



Department of Mechanical Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

news for alumni • fall 2020

From our chair

Greetings! I am excited and humbled to take over as chair of the UW-Madison Department of Mechanical Engineering, following seven years of exceptional leadership by Jaal Ghandhi. During Jaal's term, the department hired a terrific group of 18 faculty who are taking us in exciting new directions. He forged strong relationships with our alumni, many of whom have generously given back in a way that enables strategic new investments in education and research. To top it off, Jaal guided us during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic as our normal models of teaching were thrown into disarray. The department is in a good position, and we are excited to move forward and build from here.



[Visit our website to read my full chair's message.](#)

On, Wisconsin!

Darryl Thelen

*John Bollinger Chair of Mechanical Engineering
Bernard A. and Frances M. Weideman Professor*

Mask insights

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, Professors Scott Sanders and David Rothamer pivoted from their combustion engine research to study the effectiveness of different types of face masks at filtering aerosol particles.

[Read more](#)



New faculty

Assistant Professor Michael Wagner optimizes energy technologies to allow more renewables to be incorporated into the grid.

[Read more](#)



Investment with impact

A historic \$32 million commitment from The Grainger Foundation of Lake Forest, Illinois, will propel the College of Engineering on its growth trajectory. The pledge establishes the Grainger Dean of the College of Engineering, and funds a major undergraduate scholarship program and seven professorships.

[Read more](#)

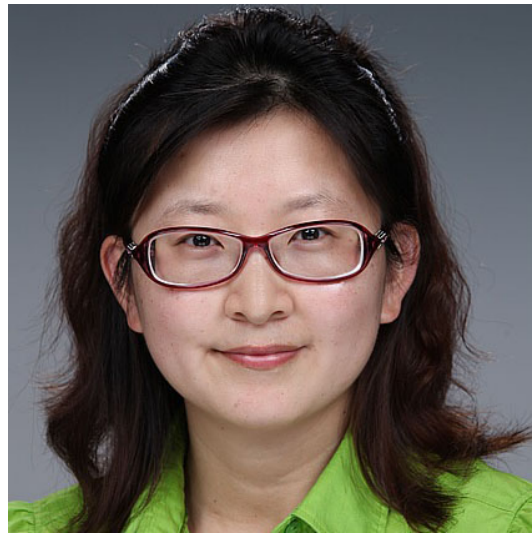


More headlines

- With an \$11.5 million contract from the U.S. Army, Professor David Rothamer is leading a research project [to enable multi-fuel capable hybrid-electric engines](#).
- Alum Keegan Karl (BSME '10) is working with his two brothers to [disrupt the kit aircraft industry](#) with their DarkAero 1 plane.
- Tim Osswald, Consolidated Papers Foundation Chair sponsored by the Mead Witter Foundation in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, is participating in a new [multi-university plastic recycling research center](#) funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Bioenergy Technologies Office.



Grad students Chloe Gunderson and Logan Kossel received prestigious [NASA Space Technology Graduate Research Opportunities fellowships](#) to support their cryogenics research.



Assistant Professor Wenxiao Pan is developing a theoretically sound and computationally efficient framework for [modeling soft matter systems at the mesoscale](#).

We're hiring for an assistant professor in the areas of controls, robotics, autonomous systems and dynamic systems. [Apply by Dec. 20, 2020](#), for an August 2021 start.

