



Department of Mechanical Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

news for alumni • spring 2020

From our chair

Another academic year has come to a close. This spring semester has been anything but ordinary, though, amid the uncertainty of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly all of us are now carrying out our research, teaching and other work remotely, which is why we are connecting with you electronically. We also just celebrated commencement remotely ([the university](#) and the [College of Engineering](#)). We are proud of our newly minted graduates and hope we can honor them on campus in the future.



While our top priority has been supporting our students, faculty and staff during this time of upheaval, we are also doing what we can as a college and a department to use our expertise to help our state, country and world combat the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope you and your loved ones are well, and thank you for your support of our department.

On, Wisconsin!

Jaal Gandhi,
*John Bollinger Chair of Mechanical Engineering
& Grainger Professor of Sustainable Energy*

Driving mask solutions

Engineers in our Engine Research Center are retooling instruments used to measure emissions to test alternative materials for N95 masks.

[Read more](#)



Face shields

Professor Tim Osswald contributed his polymer manufacturing expertise to help design face shields for medical workers amid a widespread shortage.

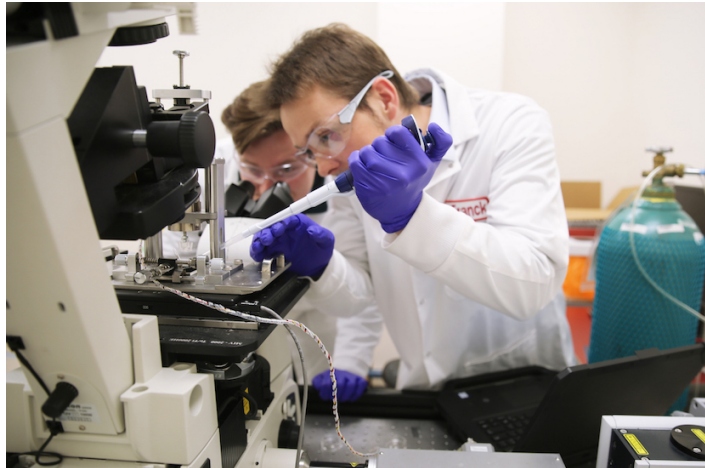
[Read more](#)



Chilling concussions

Associate Professor Christian Franck identified key parameters for using therapeutic cooling to mitigate damage to concussed cells.

[Read more](#)



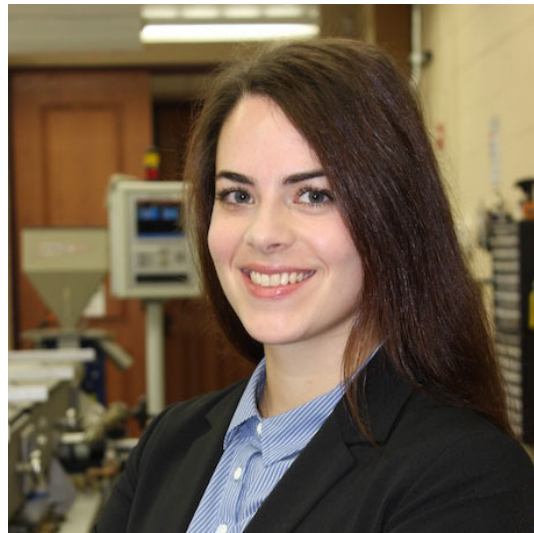
More headlines

- Professor Emeritus Glen E. Myers [passed away in December 2019](#), and his family has established a scholarship in his honor. You can [contribute to the scholarship fund here](#).

- We have welcomed five new assistant professors to the department this academic year: [Joseph Andrews](#), [Josh Roth](#), [Xiangru Xu](#), [Dakotah Thompson](#) and [Lianyi Chen](#).
- Professor Tim Osswald [is advising the Colombian government](#) on policy for its new Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.
- Graduate students Jonathon Blank and Rebecca Roembke and undergraduate student Paul Slaughter have won prestigious [National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships](#).
- First-generation college student Will Carstens [persevered through hardship](#) to land an engineering degree and his dream job.



Assistant Professor Alejandro Roldán-Alzate has found [significant differences in blood flow](#) in the hearts of healthy men and women.



PhD student Sara Simon's research could enable auto manufacturers to produce better vehicle components [using fiber-reinforced polymers](#).

Help UW-Madison engineers respond to COVID-19

