

# The New York Chapter of Keramos

New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University



# **Annual Report**

## **2014-2015**

### **Table of Contents**

- I. **Chapter President's Summary**
- II. **Annual Plan**
- III. **Officers**
- IV. **Active Members**
- V. **Treasurer's Report**
- VI. **Chapter Activities**
- VII. **Summary**

## **I. President's Summary**

To say that this past year for our chapter of Keramos at Alfred University has been a success would be a massive understatement. Over the last 12 months we have seen such a dramatic improvement in our chapter. Great strides were made by the 2013-14 E-board to improve the involvement of the club, and the 2014-15 E-board was able to build on that momentum resulting in arguably the best year for Keramos at Alfred University in quite some time. The involvement of our members and the number of events hosted in the 2014-15 year far exceeded our expectations!

This year we sponsored our first Blood Drive on campus, started a new fundraiser, created opportunities for member bonding, increased our number of professional development events, and also began a brand new ceramic related project that could have real world applications. We also inducted an "honorary member" as per the description of Keramos National, and two more "Alfred honorary members" as described by a change in our constitution. All of these new members we believe will be great assets to our chapter.

With the election of our E-board, our chapter is ready for another year of success; and I have the utmost faith in the abilities of our new officers to carry on this new and improved attitude and spirit of our chapter of Keramos here at Alfred University!

***Corine Pettit***  
2014-15 President

## **II. Annual Plan**

**For the 2015-2016 school year the Alfred chapter of Keramos plans to increase our campus involvement. We intend to increase attendance to our Keramos events by offering incentives and taking feedback from our active members to help make meetings more enjoyable while helping to build rapport among our group. We plan to raise funds via our two vending machines on campus. Another hot dog fundraiser is also anticipated because it not only helps to bring in money, but is also a great bonding experience for our members. Finally, to help raise funds as well as school spirit we will continue to sell our Alfred Engineering polos.**

**This coming year our chapter plans to stay involved with our community outreach programs, like A3, as well as participating in Visit Days to help recruit students to the university and Keramos. This coming fall Keramos plans to once again attend the Materials Science and Technology conference which will be hosted in Columbus, Ohio.**

### III. Officers

#### Incoming officers (2015-2016)

President

Ben Castner



Vice President

Alex Jackson



Secretary

Ryan Hughes



Treasurer

Sean Locker



Herald

Matt Curtis



#### Outgoing officers (2014-2015)

President

Corine Pettit



Co-Vice President

Ben Castner



Co-Vice President

Alex Jackson



Secretary

Dalton Divine



Treasurer

Sean Locker



Herald

Pete Sowinski



## IV. Active Members

### Undergraduate:

Harrison Amper\*  
David Baker  
Charles Bellows\*  
Ashley Burdett  
James Cahill  
Ben Castner  
Tiffany Chen  
Patrick Cigno  
Bernadette Cladek  
Elizabeth Clark  
Rachel Cook  
Nickolas Cooper\*  
Matthew Curtis\*  
Dalton Divine  
Maddi Flint\*  
Alyssa Fuller  
Andres Garcia  
John Gill\*  
Ryan Heckman  
Audrey Hepp  
James Horwath\*  
Peter Hoskins\*  
Ryan Hughes\*  
Troy Hugick\*  
Alex Jackson  
Jennifer Kachala  
Andrew King\*

Stephen LiVoti  
Nicole Lobur  
Sean Locker  
Ryan Mahon  
Madison Maley\*  
Dianne Mattar  
Max Modugno  
Brian Oistad\*  
Joshua Pritchard\*  
Noah Quinlan  
Evan Schwind\*  
Artemas Steere  
Emma Storr  
Kathryn Tierney  
Jacob Townsend\*  
Alex Turner  
Katie Weiss\*  
Nathaniel Yard

### Graduate:

Michael Alberga  
Simon Chon  
Braedan Clark  
Ryan Dempsey  
Claire Dvorak  
Ana Fredell  
Katelyn Glass

Brittany Higgins  
Kevin Keefe  
Timothy Keenan  
Alec Ladonis  
Peter Metz  
Corine Pettit  
Peter Sowinski  
Jasper Wright

### Faculty:

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

*\* - New Inductee*

## V. Treasurer's Report

Throughout the course of the year Keramos and its members have been actively raising money through vending machine sales and fundraising. Polo sales and late night hot dog sales were a few of our fundraising efforts. Injunction with fundraising, Keramos has also held get togethers as local pizza shops, bowling alleys and play with clay events; to keep members active.

