

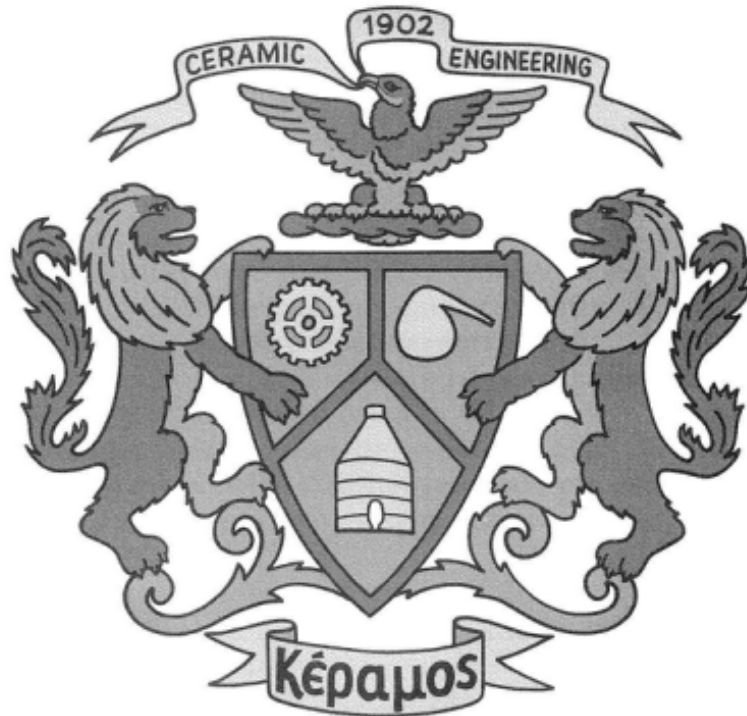


# Iowa State University

## Keramos Annual Report 2012 – 2013

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Master Potter: Karen Derocher



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## **Executive Summary**

ISU MSE department and college leadership changed hands this year, involving *both* chapter co-advisors. Prof. Mufit Akinc served as interim dean and Prof. Kristen Constant became department chair. Despite the fact that this left the chapter with reduced advisor involvement, they were active and made significant progress in chapter coordination and development of activities. Especially notable has been their efforts and planning to improve student engagement. Next year looks even more promising with ambitious, but realistic goals.

## **Plan for 2013 – 2014 School Year**

While this year was a resounding success for the Iowa State University Chapter, the plans for next year are monumental. Having changed the chapter bylaws to allow make the chapter more available to underclassmen throughout the department, one of the biggest areas of focus for this coming year will be recruitment. Traditionally, Iowa State's award winning Materials Advantage club has been the pride and joy of the Materials Engineering department. Becoming more involved with materials demonstrations at university events will be a great opportunity to increase the presence of the chapter on the Iowa State campus.

The other focus our chapter for the upcoming year is to reconnect with the planning and deadlines set down in the National Keramos Procedure Manual. In the past, we have had debates over the total cost of dues for each person, and we have occasionally missed a deadline. To address this, we are expanding the position of Chapter Reporting Chair. In the past, the Chapter Reporting Chair was only responsible for writing the annual report. The chair is now being asked to keep the rest of the club on task to meet deadlines for initiation, elections, and other national standards. By working on expanding the chapter and adhering to the Keramos Procedure Manual, the Iowa State University Chapter will be a contender for Outstanding Chapter in the near future.

## List of Officers

President: Kelsey Draus

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

VP: Stephanie Choquette

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Treasurer: Rachel Schmidt

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Secretary: Yushen Su

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Herald: Michael Henrich

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

## List of Active Members

### Students

\* Indicates Newly Initiated Members on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

	Antonelli,	Perry
*	Choquette	Stephanie
	DeRocher,	Karen
	Doyle,	Hannah
*	Draus,	Kelsey
	Henrich,	Michael
	Holic,	Robert
	Lilienthal,	Vincent
	Marple,	Maxwell
	Rueschoff,	Lisa
*	Schmidt,	Rachel
	Schuler,	Devon
	Su,	Wendy
	Techentin,	Matthew
	Wallerstedt,	Ben
	Zeman,	Andi

[Redacted]

### Advisors

Dr. Kristen Constant

[Redacted]

Dr. Mufit Akinc

[Redacted]

## Treasurer's Report

This year we received money from Keramos National, Engineering Student Council, and member dues. We spent money funding chapter activities such as pottery throwing, traveling to MS&T, and replenishing our slip-casting supplies. This year, we received enough money to cover all of our expenses, but in the future, we will be slip-casting ornaments to raise more money for chapter activities.

## Chapter Activities

This year, we have been active with monthly meetings including speakers from both industry and academia. The chapter also held social gatherings where more was learned about making ceramic pottery, glassblowing, and slip-casting. Each new initiate was required to create a ceramic plaque from slip-casting. Additionally, a number of slip-casting molds were used to create ceramic ornaments used for fundraising and outreach. The chapter has also made strides to become better attuned to the goals of the Keramos National Fraternity.

Near the beginning of the year, a number of our members worked on creating a mug for the mug drop competition. The plan was to use glass blowing techniques to create a vessel of the ideal size and strength, and then the glass would be chemically tempered in a salt bath. They spent hours repairing a broken kiln and finding a suitable crucible for the tempering process. However, a miscalculation in the processing procedure led to the salt solidifying around the glass and crushing each of the mugs. The team was unable to participate in the mug drop competition this year, but they fully intend to try again for next year. Plans have already been made to create the mugs before the end of the semester.

The majority of our members attended the MS&T conference this year in Pittsburg. Our Vice-President and Chapter Reporting Chair attended the biennial Convocation and Annual Meeting. While there, they listened attentively to the other chapters reporting their successful years. Our representatives took note and brought back a vast wealth of outreach ideas for the coming years. Many of these plans will be utilized next year such as "Break Stuff Day" where students can bring various items, dip them in liquid nitrogen, and smash them to relieve stress from studying for finals.

At each of our monthly meetings, we found a guest speaker who either works in industry or is performing research in ceramic science. Our most notable speaker was Dr. Scott Beckman, a professor at Iowa State University. Dr. Beckman works primarily with modeling ceramic structures. He discussed the importance of theory and modeling in ceramic engineering. In the past, our speakers have spoken primarily about the hands-on lab work they do. It was very

exciting to hear about the importance of predictive modeling, and many members were talking about Dr. Beckman's presentation for many days.

This year, our chapter decided to explore the artistic side of ceramics. We set up a demonstration by the gaffers guild and learned about many techniques they use to produce and form the glass. We also spent a Saturday morning at the campus art activity center learning how to create pottery on a potter's wheel. It was very messy and very fun, and the members were invited to come back a week later to glaze and finish their artwork. There is also a tour of the Brunier Art Museum slated for the coming weeks. They currently have an exhibit of glass and ceramic artwork and have offered to let us handle some of the pieces.

The other important activity performed by our chapter was a revision of our bylaws. We realized that one reason why many interested candidates for Keramos could not join our chapter were because our strict bylaws. We voted to lower our GPA requirement and changed the requisite course from a 300 level specialization course to a 200 level course that first discusses ceramics. This will increase the availability of our chapter to Iowa State students and lead to increased membership in future years.