Material Science and Engineering

Guide and Faculty Specialty Directory for Perspective Graduate Students

www.eng.utk.edu/mse
Welcome to the Department of Materials Science and Engineering

We appreciate your interest in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) at the University of Tennessee. MSE offers the following graduate degree programs: MS and PhD in materials science and engineering (with concentrations in materials science, metallurgy, polymers, biomaterials, and nanomaterials).
The MSE graduate program is as diverse as the field it covers. Materials science and engineering is a truly interdisciplinary field, crossing the traditional disciplines of engineering, the physical sciences and areas of life sciences. The MSE curriculum requires students who have perspective, organizational abilities, and the capability to handle demanding interdisciplinary research.
Partnerships between graduate students and faculty create exciting and productive research in four major areas of the department:

- Materials Science and Engineering
- Polymer Science and Engineering
- Metallurgical Engineering
- Nanomaterials

MSE research programs interact with other engineering and science departments, the nearby Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and industry to form larger partnerships, creating an unparalleled research environment. The most established and significant partnerships are between the department and ORNL’s Materials Science and Technology Division (MSTD), Center for Nanophase Materials Science (CNMS), and Spallation Neutron Source (SNS), which provide students with the opportunity to participate in the division’s extensive research program.

http://www.ornl.gov
The department is also allied with the Center for Materials Processing (CMP), a Center of Excellence created in 1984 as part of Tennessee’s commitment to higher education. The Center recognizes educational and research programs of national prominence and provide substantial state funding. CMP’s objective is to develop significant research and academic programs that address the specific needs of American industry in the field of materials processing.

http://www.engr.utk.edu/cmp/

Also on the horizon is a new building, the Joint Institute for Advanced Materials (JIAM), which will be a joint UT-ORNL institute for advanced multidisciplinary materials research. JIAM will offer many opportunities for innovative research and collaboration, and the MSE department will be at the forefront of these activities.
Advanced Structural Materials

Since the early days of the Industrial Revolution, when steel was the material of choice for engineering applications, a wide variety of high-strength metals, alloys, ceramics, polymers, and composites have been developed for structural applications in engineering. Today, advanced structural materials are still at the forefront of materials research, and many faculty, graduate students, and post-doctoral researchers in the MSE department work directly on the development of new structural materials with researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Department of Energy’s leading laboratory for advanced materials development.

Computational Materials Science

Computational materials science efforts at UT focus on the predictive capabilities of
various simulation methods and are closely related to current experimental activities at UT and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. A wide spectrum of computational modeling and simulation methods, including ab initio methods, molecular dynamics, and finite element analysis, is applied to address current problems in materials research, such as evolving micro-and-nanostructures, small scale mechanical behavior, structural integrity of small devices, and material instabilities, among many others.

Electronic, Optical and Magnetic Materials

Research efforts in electronic, optical, and magnetic materials focus on an interdisciplinary investigation of multi-functional materials for renewable energy, and sensing and optical communication applications. Ongoing activities include materials synthesis and processing, device fabrication, property characterization, and theoretical modeling. Research facilities consist of unique in-house developed experimental systems for integrated electronic, optical and magnetic measurements; powerful electrically assisted laser spectroscopy; and advanced imaging instruments.
Materials for Energy Applications

Relying on fossil fuel is no longer a long-term option. New concepts in energy conservation, energy distribution and alternative energy generation are available but not yet competitive because either the material properties are not adequate or the materials processing is too expensive. Research efforts in materials science at UT tackle both problems by focusing on finding more efficient materials for energy applications at a less-expensive synthesis cost.

Nanomaterials

Materials reduced to the nanoscale can show very different properties compared to what they exhibit in macroscopic form, enabling unique applications that impact areas from biotechnology to electronic materials and advanced energy devices to enhanced...
structural materials. Faculty and graduate students in the MSE department work on many exciting experimental and theoretical aspects of nanomaterials, from investigating new ways to synthesize and characterize nanoscale materials to exploring the optical, electrical, magnetic, mechanical, and biological properties of novel nanomaterials.

