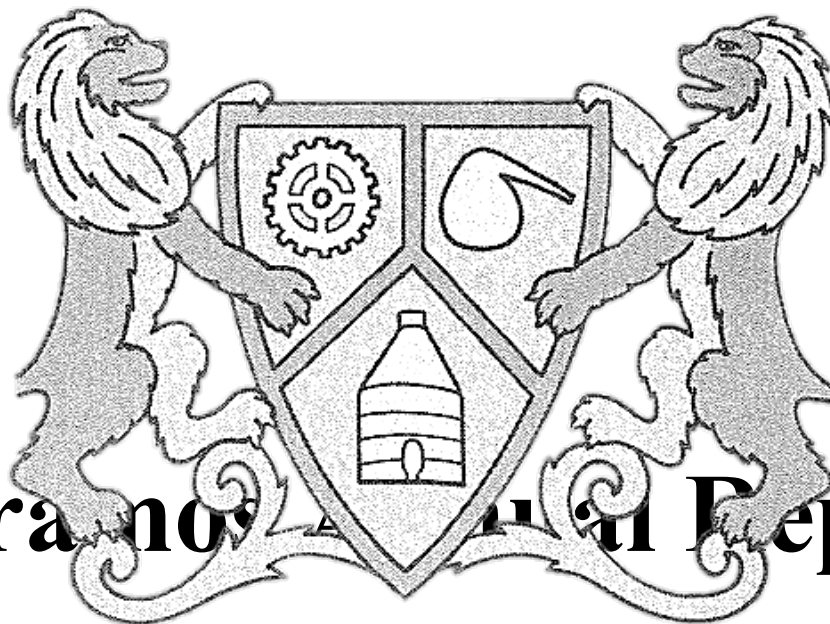


UNIVERSITY OF

ILLINOIS

AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Keranos Annual Report
Fall 2013 – Spring 2014



Chapter Advisor Executive Summary

Building on a remarkable year last year where the University of Illinois Chapter won the national prize for being the most improved chapter, this year has seen the continuous “sky rocketing” of activity within the Illinois Chapter. As demonstrated by the attached annual report, the students surged ahead with an unprecedented number of activities on all fronts. It is to their credit that the students pulled themselves up “by their own boot straps”, with minimal assistance from the Faculty. In my 29 years as a Faculty member at Illinois I can say without a doubt that this is the most active I have seen the Illinois Chapter in any of the past years.

These activities ranged from helping less talented classmates by tutoring, organized weekly study hours within the engineering library, and mentoring of lowerclassmen by upperclassmen, both formally and informally during a host of social activities. Several members of Keramos took the initiative to return to their high schools to educate high school students about materials science, including ceramics. It is laudable that in these days of merged “materials science” student organizations, the Keramos student Society has made a particular effort to retain its unique ceramic character by organizing a weekly “Play with Clay” experience attended by an average of 6 students per week. This naturally prepares the students to make the famous ceramic pigs to be handed out to faculty during the Annual Awards Banquet, which was formerly known as “The Pig Roast” where Faculty would be “roasted” during student skits about incidents which took place during the academic year, a source of light hearted joviality.

Following up on this special interest in ceramics, the Keramos students organized two exhibits for the annual Engineering Open House, where bus loads of students and families from Chicago and neighboring areas come to campus and explore what is happening in Engineering at Illinois. One exhibit focused on Geopolymers for Sustainability and Geoffrey Geopolymer, a friend of Smokey the Bear, demonstrating how to slow down global warming by reducing the CO₂ footprint of Portland cement by substituting it with geopolymers. Other useful properties were also demonstrated such as thermal shock resistance against exposure to an oxyacetylene torch, and toughness against dropping on the floor. The exhibit won first place in its category of “Encore Technical” and was the highest place exhibit in the MatSE Department.

On a more heartwarming and commendable note, every week three members of Keramos take time to cook dinner for 65 homeless people at the local Salvation Army. On a professional level the planned activities have and will continue to include activities to foster interviewing and networking skills, as well as awareness of and interaction with 3 visiting companies, in particular those on the Department of Materials Science and Engineering Alumni Board.

In summary, the Illinois Chapter is vibrant with activity on both a personal as well as a professional front. As the faculty advisor, I am proud to be a part of the Illinois Chapter.

