



Keramos Annual Report  
Fall 2018 - Spring 2019

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State  
University



## **Chapter Advisor Executive Summary 2018-2019**

The Keramos chapter at Virginia Tech was established around 1941 and was discontinued around the year 1968. The Keramos chapter at Virginia Tech was reinstated in February of 2019. We inducted 16 student members and one faculty member during the inaugural induction ceremony, including 14 undergraduate members and 3 graduate students. The main focus for us this past semester has been planning events for next semester such as outreach to local elementary schools, meetings with professionals in the ceramic field, an etiquette dinner with the Material Science and Engineering department at Virginia Tech, and fundraisers aimed at exposing more students to Keramos at Virginia Tech.

During this semester, the chapter has worked on creating ceramic chess pieces with the intent on using them as a prize for a campus-wide fundraiser. We also initialized plans to create a reusable mold for the creation of the plaques. We have held two general body meetings, with the latter being our officer elections. 'Bowlamos' was our first social event of this year to welcome everyone into the chapter and prepare for the events of next year.

While our chapter is brand new and does not have a lot of events on the books thus far, we are really excited for the planned work for next year. With a motivated body of students and a good relationship between Keramos, the Materials Engineering Professional Society, and the MSE department at Virginia Tech, we know that next year will be full of growth and meaningful achievements.

## **Annual Plan for the Coming Year**

For the coming year, we plan to make significant progress in the areas of social, professional, fundraising, and outreach events. We will host general body meetings every month with smaller meetings with subgroups and subprojects meeting more frequently. The following paragraphs will break down each section individually.

As a new chapter, a key focus for us is growth. We understand that this is a pivotal time and growth will ensure that Keramos at Virginia Tech is around and thriving for a long time. With events like 'Bowlamos' and other game nights, we hope to bring a wide range of people in for a fun night while being casually exposed to Keramos. Some of these game nights would be structured like a tournament fundraiser in which there would be a buy in we can try to make money off of select social events. At these events, either a portion of the money or a ceramic product made by Keramos members will be used as a prize to incentivise attendance. The ceramic product is the goal, however, as it promotes a learning in the field of ceramic creation and processing as well as it creates a physical token of our organization that the winning person will be able to carry with them in public. Additionally, we are planning on hosting an etiquette dinner for the MSE department at Virginia Tech to help form a relationship between the faculty, students, and Keramos at Virginia Tech. We are hoping to bring in a representative from the near-by Corning facility in Christiansburg to speak about ceramics applications at Corning during the dinner.

By forming relationships with professionals in ceramic fields, we aim to fulfill two objectives: to form a deeper understanding of different opportunities for ceramics professionals in academics and industry and to create networking opportunities with experts in the field. With a Corning plant nearby and numerous influential faculty members in the ceramics field at Virginia Tech, there are numerous opportunities for Keramos members to gain professional exposure to ceramics during our 'Ceramics in Industry' talk.

Fundraising is a crucial part of our plan next year. We are currently establishing a Keramos bank account which we hope to grow through an influx of money through various fundraising endeavors. To add onto the game nights mentioned above, we hope to create ceramic products for sale in the community, and take advantage of other opportunities next year as they arise.

Outreach is the most fluid of the four target areas for next year. Our desire is that all of our events will contain an outreach aspect to grow the Keramos presence at Virginia Tech. Specifically, we have been speaking with a local glassblower to work shifts at his shop. This

would give the Keramos members exposure to glassblowing and techniques to make artful ceramics. This will especially come in handy for the aesthetic portion of the ceramic mug and disk competitions with MS&T, hosted by Keramos. We also plan to visit elementary schools to spread the knowledge and passion of ceramics that we have to children in the community.

## **Officers for the Upcoming Year**

President

Nathan McIlwaine



Vice President

Sam Ashby



Treasurer

Matthew Drew



Secretary

Matthew Rotondi



Herald

Harrison Jones



## Current Members

### Spring 2019 Initiates

Nathan McIlwaine	Sam Ashby	Matthew Drew	Matthew Rotondi
Harrison Jones	Allison Slominski	Alec Seastrom	Kevin Reuwer
Luke Bradshaw	Miranda Meisel	Nima Zakhireh	Patrick Miele
Ryan Godlewski	Juan Shiraishi	Kaitlyn Shirey	Kevin Gjata

## Graduating Members

Name	Email
Kevin Gjata	[REDACTED]
Kevin Reuwer	[REDACTED]

## Spring 2019 Initiation Class



## Spring Initiation Ceremony



# Chapter Activities

## Social Events

### -Bowlamos

In April we held a bowling social event on campus. This was a good way to get to know the other members in a fun environment. In total we had 11 of our 17 members show up (not all included in the photos), and it proved to be a great way for everyone to get to know each other better.

