A monthly look at what the media is reporting on the MSU Engineering community

The race is on to create cheap materials to store energy for the U.S power grid, said **Mechanical Engineering Department Chair James Klausner**. MSU is sharing a $2 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). “We think we can return electricity to the grid at less than 5 cents per kilowatt hour,” he said. [Midwest Energy News](https://www.micr.net/article/2951/)

**Peter Savolainen**, a new MSU Foundation Professor in the **Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering**, joined MSU to better understand road user behavior. He talks about his mobility goals in a column on MSUToday. [MSUToday Faculty Voice](https://msutoday.msu.edu/)

**Bryan Smith**, associate professor of **biomedical engineering**, and a former colleague at Stanford University have created a computer simulation, validated by experimental results, to help design drug-delivery nanoparticles that carry cancer-fighting medicines directly to tumors. Their research was published in Biophysical Journal. [dBusiness (Detroit)](http://www.detroitbusiness.com/)

MSU signed a dual PhD agreement with the National Technical University of Athens in Greece for the preparation and training of engineers at both academic institutions. **Dean Leo Kempel** and **MSU Foundation Professor John Papapolymerou**, who chairs the **Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering**, signed on behalf of MSU. [Michigan Technology News](https://www.michigan-technology-news.org/)

More than 1.5 million Michigan residents and potentially many more nationwide have PFAS-tainted water. **Michigan State University** and **Fraunhofer USA, Inc. Center for Coatings and Diamond Technologies** are developing a scalable treatment option for PFAS-contaminated wastewater.
University Distinguished Professor of Computer Science & Engineering Anil Jain:

- Facial recognition is being used in animal conservation. A Norwegian fish farm company hopes to use face identification technology in high-tech salmon farms to check the animals for a parasite called sea lice and other health problems. Michigan State University created a system that can recognize the faces of individual lemurs to track the health of endangered species.

- Spain's most-read newspaper featured Anil Jain after he was presented an honorary degree by the Autonomous University of Madrid in recognition of 50 years of advancing the study of pattern recognition.

IACMI is closing the loop on automotive carbon fiber prepreg manufacturing scrap for use in new automotive applications. Its partners include … Michigan State University in East Lansing.

Aitor Aguirre, assistant professor of biomedical engineering and IQ, works on understanding how human tissues respond to injury and how they regenerate when they are injured.

MSU is improving the retention of women in computer science with a one-credit Computational Thinking Lab. See what Computer Science and Engineering Professor Laura Dillon had to say on this active learning option.

Students

Year 2 of the AutoDrive Challenge has kicked off. Spartan Engineers are again among the eight teams sponsored by General Motors and SAE International to develop and demonstrate a fully autonomous passenger vehicle by the end of Year 3. See video:
Former faculty
Herman D. Hughes, professor emeritus of computer science and engineering and former assistant dean of the graduate school at MSU, was honored as a 2018 Outstanding Alumni at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.
KATC TV 3 Louisiana

Alumni
Mark Van Port Fleet, a 1979 civil engineering graduate, has been named the new director of the Michigan Department of Transportation and will lead its 2,500 employees and $4.7 billion annual budget.
Crain's Detroit News
Detroit News

Shannon Venable (BS ELEC EGR ’82) is the CEO and president of the Children’s Museum of Richmond, Virginia.
Richmond Times Dispatch

What started as a computer science capstone project featuring dungeons and giants has launched as a video game for alumni Patrick Williams, Chris Ulrich, Zach Klegon, Matthew Bearup, and Elan Gleiber. They spent 12-hour days for nearly three years on “Rogues Like Us.”
City Pulse

MSU Pride Points
• Oct. 2: A research team led James Klausner and Joerg Petrasch of mechanical engineering received a competitive $2 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) to develop innovative designs for long-duration storage on the U.S power grid.
• Oct. 5: In recognition of 50 years of advancing the study of pattern recognition, University Distinguished Professor Anil Jain was presented an honorary doctorate by the Autonomous University of Madrid.
• Oct. 15: PhD student Muhamad Munum Masud of civil and environmental engineering will be recognized at the 2019 Transportation Research Board annual meeting in Washington, D.C., for winning first place honors for his data analysis on long-term pavement performance.

Related Website: Communications contact: Patricia Mroczek