Annual Plan for Fall 2014- Spring 2015

The Keramos Chapter at the University of Illinois has large plans for the upcoming year. With involvement from members growing, we plan to host numerous events throughout the semester. We will be offering exclusive opportunities for members to go out to dinner with alumni recruiters, information sessions from different companies, and professionalism workshops from career services. We will also be renovating our alumni mentorship program to focus on the transition period from college to workplace that many workshops fail to include. Finally, we will be improving our communications with the MatSE department regarding meeting with professors, and working together on new events.

We will be working closely with many recent alumni to ask for advice based on their reflections on their first 5-10 years out of school. We are hoping that this will motivate students to focus on course work that is highly recommended and useful according to alumni. We are also hosting many events for alumni, such as a dinner with exclusive Keramos members and a barbeque before the homecoming football game. Finally, we are working with the MatSE Senior Advisory Committee with new possible events that we wish to work together with.

We have also been working to improve our initiation process so that potential members are required to attend a certain number of events before they are initiated. Our hope is that the improved attendance will uphold our reputation on campus. We will be offering a larger variety of social events and study times so that members have many opportunities to bond. We are beginning to expand our service related events in regards to helping members of the nearby community. Finally, we are expanding our scopes of each of the executive board to become wider encompassing with our roles, including possibly collaborating with our Material Advantage and many other societies from our university.

We are also beginning on building new relationships with many other societies by collaborating with new possible events, whether they be professionally, socially, or philanthropically related. Our hope is to foster a mass collaboration with many different societies within our College of Engineering and create new ideas that can affect many different members of our community.

Our goal is to foster strong relationships amongst the members that last after graduation. With this improvement, we hope that more alumni will have deeper ties into Keramos and be willing to stay involved after graduation. With that being said, we have plans to contact older alumni and read up on older Keramos traditions to bring back some of the history to our chapter. As a whole, the chapter is in an upwards motion, with improved membership, benefits, and a new

2014 Executive Officer Board

President

Michael Sarantos



Co – Herald

Melinda Tom



Vice President

Ann Choi



Co-Herald

TBA – Will be announced April 24th, 2014.

Treasurer

Elizabeth Fedonina



Professional Chair

Hui Lin Yang (Winnie)



Secretary

Zoey Sowinski



Social Chair – Spring 2014

Maxwell Li



Social Chair – Fall 2014

Colton Adamick



Current Members

Member	Initiated Year	Member	Initiated Year
Aaron Zhao		Matthew Cheng	Spring '14
Adam Brown	Spring '14	Maxwell Li	Social Chair
Alex Trick	Spring '14	Melanie Daugherty	
Alicia Cintora		Melinda Tom	Co-Herald
Allyson Brusich	Spring '14	Melissa Goetter	Spring '14
Amol Gokhale		Michael Di Mare	
Amy Momsen		Michael Hu	Spring '14
Andrew Bettin		Michael Sarantos	President
Andrew Zhao		Michael Sun	
Aniruddh Shivram		Michael Szymanski	
Ann Choi	Vice President	Mitchell Bigelow	
Anna Jedralski	Spring '14	NaKyung Lee	Spring '14
Anna Mast		Nick Palcheck	Spring '14
Anuj Mehta		Nicole Crosby	
Arjun Balwally	Spring '14	Nicole Ernat	
Arun S. Nair		Nikolas Van Winkle	Spring '14
Arvind Ramaiah	Spring '14	Olivia Rogers	Spring '14
Athanasios Sofronis		Peter Park	
Athena Lin	Spring '14	Prarthana Sanghani	
Ben Wooley		Rui Wang	
Bill Andrews		Ryan Haney	
Brendan Eng	Spring '14	Ryan Hurley	
Brian McDonald	Spring '14	Ryan Smith	
Cameron Rosenthal	Spring '14	Samantha Tatar	Spring '14
Carrington Watkins		Samuel Kaufman	Spring '14
Charles Stovall		Samuel Mo	
Colin Ringel		Samuel Rappeport	
Colton Adamick	Social Chair	Sanggyun Kim	
Connor Bailey	Spring '14	Sankalp Kota	
Conor O'Donovan		Scott Biesboer	
Curtis Baker		Scott Lyons	
Daniel Li		Seth Cazzell	
Daniel McGovern		Shamalee Goonetilleke	Spring '14
Daniel Roper		Shao Mei	
David Christianson	Spring '14	Shuo Li	
David Litt	Spring '14	Soham Ali	Spring '14
David Yoon	Spring '14	Stephanie Nemeč	
Deepa Kote	Spring '14	Steven Hoppe	Spring '14
Deepak Mani	Spring '14	Steven Shewchuk	

