

The Michigan Materials Society

Which serves as the Material Advantage chapter at the University of
Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Material Advantage Chapter of Excellence Application
2025-2026



Prepared by the MMS 2025-2026 Board

- 1.0 Officers
- 2.0 Chapter Overview
- 3.0 Calendar of Events
- 4.0 Chapter Management
 - 4.1 General Coordination
 - 4.2 Chapter Communication
 - 4.3 Financials
 - 4.4 Conference and Travel
 - 4.5 Social Media and Apparel
 - 4.6 Elections
 - 4.7 Transitions
- 5.0 Technical Programming
 - 5.1 Luncheons: Technical Viewpoint
 - 5.2 MS&T 2025
 - 5.3 TMS 2026
- 6.0 Career Development
 - 6.1 Luncheons: Professional Viewpoint
 - 6.2 Professional Retreat
 - 6.3 Congressional Visit Day
 - 6.4 Conferences
 - 6.5 Scholarships
 - 6.6 Additional Workshops and Tours
- 7.0 Service
 - 7.1 IMAT Mini-Camp K-12 Outreach
 - 7.2 Bradford Academy Highschool Outreach
 - 7.3 Real Steel Video Competition
 - 7.4 Service Oriented Socials
 - 7.5 Orientation and Recruitment
- 8.0 Social
 - 8.1 Holiday Socials
 - 8.2 Partnering with Other Organizations
 - 8.3 Community Events
 - 8.4 Department-Wide Socials

1.0 Officers

1.1 Chapter Officers 2025-2026



Matteo Carcassi
President



Olivia Schroder
Internal Vice President



Chase Walraven
External Vice President



Pranavi Gudi
Treasurer



Eli Richey
Secretary



Bella Callfas
Outreach Chair



Lillian Gregory
Social Chair



Amiya Johnson
Undergraduate
Representative



Binh Nguyen
Undergraduate
Representative

2.0 Chapter Overview

The Michigan Materials Society (MMS) serves as the Materials Advantage (MA) Chapter for the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Our organization is entirely student run and its mission is to provide career opportunities and community to undergraduate students interested in Materials Science and Engineering (MSE). All undergraduates who declare MSE as their major are automatically enrolled as a member of the club, therefore our membership count is around 100. While MMS focuses more on assisting careers in industry than academia, more graduate school centered events have been pursued due to the termination of our sister society, Alpha Sigma Mu (ASMu) after the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, the number of MSE students at Michigan has decreased and MMS's involvement in the larger MA ecosystem has been lackluster since the pandemic, so our motivation this year was to bring back more traditions and opportunities to expand the major and national presence of MMS.

MMS is primarily known throughout campus for its free "luncheon" speaker series, in which industry professionals and alumni from MSE give 40 minute presentations over lunch provided by MMS. This is a weekly Friday event and draws in an average of 35-40 students each week, featuring Generals Mills, Pratt & Whitney, and many more. This year, MMS has ensured to attend many more MA conferences including MS&T, IMAT, TMS, and Congress Visit Day (CVD) with a record number of students at each this year. We have also continued to maintain our traditional social events, including a Thanksgiving Progressive, Campus Farm volunteering, pumpkin carving, a 5k and more! Finally, we also went for the first time on a professional retreat to tour 3M and General Mills facilities.

Our board consists of 9 undergraduate students: four seniors, four juniors, and a sophomore. All positions were democratically elected the year prior. Due to our more ambitious goals this year, we have had \$28,500 in expenses, but also sourced \$38,000 in funding, a 42% increase in expenditure and an 80% increase in funding from last year. The board meets weekly to discuss upcoming events and coordinate responsibilities.

MMS maintains a strong relationship with the MSE department as a whole. We have a yearly meeting with our department chair, Prof. Elizabeth Holm, and the departmental newsletter material highlights our events. We also have a very strong relationship with the MSE graduate student organization, Graduate Student Council (GSC), and have jointly organized social events and MSE apparel. MMS had more limited engagement with the MSE department outreach team due to some restructuring taking place, and there is also a blacksmithing club independent of MMS that enters the TMS bladesmithing competition. Our faculty advisor, Dr. Tim Chambers, assisted by sharing opportunities for MMS to participate in, provides helpful advice when requested, but for the most part is hands off and lets MMS work independently.

While responsibilities are clear and this is a professional club, we cannot emphasize enough the community feel in the MMS board, MMS community, and MSE major. In fact, the boundary between these different groups is gray. MMS board members are encouraged to proactively pursue their own initiatives for the benefit of the organization. For example, the committee to organize the professional retreat was led by our social chair. In addition, MMS members who are not board members have assisted in organizing MMS events, with one engaged member both leading the CVD trip and providing contacts for 3M. Any Michigan undergraduate involved in the MSE program, whether majoring, minoring, or simply interested in materials, is aware of MMS and holds it in high regard.

