

The New York Chapter of Keramos

New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University



Annual Report
2013-2014

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I. President Summary

For the 2013-2014 school year the New York State chapter of Keramos reluctantly says goodbye to two tremendously helpful people that have been deeply involved in our chapter's activities for many years. The first is our past advisor Dr. Walter Schulze who has retired from Alfred University this year. He has helped us in innumerable ways over the years and done more for us than we deserved. While his footprints may be hard to fill, we believe we found a wonderful replacement. Our newly appointed advisor is Dr. Garret McGowan a chemistry professor at Alfred University. He has graciously accepted the reigns to lead our prestigious organization. The second person to be lost from our organization this year is Marlene Wightman. Marlene has been Alfred's community outreach director for many years but she has also retired this past year. She has done a wonderful job over the years helping and directing Alfred University's Keramos chapter to become more involved in the community. Her new replacement is Jean Pilgrim, who is now in charge of K-12 events at Alfred University. So far Jean has been very active and ambitious in setting up more community outreach events that our chapter can partake in.

This year we managed to be continually involved in student development events and community outreach. Our meetings are becoming more and more active and with a revamped constitution we believe our chapter will only continue to grow. Unfortunately, very few pictures were taken of all of our activity but this is something that will change in the future.

In summary, there continues to be a very positive outlook for Alfred University's Keramos chapter. By making strides in the right direction and with a promising new e-board our chapter will hopefully keep positively progressing.

President: Eric Tower

II. Annual Plan

For the 2014-15 academic year the New York Chapter of Keramos plans to continue the trend of increased member and chapter involvement, raise funds, and increase community involvement. The newly instated attendance requirement dramatically improved member attendance and involvement so our chapter plans to keep this new change.

Additional funds will be raised through two vending machines that our chapter of Keramos currently owns, as well as new engineering related fundraisers such as the sale of Alfred University Engineering apparel to current students, faculty, and alumni. Our chapter hopes to increase involvement of the fraternity within the community by assisting with Community Outreach programs that aim to instill an interest in the engineering field to elementary and middle school aged children.

III. Officers

Incoming officers (2013-2014)

President

Corine Pettit

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Vice President

Alex J Jackson

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Secretary

Bradford Divine

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Treasurer

Sean Locker

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Herald

Peter Sowinski

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Outgoing officers (2012-2013)

President

Eric Tower

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Vice President

Bradford Divine

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Secretary

Peter Benoit

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Treasurer

David Hepp

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Herald

Peter Sowinski

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

IV. Active Members

Undergraduate:

David Baker
Peter Benoit
Lydia Boutelle*
Ashley Burdett*
Matthew Bushong
Benjamin Castner*
Tiffany Chen*
Simon Chon
Patrick Cigno
Bernadette Cladek
Caelen Clark*
Elizabeth Clark
Rachel Cook*
Scott DeFranco-
Norton*
Bradford Divine
Kathryn Esham
Alyssa Fuller
Seth Fuller
Andres Garcia
Kelsey Gloss*
Hunter Haddad*
Kasey Hanson
Ryan Heckman
David Hepp
Alex Jackson*
Nathaniel Jacobs*
Jennifer Kachala*
Alec Ladonis
Fred Langenstein
Stephen LiVoti

Nicole Lobur
Sean Locker
Ryan Mahon
Daniel Malley Jr.*
Dianne Mattar
Max Modugno
Corine Pettit
Noah Quinlan*
Stephen Rooney
Samantha Schneider-
Pollack
Justin Shultis*
Peter Sowinski
Matthew Strohmayr*
Artemas Steere
Emma Storr
Eric Teller
Kathryn Tierny*
Eric Tower
Alex Turner
Nathaniel Yard*

Graduate:

Michael Alberga*
Karen Bond
Braeden Clark
Sean Cunningham
Ryan Dempsey
Claire Dvorak
Ana Fredell
Katelyn Glass
Brittany Higgins

Kevin Keefe
Timothy Keenan
James Kelly
Patrick Kreski
Kyle McDevitt
Peter Metz
Ryan Musson
Lana Placek
Jasper Wright
Kathryn Russell

Faculty:

Vasantha Amarakoon
William Carty
Alexis Clare
Alastair Cormack
Doreen Edwards
Andrew Eklund
Herbert Giesche
Matthew Hall
William LaCourse
Garrett McGowan
Nathan Mellott
Scott Misture
Steven Pilgrim
Arun Varshneya

* - New Inductee

V. Treasurer's Report

At the start of this academic year, the New York State Chapter of Keramos had approximately \$894. During the Course of this year, the bank which the chapter keeps its accounts was changed from Steuben Trust Co to Community Bank NA. The chapter's main source of funds comes from the two soda pop vending machines, owned and operated by the chapter, placed in the McMahon engineering building and Scholes library. The two machines typically sell between 180 and 200 cans of soda pop every two weeks. At the currently selling price approximately \$0.40 per can is generated, the majority of this profit is used to purchase more cans of soda pop. \$84 was spent to replace the bill exchanger on one of the machines, which cuts into the approximate \$200 generated yearly from soda pop sales. Chapter expenditures include food during meetings, the potential inductee luncheon, "play with clay" events. New inductees pay a one-time \$5 chapter due which covers the cost of the induction ceremony dinner, and boost chapter funds with the excess. This spring, the chapter is working to sell collared polos with "Alfred University Inamori School of Engineering" embroidered on the left chest. At the time of the writing of this report, the pre-order sale is still on-going and 47 polos have been order, each netting the club an estimated \$7 in profit. We expect that profits will be around \$330 from the sale of polos.

