



Welcome back!

Hope you all had a relaxing summer and are excited to be back for the **2021-22 school year...and another round of TeamMSE newsletters!** The goal of our bi-weekly TeamMSE is to keep you up to date on the latest MSE news, research, student/faculty awards and events. If you have information you'd like to share with the community, please email **Kristen Freshley** at krisfres@umich.edu. Any and all suggestions/comments regarding TeamMSE are welcome, too! Happy first day of classes and here's to a successful, uninterrupted year!

A message from the MSE Department Chair



MSE students, staff and faculty,

Welcome back to campus as we start the academic year 2021-22.

Last academic year, we worked together, mostly virtually, to successfully execute our mission to educate and train our students who aspire to be the leaders and best in engineering careers. Our 2020/21 graduates have moved on to exciting career opportunities in diverse employment sectors in industry, national labs, academia and others.

We learned during the pandemic that scientists literally saved the world. Science and engineering disciplines, and hence our mission, have never been more important as they are now as we look towards discovering and implementing innovative solutions to improved quality of life on our planet.

Although the situation has improved significantly compared to last year, we still have some uncertainties and challenges to face in a full recovery from the pandemic. The last 18 months have been hard on all of humanity. Every individual has their unique experience of the difficulties they faced and how they overcame the challenges. I encourage you to show compassion, caring and respect for everyone on campus.

I believe that better and brighter days are ahead. Have a great academic year and enjoy your learning experience!

Amit Miza

The Latest Covid News

As we learned all too well last year, Covid-related information and policies can change quickly and sometimes be confusing. Here are the top things you need to know now:

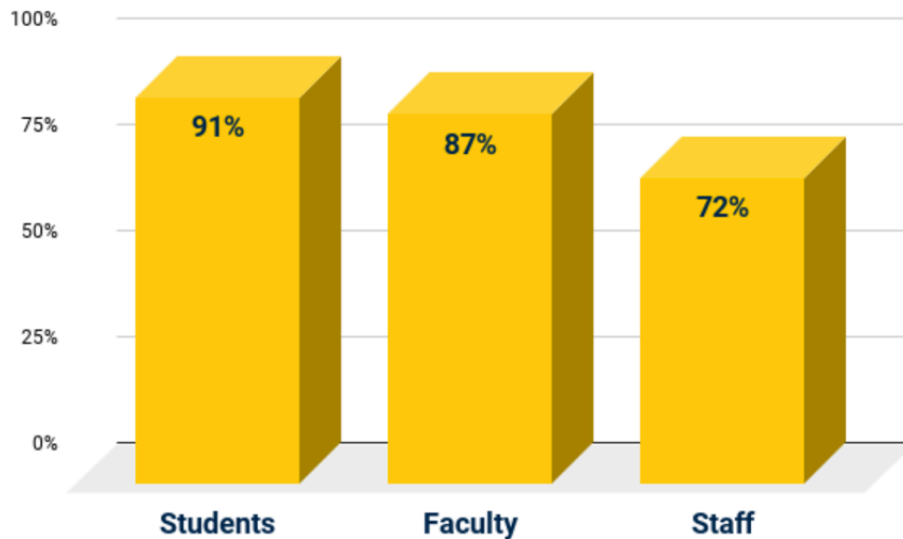
- Face coverings are currently required indoors in most settings on campus regardless of your vaccination status.
- **COVID-19 vaccines are required**, with limited exemptions, for all students, faculty and staff.
- All members of the U-M community coming to campus are **required to use ResponsiBLUE**, the daily symptom checker.
- **Testing for asymptomatic COVID-19** remains available through the Community Tracking and Sampling Program for those who want it or are required to test weekly.
- **If you feel sick, stay home.** This helps reduce the likelihood of spreading a range of infections, including Covid and influenza.

U-M Vaccine Enforcement Policies

Today, August 30, is the deadline for self-reporting your vaccination status. After today, all individuals who are not fully vaccinated will be required to get tested weekly for COVID-19 until they are fully vaccinated.

Campus Vaccination Rates

The graph below indicates the percent of the Ann Arbor campus who have self-reported and been verified as fully vaccinated, as of Aug. 24. These numbers are even higher within engineering, and we will report an update on that when it becomes available.