Polymers and Biomaterials

Polymers are among the most widely used materials in the United States—surpassing the combined volume of steel, copper, and aluminum. The polymer industry continually faces new customer demands, furious global competition, and growing environmental concerns. Many problems remain unsolved, and new ones appear each day. The polymer facility at UT addresses these problems collectively through research efforts that include processing and characterization of fiber-based polymeric materials, optoelectronic polymers, synthesis and characterization of biomedical polymers, and chemical modification.
Facilities

The MSE department is located in Farris Hall, with additional laboratory space in the Science and Engineering Research Facility (SERF), a two hundred thirty thousand square foot facility designed specifically for engineering, science, and technology-related research.

The university is currently constructing the Joint Institute for Advanced Materials (JIAM), a
joint UT-ORNL institute for advanced materials multidisciplinary research. JIAM will be the first building constructed on the university’s new Cherokee Farm Research Campus. As a national leader in the field of materials research, the College of Engineering and the MSE department will be key beneficiaries of this initiative.
Dr. Kurt E. Sickafus
Alvin and Sally Beaman Professor and
MSE Department Head
Ph.D., Cornell University

414 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and
Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-4858
Email: kurt@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations
• Fellow, Los Alamos National Laboratory, 2008
• Los Alamos National Laboratory Distinguished Mentor Performance Award, 2003
• Fellow, American Ceramic Society, 1998

Research Areas
• Electron microscopy, with an emphasis on transmission electron microscopy (TEM), scanning transmission electron microscopy (STEM), and analytical electron microscopy (AEM) techniques.
• Crystallography, radiation damage effects, and microstructure of materials.
• The radiation damage behavior of oxides with structures ranging from spinel to ilmenite to pyrochlore to fluorite to perovskite.
Dr. Roberto Benson
Associate Head and Professor
Ph.D., Florida State University
404 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-5347
Email: rbenson1@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations
• 2013 Outstanding Advisor for the College of Engineering
• Allen and Hoshall Engineering Faculty Award, 2004
• Celanese Teaching and Research Award, 2000

Research Areas
• Chemistry, biological response and morphological changes associated with surface modification of polymeric systems
• Analysis and interpretation of the various molecular processes associated with degradation

Dr. Gajanan Bhat
Professor and Director,
UT Nonwovens Research Laboratory (UTNRL)
Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology
205 TANDEC Building, 1321 White Avenue
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-1950
Tel: (865) 974-0976
Email: ghat@utk.edu
Honors & Affiliations

• Distinguished Achievement Award, Fiber Society
• Outstanding Young Engineering Alumni, Georgia Tech
• Fellow, Textile Institute
• Technitext Research Award from International Congress ATNT-2008

Research Areas

• Biodegradable Nonwovens and Composites
• Flame Retardant Nonwovens
• Structure and Properties of High Performance Fibers
• Nanoclay Reinforced Polymers, Fibers and Nonwovens
• Multifunctional Composites
• Nanophase MnO<sub>7</sub> incorporated Fibers and Nonwovens

Dr. Hahn Choo
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Illinois Institute of Technology

411 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2200
Tel: (865) 974-3643
Email: hcoo@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations

• Leon and Nancy Cole Superior Teaching Award, 2013
• Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2010
• COE Research Fellow Award, 2005, 2006, 2008, and 2011
• Professional Promise in Research and Creative Achievement, UT, 2006
• Departmental Outstanding Young Faculty Researcher, 2004

Research Areas
• Synthesis, processing and physical/mechanical behavior of advanced structural alloys
• Development and application of neutron scattering for structural materials research