<b>Keramos Spending 2014-15</b>					<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>\$1,377.22</b>
					<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>\$1,628.33</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Merchant</b>	<b>Deposit (+)</b>	<b>Withdrawal (-)</b>	<b>Total</b>	
9/18/2014	vending machine		\$100.80		\$1,478.02	
9/24/2014	vending machine		\$188.00		\$1,666.02	
9/24/2014	Accordion	AU Bookstore		\$10.83	\$1,655.19	
9/24/2014	vending machine	Wegmans		\$74.40	\$1,580.79	
9/24/2014	vending machine	Walmart		\$37.46	\$1,609.19	
9/26/2014	Hot Dog Sale	Sam's Club		\$42.01	\$1,563.19	
10/9/2014	Pilgrims Demo Pizza	Foxes		\$46.00	\$1,517.19	
10/17/2014	Hot dog fundraiser & vending funds		\$318.00		\$1,835.19	
10/20/2014	50lb box of clay	Alfred University Clay Store		\$16.28	\$1,818.91	
10/21/2014	MS&T stipend from K Ntn'l	Keramos	\$318.00		\$2,136.91	
10/22/2014	Withdrawal for change			\$80.00	\$2,056.91	
10/23/2014	Deposit		\$80.00		\$2,056.91	
10/23/2014	Soda	Wegmans		\$39.44	\$2,017.47	
10/24/2014	vending machine		\$152.00		\$2,169.47	
11/7/2014	Soda	Wegmans		\$65.65	\$2,054.67	
11/7/2014	Soda	Walmart		\$17.47	\$2,037.20	
11/20/2014	Soda	Wegmans		\$29.24	\$2,007.96	

<b>11/21/2014</b>	Bowling	Maple City Bowl		\$5.00	\$1,959.03
<b>11/21/2014</b>	Food	Maple City Bowl		\$25.05	\$1,933.98
<b>12/3/2014</b>	Pizza	Little Sicily		\$40.13	\$1,893.85
<b>12/5/2014</b>	Soda	Wegmans		\$52.58	\$1,841.27
<b>2/11/2015</b>	Soda	Wegmans		\$178.00	\$1,663.27
<b>2/13/2015</b>	vending machine		\$614.65		\$2,277.92
<b>2/15/2015</b>	Pizza	Zippy's		\$30.00	\$2,247.92
<b>3/5/2015</b>	Second meet inductees event	Terra Cotta	\$40.98		\$2,049.54
<b>3/19/2015</b>	Food for Inductions	Wegmans		\$198.38	\$2,017.54
<b>3/22/2015</b>	Pizza	Zippy's		\$32.00	\$2,337.54
<b>3/22/2015</b>	Induction Dues		\$320.00		\$2,657.54
<b>3/5/2015</b>	Pizza	Fox's Pizza Den		\$43.93	\$2,613.61
<b>4/1/2015</b>	Soda	Wegmans		\$168.58	\$2,445.03
<b>4/2/2015</b>	Soda	Wegmans		\$47.52	\$2,397.51
<b>4/9/2015</b>	Graduation Cords (50x)	<a href="http://HonorsGraduation.com">HonorsGraduation.com</a>		\$469.18	\$1,928.33
<b>4/13/2015</b>	Annual Dues	Keramos National		\$140.00	\$1,788.33
<b>4/13/2015</b>	Induction Dues	Keramos National		\$160.00	\$1,628.33



## **VI. Chapter Activities**

### ***Meetings***

This year we started a new meeting time which helped to increase the member attendance. In addition to the new meeting time, pizza at meetings has helped to increase member attendance. Additionally, we started having meetings specifically for officers before meetings in order to increase organization and improve communication between officers.

### ***Inductions***

One major change that our chapter made this year was an adjustment to the GPA requirement. According to the national Keramos guidelines, a member must have a minimum of a 3.0 to join Keramos. However, each chapter may require a higher GPA at their own discretion. Typically, our chapter has required that students have a 3.5 GPA, however we have made an adjustment to our constitution that will allow students with a 3.0 to join Keramos if and only if they demonstrate an exceptional interest in ceramics or material science. This change allowed two new members to join our chapter who we believe will be great assets! We also inducted a prestigious ceramic artist from Alfred, John Gill, as an honorary member of our chapter.

### ***Fundraising***

Several new fundraising events were started this year. Engineers from all around began sporting snazzy Alfred University Inamori School of Engineering polos, which we began selling during the spring 2014 semester. This fall also marked the first late-night hot dog fundraiser. We cooked and sold hotdogs to fellow students that were craving some late night food on the weekend. Much to our surprise, we actually sold out of hot dogs in less than 2 hours, and had a blast while selling them too! Finally, by utilizing the only vending machines on campus permitted to sell Pepsi-products we have found a strong steady source of income.

