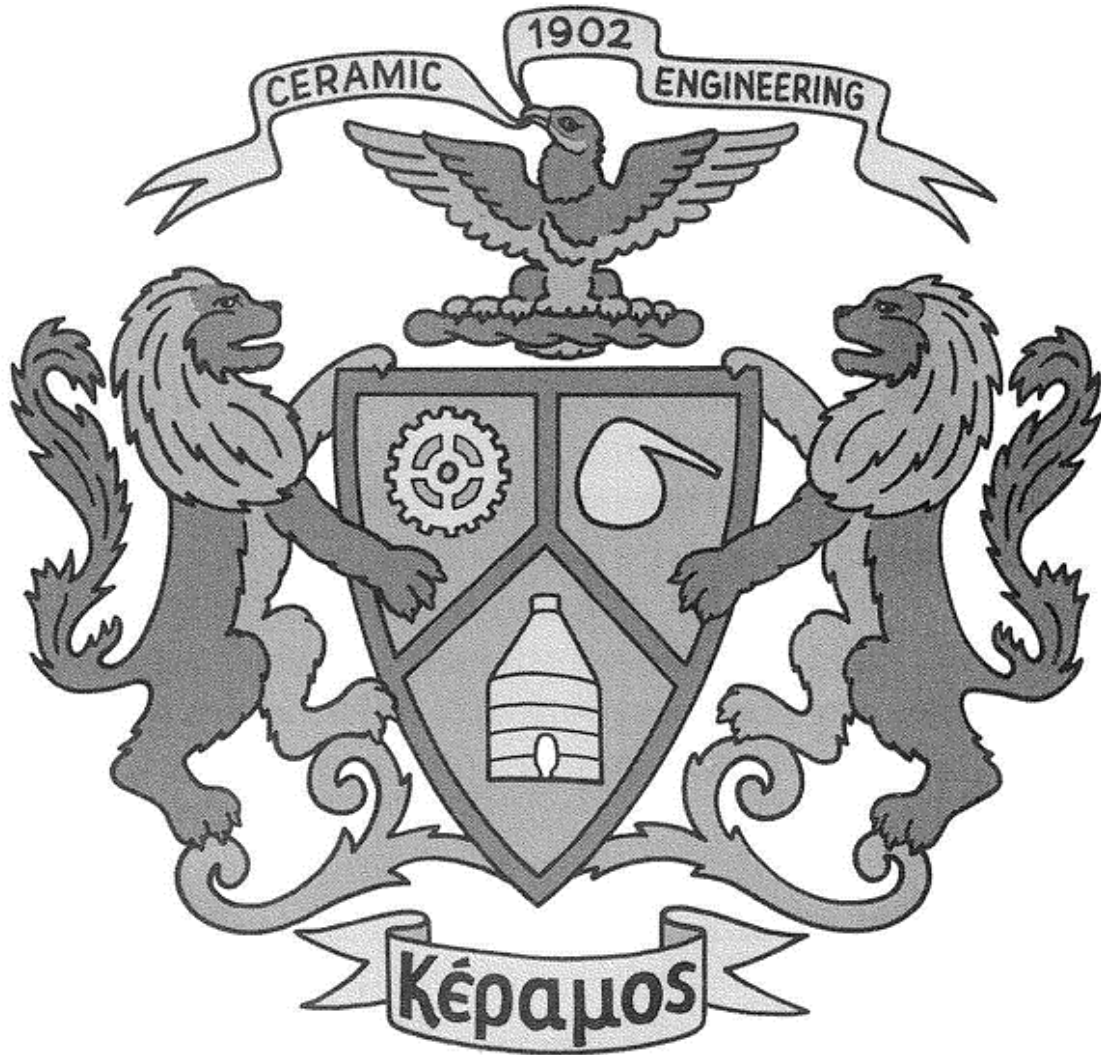


2013-2014 Annual Report



University of Connecticut Chapter

Executive Summary

Annual Plan

The main goal for the current year has been to get the administrative affairs of the chapter in order, such as getting our chapter recognized by the UConn department of Student Affairs.

