June 30, 2017

June 2017 Media Report - a monthly sampling of what is being written about the MSU Engineering community

Xiaobo Tan, an MSU Foundation Professor of electrical and computer engineering, was featured at AAAS during a lecture and presentation on GRACE, MSU’s robotic fish that uses a flexible mechanized muscle to move through water and sense hydrodynamics.

Forbes says: electrical engineering, software design, chemical engineering, computer engineering and mechanical engineering are tops in starting salaries this year; and don't overlook computer programming and computer science. Forbes

MSU is one of 22 universities that will share $1 million for hands-on learning in robotics, thermodynamics, design, and materials development, thanks to the DENSO North America Foundation. Automation.com

University Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Anil Jain tells the Wall Street Journal that China’s surveillance state will need better algorithms and cameras to continue to read millions of citizens’ faces. Wall Street Journal

Shanker Balasubramaniam, associate chair of the Department of Computational Mathematics, Science and Engineering and aprofessor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Venkatesh Kodur, chair and professor of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, were named University Distinguished Professors by the MSU Board of Trustees June 21. The designation is among the top honors awarded to MSU faculty members. MSUToday

Water management techniques like reservoirs, dams, and irrigation measures have improved water availability for many around the globe, but they can sweep water scarcity problems downstream. That’s the finding of international research that included the work of water expert Yadu Pokhrel, assistant professor of civil and environmental
Research into stopping the degradation and failure of offshore oil transportation systems has earned Roozbeh Dargazany, assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, an American Chemistry Society Petroleum Research Fund doctoral new investigator grant.

Faculty expert available -- Venkatesh Kodur, renowned fire safety expert in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is available to comment on the devastating high-rise fire in London.

MSU will benefit from a $2.9 million grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to encourage the recycling of old tires.

Nexteer Automotive and MSU will debut a new electrical engineering program in the Great Lakes Bay Region this fall. MSU will use its academic facilities in Midland to increase advanced graduate-level engineering education in the Bay area.

John Verboncoeur, associate dean for research, was part of a roundtable discussion on mobility in May, which was turned printed and distributed at last week’s Mackinac Policy Conference. Gov. Rick Snyder mentioned Michigan’s “transportation transformation” and mobility at least a dozen times during his keynote address at the Mackinac conference, May 24-26.
Professor Don Morelli was named chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, effective June 1.

The promotion of Road 2 Composites, an MSU-IACMI national workshop in May, is still actively moving around industry and MSU.

Alumni news
Craig A. Rogerson ('79, chemical engineering) will become the chairman, president and CEO of Hexion Inc., starting July 10. He formerly led Chemtura.

The memoir of Ron Flinn ('60, civil engineering) is a history lesson on how MSU became a great American university. His leadership in Infrastructure Planning and Facilities helped bring MSU to the forefront of energy conservation. The Lansing State Journal reported on his new book, “A Rendezvous with MSU.”

Incoming students
Emma Turkmani was among the 40 students awarded Rosa Parks Scholarships June 15 at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit. A graduate of North Farmington High School, she will study mechanical engineering.

Dow Chemical Employees’ Credit Union awarded 10 $1,500 scholarships through two scholarship programs. One goes to Megan Greer of Midland High School, who will study engineering.

MSU Pride Points
• June 7: Mary Anne Walker, director of global engineering, will tour universities in Bonn, Cologne, Bochum and Hamburg June 18-24 on a DAAD academic research exchange.
• June 23: Koenig Endowed Chair Kalyanmoy Deb and student co-author, Himanshu Jain, received the “IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation Outstanding Paper Award” in Spain.
• June 26: CMSE chair Andrew Christlieb is among the five MSU faculty and academic administrators recently named 2017-18 Fellows in the Academic Leadership Program of the Big Ten Academic Alliance.
• June 27: Fraunhofer USA recently completed a diamond on a diamond, all grown, patterned, and processed in the MSU Fraunhofer Center for Coatings and Diamond Technologies on the south end of campus.
• June 30: Garth Motschenbacher, director of employee relations in the College of Engineering, was honored with a Distinguished Service Award by the Engineering Society of Detroit.

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