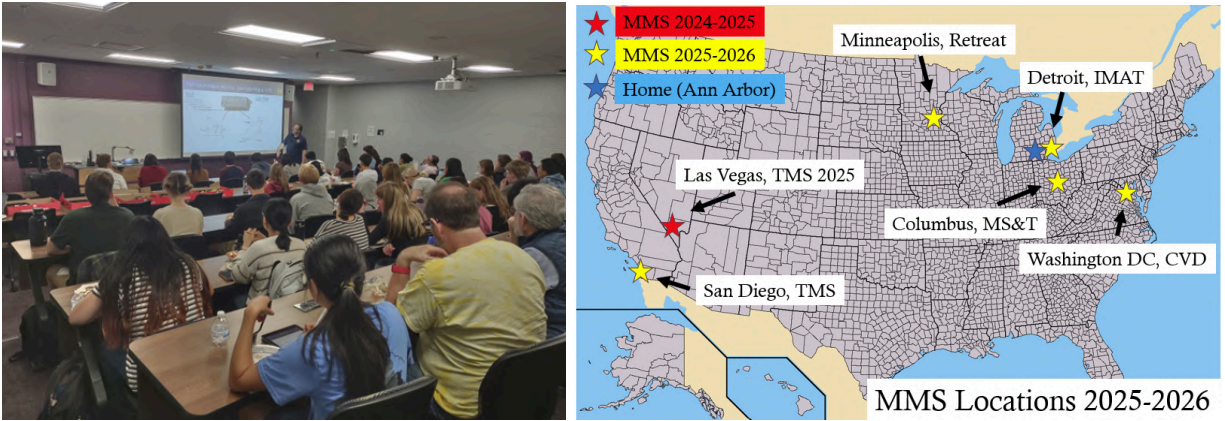


Figure 1: (Left) Typical luncheon featuring a retired Ford engineer and one of our instructors, Dr. Carlo Engler-Pinto, discussing his work on modeling fatigue. (Right) MMS travel locations

LUNCHEONS: FALL

				
Dr. Carlos Engler-Pinto: 8/29	General Mills: 9/5	KLA: 9/12	First Solar: 9/19	Nucor: 9/26
				
Eaton: 10/10	Gerdau Steel: 10/17	L&L Products: 10/24	Ford: 10/31	
				
Grad student panel: 11/7	Toyota: 11/14	Dr. Glenn Wilcox: 11/21	Rebecca Price Materials Lounge Librarian: 12/05	

LUNCHEONS: WINTER

			
General Motors: 1/9	Dr. Tim Chambers: 1/16	Pratt & Whitney: 1/23	Shell Core Foundry: 1/30
			
Dr. Michelle Caird: 2/6	Wyman Gordon: 2/13	New Balance: 2/20	LIFT: 2/27
			
Tom Battle: 3/13	Medtronic: 3/20	Daimler Truck: 3/27	Donaldson: 4/24
		4/3 – Elections 4/10 – Recap 4/17 – Student appreciation + Town Hall	

Figure 2: Luncheon calendar for 2025-2026 school year. Note the wide variety of speakers and companies

3.0 Calendar of Events**

Month	Luncheon	Professional Development	Outreach & Recruitment	Social	Travel
Aug	Dr. Engler-Pinto (29)		Festifall (25)		
Sept	General Mills (5) KLA (12) First Solar (19) Nucor (26)	Prof headshots (2-3) Eli Lilly info (4) Resume workshop (5) TSMC info (8) ASM Mixer (18)	MSE tabling (22) New student orientation (25)	MMS x AiChe Volleyball (12) Bonfire (25)	MS&T (28-30) 16 attendees
Oct	Eaton (10) Gerdau Steel (17) L&L (24) Ford (31)		IMAT Mini-Camp (21-22)	Campus Farm (19) Pumpkin carving (29)	IMAT (21-22) 5 attendees
Nov	Grad Panel (7) Toyota (14) Dr. Wilcox (21)	ASM trustee (19)		Trivia (3) Screen printing (19) Thanksgiving progressive (2)	
Dec	MSE Librarian (5) Potluck (12)			Tree decorating (3) Caroling (10)	
Jan	GM (9) Dr. Chambers (16) Pratt & Whitney (23) Shell Core (30)	Scholarship workshop (22)		Gymnastics (24)	Professional retreat (15-19) 18 attendees
Feb	Dr. Caird (6) Wyman Gordon (13) New Balance (20) LIFT (27)	LIFT tour (27)	Steel video (1) New student orientation (13)	SWE games (6) Ice skating (7) Breakfast (10)	
Mar	Tom Battle (13) Medtronic (20) Daimler Truck (27)			Blood drive (19) Forging (29)	TMS (14-18) 12 attendees CVD (24-27) 6 attendees
Apr	Elections (3) MMS recap (10) Donaldson (24)		Bradford academy high school (9) High school lab visit (10)	Formal (16) 5k (19)	

** Calendar is listed as follows: **Event (Day)**

4.0 Chapter Management

4.1 General Coordination

There are 9 board members in MMS. Each week, the President leads MMS board meetings where attendance is mandatory. Meeting minutes are available to all board members and primarily edited by the Secretary. At the end of each meeting, TODOs are established for the upcoming week. Meetings are one hour and typically begin with updates on events, determining their next steps and assigning responsibilities, then transitions to individual reporting of weekly activities and reiterating individual responsibilities for the next week. The content for the newsletter is also determined. A group chat with all officers assists in daily communication, and a shared drive makes every document accessible to each other board member.

