



So much to celebrate!

There's A LOT to get to in today's grand graduation issue! We have all the exciting highlights from our MSE Graduation Awards Dinner on April 24: a roll call of all our BSE, MSE and PhD graduates, a run-down of all our award winners, and a recap of our student speakers' speeches.

Ready, set, scroll!

Our final issue of the academic year -- which will feature all our MSE 482 and 365 teams and projects -- will be published the week of May 12.

Events look-back

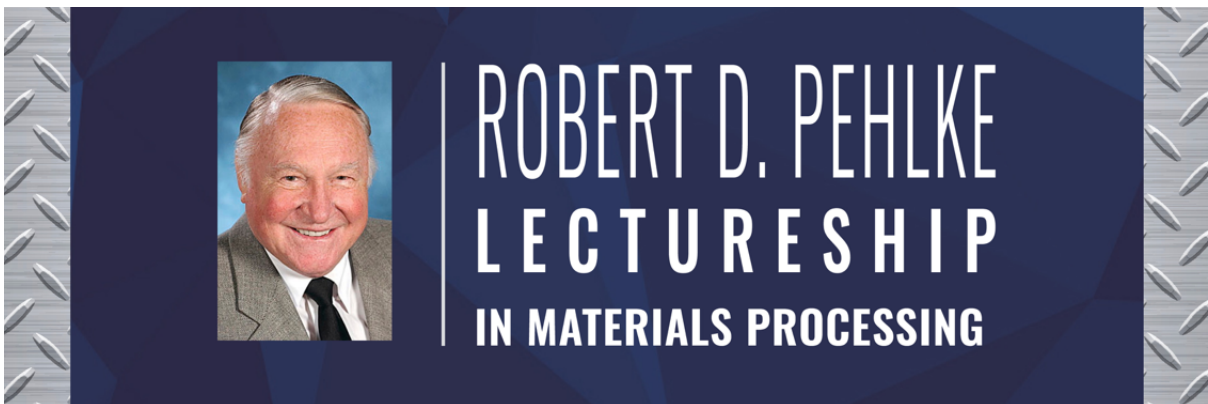
Patti Vogel celebrated at retirement party April 16



Members of the Classes of 2024 and 2025 gather around undergrad academic advisor **Patti Vogel** at her retirement party in the Blue Lounge on April 16. [Click here](#) to see more photos from the event.

"I would like to thank all of you that attended my retirement party and contributed to my gift. I have several fond memories of my time in MSE, working with such a great group of people I can call my friends. Everyone in MSE made my time a great place to work over the last 18 years and I appreciate all of you."

Thank you again,
Patti



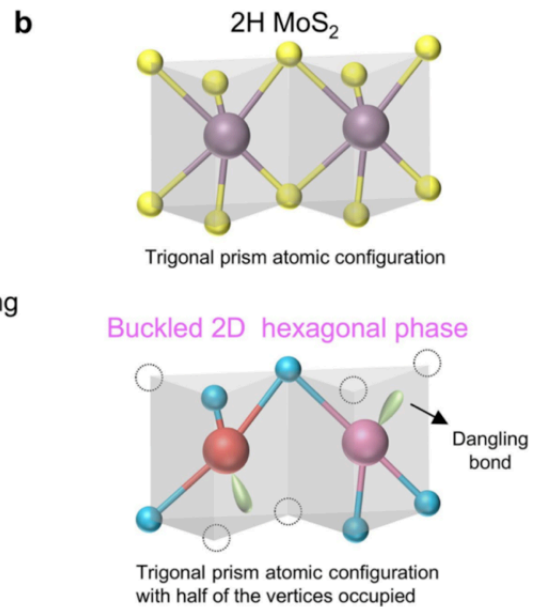
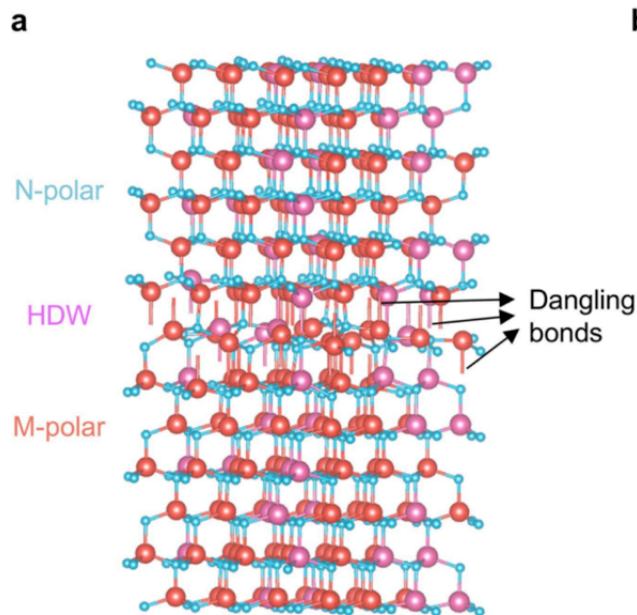
Jim Yurko shares Apple insights as 2025 Pehlke Lecturer