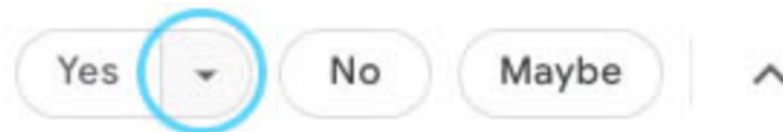


Engineering buildings unlocked

MCards are no longer needed to access Michigan Engineering buildings from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday. It will still be needed after hours and on weekends.

New Google Calendar feature

You can now accept an invitation and indicate if you'll be there virtually or in person. There's a little dropdown next to the "Yes" button on meeting invites.



Watch President Schlissel's COVID-19 Briefing

Last Friday U-M President Mark Schlissel gave a Campus COVID-19 briefing, covering issues ranging from the importance of vaccination to the development of updated campus response metrics and mitigation strategies, safety in our classrooms, breakthrough cases, and compliance with university policies.

[Watch the briefing video.](#)

Links to important Covid resources

[Find a vaccine and submit your info](#)

For the latest stories and updates: [Campus Maize and Blueprint](#).

Upcoming MSE events



First pre-seminar "Coffee and Conversation" this Friday

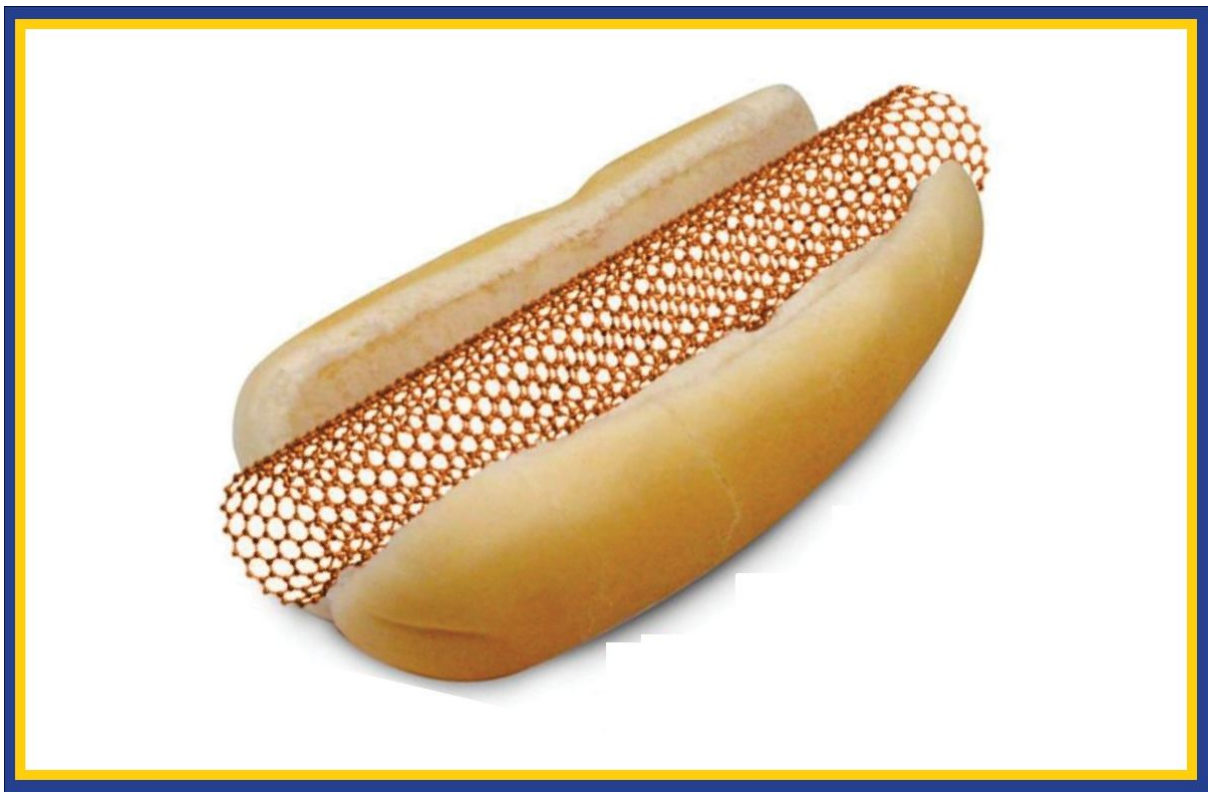
We are excited to announce a new weekly social hour that will be held before every Friday seminar for graduate students, faculty and staff. Our first **Coffee and Conversation** will be this Friday, Sept. 3, 9:45 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. in the MSE Student Lounge, 2162 Dow. Hope you can join us!!

