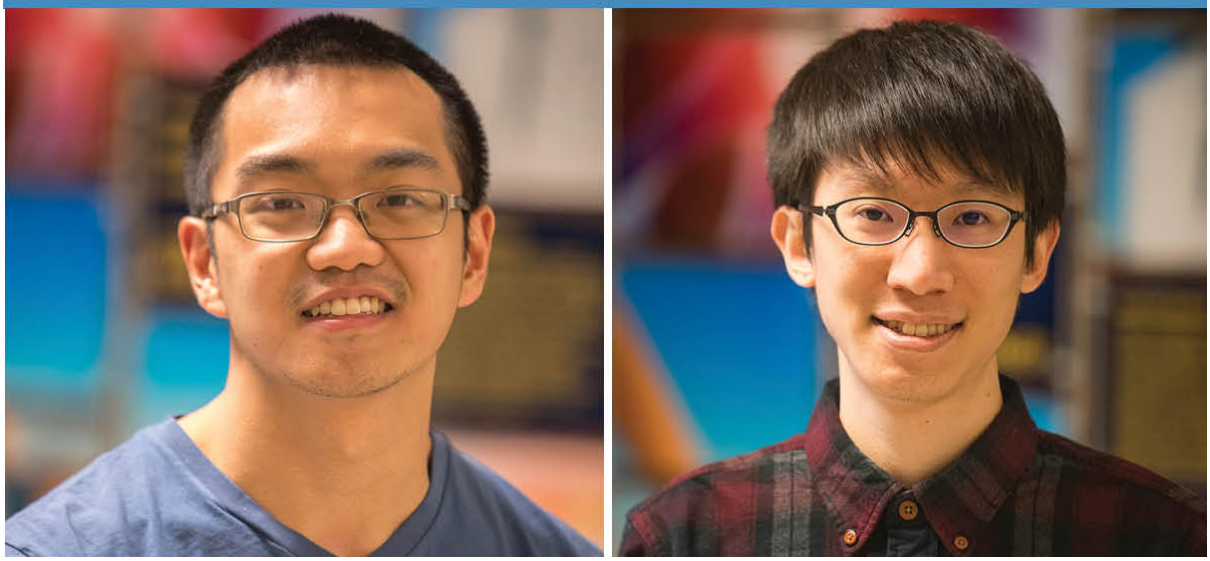
Suk Hyun Sung

Bingyu Wu

Bokai Zhang

Tianyang Zhu

# Ph.D.



**Michael Wang (Sakamoto)**

**Li-Jen Yu (Marquis)**

**Christian Greenhill (Goldman)**

**Kuan-Hung (Michael) Chen (Dasgupta)**

# SPECIAL UNDERGRAD *Questionnaire*

We asked our December graduates to answer a few outgoing questions, from their plans for next year to the most important thing we need to know from future materials scientists: their favorite material, of course! Their answers are below.

## Hailey Kuntz

**What are your plans for next year?** Working at Northrop

Grumman as an Associate Material Process Engineer in Utah

**Extracurricular activities:** MMS social chair, CoE peer mentor, Alpha Phi Omega, Michigan Research Community

**Special achievements:** Robert E Martin Collegiate Scholarship, William F. Hosford Scholarship, Cornelius and Margaret Donovan Scholarship, UM Alumni of Indianapolis Scholarship

**Favorite memories/highlights of time at U-M:** Studying abroad in Rome, making ice cream with liquid nitrogen at the end of MSE 335, attending a MRS conference in Boston, MMS bar crawl, long nights studying in the Dude with friends, interning in Texas

**What was your favorite MSE class?** MSE 360/365 with Professor Chambers and MSE 514 with Professor Sevener are tied for my favorite classes. Lab is really well structured, the projects are engaging and hands-on, and a lot of the methods and analytical techniques can be applied in both research labs and internships—also Tim and all of the GSIs are super knowledgable. Composites was also my favorite class because I liked learning about the variety of design and processing methods, and the theories and equations that go into them just make sense to me. Plus, Professor Sevener is very helpful, and when I went to office hours I felt comfortable not only asking about homework, but also for advice about careers, projects, etc.