Deesha Shah		Steven Simpkins	
Derek Kwok	Spring '14	Suraj Dhanak	Spring '14
		Timothy Chiu	Spring '14
Diane Kuai	Spring '14	Vijay Rajendran	
Dominic Bonucci		Waltraud M. Kriven	Keramos Faculty Advisor
Elizabeth Fedonina	Treasurer	Will McCracken	
Eric Przybylski		Yanfu Lu	
Faysal Alharbi		Yen-Chu Tu	
Gabriel Velarde	Spring '14	Yingjie Xiang	
Giri Sharma		Yiwen Sun	
Grace Pakeltis	Spring '14	Yiyuan Yang	Spring '14
Hongyi Michael Wu		You Wu	
Hui Lin (Winnie) Yang	Professional Chair	Yuecheng Zhou	
Jae Ho Shin		Yuliya Semibratova	Spring '14
Jane Yoo		Zixing Wang	
Janice Yoshimura		Zoey Sowinski	Secretary
Janna Eaves		Yiwen Sun	
Jared Cooney	Spring '14	Yiyuan Yang	Spring '14
Jen Huffman		You Wu	
Ji Ho Kim		Yuecheng Zhou	
Jiwoo Yu		Yuliya Semibratova	Spring '14
John Miller	Spring '14	Zixing Wang	
Jon Wilson		Zoey Sowinski	Secretary
Jonas Felipe Kurniawan		Yiwen Sun	
Julia Zuo	Spring '14	Yiyuan Yang	Spring '14
Justin Betancourt	Spring '14	You Wu	
Kacper Lachowski	Spring '14	Yuecheng Zhou	
Kai Wells	Spring '14	Yuliya Semibratova	Spring '14
Katharine Mehan		Zixing Wang	
Kelsey Wu		Zoey Sowinski	Secretary
Kenneth Jabon	Spring '14	Yiwen Sun	
Kimberly Campbell	Spring '14	Yiyuan Yang	Spring '14
Konrad Ryba	Spring '14	You Wu	
Kyle Slattery		Yuecheng Zhou	
Lucas Raleigh		Yuliya Semibratova	Spring '14
Marek Mroczek	Spring '14	Zixing Wang	
Martin Kim		Zoey Sowinski	Secretary
Mary Dickens			

Treasurer's Report

Between the dates of 8/26/13-4/13/14, Keramos at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has taken in a total of \$2462.84 in membership dues, and other sources of economic support. Our expenses have totaled in \$1012.87 in many of the events that we have hosted for our general body.

	Income
Fall 2013 Membership Dues	\$150.00
Spring 2014 Membership Dues	\$2150.00
MS&T 2013 Travel Support	\$162.84
Total	\$2462.84

	Costs
General Meetings	\$526.83
Mentorship Events	N/A
Social Events	N/A
Engineer Open House (2013)	\$69.23
Professional Events	N/A (Funded By MatSE Department)
Initiation Dinners	\$348.90
Miscellaneous	\$67.91
Total	\$1012.87

	Estimated Costs (4/14/14-8/25/14)
April General Meeting	\$100.00
End of the Year BBQ	\$120.00
Total	\$220.00

Initial Balance	\$851.42
Current Balance	\$2301.39
Estimated Final Balance	\$2081.39

Chapter Activities

Engineering Open House

Thousands of students, parents, and professors visit the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois for the annual Engineering Open House (EOH) held in March. Throughout the weekend, all student engineering societies, research groups, and project based teams exhibit their work. There are various demonstrations ranging from eco-fuel vehicles, and 3-D printing exhibits. EOH also features guest speakers. Each department building contains student-organized projects, introducing young students to various engineering disciplines. There are also judges who visit every exhibit and award prizes in many categories.



phenomena.

This year, Keramos hosted the non-Newtonian fluids exhibit (pictures below) that attracted a variety of people, from small children to professors and parents. It was a very interactive exhibit that taught many people about the different kinetic behaviors in liquids. Large batches of corn starch and water were prepared in plastic containers to provide an interactive experience to better understand the shear thickening

Professional Development

In the fall, Keramos held a Research Showcase that helped students learn about the different research groups within the Materials Science and Engineering department. The event featured 12 groups who presented posters and demos of their research and our students were able to learn in a fun, informal manner. Many of the students that attended were able to get involved with research groups in the department, and the graduate students that presented their group's work were able to practice their talks for future presentations.

Throughout the year, Keramos has also organized monthly professor lunches where students had the opportunity to meet and network with professors over an informal lunch. Each lunch featured professors from different concentrations and research areas to expose students to the various opportunities they will have with their degree. These lunch series was also a great way for professors to interact with various students across the department and consequently encouraged internal department interaction between students and professors.

