



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
VIRGINIA TECH.

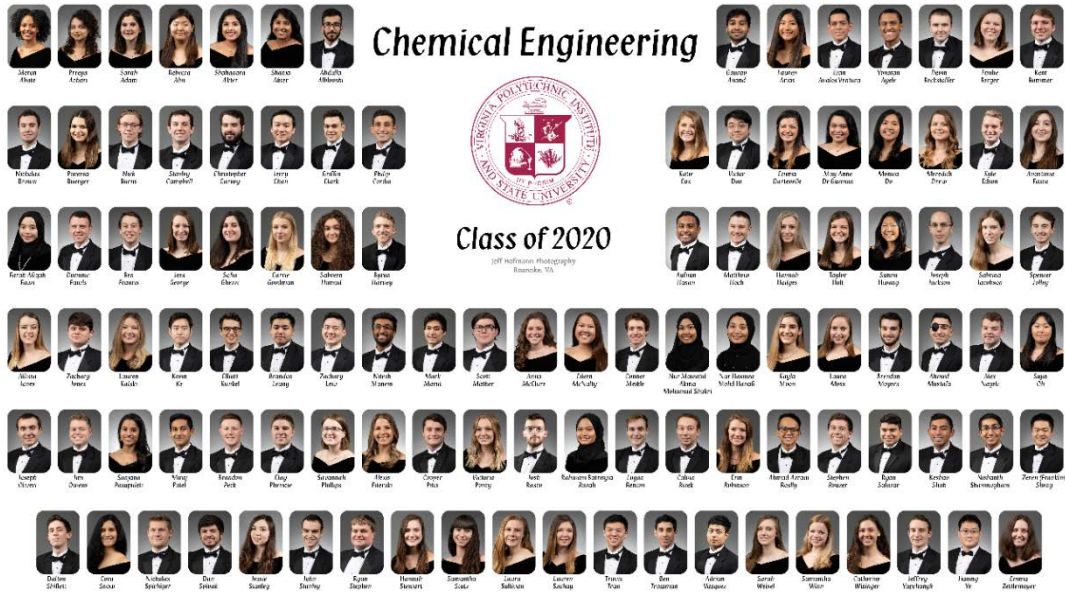


Greetings from Blacksburg, and welcome to our electronic newsletter! The past 12 months have been another productive year for the department, even with the challenges brought on by the Coronavirus virus. In mid-March we moved to 100% on-line delivery of courses and shut down our research labs. By mid-June we began to reopen our research labs with strict mask, disinfection and social distancing policies in place. We have operated since then without any incidence of infection in our labs. Fall classes began on August 24th with a mix of face-to-face, hybrid and on-line instruction. I have been pleased with the classroom arrangements and the student's cooperation in abiding by the mask and social distancing requirements in place on campus. How these measures translate to the larger off-campus community will likely determine how the fall semester progresses. The situation is being closely monitored by the university and local health officials.

Best wishes and stay healthy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Cox'.

Dave Cox, Chemical Engineering Department Head



Welcome to our newest Chemical Engineering alumni!

Congratulations to our 108 newest VT ChE alumni who received a bachelor's degree in the Class of 2020.

- 68% had at least one co-op or internship
- 44% had an undergraduate research experience
- 36% women
- 37% participated in study abroad for UO Lab in Denmark or Germany

