



# Keramos

## University of Washington Chapter

Keramos is a national professional ceramic fraternity whose overarching mission is “to promote and emphasize scholarship and character in the thoughts of students in ceramics, to stimulate mental development, and to promote interest in the professional aspects of ceramic engineering, technology, and science.” The University of Washington (UW) chapter of Keramos holds these tenets to heart while focusing our efforts on professional development, community outreach, and the competitions held during the annual Materials Science and Technology Conference (MS&T).

MS&T is traditionally held very near the beginning of the UW’s autumn quarter. Preparation for the competitions is therefore concentrated during the end of the previous academic year and over the summer. In 2013, three committees were organized for each of the three competitions Keramos oversees directly – aesthetics, strength, and disc golf. These ceramic-based design and fabrication competitions are an avenue for our members to apply their engineering and science education. Design for both the strength (traditionally referred to as “mug drop”) and disc golf competitions begin through literature review. Once avenues of interest are determined, the synthesis and characterization phase of the project commence. At this point a prototype will be attempted in order to highlight existing issues in design, material choice, or processing techniques. Once these issues are identified our members go back to literature to determine fixes. Once a final product is achieved, testing occurs and small changes are made to enhance the desired properties.

Along with the ceramics competitions, our members actively participate in MS&T. For 2013 we have 5 students entering posters in the undergraduate poster competition, 1 student entering the undergraduate speaking competition, and 6 students currently signed up for monitor positions during the conference sessions. We also elect a delegate annually to the President’s Choice Student Advisors of the American Ceramic Society. This student represents the University of Washington at an annual meeting with the mission to “engage students as active and long-term leaders in the ceramics community.” While a large focus of Keramos is on participation at MS&T, each year the UW chapter reaches out to local professionals and alumni to aid in the cultivation of interests and skills. During the 2013/2014 academic year three local businesses gave tours to Keramos and Materials Advantage (MA) members. The local ASM professional chapter hosts monthly dinners where students can speak with professionals in the materials field and listen to a presentation on current research topics. Basic ceramics science and engineering

skills are consistently cultivated within the fraternity through fraternity projects (creating molds and ceramic items).

Community outreach is another strong focus of fraternity efforts. In association with MA and the UW MSE department, Keramos members bring materials science and engineering demonstrations to local elementary, middle, and high schools and other local engineering events. Keramos members [might want to refocus to just the fraternity] regularly take leading roles in the organization of MSE department barbeques, t-shirt contests, and the end of the year, senior banquet. In the 2012/2013 academic year, Keramos members were also instrumental in the inception of a MSE department running team which has already participated in the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Beat the Bridge to Beat Diabetes 8K and we are preparing for the 32<sup>nd</sup> running of this race on May 18, 2014.

### Future

Most recently we held our officer elections and initiation ceremony. The new officers are:

Natalie Briggs - President [REDACTED]  
Grady McDonald - Vice President [REDACTED]  
James Wheeler -Treasurer [REDACTED]  
Michael Dymond-Shaw - Project Lead [REDACTED]

We are currently planning the annual BBQ fundraiser to be held at the end of May.

Our t-shirt design competition was very successful. This year's design has already been announced and we are currently taking orders for t-shirts and sweatshirts.



Student member (and current Vice President) Grady McDonald has applied to be next year's PCSA delegate.

We are currently working on the Frisbee for next years Frisbee golf competition. Our project lead, Michael Shaw, has been reaching out to a variety of professionals in the ceramics field for mentorship.

Our group is also getting ready to participate in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Beat the Bridge 8k benefitting Juvenile Diabetes Research. This will take place on May 18<sup>th</sup> and we currently have 23 people signed up on our team.

Last years President, Jessica Tjalsma, lead the Ceramics booth for our College of Engineering's annual Discovery Days event, where ~7,000 local K-12 students visit our College and learn about engineering. This year we walked the students through the process of slip casting and mold making. We also used crucible molds to make bells for the student's to take home. Our hope with this event is to excite young students about engineering.

Additional outreach events include assisting the Clean Energy Institute with their booth at the Pacific Science Center's "Paws on Science" weekend and participating in Puget Sound Engineering Council's Engineering Fair at Boeing's Museum of Flight. We are continuing to work with UW's Materials Advantage chapter to do outreach at local elementary schools and junior high schools and average about 1-2 events per month.