

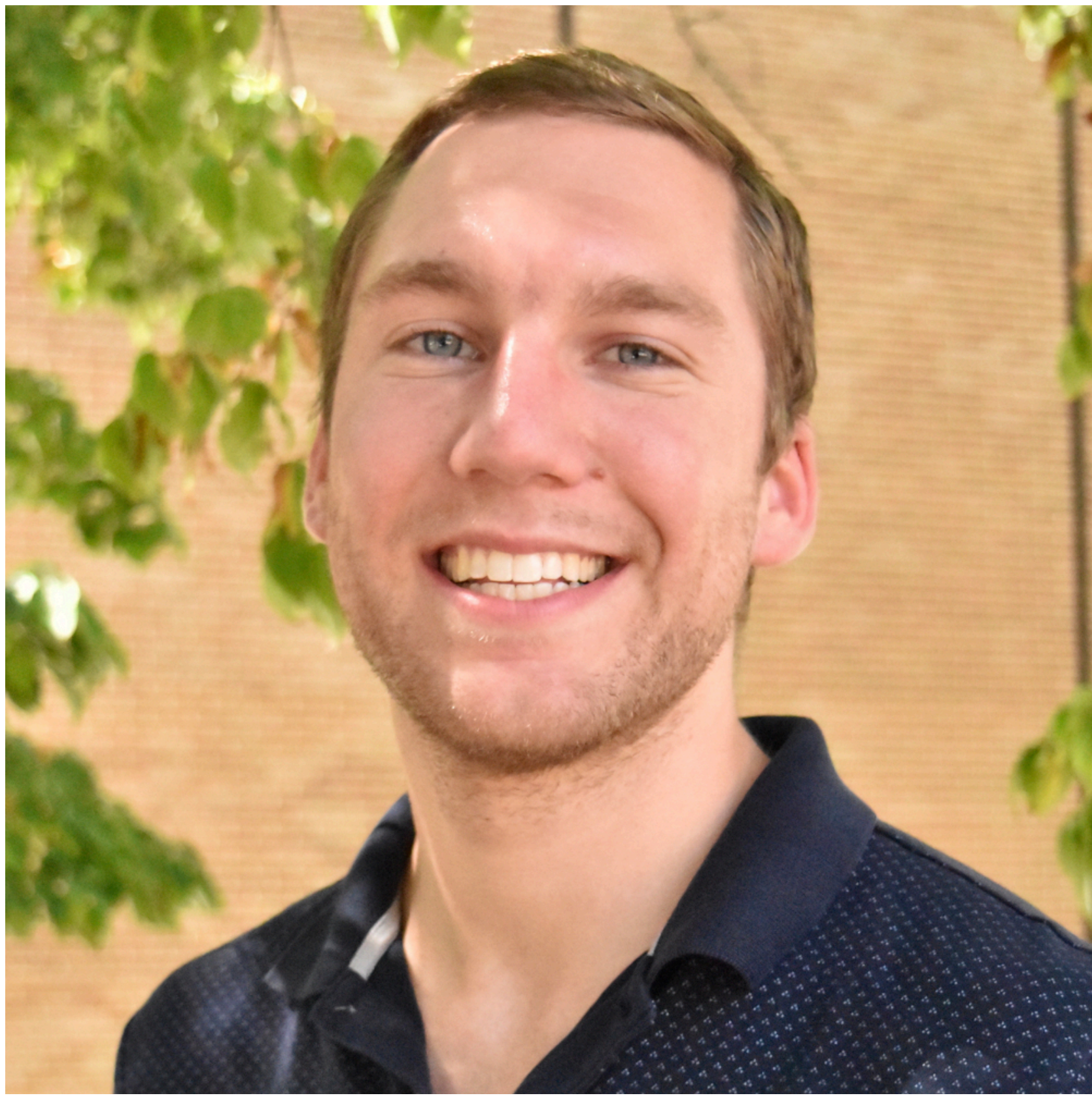
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Dear Materials Science and Engineering Community,

Welcome to the monthly newsletter from your Lehigh Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee! This newsletter is intended to highlight DEI-related events, resources, and activities in our Lehigh community and beyond.

We asked one of our graduate student representatives John Tolbert (PhD student in Polymer Science and Engineering) why DEI matters to him:

*I applied to be a representative on the MSE DEI committee because I wanted to be a part of making our department a better place for everyone in it. It's incredibly important to advocate for the value of diversity in all spaces and especially in engineering and the sciences where it is often an overlooked or ignored issue. I think that having a voice for graduate students in this space is important as we are often a group that can be left out of discussions. Being a part of a department that has specific goals and a vision for DEI initiatives has been rewarding, and has reinforced that the ability to work in the DEI space is something I will look for in future opportunities after graduating from Lehigh.*



This month we are focusing on efforts to enhance support for our undergraduate and graduate students in the department. We will be seeking input from all students, staff, and faculty to help us develop equitable onboarding practices to ensure all students have access to information, opportunities, and resources within and beyond the department. Keep an eye out for announcements about this from your respective DEI representative. Thank you in advance for your help!

Our committee will also be preparing guidance for an equity audit to evaluate student, staff, and faculty service levels. The goal of this audit is to identify improvements to optimize department operations.

The MSE DEI Committee is accepting nominations for a graduate student representative to join our committee starting in Spring 2023. The student representative will serve on the committee for one year and is expected to participate in monthly committee meetings and actively contribute to advancing our goals to make our department a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment. If you are interested or would like to nominate a graduate student, please submit your nomination(s) or self-nomination to **[mse-dei-committee-list@lehigh.edu](mailto:mse-dei-committee-list@lehigh.edu) by Friday, November 18, 2022 at 5 pm ET**. The nomination should include a brief paragraph (½ page maximum) indicating why you or the student would like to participate and will make a positive contribution to our mission. No previous experience is required.

If you have any questions, please contact [mse-dei-committee-list@lehigh.edu](mailto:mse-dei-committee-list@lehigh.edu) and/or feel free to reach out to our current student representatives for more information.

Update from our last newsletter: we are still working on scheduling our first [anti-racist training session](#) and hope to include it in our MSE Spring 2023 Seminar Series. Stay tuned!

Sincerely,

The MSE DEI Committee

Lesley Chow (Faculty), pronouns: she, her, hers

Itzel Esparza (Undergraduate Student), pronouns: she, her, hers

Laura Moyer (Staff), pronouns: she, her, hers

Siddha Pimputkar (Faculty), pronouns: he, him, his

Nicholas Strandwitz (Faculty), pronouns: he, him, his

John Tolbert (Graduate Student), pronouns: he, him, his

Jonathan Valenzuela (Graduate Student), pronouns: he, him, his



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