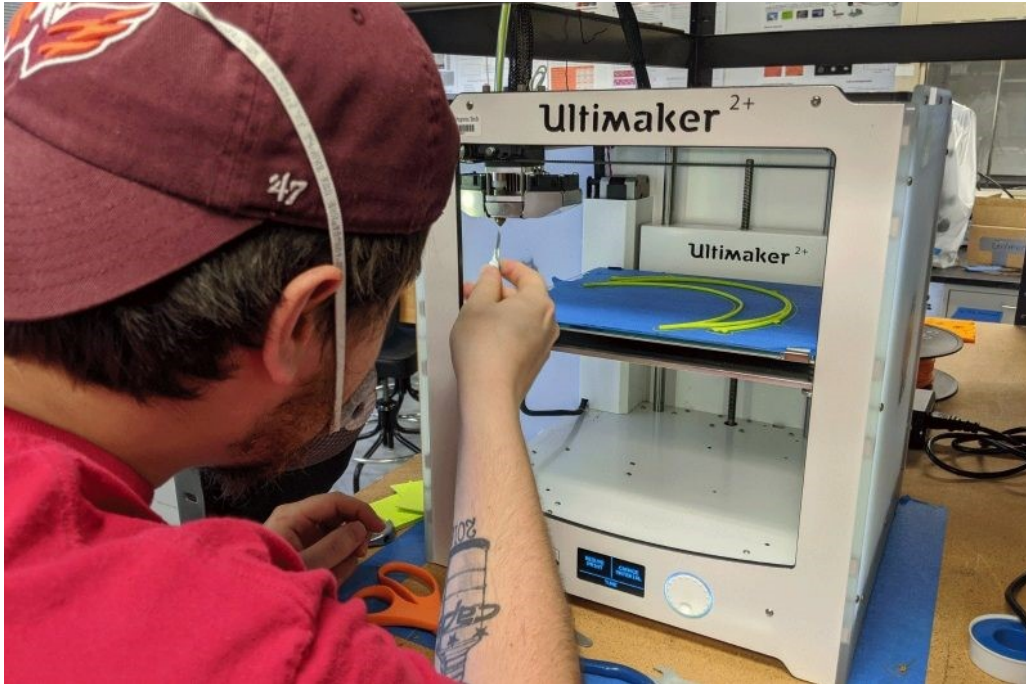
Congratulations graduates!

We invite ALL of our alumni young and old, near and far, to stay in touch with us and update your contact information [here](#).



In one hour, professor's surface coating inactivates virus that causes COVID-19

Since mid-March, William Ducker, a chemical engineering professor, has developed a surface coating that when painted on common objects, inactivates SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. “The idea is when the droplets land on a solid object, the virus within the droplets will be inactivated,” Ducker said.



Virginia Tech has a large ongoing effort to provide solutions to many issues related to COVID-19

Researchers in the chemical engineering department are directly involved.

Student Highlights



[Chemical engineering students win four global competition awards](#)

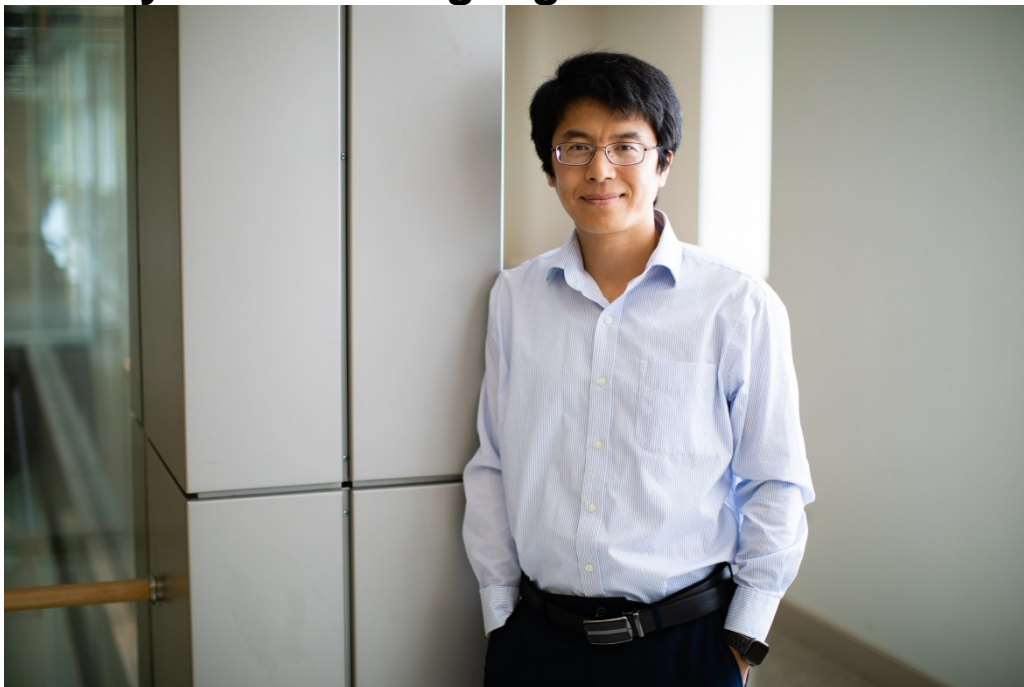
The Virginia Tech Chem-E-Car team placed first in the 2019 International Chem-E-Car Competition at the Annual American Institute of Chemical Engineers Student Conference in Orlando, Florida, on Nov. 10. The competition tested a team's ability to design and construct a shoebox-sized car, powered and stopped by chemical reaction, to go 25 meters while safely carrying load of 450 grams.