DEI Lecture with RELATE - Sept. 3



The 2021 Fall Seminar Series kicks off this Friday with a presentation by RELATE members Alex Kate Halvey (MSE Ph.D. candidate) and Alondra Ortiz (ME Ph.D. student), "Making Science Communication a Conversation." The lecture begins at 10:30 a.m. in 1670 Beyster.

MSE Welcome Back Picnic - Sept. 3



Friday, Sept. 3

5-8:00 p.m.

Gallup Park, Maas Pavilion

Thank you to everyone who signed up for our annual MSE Welcome Back Picnic -- and it was A LOT of you! We have a RECORD crowd this year, so this year's event on Friday will be extra fun. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and games, and we'll see you at Gallup Park!

MSE Open House - Sept. 9



Thursday, Sept. 9

5-7:00 p.m.

Borg Warner Gallery, G.G. Brown

MSE is hosting an Open House for all undeclared undergraduates who are considering majoring in MSE. The event will include a presentation by Assistant Professor John Heron and materials demos. Spread the word to anyone you know who's interested in learning more about MSE!

MSE Career Fair - Oct. 1



Friday, Oct. 1

9 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Virtual

During our daylong Career Fair, MSE undergraduate and graduate students will be able to schedule individual virtual meetings with a wide variety of companies. Information on student registration will be available soon.

MSE Events coming this fall!

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.



2021 MSE ALUMNI
MERIT AWARD WINNER
MICHELLE GRIFFITH
(MSE '93, PHD '95)

Friday, Sept. 24

Cheseborough Auditorium

Dr. Griffith, a Senior Scientist at Sandia National Labs in Albuquerque, N.M., is recognized as a leading expert in next-generation satellite payloads and space architectures.



VAN VLACK
LECTURE SERIES
WITH **M. STANLEY
WHITTINGHAM**,
2019 NOBEL LAUREATE

Thursday, Oct. 7

Rackham Auditorium

Friday, Oct. 8

Stamps Auditorium

Considered to be the “Father of the Lithium Ion Battery,” Professor Whittingham is a SUNY distinguished professor of chemistry and MSE at Binghamton and has been active in Li-batteries since 1971.

Faculty News

Welcome to MSE, Assistant Professor Claudia Loebel!



Our newest faculty hire is Claudia Loebel. Originally from Germany, Prof. Loebel joins us after a five-year postdoc fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. To help you get to know her a little, we asked her some questions about her research background and why she chose to come to U-M.

Q: What are your research area(s) and ultimate goals?

CL: My research focuses on recreating the complex interactions between cells and their extracellular matrix environment using dynamic biomaterials, microfabrication and extracellular matrix manipulation techniques. By developing these tools, I aim to build models of tissue morphogenesis and disease, and for personalized medicine. My ultimate goal is to use these engineered systems towards developing and translating more effective therapeutic treatments for diseases such as fibrotic, inflammatory, and congenital disorders.

Q: Why did you choose to come to U-M?

CL: I am excited to join U-M for its leading researchers, diversity of expertise and emphasis on collaborative research, which is supported by an immense number of basic and translational research institutes and facilities. In this resource-rich environment, I expect to build a research program that develops engineering tools for directing tissue regeneration/repair and be able to translate our findings into regenerative medicine applications.

Q: What are you looking forward to most about starting at U-M?

CL: The part I am looking forward to most are the interactions with students and trainees. By building a cultural and intellectual diverse research group I hope to get them excited about science, and look forward to being part of their journey to become critical and diverse thinkers.

Q: What first sparked your interest in materials science and engineering?

What excites me most about materials science and engineering are the enormous opportunities to enhance a tissue's regenerative potential through the development and application of regenerative (bio)materials and engineering tools. By working at this interface of materials science and regenerative engineering, I aim to advance our fundamental understanding of materials in regenerative medicine and the development of therapeutics.

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time outside the lab?

CL: In my free time I enjoy endurance and outdoor sports, and in particular running and biking.



Cheng's hybrid transistor earns Best Poster Award



Che-Hsuan Cheng's research may help advance the design of next generation microchip devices, as well as ultrasensitive UV photodetectors. [Read more.](#)



PRIDE

OUTSIDE

2021

SEPTEMBER 5

2:00-4:30 PM

PALMER FIELD

Join us for music, free food and t-shirts, a drag show, lawn games, and tons of cool LGBTQ+ and affirming student organizations and local groups!





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