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# UC DAVIS

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## MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe a year has passed since the initial stay-at-home orders were put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While our lives have been impacted in unimaginable ways, our students, faculty and staff, have remained committed to their research, teaching and service.

All experimental labs in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) have resumed in-person work at limited capacity with cleaning and social distancing procedures in place. In addition, three lab classes were approved for in-person instruction for spring quarter. UC Davis has also received [national attention for our testing protocols](#) that extend to the greater city of Davis.

Our faculty and students also continue to earn accolades, including Assistant Professor Scott McCormack, who received the prestigious [NSF Early Career Faculty Development \(CAREER\) Award](#), as well as current Ph.D. student Meghna Srivastava and alumnus Max Win '20, who were named NSF Graduate Research Program Fellows. We are also looking forward to [Give Day 2021](#) on April 16-17, when you can support the Materials Science and Engineering Excellence Fund.

You can read more exciting news from the department in the three stories below and on our [website](#).

Take care and stay safe,

**Yayoi Takamura**

Professor and Chair

UC Davis Department of Materials Science and Engineering

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**Ph.D. student Yiqing Xia to present at the North American Materials Colloquium Series April 8-9**



*MSE Ph.D. student Yiqing Xia will present his work on nano-confined liquids in mesoporous silica at the 2021 North American Colloquium Series. Photo courtesy of Yiqing Xia.*

Materials science and engineering Ph.D. student Yiqing Xia has been chosen as a presenter for the 2021 North American Materials Colloquium Series, a competitive virtual materials science seminar series involving more than 35 MSE programs from around the country. [He will present his recent research on the thermodynamic and kinetic behavior of nano-confined liquids on April 8-9](#), representing UC Davis, the MSE department and his research on confined liquids and glassy materials.

[\[Read more\]](#)

## Ricardo Castro and the Science of Superheroes



*Photo: Reeta Asmai/UC Davis.*

Through an undergraduate course, an outreach program and his own research, MSE professor Ricardo Castro has turned the fantastic world of superheroes into a way to inspire students and scientists to achieve the impossible through engineering.

[\[Read more\]](#)

## Alumni Spotlight: Emily Beeman '17



*Photo courtesy of Emily Beeman.*

MSE alumna Emily Beeman '17 joined UC Berkeley's Marvell Nanofabrication Lab in 2017 and found her lab and networking experience at UC Davis allowed her to easily step into her role as an R&D process engineer for the lab's photolithography equipment.

Beeman found her calling in electronic materials early in her time at UC Davis, when she saw a demonstration of how material structure changes make yellow LEDs turn green when dipped in liquid nitrogen. This motivated her to learn more and teach herself circuit design. Later, as chair of the UC Davis [Material Advantage Student Chapter \(MASC\)](#), she was able to bring these concepts to the annual Materials Magic Show on Picnic Day.

[\[Read more\]](#)

## Additional Department News and Links

- [Zuhair A. Munir honored for contributions to ceramic engineering](#)
- [Ph.D. Student Tucker Murrey wins 2021 Excellence in Graduate Student Safety Award](#)
- [Jeffery Gibeling wins TMS Oleg D. Sherby Award](#)
- [Ph.D. student Meghna Srivastava wins best poster awards at 2020 MRS Conference](#)

We want to hear from you! Share your updates with us by filling out the [College of Engineering's alumni update form](#) or [msechair@ucdavis.edu](mailto:msechair@ucdavis.edu).



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