ChEGS Event Spotlight:

Pumpkin Carving Contest

Graduate students had the opportunity to show off their spooky and creative sides this past month at the ChEGS annual pumpkin carving contest. In between bites of authentic QDOBA cuisine, students dove into pumpkin guts and expressed their inner goblins and ghouls. Eric "minimax {fear}" O’Neill gave us a creative take on Phantom (Pumpkin) of the Opera while Elise "catalyze the spook" Gilcher played on the First Years’ greatest fear: Kinetics and Partition Functions! In a show of intradepartmental good faith there was even collaboration between Atharva Kelkar of the Van Lehn group and RJ Hommel of the Graham group. All of these were good efforts, but it was Samantha “spooky MD” Patel who really took the cake! Or should we say pumpkin! Samantha (Left) carved a brilliantly spooky view of the Capitol that had us all shaking with fear (and envy). Great work, Samantha!
Second Harvest Foodbank

ChEGS combined departmental bonding and community service this past month while volunteering at Second Harvest Foodbank, the largest food bank in southwest Wisconsin! Students separated into two groups: one group sorted food and eggs and the other packed a mountain of meat. Feeding up to 72 people per volunteer per hour, ChEGS helped over 3200 people. This was a great opportunity for ChEGS to give back to the Wisconsin community and we are looking to make this a recurring event. Lookout for future volunteer events!

Halloween Costume Party

A Halloween blizzard and the start of November didn’t stop ChEGS from getting spooky! The costumes this year did not disappoint: Michael R. reprised his signature “Where’s Waldo” outfit and Emmanuel C. showed that you can be both spooky and healthy as a banana. Although Trent put up a good fight as “Guy from Minnesota,” it was ultimately first years Caleb and Lisa as King Arthur and Patsy from Monty Python who took the costume crown! Congrats and thank you Yiyi for hosting!
Meet The New ChEGs Presidents

ChEGs elections for the 2019-2020 year were held this past month. Third years Jonathan Sheavly and Alec Linot ran unopposed for presidents, succeeding former presidents Keishla and Curran. Alec had this to say: "As ChEGs presidents, our main goal is to continue promoting a department environment that feels welcoming to everyone. We hope to do this by promoting a wider range of events, finding more ways to connect people, and advocating for grad students. Please inform us if there are any changes you would like to see so we can keep improving life for everyone in the department." We look forward to see what Alec and Jonathan have in store!

As newsletter editors and in a time of nation-wide political turmoil, we (Kevin and R.J.) will remain objective in our reporting and bring attention to matters of importance.

Congratulations to...

Shalaka Burlawar (Prof. Klingenberg, Prof. Root) successfully defended her thesis “Process Flow Strategies for Biomass Conversion Technologies” on 8/27/19!

Xinyue Peng (Prof. Maravelias, Prof. Root) successfully defended her thesis “Optimization-Based Design and Analysis of Concentrating Solar Power with Thermochemical Energy Storage” on 10/21/19!

Ho Jae Lee (Prof. Maravelias) successfully defended his thesis “Mixed-Integer Programming Models and Solution Methods for Chemical Production Scheduling” on 10/30/19!

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

Nov. 20: Applying Adobe Illustrator to Research
Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Potluck
Dec. 7: Brewery Tour
Dec. 18: Winter Formal

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Keep an eye out for ChEGs update emails for more information!