4.2 Chapter Communication

Every week, the Secretary sends a newsletter to all MMS members that outlines upcoming events, conference applications, as well as a scholarship document and a feedback form. There is also a highlight from the past week that features images of an MMS event. To avoid using personal emails, we use “mms-announcements@umich.edu” which only the Secretary, President, and Internal Vice President have access to and “mmsofficers@umich.edu” which includes all officers. Additional announcements or corrections to the newsletter are sent as needed, and MMS board members may send reminders right before classes start.

New declares are given an orientation to welcome them to MSE, organized by the Undergraduate Representatives. This allows new students to become more aware of MMS as well as make friends with their cohort. Information such as how to find research positions, best classes to take, and the resources MMS and the department have to offer are provided. This year, we have changed the frequency of this from yearly to semesterly to promote a smaller, more tight-knit feeling.

4.3 Financials

All account activity is conducted through the Student Organization Account Services (SOAS) such that the University can handle the tax deductible status of MMS. This service allows for reimbursements to be made to officers. There are three authorized signers to the account: the Treasurer, President, and Internal Vice President. It is the Treasurer’s responsibility to monitor this account closely and ensure it matches our own budget exactly.

Funding is provided in a variety of ways. There are three sources of funding from the University of Michigan we take advantage of: the Central Student Government, College of Engineering, and Engineering Student Government. We make an application for every major expenditure, such as conference travel or unsponsored luncheons. We ask companies to provide a donation for luncheons or to buy food themselves, in fact there is a large sum not in our internal funding or expenditure since many companies are opting to pay themselves. For alumni or companies that cannot sponsor, we fall back to the three sources mentioned before. We also ensure our chapter applies for travel grants as well as our members, such that for some conferences we were able to make money. A large portion is also from giving events organized by the university, and there are key alumni who also contribute to MMS. Finally, we ask the MSE department to cover any additional expenses as a last resort.

The primary expenditures are typically conference travel and luncheons. However, since many companies paid directly and we sent record numbers of people to conferences and our professional retreat,

around 66% ended up being purely for travel. However, conferences are generally easier to fund and find donations for, and counterintuitively made it easier to get such a large amount of funding this year.

As mentioned in the introduction, we have had \$28,500 in expenses but also sourced \$38,000 in funding, a 42% increase in expenditure and an 80% increase in funding from last year. We have also formalized a system to budget for conferences and made it clear how to apply to all funding sources, with all applications in our shared drive.

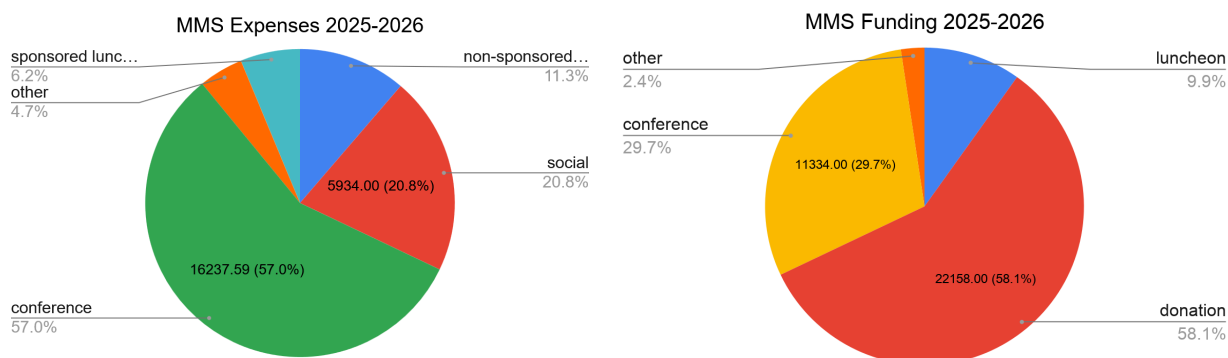


Figure 3: Chapter finances 2025-2026. \$28,500 in total expenses and \$38,000 in total funding

4.4 Conference and Travel

Before undertaking any event, a subset of the board forms a committee to oversee it. Conferences are typically led by the External Vice President and the Social Chair handles the retreat, but this is flexible and changes based on passion and bandwidth. Once the committee is made, the Secretary typically sends applications to our members, then transportation and lodging is determined. A comprehensive budget is made to see the cost of accepting a certain number of students and estimate the amount provided from each funding source, then the attendees are selected. This past year, we were able to allow each person who wanted to attend to be funded by MMS for all events. This process is similar for K-12 outreach, only the Outreach Chair is the lead and finances are not typically a concern.

