A monthly media look on MSU Engineering

MSU’s plans to construct a new science, technology, **engineering** and mathematics facility in its 1940s power plant got national media notice, **including ASEE FIRST Bell**. MSU is spending nearly $100 million to renovate the former Shaw Lane power plant. Here’s a media sample:

**ASEE FIRST BELL**

Associated Press
Crain’s Detroit Business
Miami Herald
Petoskey News-Review
Sacramento Bee
San Francisco Chronicle
Tampa Bay
WJRT TV 12 Flint
WKAR East Lansing
WLNS TV 6 Lansing
WNEM TV 5 Saginaw
WWMT TV 3 Kalamazoo
WZZM TV 13 Grand Rapids

How close are we to having robot maids? Still far away, said **Joyce Chai, professor of computer science and engineering and the director of the Language and Interaction Research Group** at MSU. She underscored a few of the advances that will close the gap between humans and robots at the global artificial intelligence conference IJCAI-ECAI 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden, in July.

**Nordic Business Insider**

Autonomous researchers are trying to mimic a human driver’s brain – which is easy to say and difficult to do – says **MSU CANVAS Director Hayder Radha and professor of electrical and computer engineering**. Safety is key at
IACMI placed more than 40 composite materials interns in 19 locations this summer, including four through Michigan State University.

Roasting summer temperatures can make your gas go farther, Harold Schock, professor of automotive engineering at MSU, told the Dallas Morning News. He said the air on a 70-degree day is 16 percent less dense than on a zero-degree day, which could boost your mpg by 7 percent on the highway.

The Indian Institute of Technology – Madras (IIT-M) is reversing the trend of Indian students going abroad for PhD studies, thanks to 17 joint doctoral programs, including one with Michigan State University. Mary Anne Walker, director of global engineering at MSU, said interest is growing across all the engineering disciplines.

Kalyanmoy Deb, Koenig Endowed Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering, earned the 2018 IEEE CIS Evolutionary Computation Pioneer Award at the IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence for his pioneering contribution, development and leadership in evolutionary multi-criterion optimization on July 11.

MSU engineering students sounded the channel and won the “foehunt” at the 2018 IEEE Antennas and Propagation Symposium Student Design Competition in Boston, July 8-13. Team advisor is Jeffrey Nanzer, the Dennis P. Nyquist Assistant Professor of electrical and computer engineering.

Turning poo to power! Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering researcher Dana Kirk and his team worked with the Detroit Zoo to build the first anaerobic digester at a zoo in North America - creating clean energy to power some of the zoo’s operations. See a fun, animated video.
Drew Kim, assistant to the dean for recruitment and K-12 outreach, and Spartan Engineering faculty, staff, students and RET teachers again supported Metro Detroit Youth Day in July. RET teacher Lisa Van Order talks with TV Fox 2 Detroit.

*I-69 buckled in three places in the hot weather. How? It’s rare for roads to buckle in Michigan, said Syed Waqar Haider, an associate professor of civil engineering. Engineers call the phenomenon a pavement “blow up.”*  

*Lansing State Journal*

*Let the sun shine in.* Solar windows are not new but they tend to have a brown or reddish tint that makes them aesthetically unappealing and reduces their uptake in the market. Now, a team led by Richard Lunt, a chemical engineer from MSU, has published a paper in Joule that demonstrates the use of halide perovskites in absorbing the sun’s ultraviolet (UV) light as part of a transparent product.

*Utility Dive*

**Alumni**

Penny Wirsing (’83) will become president of the largest non-profit advocate for women in engineering, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), during inauguration ceremonies Aug. 2 in Redondo Beach, California.

*Global News Wire*

**MSU Pride Points**

- **July 18:** Spartan alum and new assistant dean for Graduate Student Services in the College of Engineering, Katy Luchini Colbry is the incoming chair of the American Society for Engineering Education's Graduate Studies Division.
- **July 30:** MSU engineering students won the international “foxhunt” at the 2018 IEEE Antennas and Propagation Symposium Student Design Competition.

**Related Website:** Communications contact: Patricia Mroczek