### ***MS&T in Pittsburgh***

This past year we managed to send 10 Keramos members to MS&T. We cannot

express our gratitude enough to Dean Doreen Edwards and Mr. & Mrs. Bernstein 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 as engineers. Through this experience we have been able to make multiple contacts in the industry and also with Alfred alumni. An attempt to participate in the mug drop was made, however one week before the conference our mug broke and time did not permit another to be made in time for the competition.

### ***Liquid Nitrogen “Break Stuff”***

This year has marked the beginning of many new events for our chapter. We hosted our first “liquid nitrogen/break stuff” event. The event had a great turnout with students eager to break their items of choice. A cute little rubber ducky was one unfortunate victim to the liquid nitrogen, but definitely the members’ favorite in terms of destruction. The final part of our event was to put the remaining liquid nitrogen into a sealed water bottle, and wait (at a safe distance, of course ☺). All eyes were drawn towards the Keramos demonstrations when an emphatic boom rang through the chemistry building! It’s a shame nobody caught our post-explosion faces on camera, because they were a combination of shock, amazement, and “Are we going to get in trouble for this?”, and quickly followed by laughter.

### ***Professor Talks/Demos***

Another first-time event was our professor talks. One of these talks was called “Ancient Engineering”. The goal of the event was to expose 21st century engineers and scientists to the perspective of the last century engineers (aka. our bosses). For our first task Dr. Pilgrim, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, had us solve a simple math problem using a slide rule. This proved to be a much more difficult task than any of us anticipated. Dr. Pilgrim also showed us “ancient” XRD patterns which were written out on what seemed to be strips of wax paper. This event was an eye opening experience to us that showed how the engineering world operated long before we were a part of it.

### ***Play With Clay***

As usual, the member-favorite “play with clay” events continued. Some members who are involved in ceramic art were happy to show the less experienced members how to throw on a wheel. This event is a fun time to try

**your hand at creating a masterpiece, or maybe even just a centered blob of clay, on the wheel. Some members proved to be fast learners, while others decided that making clay balls was more of their “calling”. We are hoping that someday we will be throwing cups and bowls to a “fire-worthy” quality, however that day is not today. But as long as we are having fun then we are going to keep on playing with clay anyway! Perhaps next year our skills will reach the highly sought after fire-worthy level!**

### ***Chapter Bonding***

**For some chapter bonding events this year we hosted a bowling night and a trip to a local brick oven pizza place out in the middle of the woods called *Pollywogg Holler*. Both events had a great turnout and were a blast! Bowling will hopefully occur again in the near future, and based on the number of people who wish to return to *Pollywogg* it is a safe assumption to say that Keramos will definitely be going back there again!**

### ***Ceramic Weights for Aqua Farming***

**Art history professor at Alfred University, Mary McInnes, presented a project to Keramos and asked if our chapter would be interested in developing the project further. An acquaintance of Mary’s lives along the coast of Maine where they have been experiencing drastic changes in the ecosystem, and consequently the local economy, lately due to a diminishing level of eel grass. Eelgrass serves as a vital component in the ecosystem, so an effort is being made to replenish the diminishing plant. Ceramic weight prototypes are being developed by our chapter of Keramos and tested on their aquadynamic properties. The purpose of these weights is to tie the eelgrass plants to them and then toss them into the ocean where the weights will hold the plants down long enough for them to grow strong roots without being washed away in the tides. The potential of this project is very significant and great strides are being made! We hope to send approximately 1000 weights to Maine in late-April or early-May to see how they fair in the ocean!**

## ***Awards***

To follow tradition, Keramos continued to grant 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 award recipients are listed below:

**John F. McMahon Ceramic Teaching Excellence Award**

- **Dr. William Carty**

**Advancement of Women in Engineering Award**

- **Rachel Cook**

**Dr. Richard C. Martin Outstanding Senior Scholarship**

- **Dalton Divine**

**Dr. Richard C. Martin Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award**

- **Brittany Higgins**

***Congratulations to this year's winners!***

## **VII. Summary**

Over the past two years the participation of our members in The New York State Chapter of Keramos has changed for the better. The positive momentum from last year has been carried over to this year, and we have faith that the same will be said for the upcoming year.

Professor talks, demonstrations, chapter bonding events, and new fundraisers are just a few of the changes and improvements which have been made over the past 12 months. Keramos at Alfred University is truly growing and thriving like it never has before. The new E-board is more than suited to continue to the success and help to further develop and improve the New York State Chapter of Keramos at Alfred University. I think it's safe to say that our chapter has a bright future ahead!

*Best of luck to the new officers!*