Silicon Carbide imaged by the Hirox Digital Microscope
Acquired by Alan Martinez, ARSC Staff
We are pleased to share this second edition of our Materials Science, Engineering, and Commercialization (MSEC) newsletter. We are now publishing this newsletter twice a year to keep everyone informed about major achievements, milestones, and changes in our program.

I am so honored to have been named Interim Director of the MSEC program. Our previous director, Dr. Jennifer Irvin, remains as Associate Director while taking on her new role as Co-Director of the Materials Application Research Center. As Interim Director, I hope to build upon the outstanding work of the past Director by bringing to bear my past experience directing and advising other PhD programs. I consider the best part of my new job so far has been getting better acquainted with the exceptional students and faculty who make the MSEC program so unique.

As we begin 2022 we mark an exciting milestone for the MSEC program: 10 years ago, in 2012, we admitted our first PhD student. This Spring semester we will celebrate our 10th anniversary with a special symposium featuring our founding directors, current faculty and students, and distinguished alumni of the program as we look back on the past, evaluate the present, and envision the future of the MSEC program.

This Spring, as we continue to adapt to the challenges of the evolving COVID pandemic, we remain committed to offering our students an exceptional educational, research, and business training opportunity in a healthy, safe, and inclusive community for all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sean Kerwin
MSEC Interim Director
Fall 2021 Fellowship Recipients

Maria Camila Belduque Correa
- Fall 2021 Doctoral Merit Fellowship

Chandan Howlader
- Fall 2021 Doctoral Research Support Fellowship

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Xijun "Jeff" Shi
Dr. Xijun (Jeff) Shi, Assistant Professor in the Ingram School of Engineering, won the Texas State New Ventures Competition and was selected as a 2021 U.S. Department of Agriculture E. Kika De La Garza Fellow, both for work with cementitious materials containing recycled aggregates!

Faculty Recognitions

DENISE M. TRAUTH ENDOVED PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP
Dr. Alexander Korienko, Chemistry and Biochemistry

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AND REGENTS’ PROFESSOR
Dr. Rodney Rhode, College of Health Professions

PRESIDENTIAL DISTINCTION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE ACTIVITIES
Dr. Xiaoyu Xue, Chemistry and Biochemistry

PRESIDENTIAL DISTINCTION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
Dr. Cynthia Luxford, Chemistry and Biochemistry

PRESIDENTIAL DISTINCTION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE
Dr. Shannon Weigum, Biology

COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE ACTIVITIES
Dr. Bahram Asiabanpour, Ingram School of Engineering
Dr. Tania Betancourt, Chemistry and Biochemistry
Dr. Zhijie "Sasha" Dong, Ingram School of Engineering

COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
Dr. Sean Kerwin, Chemistry and Biochemistry

COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE
Dr. Ben Martin, Chemistry and Biochemistry
Dr. Nikoleta Theodoropoulou, Physics
The Texas State University Graduate College has selected its 2021-2022 Outstanding Mentor Awards recipient.

Dr. Jennifer Irvin, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Co-Director of the Materials Application Research Center, is the recipient of The Graduate College Outstanding Mentor Award. This award recognizes a faculty member who has had extraordinary success in mentoring graduate students.

Dr. Irvin has been with MSEC since its inception and served as MSEC Director from September 2015 through August 2021.

Dr. Irvin’s areas of interest include the use of electroactive polymers in applications, and dominant ion transport processes in electroactive polymers. With her research and impact on her colleagues and students, Dr. Irvin received very thoughtfully written letters which described in detail the tremendous positive impact of her mentorship.

She has also been recognized for her teaching and research by receiving the 2012 Chemistry & Biochemistry Department Teaching Award and the 2010 Cottrell College Science Award, Research Corporation for Scientific Advancement.

Congratulations Dr. Irvin!
MSEC ALUMNI FOCUS

DR. ANWAR SIDDIQUE

Dr. Anwar Siddique graduated in 2019 and is currently a Yield Analysis Engineer with the group OTF Yield Department at Intel Corporation in Ocotillo, Arizona. Dr. Siddique recently published “Improved Electrical Properties of AIGaN/GaN High-Electron-Mobility Transistors by In Situ Tailoring the SiNx Passivation Layer” in ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces, which can be found here.

MSEC STUDENT CLUB

The MSEC Student Club was established in 2018 to explore and promote academic and career issues related to materials science, engineering, entrepreneurship, and leadership. The club has helped those interested in these issues to get to know one another outside the classrooms, laboratories and departments by hosting events, creating special projects and connecting with experts around the world.

Officers for the 2021-2022 academic year are: Md Abdul Halim, President; Mauricio Jemal, Vice President; Tijani Mohammed, Treasurer; and Kaleb Neptune, Secretary (not pictured).

The MSEC Student Club is still accepting members with NO membership fee! If interested, email Md Abdul Halim at m_h745@txstate.edu for more information.
Welcome New MSEC Graduate Faculty!

Dr. Ariful Haque
Regular Faculty, MSEC
Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering
Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Materials Science & Engineering, North Carolina State University

Dr. David Irvin
Adjunct Faculty, MSEC
Lecturer, Chemistry and Biochemistry
Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry, University of Florida

Dr. Eduardo Perez
Associate Faculty, MSEC
Associate Professor, Industrial Engineering
Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering, Texas A&M University

Dr. Lawrence Lawson
Adjunct Faculty, MSEC
Lecturer, Electrical Engineering
Ph.D. in Surface and Solid State Physics, Washington State University

Dr. Thomas Zirkle
Adjunct Faculty, MSEC
Chief Technology Officer, MicroPower Global
Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, Arizona State University
congratulations
summer and fall 2021 graduates

Tanjina Ahmed
Anupam K.C.
Isha Desai
Tuhin Dey
Md Abdul Ahad Talukder

Dr. Rony Saha
advised by Dr. Edwin Piner and Dr. Ravi Droopad

Dr. Damilola Runsewe
advised by Dr. Jennifer Irvin and Dr. Tania Betancourt
&
Dr. Adeniji Adetayo
advised by Dr. Gary Beall

Dr. Shubha Malla
advised by Dr. Kevin Lewis
Connect with MSEC

https://www.msec.txstate.edu/

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6713617/

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