April 2018 Media Report

May 1, 2018

April Media Report: A monthly sampling of what is being written about the MSU Engineering

MSU's Innovation Center hosted the annual Innovation Celebration April 19, highlighting ground-breaking technology from MSU labs and startup companies from across campus. The MSU Innovation of the Year Award was presented to Donald Morelli, chair and professor of chemical engineering and materials science, for his work in thermoelectric technology. Lawrence T. Drzal, University Distinguished Professor in chemical engineering and materials science, was presented the 2018 MSU Technology Transfer Achievement Award.

Technology Century

Arun Ross, professor of computer science and engineering, offered expert comments on the privacy and security risks of facial recognition in this national video.

Market Watch

The amount of plastic floating around in the ocean is getting national attention, but Ramani Narayan, a University Distinguished Professor in chemical engineering and materials science, says touting plastic-eating bacteria as the solution misses the point. “It is implied … this new enzyme is the breakthrough we have been waiting for. That’s just not the case.”

Living Lab Radio Boston

University Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Anil Jain offered expert commentary on “Why dead fingers (usually) can’t unlock phones.”

Live Science
Midland area students were honored at Michigan State University with Aspirations in Computing Awards. The event was co-hosted by Professor Laura Dillon of Computer Science and Engineering.

Midland Daily News

As Flint moves on from its 2014 water crisis, Flint residents still lack faith in elected leaders. For months now, however, the water has registered normal lead levels and families can drink their water without fear. "In a sample of 92 homes in Flint, MSU Professor Susan Masten of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering found that the 90th percentile lead value of samples was 4 parts per billion (ppb). The federal lead action level is 15 ppb."

Creators.com

#CuriousAboutCareers on WKAR Radio East Lansing visited ECE’s Shanelle Foster in the Electrical Machines and Drives Lab in the College of Engineering.

WKAR

John Verboncoeur, associate dean of research, will receive the Richard F. Shea Distinguished Member Award from the Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society of the IEEE, or Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers in June.

MSUToday

Academics, EPA toxicologist on Michigan PFAS science review panel -- Michigan has named five university scientists and one federal government toxicologist to a science review panel that will recommend possible regulatory measures for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances called PFAS or PFCs. The list includes Susan Masten, professor of civil and environmental engineering.

MLive

Alumni

Thomas Okray (BS CHEM ’85) will become senior vice president and chief financial officer at Grainger, the leading broad line supplier of maintenance, repair and operating products, on May 2. Thomas Okray most recently served as executive vice president and CFO for Advance Auto Parts.

Industrial Distribution

Incoming Students

Some of the top high school students in Kalamazoo County were recognized April 18 by the Excellence in Education program. This year, 47 seniors were selected for the honor and a $1,000 scholarship. Among them were Thomas Ankley of Kalamazoo Central High School, who will study chemical engineering at MSU, and Kyra Gerlofs of Parchment High School, who will study environmental engineering at MSU.

MLive
MSU Pride Points

• **April 3:** For distinctive service and research contributions to chemical engineering, **Robert Ofoli** has been elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

• **April 6:** **Tom Voice**, associate dean of engineering, is vice chair of the board of directors at Consumer Reporters and has served on the board for 10 years.

• **April 12:** **John Verboncoeur**, an associate dean of research in the College of Engineering, will receive the Richard F. Shea Distinguished Member Award from the Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society of IEEE.

Related Website: [Communications contact: Patricia Mroczek](https://www.egr.msu.edu/news/2018/05/01/april-2018-media-report)