[James Owens named 2020 Outstanding Senior for the College of Engineering](#)

“As I learn to become a leader and mentor on our campus, I am learning that I should measure my impact in terms of opportunities that I and other students have created or amplified for others to excel and succeed,” said Owens. “My time in Blacksburg cannot be distilled to the lines of a transcript or resume. I have grown from setbacks, realized and pursued my goals, and made lifelong friends and mentors. With all that Virginia Tech has provided me, I hope that my efforts have helped to foster a collaborative academic community for my peers and students to come.”

Faculty and Staff Highlights



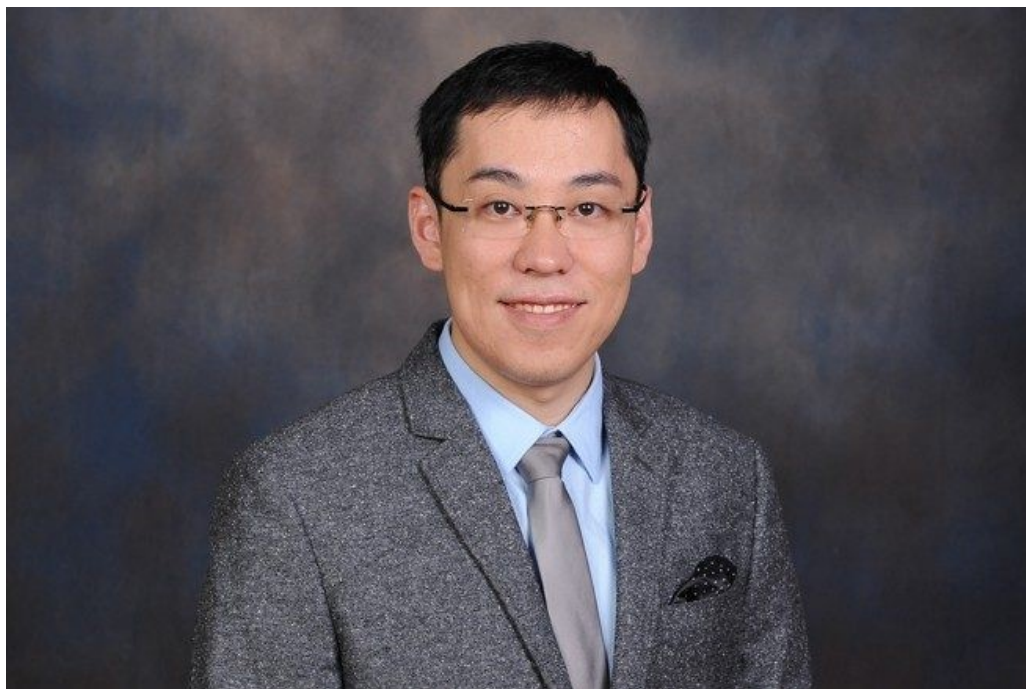
[Hongliang Xin named influential researcher by Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research journal](#)

Hongliang Xin, assistant professor of chemical engineering in Virginia Tech's College of Engineering was named to the 2019 Class of Influential Researchers by Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research, a top peer-reviewed engineering journal. A global team of editors and editorial advisory board members identified a class of 32 influential, early-career researchers on the basis of the quality and impact of their research.



[Virginia Tech faculty receive top honors from the American Association for the Advancement of Science](#)

Five scientists from Virginia Tech were named as Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), a high honor of the world's largest scientific society, according to an announcement this week. Elected by their peers and representing a broad range of AAAS "sections," including statistics, neuroscience, engineering, psychology, and geology/geography, the Virginia Tech professors are among 443 newly elected scholars.