4.5 Social Media and Apparel

To maintain a community within MMS, the Outreach Chair runs an Instagram account to post upcoming events and recap past events. Stickers are also made by the Outreach Chair, with approval necessary from the University. The Internal Vice President is responsible for general MSE apparel, while the Social Chair designs one shirt each year for a social event. In the past, MMS would have to subsidize a portion of apparel as they would be too expensive full price for members, but this year we have switched suppliers and done a screenprinting event for free on thrifted shirts to minimize this cost, as well as mitigate the environmental impact.

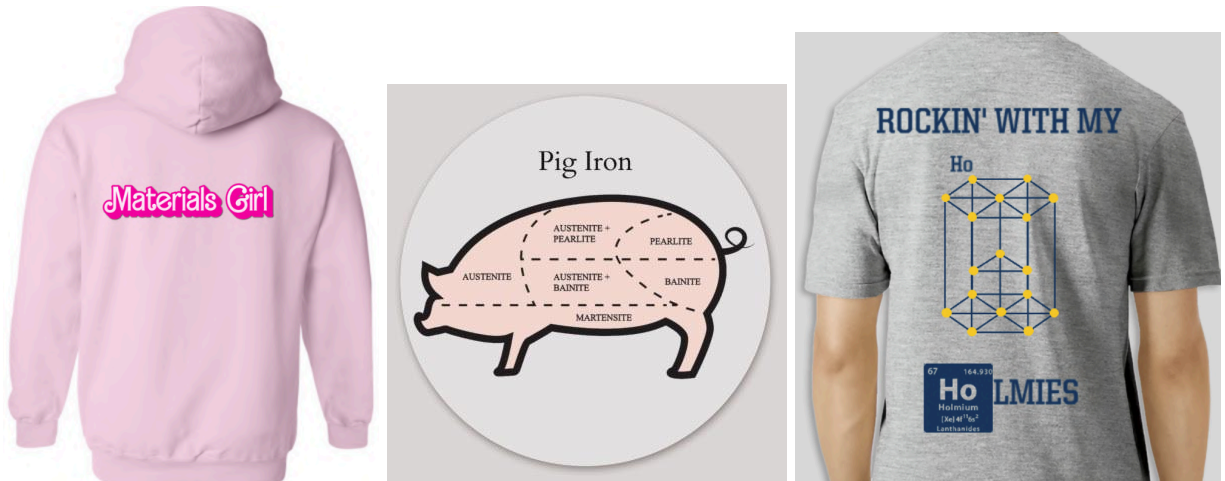


Figure 4: MMS 2025-26 apparel. (Left) Materials girl hoodie. (Center) Pig iron sticker with embedded TTT diagram. (Right) Holmium shirt, also reference to department chair Dr. Holm

4.6 Elections

Elections are held in early April during a luncheon slot. A nomination form is sent a month in advance and closes a week before elections. Nominees are then asked to accept or reject their nomination, and a slide show listing all the candidates is made. During the luncheon time, candidates come to the stage for a two minute speech each followed with one or two questions. Then, candidates are asked to leave the room and members close their eyes to vote, counted by current board members. The winner is selected as the new board member.

4.7 Transition

Once the new board is selected, the current board member meets with the new board member to explain the role and share the transition documents. The new president finds time to meet individually with each new member, and an initial board meeting is made with the new board to brainstorm goals for the upcoming year. The new President and Internal Vice President also meet with the department chair to see if there are any goals of the department that MMS can contribute to.



Figure 5: Democratically elected 2026-2027 MMS board

5.0 Technical Programming

5.1 Luncheons: Technical Viewpoint

Luncheons serve both a technical and professional purpose. Whenever finding a speaker from a specific company, we try to ensure they are a materials engineer rather than a recruiter or another individual who does not work in materials. This year, First Solar outlined the process used to make their solar panels, Nucor spoke on the differences between electric arc furnaces (EAF) and blast furnaces in steelmaking, Toyota spoke both on battery materials and resins that go into their hybrid and electric vehicles, Dr. Michelle Caird, an orthopedic surgeon and Michigan MSE alumnus, spoke on osteogenesis imperfecta, or brittle-bone disease, and Tom Battle, a past TMS president and also Michigan alumnus, discussed how he helped find use for waste products in ore refinement. This is just a small taste of all of our wonderful speakers, but we give our students a view into a wide variety of disciplines that utilize MSE. After all, every branch of technology will need materials!

5.2 MS&T 2025

This year, MMS sent 16 undergraduate students to MS&T 2025, fully funded. All students who submitted an application were granted the ability to attend. This is under the backdrop of no attendance in 2024-2025, and only 3 attendees in 2023-2024. At this conference, all students attended a variety of talks from both academic and industry professionals from around the world, such as using electric fields to move dislocations in ceramic materials or understanding the effect of various hydrogenated environments for making green steel.

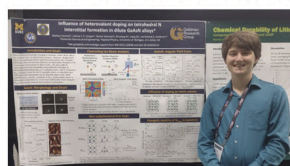
There were also 3 attendees who presented posters at MS&T to share their research with a national audience. In addition, one of our members, Robert David Race, won second place in the Material Advantage Undergraduate Student Speaking Contest. The board attended the Chapter Officer Workshop. These opportunities will be shared with future members of MMS and contribute to an overall stronger presence of Michigan within the MA community.