The ending balance of the chapter's bank account is \$2477.35, which includes the pre-paid money for polos, and the National chapter dues which have not been submitted at the time of writing. The end of academic year balance is expected to be approximately \$1450.

VI. Chapter Activities

Meeting Schedule & Study Nights

We transitioned from weekly to bi-weekly meetings this year. This permitted a better turnout for each meeting instead of having a few members every week. We often talked about participating in demos and fun events to get more members involved. We also continued to conduct bi-weekly study nights after the meetings. The study nights were very successful and often had a large turnout as they have had in the previous year. Our chapter's members found these study nights to be very helpful because it allows the younger members to pick the brains of the older members.

Inductions

A single induction ceremony was held this year in the spring because of it being a transition year. In the future the induction will be held in the spring so that new inductees will have time to become accustomed to Keramos's activities before elections.

Prior to the inductions we held a held a get-to-know-you luncheon with pizza and snacks. This was a great opportunity for the potential inductees to get learn about Keramos's history and why it is such a beneficial fraternity to be a part of. This also allowed us to select the inductees that we thought appropriately met the requirements to join. Once the new inductees were selected we sent out invitations and held their induction ceremony into Keramos. After the ceremony was completed, everyone enjoyed a pasta dinner made by the current members. The induction went very well with 19 members being inducted in the spring.

Engineering BBQ

We held an engineering barbeque this past spring. The BBQ consisted of grilling hotdogs and hamburgers with the additions of various side dishes. There was a large turnout and the hungry masses ate all of the food rapidly. It gave the students in the different engineering programs an opportunity to mingle with the Keramos Fraternity as a whole.

Community Outreach

With the help of Jean Pilgrim we are becoming more active in demonstrations for students in grades K-12 in the local area. There have been several events that she has planned this spring semester alone. One specific event that our Keramos chapter assisted in was a camp designed to allow girl scouts to earn merit badges. This camp involved several basic demonstrations that the girl scouts could become involved in. These demos consisted of liquid nitrogen and other various fun engineering activities.

Play With Clay

We continued with our play with clay events that were started last year. This event allowed our members to dabble in throwing on a wheel and experience the artistic side of ceramics with which they may not be as familiar with. The more artistically inclined members of Keramos were able to help teach the others how to throw on a wheel or improve their current skills. Overall this event receives great reviews and we always have a lot of members participate.



Keramos members at a play with clay event

MS&T in Montreal

This past year we managed to send 10 Keramos members to MS&T. We cannot express our gratitude enough to the dean Doreen Edwards and Mr. & Mrs. Berstein for helping us fund our trip to MS&T this year. By attending MS&T this past year we have gained invaluable experience to grow more engineers. Through this experience we have been able to make multiple contacts in the industry and also with Alfred alumni.

Unfortunately this past year we did not participate in any of the competitions but this will change in the future!

Awards

To follow tradition, Keramos continued to give awards at Alfred University's honors convocation. As usual, the recipients were nominated by and voted for by Keramos members and a plaque was donated by Keramos for the John F. McMahon Ceramic Teaching Excellence Award. This year's awards recipients are listed below:

- John F. McMahon Ceramic Teaching Excellence Award
 - Dr. Steven Pilgrim
- Dr. Richard C. Martin Outstanding Senior Scholarship
 - Eric Tower
- Dr. Richard C. Martin Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
 - Yiyu Li
- Advancement of Women in Engineering Award
 - Courtney Smith

Congratulations to this year's winners!

VII. Summary

Over the past year the participation of our members in The New York State Chapter of Keramos has changed for the better. Through the guidance of last year's executive board, we have been able to spark new life into our chapter and there is a promising bright future ahead of Alfred's chapter. Our newly appointed officers are more than suited to continue this great activity. We have the upmost trust that they will continue on with positive progression

Although we have lost two important members of our organization we were able to obtain two just as suited for the job. With Dr. McGowan our new advisor and Jean Pilgrim in charge of the community outreach program at Alfred we have every reason to believe things are headed in the right direction.

One of the highlights of this year was that we were able to start a new fundraiser by selling polo's designed for the engineering school. Within a three week period we received 47 orders for polos. This is a promising opportunity for our chapter that we will continue to take advantage of and hopefully raise enough funds for more activities to become involved in.

Best of luck to the new officers!