Rong Tong receives Thieme Chemistry Journals Award

Rong Tong, an assistant professor of chemical engineering at Virginia Tech, has been honored with Thieme Chemistry Journals Award. The Thieme Chemistry Journals Award is presented every year to up-and-coming researchers worldwide who are in the early stages of their independent academic career as assistant or junior professors.



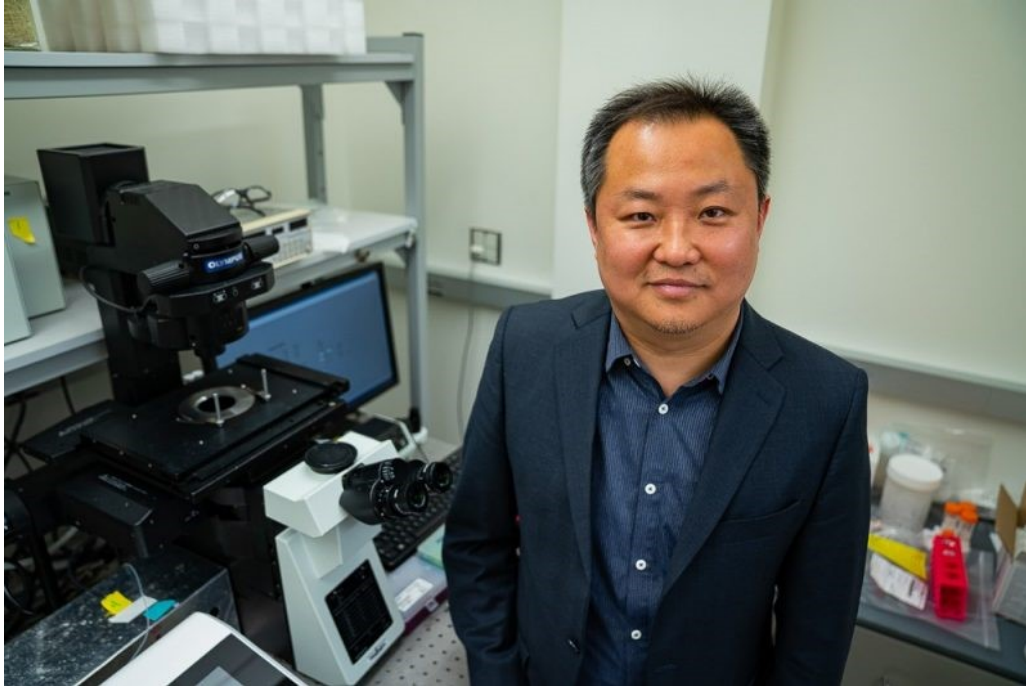
Hume Center awarded \$3.8 million for advanced manufacturing education by the Department of Defense

Michael Bortner, assistant professor of chemical engineering and co-principal investigator, will serve as the team lead for composite materials and processing. Other engineering faculty involved in the research are Scott Case, Steven Ellingson, Chris Williams, Majid Manteghi, Jaime Camelio, Steve McKnight, and Jack Lesko.



[New institute directors are eager to tackle large, interdisciplinary challenges](#)

Christopher Williams (left), a professor of mechanical engineering, will serve as the interim director of MII. Abby Whittington (right), an associate professor of chemical engineering and materials science and engineering, will serve as the director of the macromolecular science and engineering Ph.D. program.



[Chang Lu named American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering Fellow](#)

Chang Lu, the Fred W. Bull Professor in Virginia Tech's Department of Chemical Engineering within the College of Engineering, has been elected to the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering College of Fellows.



[Patent issued for a carbon dioxide capturing process](#)

A team of chemical engineering researchers has been granted a patent for an energy-saving solvent absorption process for capturing carbon dioxide from power plant flue gas. The invention was created by Stuart Higgins and Yueying Yu, former chemical engineering doctoral students at Virginia Tech, along with Y. A. Liu, alumni distinguished professor and the Frank C. Vilbrandt endowed professor of chemical engineering.

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