The highly anticipated visit of MSE alum **Jim Yurko**, senior distinguished engineer at Apple, as our 2025 Pehlke Lecturer didn't disappoint. During his time on campus last week, April 17 & 18, Jim mingled with MSE faculty and students at a special reception and delivered a fascinating lecture that gave attendees a behind-the-scenes look at three innovative materials he and his team brought to fruition: Titanium bonded to aluminum, Ceramic Shield cover glass and Physical Vapor Deposition (PVD). As MSE chair Liz Holm said when introducing Jim before his lecture: "We're as lucky as can be to have Jim as this year's Pehlke Lecturer." [Click here](#) to view photos from the event.

Research highlights

Advanced microelectronics: Why a next-gen semiconductor doesn't fall to pieces



A new semiconductor that can store information in electric fields is miraculously able to maintain two strong, opposite electric polarizations in the same material without breaking apart. However, the reason behind its stability was unknown, until ECE and MSE researchers, led by **Manos Kioupakis**, investigated it. [Read more.](#)

Faculty News & Awards

Geeta Mehta receives 2025 Faculty Outstanding Achievement Award



MSE Associate Professor Geeta Mehta was honored with the 2025 Faculty Outstanding Achievement Award at the Graduation Awards Dinner on April 24. “Professor Mehta exemplifies every characteristic of an outstanding faculty member,” said MSE chair Liz Holm. “She leads a people-first research program combatting ovarian cancer, she brings passion to her course instruction, and she is an exceptional advocate for our graduate students. We are delighted to celebrate her achievements with this award.”
Congratulations, Geeta!

Student News & Awards

Two MSE-affiliated undergrads receive NSF Fellowships



Will Millsaps and **Miti Shah**, both members of the Hovden lab, were recently awarded NSF Graduate Research Fellowships. Millsaps, a 2024 graduate in engineering physics, has worked specifically with electron tomography. Shah, a senior pursuing a double major in electrical engineering and engineering physics, was the primary author of the Atlas of Fourier Transforms, a book that guides scientists of all backgrounds in the art of moving between real space and Fourier space. Remarkably, Millsaps and Shah (who are both heading to Stanford next year), extend Robert Hovden's perfect record (6-for-6!) with undergraduates in his lab earning the prestigious award. *Congratulations, Will, Miti and Robert!* [Read more.](#)

MMS & GSC announce 2025-26 board members

The MMS president for next year is **Matteo Carcassi**. He will be joined by:

Olivia Schroder - Internal VP
Chase Walraven - External VP
Eli Richey - Secretary
Pranavi Gudi - Treasurer
Lillie Gregory - Social Chair
Bella Callfas - Outreach Chair
Amiya Johnson, Binh Nguyen - UG
Committee Representatives

At this time **GSC** is still searching for a president, but the rest of the board includes:

Gabi Grey - Vice President
Marisa Perez - Secretary
Raylan Jiao - Treasurer
Josh Willwerth - Social Chair
Lucero Lopez - Advocacy Chair
Caroline Harms - Mentorship Chair
Alp Kurbay - Professional Chair
Ellery Hendrix - DEI Chair

PhD graduates celebrated at special dinner May 1



2025 Ph.D. graduates **Vaidehi Menon** (Qi), **Joonsoo Kim** (Sun), **Zhucong Xi** (Qi), Zhixiong Yin (Poudeu), **Tony Chiang** (Heron) and **Emily Oliphant** (Sun/Kioupakis) (along with **Jared Mitchell**, not pictured, of the Goldman group), celebrated with Liz Holm, Renee Hilgendorf and each of their respective Ph.D. advisors at Venue on May 1. This inaugural event to celebrate each of our Ph.D. graduates is a tradition that Holm plans to continue in future years.