Despite being completely absent last year, MMS had an attendance on par with other strong MA chapters, had one of our students on the podium of the speaker's contest, and gave almost one fifth of our undergraduate body the opportunity to hear from technical experts. We could not be happier with how this conference fared.

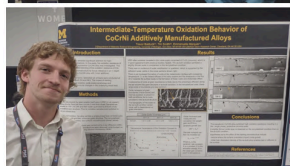


Figure 6: MS&T 2025 group photo

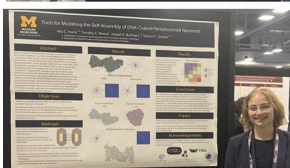
3 Poster Presenters



Matteo
Carcassi



Trevor
Balduck



Mia
Frank

2nd Place Speaker Competition



David Race

Figure 7: Three poster presenters and second place speaking competition winner at MS&T 2025

5.3 TMS 2026

MMS sent 12 undergraduate students from Ann Arbor, MI, to San Diego, CA to attend the TMS conference. This was a miracle in terms of budgeting and finding funds. We were able to accommodate one student who applied late, one who was supposed to attend with Michigan's blacksmithing club but could not when the blade was not finished, and funded some additional costs to a student who won the Apple travel grant for TMS.

For this conference, **all** students were required to present a poster, making Michigan the school with the largest number of undergraduate posters. Most chose to present their research with Michigan faculty, while others work from internships or our junior lab course reverse engineering project. This yielded useful new research directions, such as a student working with FePt being proposed differing sputtering times, as well as useful connections, such as a student working with AlScN being contacted by Sc miners.

Similar to MS&T, students were able to attend a variety of technical talks from experts around the world. Strong examples include Apple materials engineer Jim Yurko speaking on sustainability materials Apple products, Prof. Elizabeth Holm speaking on the limitations of computation in Materials Science, or Dr. Nancy Merino presenting the use of microbes to repair concrete structures. These are only three among the dozens attended between all 12 of our students.

With 7 students attending last year, we made this opportunity available to 10 new students this year, and will continue to be a tradition that allows students to become more aware of the national MSE community and motivate them to present high quality research.



Figure 8: (Left) TMS 2026 group photo. (Right) Materials Bowl team 2026

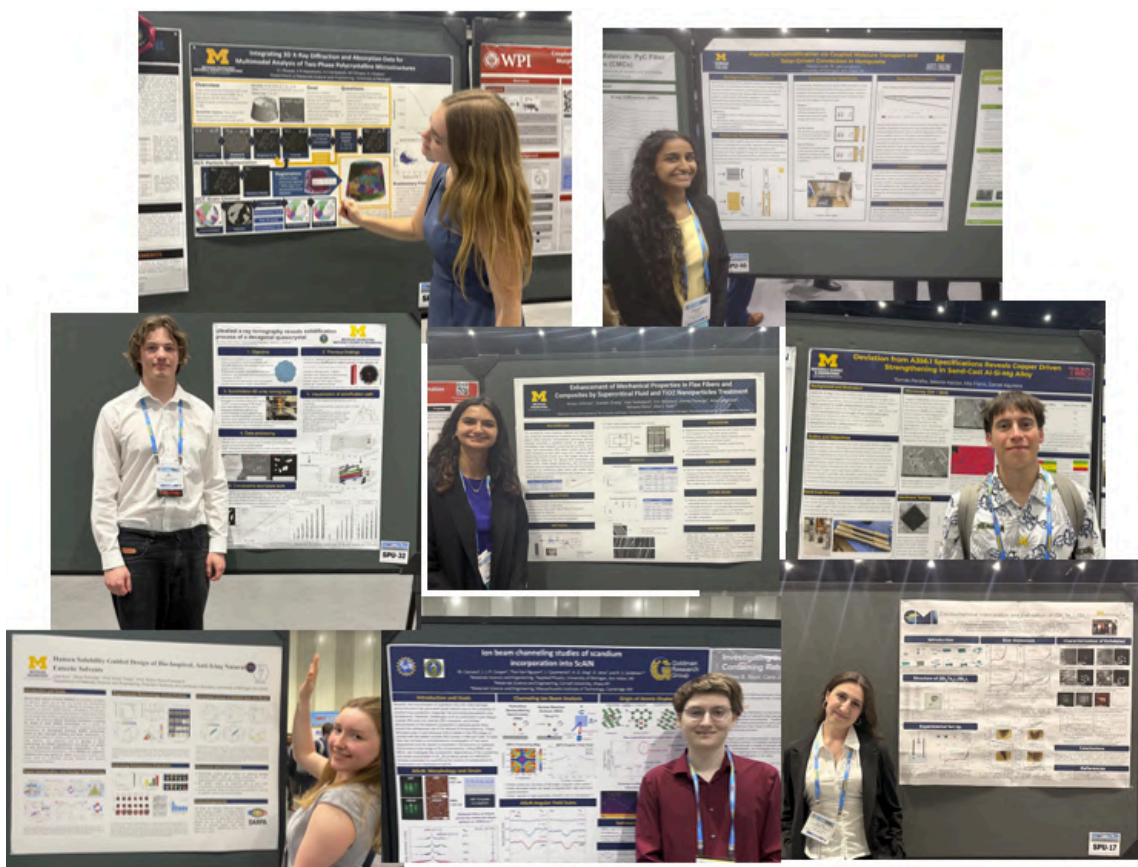


Figure 9: Collage of 8 out of 12 of posters presented at TMS by MMS funded students