Dr. Gerd Duscher
Professor
Dr. rer. nat., University of Stuttgart, Germany

421 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-5319
Email: gduscher@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations
• College of Engineering Research Fellow Award, 2011
• George H. Bessis Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor Award, 2008
• Nanotechnology Impact Award, 2004
• Member, MRS, MSA, DPG, APS, TMS

Research Areas
• Electrical activity at interfaces and crystal defects
• Atomic and electronic structure at interfaces
Atomic resolution Z-contrast imaging
Atomic resolution electron energy-loss spectroscopy
Atomic structure calculations with density functional theory

Dr. Takeshi Egami
Distinguished Scientist & Professor
Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

208 South College
1413 Circle Drive
Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Department of Physics and Astronomy,
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2200
Tel: (865) 974-7204
Email: egami@utk.edu

Materials Science and Technology Division
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
One Bethel Valley Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6115
Phone: (865) 574-5165

Honors & Affiliations
• Director, UT-ORNL Joint Institute for Neutron Sciences
• J.D. Hanawalt Award, International Union of Crystallography, 2010
• B.E. Warren Diffraction Physics Award,
• American Crystallography Association, 2003
• Fellow, American Physical Society

Research Areas
• Neutron scattering research
• High-temperature superconductivity
• Electronic oxides
• Structure and dynamics of liquids and glasses

Dr. Yanfei Gao
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Princeton University

319 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-2350
Email: ygao7@utk.edu

4100-A277, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6164
Tel: (865) 574-2537

Honors & Affiliations
• MSE Faculty Teaching Award, 2013
• COE Research Fellow Award, 2010, 2013
• Chancellor’s Professional Promise Award, 2010
• MSE Faculty Research Award, 2010
• Sir Gordon Wu Fellowship, Princeton University
• Joint Faculty, ORNL Materials Science and Technology Division

Research Areas
• Small scale mechanical behavior
• Defects, contact, and friction
• Nanoscale thin film heterostructures
• Computational materials science
Dr. Easo George
Professor and UT-ORNL Joint Faculty
Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania

304 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-9331
Email: egeorge@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations
• Humboldt Prize, AvH foundation, Germany
• Sustained Outstanding Research Award, U.S. Department of Energy
• Fellow, TSM, ASM
• Buehler Best Paper Award
• MRS Outstanding Symposium Paper Award

Research Areas
• Small-scale mechanical behavior of crystalline and amorphous materials
• Refractory and precious metals for space power applications
• Mechanical behavior at extremes of temperature and strain rate
• Environmental effects on microstructure and mechanical properties

Dr. Wei He
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Connecticut

303 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Dr. Bin Hu
Professor
Ph.D., Chinese Academy of Sciences

403 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-3946
Email: bhu@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations
• Chancellor’s Professional Promise Award, 2008
• College Research Fellow Award, 2008
• Departmental Faculty Research Award, 2008
• NSF CAREER Award, 2007

Research Areas
• Responsive surface coating for enhanced tissue integration of neural prostheses
• Functional biomaterials for peripheral nerve regeneration
Research Areas

• Magnetic control of constructive and non-constructive excited state and charge transport processes in organic semiconducting materials
• Spin injection and polarization effects on electroluminescence in organic light-emitting diodes
• Singlet and triplet photovoltaic channels in organic solar cells

Dr. David Joy
Distinguished Scientist and Professor
D.Phil., University of Oxford, UK

232 Science and Engineering Research Facility
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2200
Tel: (865) 974-3642
Email: djoy@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations

• Fellow, Royal Microscopical Society (UK)
• Editor Emeritus, SCANNING
• National Winner, Battelle Nanoscience Challenge, 2002
• SRC Distinguished Research Award, 1998

Research Areas

• Monte Carlo modeling of electron and ion interactions in solids
• Metrology and Electron Beam Fabrication of nanostructures
• Advanced techniques for electron beam imaging and microanalysis
Dr. Ramki Kalyanaraman
Professor
Ph.D., North Carolina State University

419 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-5539
Email: ramki@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations

• Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
• Member, MRS, SPIE, TMS, ASM, ACS, and AAAS
• COE Research Fellow Award, 2011
• NSF CAREER Award, 2005

Research Areas

• Thin film growth and characterization
• Phase transformation and self-organization
• Functional nanostructures and nanocomposites for plasmonics, magnetics and nanophotonics
• Energetic beam processing of electronic materials

Dr. David Keffer
Professor
Ph.D., University of Minnesota

301 Ferris Hall,
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-5322
Email: dkeffer@utk.edu
Honors & Affiliations

• STAIR Graduate Program Director
• Allen & Hoshall Engineering Faculty Award, 2008
• COE Research Fellow Award, 2006, 2008
• Departmental Outstanding Advisor Award, 2003
• Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award, 2003
• COE Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award, 2002

Research Areas

• Multiscale materials modeling
• Sustainable energy
• Structure/property relationships in nanostructured materials
• Coarse-grained modeling of polymers

Dr. Veerle Keppens
Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
Ph.D., Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

401A Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-3494
Email: vkeppens@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations

• College of Engineering Research Fellow, 2009
• Chancellor’s Award for Professional Promise, 2007
• Departmental Outstanding Young Faculty Researcher, 2005
• Alexander Von Humboldt Fellow, 1998-1999
• Fulbright/NATO Fellow, 1995-1998
• Fellow, Acoustical Society of America

Research Areas
• Elastic constants and lattice dynamics of novel materials, including transition metal oxides, frustrated magnets and spin glasses
• Thermoelectric materials

Dr. Kevin Kit
Associate Head and Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Delaware

402 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-7055
Email: kkit@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations
• Departmental Faculty Award for Exemplary Service, 2004
• Member, American Chemical Society, Society of Plastics Engineers, and The Fiber Society

Research Areas
• Polymer science
• Polymer blends
• Electrospinning
• Polymer composites
Dr. Peter Liaw
John Fisher Professor and Ivan Racheff Chair of Excellence
Ph.D., Northwestern University

406 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-6356
Email: pliaw@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations
• Fellow, American Society for Metals
• Haynes International Gift Funds
• Westinghouse Outstanding Performance
• Director of NSF Integrated Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT), International Materials Institutes (IMI) and Major Research Instrument (MRI) programs

Research Areas
• Mechanical behavior, processing and nondestructive evaluation of advanced materials, including bulk-metallic glasses, nano-structural materials, superalloys and intermetallics
• NSF Advanced Neutron Scattering Network for Education and Research (ANSWER) Program
• NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) Program
Dr. Carl Lundin  
Professor  
Ph.D., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
426 Ferris Hall  
Department of Materials Science and Engineering  
The University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100  
Tel: (865) 974-5310  
Email: lundin@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations

• Fellow, American Society for Materials  
• Fellow, American Welding Society  
• Director of Materials Joining  
• Director of High Temperature Piping Inspection Laboratory  
• International Institute of Welding (IIW), The Evgeny Paton Prize for Contributions to Joining Science and Technology through his lifetime of dedication to applied research and development in the field of Materials Joining, July 2010  
• Materials Properties Council, Chairman Fabrication Committee

Research Areas

• Materials Joining, Metallurgy, High Temperature Behavior  
• New High Strength Steels  
• Corrosion of Weldments  
• Stainless Steels for the Nuclear and Chemical Industries
Dr. David Mandrus
Professor
Ph.D., Stony Brook University

410 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-3609
Email: dmandrus@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations
• Fellow, American Physical Society
• UT-Battelle Scientific Research Award, 2009
• Member, Superconductor Science and Technology Advisory Board
• Joint Faculty, Materials Science and Technology Division, ORNL

Research Areas
• Growth, discovery and materials physics of new electronic and magnetic materials (e.g. superconductors, thermoelectronics, multiferroics and itinerant magnets); oxide electronics

