Graduate students celebrated Turkey-day with a tasty mix of classical and non-traditional Thanksgiving food at the ChEGS annual Thanksgiving potluck. Taking place the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the event was a great chance to relax with good food and even better friends before the final push towards the end of the semester. The always social first-years had a strong showing, followed by four third-years, three second-years, and a single fourth-year. The fifth-years, currently grappling with rigorous classes and fast-approaching prelims, were unable to make it. The food was excellent and eclectic: ChEGS co-social chair Jack McAlpine provided the turkey, while Ben Gastfriend provided the vegan tofurkey. Other treats included Kevin’s famous curry puffs, Hui’s terrific teriyaki chicken, Paolo’s show-stopping lil’ smokeys, Harshal’s killer “hummuscidal” hummus, and Atharva’s deviled eggs with a secret twist (it was ginger). Thank you to everyone who attended and brought food!
ChEGS hosted its first department-wide coffee hour this past month. Students and (a non-zero number of) faculty mingled and socialized over tea and locally-sourced coffee. And while they filled their bellies with cupcakes and clementines, they also filled their hearts with the companionship of one another. At least one new friend was made that day: second-year Carlos confirmed “Who would’ve thought Ryan would be such a cool guy?” ChEGS is looking to make this a monthly event so keep an eye out for the next coffee hour!

Adobe Illustrator & Research

Co-President Johnathan Sheavly hosted an informative tutorial on using Adobe Illustrator for designing high-quality images and graphs for research papers and presentations, as well as the basics for designing app logos. ChEGS provided pickles, chips, and sandwiches from Jimmy Johns. The tutorial is online and accessible for anyone who was unable to make it and wants to learn the basics of Adobe. Look out for future skills-building tutorials!

Ale Asylum Brewery Tour

A group of graduate students went on a stimulating tour of the local Ale Asylum brewery, just a short ride north of the capitol. For many first-years this was their first time there, but for fifth-year Taylor Cook it was his 37th time, wow (~hyperbole~)! The group was made up of a sizable number of Pfleger students, who took the opportunity for some extracurricular bio research. Described by Maya V. as a “roaring good time,” the tour showed off the factory’s brewing facilities, which was greatly admired by the young yeast-loving biologists in the group (almost everyone except Brandon and Caleb), and concluded with a tasting of some of Ale Asylum’s top year-round and seasonal beers.
Meet The Social Chairs!

Next on the list of ChEGS officers we want to introduce are the 2019-2020 social chairs! This includes first-years Jack McAlpine, Yiyi Liu, and Maya Venkataraman, and third-year Leida Vázquez! These four officers hit the ground running and have worked tirelessly to put on the Thanksgiving potluck, the Halloween pumpkin carving, the Ale Asylum tour, and the upcoming Winter Holiday Party. The social chairs are focused on creating events that appeal to graduate students from all years in order to foster friendship and collaboration across the entire department. They are also hosting events for both students and faculty, like the Coffee Hour, in order to further improve departmental relationships and culture.

Congratulations to . . .

Hongseung Yeon (Prof. Abbott) successfully defended his thesis “Influence of Nanoscopic Heterogeneity on Hydrophobic Interactions” on 11/18/19.

Theodore Walker (Prof. Huber, Prof. Dumesic) successfully defended his thesis “Engineering Mixed Solvent Environments for Acid-Catalyzed Biomass Conversion Reactions” on 12/2/19.

Sean Tacey (Prof. Mavrikakis, Prof. Schauer) successfully defended his thesis “Elucidating the Effect of Photons and Aerosols on the Physical and Chemical Transformations of Atmospheric Mercury” on 12/13/19.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Dec. 18: Winter Holiday Event
Jan. TBA: ChEGS Game Night!
Jan. TBA: ChEGS Merchandise Design Contest

DID YOU KNOW?
The heat of entry meteors and spacecrafts experience when they enter the atmosphere is not primarily due to friction, but rather the adiabatic compression of the air in front of them.

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