Graduation Awards Dinner Recap



More than 80 people attended the 2025 Graduation Awards Dinner held in the Ford Robotics Building last Thursday, April 24 to celebrate the MSE Class of

2025, which consisted of 30 undergrads, 25 master's and 18 Ph.D. graduates. Thank you to everyone who attended for making it such a joyful evening, and **CONGRATULATIONS to ALL our amazing graduates! We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what indelible marks you make on the world!** [Click here](#) to see photos from the dinner.

Gendich and Wissuchek 'wave' farewell in speeches



In his speech, MMS president **Micah Gendich**, a 2024 graduate now in the SUGS program, shared “outsourced” answers from questions he asked seniors, which included favorite memories, funniest blunders, and why MSE means so much. “MSE is broad and impactful,” he shared. “Anything we do in this field matters somewhere. I like to believe that we’re making a difference - even if it’s atomically small.” Gendich then proceeded to lead “one last experiment” - a “live grain boundary nucleation and growth simulation with hand wave” - by asking everyone to perform “the wave” around the room. He closed with an apropos toast: “May the next phases of our lives be thermodynamically stable.”



GSC president **Forrest Wissuchek**, a 5th-year PhD candidate in the Misra group, emphasized how strong and important the MSE community is - both now and in the future. “We all have our own projects and our own passions pulling us a million ways,” he said. “but the MSE community always shows up. I have seen firsthand how the community in this department has strengthened and supported each other. I hope that even after you’ve stepped off this campus and have had your last bite of a Jerusalem Garden or Grand Traverse Pie Company sandwich, that you always find a shared comradery with fellow graduates of this university and the broader MSE community.”



Undergraduates



Lauren Adams



Samson Adler



Emily Barkes (Dec.)



Ashton Brimmer

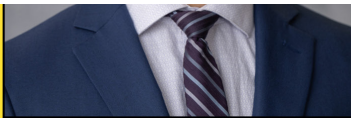


Joshua Carlson



Daniel Casey





Avelo Cohen (Dec.)



Yixiang Covell



Riel Dickow (Aug.)