Dr. Carl McHargue
Research Professor
Ph.D., University of Kentucky

420 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-0881
Email: crl@utk.edu
Honors and Affiliations

- REI Medal by International Committee, Radiation Effects in Insulators, 2006

Research Areas

- Ion implantation of ceramics–radiation damage
- Mechanical and optical properties of defects and nanostructures in ceramics

Dr. Thomas Meek
Associate Professor
Ph.D., The Ohio State University

314 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-0940
E-mail: tmeek7@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations

- Member, American Ceramic Society
- SAMPE (executive board member 2001-2002)

Research Areas

- Electronic properties of materials
- Microwave processing of materials
- Ultrasonic processing of materials
Dr. Chuck Melcher  
Research Professor and Director, Scintillation Materials Research Center  
Ph.D., Washington University, St. Louis  
301 Science and Engineering Research Facility  
Scintillation Materials Research Center  
The University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100  
Tel: (865) 974-0254  
Email: cmelcher@utk.edu  

Honors & Affiliations  
• Fellow, IEEE, 2014  
• Citation for Success in Multidisciplinary Research: University of Tennessee, 2013  
• Associate Editor: Conference proceedings of Inorganic Scintillators and their Applications, 2009  
• Senior Editor: Conference proceedings of Inorganic Scintillators and their Applications 2007  
• Merit Award: IEEE Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society, 2006  
• Associate Editor, Transactions on Nuclear Science (2004 – 2010)  

Research Areas  
• Discovery and development of new scintillation materials that will form the basis for the next generation of gamma-ray, x-ray and neutron detectors  
• Characterization of new luminescent materials via optical and x-ray spectroscopy  
• Implementation of emerging scintillator technology in medical imaging systems, homeland security inspection systems, neutron and particle physics experiments and remote sensing
• Single crystal growth and powder synthesis of novel scintillation materials

Dr. James Morris
Associate Professor and UT-ORNL Joint Faculty
Ph.D., Cornell University

302 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-2484
Email: rmorrisj@ornl.gov

Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6115
Tel: (865) 576-7094,
Fax: (865) 576-6298

Honors & Affiliations
• Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award, 2012
• Organizer, “Defects, Defect Interactions, and Damage in Structural Materials,” Energy Frontier Research Center Summer School, 2012
• Deputy Director, Department of Energy “Energy Frontier Research Center for Defect Physics”, 2010-present
• Chair, Chemistry and Physics of Materials Committee, TMS Society, 2005-2008
• Visiting associate professor, CNRS, Ecole des Mines, Nancy Cedex, France, June 2005

Research Areas
• Crystal nucleation and interfacial free energies
• Metallic glasses
• Defect structures and material behavior
• Ductility of B2 compounds
• Martensitic transformations and shape-memory materials
• Grain boundary structure and behavior
• Large-scale molecular dynamics simulations

Dr. Tai-Gang Neih
Professor
Ph.D., Stanford University

322 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-5328
Email: tnieh@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations
• Fellow, ASM International
• Fellow, Minerals, Metals and Materials Society
• Editor, Materials Letters
• Adjunct Professor, WPI-Tohoku University
• Consulting Professor, Hong Kong City University, University of Science and Technology – Beijing
• Editor-in-Chief, J. Intermetallics

Research Areas
• Mechanical behavior of complex alloys, including amorphous alloys and high entropy alloys
• Structural nanomaterials
• High temperature materials
Dr. George Pharr
Chancellor’s Professor; John McKamey Professor; and Director, Joint Institute for Advanced Materials
UT-ORNL Joint Faculty
Ph.D., Stanford University

401 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-8202
Email: pharr@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations
• Member, National Academy of Engineering
• Fellow, Materials Research Society
• Fellow, ASM International
• Innovation in Materials Characterization Award, MRS, 2010
• Humboldt Senior Scientist Award, 2007
• Bradley Stoughton Award for Young Teachers of Metallurgy, ASM, 1985