6.0 Career Development

6.1 Luncheons: Professional Viewpoint

The primary objective of our weekly luncheons is to give students awareness of what opportunities a degree in MSE can lead to as well as exposure to many companies that hire MSE students. Students get direct contacts with company representatives and job opportunities can come from them. To name a few, we had two students obtain internships at General Mills after their luncheon and two students earned internships at Ford Motor Company. Not only do speakers give younger students opportunities, but older students often connect MMS with their managers to speak, making a strong closed loop ensuring that MMS members can pursue careers they are interested in. Some speakers are even past members of the MMS board.

We also invite speakers who are alumni from the department, but have taken their career in a different direction than engineering. For example, Dr. Michelle Caird serves as the Chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Michigan Medicine. After finishing her degree, she pursued a medical doctorate to eventually become a surgeon. Her background in MSE helps provide her a unique understanding of her practice, such as brittle bone disease in children. This helps students visualize alternative routes rather than solely engineering.

6.2 Professional Retreat

This year, MMS was ambitious and wanted to try something new: what if we spent a weekend touring materials science-related companies in a different city? Our Social Chair proposed this idea and led the effort, and after reviewing possible cities, we decided the Twin Cities in Minnesota were optimal in distance and company contacts. After contacting a few people, we managed to get on the calendars of 3M and General Mills.

We then sent an application form, and had 18 students interested! We managed to take everyone, and on Friday, January 16 we toured the 3M Innovation Center as well as the General Mills James Ford Bell Research Center, a pilot plant for pet food, packaging, and a variety of snacks. Both companies were incredibly welcoming and accommodating. After both tours, we also had a Q&A session with Michigan alumni to hear their path and experience.

3M paid special attention to us, providing us with a unique QR code to apply to jobs. Three students later received interviews, and one student landed an internship after this event. General Mills had already finished its recruiting season, but since one third of our group was underclassmen it gave many students an advantage for applications in future years and exposure for all students on entering the food industry.

This is likely to become a new tradition of MMS, with the new board already looking into Chicago or Boston as possible locations for 2026-2027.



Figure 10: Collage of professional retreat. (Left) General Mills group photo and preparation to enter the pilot plant. (Right) 3M group photo and entering 3M exhibit of materials

6.3 Congressional Visit Day

A group of students in our department were excited to participate in the Material Advantage Congressional Visit Day (CVD). MMS was happy to then provide funding and logistical support, thereby 6 undergraduate students were sent to DC, including one first year. We were one of the chapters that sent a larger delegation. We coordinated with Michigan State to speak with staffers from Sen. Slotkin, Rep. McDonald Rivet, and Rep. Barrett about the importance of funding for scientific research and share stories of how grants such as those from the NSF directly impact our research. Overall, it prepared our students to speak to government officials and made the process of working with the government more accessible.



Figure 11: (Left) Group photo of MMS students at Congressional Visit Day (Right) Photo with staffers from Sen. Slotkin's office, jointly with Michigan State students

6.4 Conferences

At both MS&T and TMS, in addition to the technical opportunities, there were strong professional opportunities. 6 students toured a Nucor steel plant organized by AIST, and many also attended the AIST Steel Recruiting Reception. There were also many networking events, where Michigan students became

well acquainted with Penn State students as MS&T and Ohio State and U-W Madison students at TMS. For example, our group of students attended the Michigan-Ohio State Mixer, where they became acquainted with students and professors at Ohio State University, as well as alumni of both schools.



Figure 12: (Left) Nucor steel plant tour at MS&T 2025. (Right) Michigan students at TMS 2026 with students from Ohio State and U-W Madison

6.5 Scholarships

We had a student at Michigan win the ASM George A. Roberts Scholarship and another who won both the ASM Outstanding Scholarship and the TMS MPMD Scholarship, as well as a multitude of scholarships from within the department. We wanted to ensure students were aware and encouraged to apply, and held a scholarship workshop that outlined the awards and deadlines and gave tips for writing. From this, a student won \$3000 from a WAAIME Scholarship to complete her graduate school studies.

6.6 Additional Workshops & Tours

In addition to the events mentioned above, we provided professional headshots to 20 MMS members, held an information center for TSMC available to the entire college, one of our own students receiving an internship from them later that year, as well as a joint event with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) for Eli Lilly and a resume workshop with graduate students in MSE. We also partnered with ASM to have a student mixer, where students from Michigan State and Wayne State were welcome, and hosted a talk from ASM trustee Dr. Erik Mueller where he discussed working in failure analysis in a government agency. We also had a smaller industry tour of a nearby manufacturer of advanced materials, LIFT. Our tour guide gave a luncheon talk and then hosted us in Detroit to tour the plant for those interested.