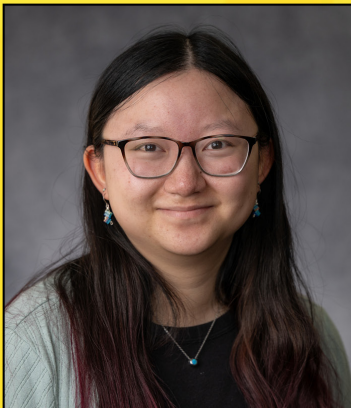
Nicolette Harvey



Margot Helft



Sasha Hill



Janice Huang



Arielle Jean



Naszir Mantilla



Cameron Marteen



Dale Mouton



Madinabonu Nosirova

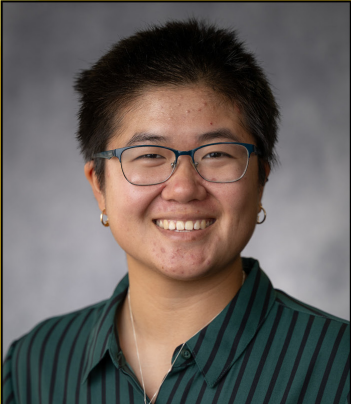


**MATERIALS SCIENCE
& ENGINEERING**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Dayo Ogundipe



Javier Sais



Michelle Tong



Hannah Wolfe



**MATERIALS SCIENCE
& ENGINEERING**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Maximillian Parr



Tylor Skrzypcak



Elizabeth Troia



Jennifer Yung



Molly Rodgers



Logan Smith



Timothy Woike



Wuwei Zhang





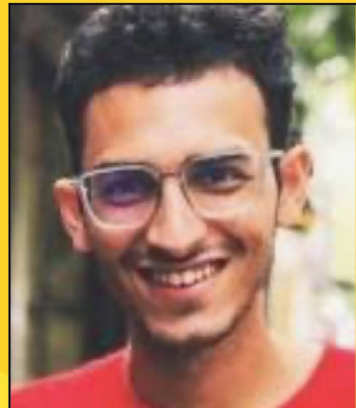
Master's graduates



Abdulrahman Alzahrani



Erin Clingerman



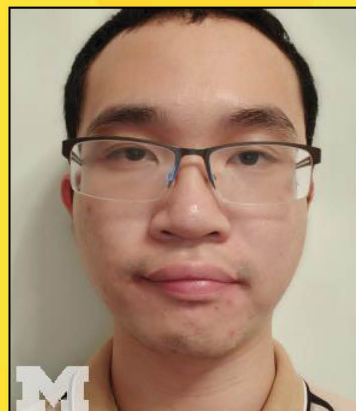
Yash Dadeech



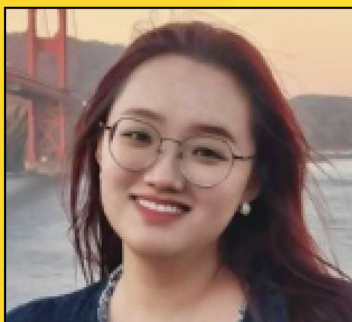
Micah Gendich (Dec.)