In the coming fall, our main goals are to extend our recruitment toward undergraduate students by hosting some fun events, like our egg drop challenge, to get students to come out and learn about Keramos. We will also announce Keramos in the sophomore and junior level materials science courses.

We plan to start holding professional events, such as a speaker series, inviting both faculty and outside business people to speak to the department. Dr. Singh has many industrial contacts, and we will leverage his network to the best of our ability. We also plan to hold more social events, looking to build more of a community within the Materials Science department. UConn has active Materials Advantage and Materials Research Society chapters, which respectively focus more on the undergraduate and graduate student bodies. If we can be the link between these organizations, we can form a very strong core to such a departmental community.

Officer List

Position	Name	Address	Phone Number	Email Address
President	Sapna Gupta			
Vice President	Austin McDannald			
Treasurer	Nasser Khakpash			
Secretary	Alan Harris			
Herald	Chen Jiang			
Delegate	Alan Harris			
Delagate	Chen Jiang			
Alternate	Sapna Gupta			
Alternate	Rishi Kumar			

Active Membership

Student - Graduate

- Sapna Gupta¹
- Alan Harris¹
- Matthew Janish¹
- Chen Jiang¹
- Cheng Diao²
- Nasser Khakpash²
- Rishi Kumar²

- Austin McDannald²

Faculty

- Prabhakar Singh²

¹Initiated Fall 2013

²Initiated Spring 2014

Treasurer's Report

Our plan has been to open a bank account with the Student Administration Business Office (SABO), which offers banking accounts for student organizations here on campus. Before we can open a SABO account, we have to be recognized as an active student organization. We have had some logistical issues with this process, both on UConn's and our end, but we will resolve it by the end of the semester. We will then be able to finally deposit the check we received at the national meeting and pay dues. Expenses this semester have been paid from one of Dr. Singh's discretionary fund accounts.

Chapter Activities



Alan explains materials characterization - with bouncy balls

Tour of the UConn Clean Energy Center

The Litchfield County 4H Club organized a trip to see the 2014 NCAA Champion UConn women's basketball team play Louisville this spring. Before the game, they decided to visit the university's Center for Clean Energy Engineering to learn about energy, sustainability, and materials science. About 50 4H'ers, ages 7 to 70, were treated to basic science demonstrations, operated a toy hydrogen fuel cell car, and took a tour of the research labs.

Engineering Challenge – Egg Drop



Sapna - official launch master

In order to advertise the newly formed chapter, we decided to host an egg drop challenge in the department. Teams were given 45 minutes and a packet of office supplies to create a device capable of protecting an egg from a two story drop. The event was filled with excitement, the agony of defeat, and some really, really busted eggs. We had about two dozen grads and undergrads compete, and many of them expressed interest in Keramos. We plan to follow up with them over the summer and fall.

Summary

At sixth months old, our fledgling chapter is starting to get off the ground. As of right now, we are all graduate students, so it has been a challenge for all of us to find time to organize the chapter. This spring, we began holding weekly meetings to coordinate recognition with the university, attracting new students to Keramos, and determining the local character of our chapter.

Early in the semester, we welcomed the Litchfield County 4H to the university's Center for Clean Energy Engineering to learn about fossil fuels, renewable energy, and cutting edge materials research. 4H'ers age 7 to 70 viewed some scientific demonstrations, saw how a hydrogen fuel cell worked, and took a tour of the Center. This was good practice in communicating our research experience: you really know your research if you can explain it to elementary school kids.



We also hosted an egg drop challenge to advertise our chapter within the department. Students were given a packet of office supplies and 45 minutes to build a device capable of protecting an egg from a two story fall. While students chowed down on pizza and built their devices (a double challenge), we told them about Keramos and our aspirations for our new chapter. When the moment of truth came, there was comedy, tragedy, and a fair amount of yolk.

As a bunch of grad students, we will all be around this summer, so we plan on hosting some events to get us out of our labs and into the fresh Connecticut air.