**What is your favorite material?** Polymers, I like painting with acrylic paints, and they're pretty much just a polymer binder and pigment.

# Malhar Kute

**What are your plans for next year?** My plans for next year are to pursue a PhD in materials science, with a focus on functional materials and computational MSE

**Extracurricular activities:** I was very involved with music performance during my time here, and in particular I worked on some interesting projects with the Converge String Quartet, which I have been a part of since 2017. Some notable projects are our studio album String Quartets 1 & 2 by Bill Wandel, the film Han that explores Korean cultural identity, and Michigan Trees, a chamber opera about trans identity and self acceptance.

**Special achievements:** James B. Angell Scholar, Rosseels String Quartet Fellowship

**Favorite memories/highlights of time at U-M:** Definitely the most memorable part of my time at Michigan was the amazing people I met and friendships I've made, both within and outside of the department.

**What was your favorite MSE class?** I really enjoyed MSE 242! That class is what first got me interested in quantum physics, functional materials, and computational MSE. Manos does an excellent job of making the unintuitive concepts in that class easy to understand.

**What is your favorite material?** The Aluminum 3xx alloy from MSE 360 will always be the best material!

# Grace Vanrenterghem

**What are your plans for next year?** I am moving to Irvine, California to start my career at Rivian, an electric vehicle company. I will be doing the Body Engineering rotational program for my first two years.

**Extracurricular activities:** Solar Car Team, Michigan Materials Society, Alpha Sigma Mu

**Special achievements:** The University of Michigan Solar Car Team, of which I was a racecrew member, got 3rd in the World Solar Challenge

**Favorite memories/highlights of time at U-M:** The highlight of my time at Michigan was my two international experiences. I spent the winter semester of my sophomore year studying in Madrid, Spain where I got to improve my Spanish, learn engineering alongside students from all over the world, and immerse myself in a new culture. I also spent the fall semester of my senior year in Australia with the Solar Car Team after spending the past year designing and building the car. We were preparing for and competing in the World Solar Challenge, a 5-day, 3000 km race across the Australian Outback. I got to meet engineers from all over the world and compete against the world's fastest solar-powered vehicles. I loved being part of a high-performing, interdisciplinary team, and working on an engineering project in a remote environment, where resources are scarce and conditions extreme.

**What was your favorite MSE class?** My favorite MSE class was MSE 420, as it was very interesting and applicable. I enjoyed learning about a variety of material behaviors and seeing how they applied to real-life engineering.

**What is your favorite material?** Triaxial carbon fiber

because it looks amazing.

## Xiting Zhang

**What are your plans for next year?** Graduate school

**Extracurricular activities:** Initiating a program called 1st Gen Engin

**Special achievements:** James B. Angell Scholars & Dean's List

**Favorite memories/highlights of time at U-M:** Survival

**What was your favorite MSE class?** MSE242 & Prof. Kioupakis. This class is about quantum mechanics but it is nothing like quantum mechanics – it is very interesting and easy to understand with the help of Prof. Kioupakis.

**What is your favorite material?** CdTe nano-assemblies because I know a lot about them.

## DEI News

### 2021 Virtual MLK Jr. Symposium set for January 18

As the U-M community grapples with the ramifications of a global pandemic and examines meaningful ways to address systemic racism, "Where Do We Go

From Here?" is the theme of the 2021 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium. The annual keynote memorial lecture will take place virtually at **10 a.m. on Monday, January 18.**
**Read more.**

### DEI Student Allies Mailbox

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

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## This week's ho-ho-ho!


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**Our mailing address is:**
2300 Hayward St.

3062 H.H. Dow Building
Ann Arbor, MI  48109





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