Pulkit Gupta

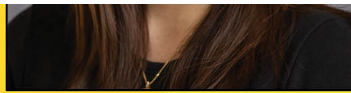


Kai Hong





Chuqi Huang



Sabrina Huynh



Arijit Jatkar



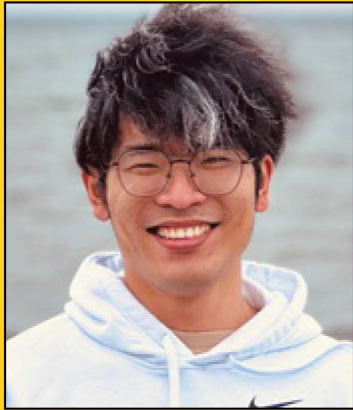
Yiqun Li



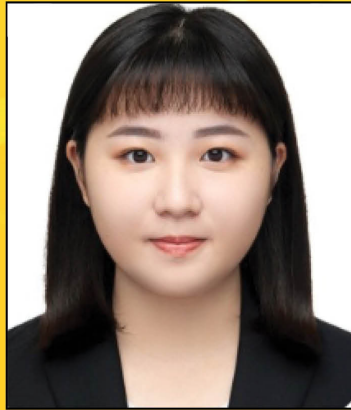
Yuhan Li



Tyler Lindemann



Qinghe Liu



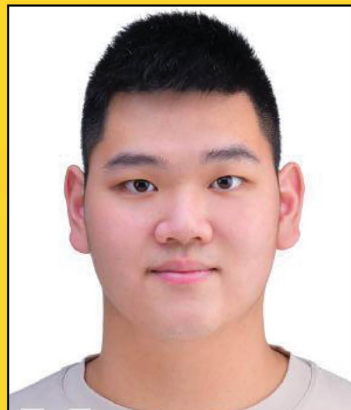
Anita Liu



Yujie Liu



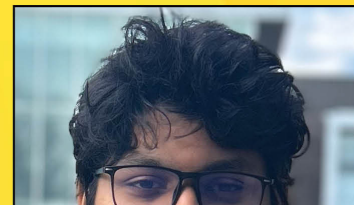
Manasi Londhe



Yinchi Lu

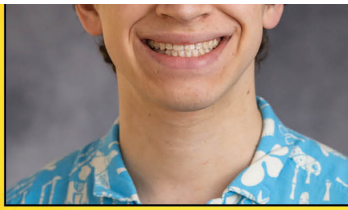


Bingqian Pan

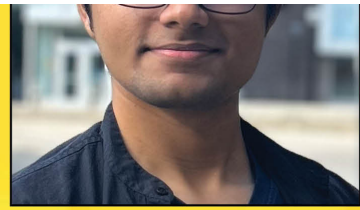




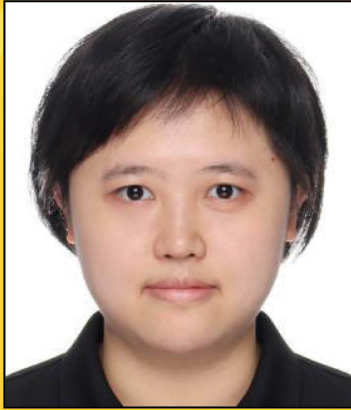
Anna Pourier



Ben Routhier



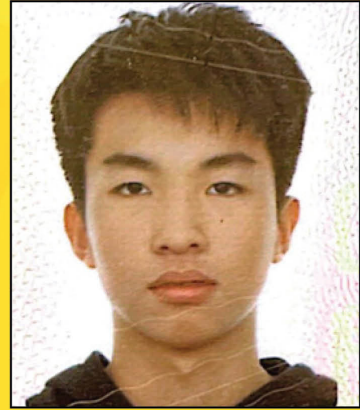
Lakshman Vijay



Xiao Xiao



Yiheng Xiao



Shaojie Xu



Yu Zheng



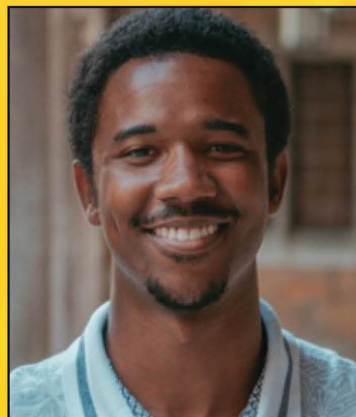
Ph.D. graduates



**Ahmad Matar Abed
(Peterson)**



**Tony Chiang
(Heron)**



**Joshua Cooper
(Goldman)**



**Sam Frisone
(Goldman)**



**Tao-Yu Huang
(Goldman)**



**Chao Huang
(Shtein)**



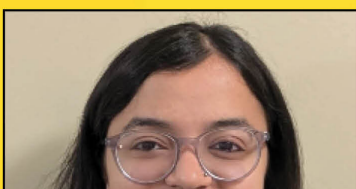
**John Kim
(Lahann)**

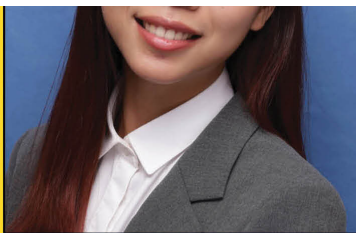


**Joonsoo IKim
(Sun)**

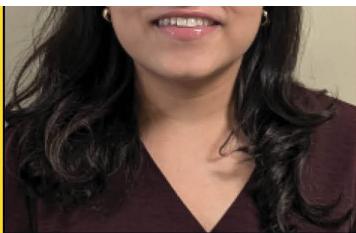


**Sophie Lee
(Glutzer)**

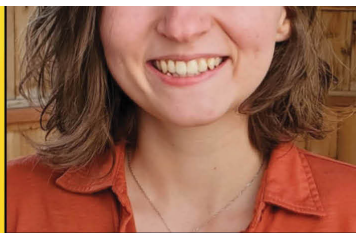




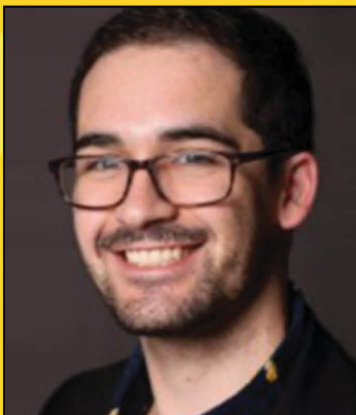
Abby Liu
(Goldman)



Vaidehi Menon
(Qi)



Emily Oliphant
(Sun/Kioupakis)



Max Palmer
(Sakamoto/Li)



Vishal Subramanian
(Gavini)



Matthew Webb
(Heron/Kioupakis)



Zhucong Xi
(Qi)



Zhixiong Yin
(Poudeu)



Zane Zhang
(Pena-Francesch)



James P. Lettieri Award: Molly Rodgers



James P. Lettieri Award: Michelle Tong



James P. Lettieri Award: Wuwei Zhang



Brian Worth Prize: Elizabeth Troia



Anvil Award: Matteo Carcassi



MMS Distinguished Member: Jen Yung





Graduate Recognition Awards

Graduate Student Council (GSC)



2024-25 GSC board: Forrest Wissuchek, Gabi Grey, Marcel Chlupsa, Caroline Harms, Lakshman Vijay, Raylan Jiao, and Andrew Jalbert. Not pictured: Zoe Meyer, Celeste Perez, Marisa Perez, and Ellery Hendrix.

Graduate Recruiting recognition



Organizers of 2025 Graduate Recruiting visits in March: Jason Manassa and Forrest Wissuchek.

First to Publish: Nick Amano



First to Publish (2023 cohort):

Nick Amano (Holm group) published "Microscopy modality transfer of steel microstructures: Inferring scanning electron micrographs from optical microscopy using generative AI," in *Materials Characterization*, February 1, 2025.



Happy Graduation and GO BLUE!!



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