Research Areas
• Nanoindentation and nanomechanical testing
• Thin film and small-scale mechanical behavior
• Mechanisms of fracture and flow in solids
• Finite element modeling of indentation contact
Dr. Philip Rack
Professor and Leonard G. Penland Chair
Ph.D., University of Florida

320 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-5344
Email: prack@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations
• Member, AVS, and Thin Film Division Executive Committee
• 2012 University of Tennessee COE Research Fellow Award
• 2011 Chancellor’s Award for Research and Creative Achievement
• 2011 COE Allen & Hoshall Engineering Faculty Award

Research Areas
• Combinatorial thin film synthesis for rapid materials discovery
• Materials integration and nanofabrication for advanced device application
• Nanoscale focused electron beam stimulated processing
Dr. Claudia Rawn  
Associate Professor and Director, Center for Materials Processing  
Ph.D., University of Arizona

331 Ferris Hall  
Department of Materials Science and Engineering  
The University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100  
Tel: (865) 974-5340  
Email: crawn@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations

• Member, U.S. National Committee for Crystallography
• UTK Faculty Award for Environmental Leadership, 2012
• MSE Faculty Award for Excellence in Service, 2012
• MSE Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2008
• COE Outstanding Faculty Advisor, 2007
• MSE Outstanding Young Faculty Researcher, 2005
• Member, American Crystallographic Association, Neutron Scattering Society of America
• Fellow, ASM International

Research Areas

• Neutron and X-ray powder diffraction
• Small molecule crystallography
• Ceramic synthesis
• Structure/property relations
Dr. Michael L. Simpson  
Professor and UT-ORNL Joint Faculty  
Ph.D., University of Tennessee

328 Ferris Hall  
Department of Materials Science and Engineering  
The University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100  
Tel: (865) 974-3316  
Email: simpsonML1@ornl.gov

Honors & Affiliations
• Fellow, IEEE, AIMBE  
• Battelle Memorial Institute Distinguished Inventor, 2007  
• Kermit Fischer Environmental Award, 1998  
• Lockheed-Martin Energy Research Corporation  
• Medal for Excellence in Technical Achievement, 1997 and 1998

Research Areas
• Molecular-scale engineering and nanoscale technologies  
• Nanophase materials sciences
Dr. Shanfeng Wang
Associate Professor
Ph.D., The University of Akron

424 Ferris Hall
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-7809
Email: swang16@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations

• Overseas Scholars Collaborative Research Award, National Natural Science Foundation of China, 2014
• International Collaborative Research Award, Ministry of Science and Technology of China, 2009
• Guest Professor, East China University of Science and Technology, Shanghai, 2008-present
• Member, Society of Rheology, American Physical Society, American Chemical Society, Society for Biomaterials, and American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Research Areas

• Rational design, synthesis, physical properties and processing of polymeric biomaterials for various tissue engineering applications
• Smart biomaterials such as shape memory polymers, biomimetic or bionic polymer/nanocomposite systems for medical applications
• Fabrications of biodegradable scaffolds and microfluidics, and effects of material properties and scaffold features on in vitro cell responses and in vivo tissue growth
• Cancer therapy and gene therapy based on polymeric nanoparticle carriers.
Dr. William Weber
Governor’s Chair Professor
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin

201 TANDEC Building
Department of MaterialsScience and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-1950
Tel: (865) 974-0415
E-mail: wjweber@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations

• Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Director’s Award for Individual Lifetime Achievement in Science and Technology, 2009

• University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, Distinguished Alumni Award, 2009

• Fellow, Materials Research Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Ceramic Society, American Physical Society

Research Areas

• Interaction of radiation with solids
• Radiation effects in materials
• Ion-beam modification of materials
• Materials under extreme environments
• Nuclear materials
Dr. Haixuan Xu  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of Florida

336 Ferris Hall  
Department of Materials Science and Engineering  
The University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100  
Tel: (865) 974-6183  
Email: xhx@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations

• Fellowship, Center of Defect Physics in Structural Materials  
• Member, American Physical Society  
• Member, Materials Research Society  
• Member, The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society

Research Areas

• Point defect evolution and impurity segregation in advanced alloys with improved strength, stability and radiation resistance  
• Defect-dislocation interaction and dislocation dynamic behavior in materials under external stimuli  
• Interface effects on flexoelectricity in nanoscale sensors, actuators, and energy harvesters
Dr. Yanwen Zhang
Associate Professor and UT-ORNL Joint Faculty
Ph.D., Lund University, Sweden

203 Tandec Building
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-1950
Tel: (865) 974-0482
E-mail: yanwen@utk.edu

Honors & Affiliations
• Co-chair, International Conference on Radiation Effects and Insulators, 2010
• Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)
• DOE Office of Science Early Career Scientist and Engineer Award
• Co-editor, Ion Beams in Nanoscience and Technology

Research Areas

• Interactions of charged particles with materials, detection and characterization of charged particles including ion-solid, electron-solid and photon-solid interaction
Faculty by Specialty Area

**Advanced Structural Materials**
- Dr. George Pharr
- Dr. Hahn Choo
- Dr. Yanfei Gao
- Dr. Easo George
- Dr. Peter Liaw
- Dr. Carl Lundin
- Dr. James Morris
- Dr. T.G. Nieh
- Dr. Kurt Sickafus

**Computational Materials Science**
- Dr. Gerd Duscher
- Dr. Yanfei Gao
- Dr. James Morris
- Dr. David Keffer
- Dr. William Weber
- Dr. Haixuan Xu

**Electrical, Optical and Magnetic Materials**
- Dr. Takeshi Egami
- Dr. Bin Hu
- Dr. Veerle Keppens
- Dr. David Mandrus
- Dr. Thomas Meek
- Dr. Chuck Melcher
- Dr. Philip Rack

**Materials for Energy Applications**
- Dr. Hahn Choo
- Dr. Gerd Duscher
- Dr. Takeshi Egami
Dr. Easo George
Dr. David Joy
Dr. Ramki Kalyanaraman
Dr. David Keffer
Dr. Veerle Keppens
Dr. Carl McHargue
Dr. T.G. Nieh
Dr. Claudia Rawn
Dr. David Mandrus
Dr. James Morris
Dr. Kurt Sickafus
Dr. William Weber
Dr. Yanwen Zhang

Nanomaterials and Devices
Dr. George Pharr
Dr. Philip Rack
Dr. Ramki Kalyanaraman
Dr. Claudia Rawn
Dr. Michael Simpson
Dr. Shanfeng Wang
Dr. Yanwen Zhang

Polymers and Biomaterials
Dr. Roberto Benson
Dr. Gajanan Bhat
Dr. Wei He
Dr. Bin Hu
Dr. David Keffer
Dr. Kevin Kit
Dr. Michael Simpson
Dr. Shanfeng Wang
Admissions Requirements

Please submit a request for application by email to the departmental graduate recruiting coordinator at mse@utk.edu or visit the web page to download forms. Academic, research, and work backgrounds of prospective students will be reviewed to check that a good match exists between prospective students and the department to ensure students have a satisfying and rewarding graduate career.

All students interested in the College of Engineering graduate program must first be admitted through the UT Graduate School. Applications are available online at http://admission.utk.edu/graduate/.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (verbal, quantitative and analytical) are also required for admission consideration for all graduate student applicants (domestic and international) in the programs.
Financial Support

Graduate students may receive financial support through the MSE department or through assistantships and fellowships administered through the MSE department.

Contact Information

Graduate Program Coordinator
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The University of Tennessee
414 Ferris Hall, 1508 Middle Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Tel: (865) 974-5336
E-mail: mse@utk.edu
Web site: www.engr.utk.edu/mse