Social Events

One area where we wish to see greater improvement is active involvement in social events. There was also a change in leadership as the original Social Chair could not keep up with the requirements needed of the position and a replacement was found late in the Fall semester. In the Spring semester of 2013, several events such as bowling, broomball, and ice skating were done, but the turn-outs for those events had 10 people on average attend which included the executive board members. The Fall semester had a large turn-out for apple picking in the local orchard with over 30 members attending the event (as shown above). Recently, a weekly "wing-night" event has started in an effort to create a stronger bond with members and encourage new members to meet and interact with other students in Keramos.



To improve event attendance, we are planning on advertising events on more visible media such as utilizing Facebook and fliers instead of relying on e-mails. This would hopefully lead to greater participation of these events. The success of the apple orchard event has encouraged us to have the event again in the Fall of 2014.

Conferences

This year, we had Maxwell Li and Steven Smith represent the Illinois Chapter of Keramos at MS&T in Montreal, Canada (shown on the right). Illinois saw its very own Luke Shi win the student speaking competition and was very proud of his accomplishment. Due to complications during the firing, we were sadly not able to participate in the mug drop competition this year; however, we have plans for the coming year for overcoming this problem and performing well in Pittsburgh. We also plan to participate in the Disk Golf competition next year with a better understanding of the logistics of the competition.



Maxwell Li also represented our chapter in the Materials Quiz Bowl at this year's TMS conference in San Diego (shown on left). Despite having to re-book flights due to weather related issues, he and the Illinois team

were able to reach the finals and win second place in the competition.

Play with Clay

Keramos continues to encourage member bonding through weekly Play with Clay sessions. Play with Clay teaches members about the slip-casting method of preparing ceramic materials. During the beginning of 2013, approximately 5-10 members attending



Play with Clay sessions, as attendance was used to determine initiate eligibility for membership in Keramos. After initiation requirements were fulfilled, attendance dropped to approximately one member per session. This was due to a number of factors, including

mechanical issues with the kiln and a lack of member interest in creating more projects. In the upcoming year, we plan to increase member involvement in Play with Clay sessions by introducing new features, such as pottery throwing and creating coil pots. We also plan to address issues with the kiln more quickly, in order to minimize the amount of time and uncertainty members experience about the completion of their projects.

Chapter Summary

The Keramos chapter at the University of Illinois is flourishing with over 70 active members. As a professional society, we are dedicated to enriching the academic lives of all our members. From a social aspect, we foster relationships throughout the college experience to create strong ties for alumni. As a result, we take pride in our alumni relations and the opportunities they provide for our members. By offering exclusive academic and professional opportunities for our members, we maintain a strong reputation of honor on campus.

The policy in our chapter is for all members to attend monthly meetings in which we discuss opportunities and ask the members for opportunities they would like to see. We generally hold social events after general meetings for members to bond with each other. The secretary of our chapter also sends out weekly email updates to inform members of events going on. We try our best to not only include Keramos opportunities, but also get invitations from other engineering and honors programs to attend events. We also hold weekly study hours in a reserved room at the engineering library to provide a quiet location for students to study. We also provide additional study rooms during exam times to promote group study sessions. We also have weekly Play with Clay sessions where members are encouraged to learn about the ceramics process. We also require our initiates to attend at least two Play with Clay sessions to ultimately create their own ceramic object or figurine. We believe that through these activities, our members are experiencing the traditions of ceramics and improving their academic experience.

The chapter holds a variety of professional and academic enhancement opportunities throughout the year. Exclusive dinners with various corporate representatives give members opportunities to network with companies of interest. We also keep a running list of company information sessions on campus so that members can learn about companies that are looking for positions in their area of interest. Representatives from the career services on campus have come to general meetings to do resume reviews and mock interviews for our members. We believe these professional events will prepare our members to be successful after graduation.

We are also working on collaborating with many different societies within our College of Engineering including Material Advantage, Engineering Council, and many other societies from other departments within our College. We are hoping that the collaboration will foster new ideas and the members within our society will be able to learn more from each successful event.

We also hold pride in our student mentorship program. Each new initiate is paired with an active member and they are encouraged to meet frequently to catch up and provide advice. The chapter often holds events for the pairs to attend together. In the past, such social events have included corn mazes, barbecues, football games, and game night. Our objective is to keep all of our members active through collegiate life and to promote relations post-graduation.