Figure 13: Small group tour at LIFT

7.0 Service

7.1 IMAT Mini-Camp K-12 Outreach

The IMAT conference was held in Detroit this year, and MMS students were recruited to help with the Mini-Camp held to give middle and high school students exposure to MSE. We were responsible for two out of the eight tables, providing an iron wire demo to discuss crystal structures and phase changes and a hydrogel demo to teach about polymers and shear thinning. It was overall a great success, and presented to four schools each coming with around 80 students. Michigan's attendance greatly supplemented the event, and our 5 volunteers over two days each did spectacularly. We would hope to do this any year when IMAT is held in Detroit.



Figure 14: Volunteer at IMAT Mini-Camp demonstrating phase change in iron from BCC to FCC

7.2 Bradford Academy Highschool Outreach

Although MMS tries to avoid direct visits with schools so as not to take away from our department's outreach team, there was one opportunity that came along that the outreach team was too busy to take on. One of the schools who came to the ASM Mini-Camp, Bradford Academy, wanted to have an additional hands-on experience brought to their school. MMS organized 4 volunteers to do a battery demo there, where high school students learned of the activity series and eventually constructed circuits to light up LEDs! Many students became very passionate and excited trying to light the different color LEDs, and students were happy to see Michigan students as many hoped to be one themselves.



Figure 15: Outreach event at Bradford Academy High School. (Left) A student lights up a red LED. (Right) Two volunteers explain how to construct a circuit. (Bottom) Group photo

7.3 Real Steel Video Competition

Michigan has not recently participated in the Real Steel Video Competition organized by AIST, but this year we wanted to change that. We interviewed our luncheon speaker from Nucor in addition to a current senior who interned and will return to Cleveland Cliffs and created a survey to understand our generation's view of the steel industry. Our video, titled “The Steel Industry is For Everyone”, was then posted on the AIST YouTube page on February 1.

While not the top performing video in the competition, we nonetheless reached over 400 different people with our video. Even if it was just family and friends, it was still a wholesome video that helped break down negative stigma from beliefs that working with steel is unsafe, an environmental threat, and only employs one demographic. To reach more people in future years, we may have to consider what is prioritized by the YouTube algorithm, but would still want to make high quality content.



Figure 16: Content from Real Steel Video. (Left) Interview with student from Cleveland Cliffs. (Right) Interview with alumnus from Nucor

7.4 Service Oriented Socials

Our chapter organizes social events to contribute to the benefit of the larger Ann Arbor community. For example, we volunteered at the University of Michigan Campus Farm, a student-driven learning lab that grows sustainable food for the University. They provide fresh, locally grown produce to distribute at dining halls and a farm stand. We assisted by spending time clearing out their greenhouse of tomato plants since the harvest season was over.

We also partnered with AICHE to host a blood drive with red cross where MMS members could donate blood and an annual 5k where to participate, each member provides a small sum to be donated to Mott's Children Hospital. We raised over \$150 from this event.



Figure 17: MMS volunteering at Campus Farm with AICHE

7.5 Orientation and Recruitment

New undergraduates in the MSE major are required to attend an orientation completely organized by MMS. Here, the mission and key events of MMS are shared and guidance of what programs and people to look into are provided. We hold a long Q&A session at the end, and assist first and second years in finding faculty to do research with and what steps are necessary to be competitive for internships. After this event, underclassmen feel more comfortable to reach out to the MMS board.

There is also a large effort from MMS to increase the number of students in the department. At the beginning of each year, MMS participates in Festifall, a place for first year students to sign up for different clubs. We received over 100 sign ups, each now exposed to Materials Science through our newsletter and some portion will also pursue it as a major. MMS also participates in the Major and Minors Fair and a number of other tabling events held by both the college and department. Several board members took the initiative to speak to introductory materials science classes, promoting the MSE major as well as MMS involvement to freshmen and sophomores.

Our major has been declining ever since COVID, but this year marked the first when the number has grown, with the number of new declares increasing by almost 50%! Thanks to the effort of the department, past MMS boards, and our 2025-2026 MMS board, there are many strong underclassmen now entering the major. The department is entering a very strong state.

8.0 Social

8.1 Holiday Socials

MMS had many socials surrounding the various holidays throughout the year. A long time tradition is a pumpkin carving social, hosted a few days before Halloween. We had representation from all undergraduate classes and some creative and well-crafted pumpkins were designed!

One of our best attended events this year was the Thanksgiving progressive, in which we spent an hour at several MMS member's houses, one for appetizer, one for entree, then sides, and finally dessert. There were over 25 undergraduates, primarily underclassmen, that we had to fit in small apartments and homes. The hosts of each course were fantastic and prepared great food that brought everyone together, like Thanksgiving should!

Last year, we also bought a holiday tree to decorate our student lounge, so we spent the time decorating it before the semester ended. We also hung snowflakes from the ceiling, making the Materials Science lounge the most well decorated lounge in all the engineering campus! To further spread holiday cheer, the MMS board did festive caroling in many MSE undergraduate and graduate spaces, as well as to the staff in our undergraduate lab. We did so again at the department's holiday party. It could be embarrassing at times, but everyone loved it!



Figure 18: Pumpkin carving social



Figure 19: Collage of Thanksgiving progressive

8.2 Partnering with Other Organizations

MMS loves to organize some social events jointly with other student organizations so we can increase attendance and network with other majors and groups. Our primary partner is AIChE, where we started the year with a volleyball competition between the two majors. The 5k was also a joint event, with the first place finisher being from MMS but second and third from AIChE. As was already mentioned before, the Campus Farm event and the blood drive were also organized jointly with AIChE.

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) also held a game show type event at which MMS participated and won by making the best meme, the most well-designed car, and winning the talent show section by writing a choreographed dance! This was the second year in a row MMS won.

Finally, we also held a forging event with the Blacksmithing club, where we learned how to make J hooks. There was also a potluck and multiple first-years who attended, and allowed students to put what they learned in their classes into practice.



Figure 20: (Left) MMS vs AIChE volleyball social. (Right) Winning team at SWE games

8.3 Community Events

While all events foster community in MMS, there are some smaller events that are specifically designed to try to increase contact between upper- and lowerclassmen. We held a bonfire on the same day as our orientation, so that the underclassmen freshly introduced to MMS could be welcomed in a more casual environment. More than a dozen of the new declares joined this event.

MMS held a screenprinting event such that students could modify their own clothing to represent MSE. A few days earlier, we thrifted shirts that could be purchased if a student did not have one of their own. This allowed making custom apparel to be a hands-on activity and was a more sustainable way to provide Fall merchandise.

We also held a breakfast before the midterm season for students to have waffles, fresh fruit, cereal, and yogurt. There were 20 students that participated in our undergraduate lounge, and it was a great way to bring people together.

Finally, one of the larger events we held was our end of the year formal, where undergraduates were invited to dress up and meet in a member's home for food, music, and fun! It was a full house, with 35 people attending, and it served as a way to end the year and send off the graduating seniors.



Figure 21: MMS formal to congratulate graduating seniors

8.4 Department-Wide Socials

While it is typically the department that organizes department-wide events, such as a beginning of the year picnic and a holiday party, MMS wanted to organize and host events for the entire department as well! A trivia night at a local restaurant brought 40 students, half undergraduate and half graduate, as well as 5 faculty and staff members. All questions were related to materials science or the MSE department in some way, and we even had a section with baby photos of our department chair and our MMS faculty advisor! It was very fun to come up with questions and see what students did and didn't know!

In the winter, we rented out an ice skating rink for the entire MSE department, as well as members of AICHE. This was truly our best attended event with over 70 people of all different ages. Also earlier in the winter was a gymnastics event. One of our MSE students, Kyle Walchuk, is a gymnast for the University of Michigan, and on this specific date the organization with the most members watching would win a \$100 gift card. MMS ended up being the organization with the most members with 45 undergraduate and graduate students, so we won this prize while supporting Kyle.



Figure 22: (Left) MSE student Kyle Walchuk competing at gymnastics event. (Right) Group of undergraduate students and faculty advisor pose for a photo at ice skating

May 26, 2026

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the University of Michigan student organization, The Michigan Materials Society (MMS), for the Material Advantage Chapter of Excellence program. After 10+ years of teaching undergraduate engineers and advising this organization for four years, I truly believe this has been our best year yet as a chapter. This past year, the MMS leadership achieved three specific accomplishments that merit the Chapter of Excellence award.

First and foremost, this year's chapter has done an amazing job bringing both industry and academic professional development opportunities to the membership. They organized site visits to a variety of companies, even out-of-state, and secured funding to enable members to attend without incurring personal financial burdens. Our weekly luncheon series continued to thrive, bringing in industry professionals to campus to speak to students about experiences and opportunities. Participation in academic conferences was also incredibly strong, with over 20 students – even first-year students! – being sent to the MS&T and TMS conferences to present their project work and research. They've represented themselves and our institution excellently in all these venues.

It's also important to highlight their internal engagement. The leadership has done outstanding work this year with social events, especially onboarding of new MSE majors to integrate them into the campus community, and a variety of all-ages social events to encourage mixing across cohorts. These have ranged from board game nights to community service at the campus farm to a joint ice skating night with AIChE (our arch nemeses, of course).

Last but certainly not least, our chapter has been integral in the department's outreach and recruiting efforts. Despite national trends of shrinking enrollment in materials science, our department was incredibly successful in recruiting this year, with growth of over 25% compared to just two years ago. This is in no small part due to the efforts of our Materials Advantage students, who have consistently volunteered at a range of both on- and off-campus events to help younger students discover and join the field of MSE.

In summary, I'm very proud of the accomplishments of the Michigan Materials Society, and I strongly encourage you to consider them for a Chapter of Excellence award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Timothy Chambers