



CHEM-E NEWS

UL AIChE Newsletter

Issue: 1

Fall 2014

Welcome To The First Of Many

Hello all to the first issue of "Chem-E News" where we hope this will be a new semester tradition. The goal of this newsletter is to express all the highlights made by students and faculty alike in UL's Chemical Engineering department. While this is our first issue, we hope to have several more to come. 2014 is officially in the books as well as another great semester. It may have been hectic at times, but there have been several good moments throughout the semester. The semester started off with a bang with a great BBQ hosted by Bill Holmes and AIChE, the semester ended with a bitter departure to several great students at the December graduation. We hope for the best for these students and for everyone this upcoming Spring Semester.

Thanks,

Editorial Staff of Chem-E News

Highlight:

A December to Remember

This December, we were proud and sad to see many of our own Chemical Engineering students take their first steps towards their future. Among those graduating were undergraduate and graduate alike.

The undergraduates included Zachary Comeaux, Cassi Drexel, Angel Gassen, Mitchell Hutchinson, Jessica Polk, and David Redman. Angel Gassen was honored as the outstanding graduate for the Chemical Engineering department for the Fall semester. The graduate students included Swarom Kanitkar and Joseph Vutukuri.

Each of these graduates has contributed very well to our department and our school, and now they will be contributing elsewhere. Jessica will be working at HLP Engineering, and Mitchell will be working at Citgo Petroleum. Other students are currently looking at possible places include General Electric, Daily Thermetrics, and Halliburton. We wish the best of luck to these students as they move forward.

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ENJOYING THE TIMES ; Beginning of the Semester BBQ - - - August 2014

AIChE: A Semester in Review

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers has been a long-established organization within the Engineering community. The organization is committed to serving the students of the department with several events ranging from social to service. Last April, the new officers took over and have not looked back. Let's take a quick glance at all the some of the key events held in the Fall Semester.

Beginning of the Semester BBQ

We started the year strong with a great social gathering at Mr. Bill Holmes's house. Several older members were able to reunite with the organization after the summer break, and new memberships were established. All of the members were lucky enough to enjoy the delicious burgers and fries provided by our gracious host. This was easily our most attended event. Outside of registration and food, the officers were re-introduced to all the members and good times were had by all.

General Meetings

Similar to the BBQ, we had another strong showings at these meetings, with the strongest showing at the Halliburton meeting. At the Halliburton meeting, Miss Bridget Meaux, and Mr. Alex Dupre presented on how to build your resume for the approaching job season. This included both general knowledge during the presentation and individual help after the meeting. Other meetings included a presentation by Mr. Kevin Stacey about what to do after you graduate by Dexeco Polymers, and the world offshore and how to interview by Chevron's Mr. Chris Leblanc and Miss Erin Baker. We greatly appreciate all the knowledge shared by these three companies.

Take a Break

With the grind of the semester, AIChE and the Chemical Engineering department were happy to provide means of relaxation for our students.

If you have not been in the AIChE lounge, you are missing out on some great stuff. The department was kind enough to help support the use of our Ping-Pong table present now.

In addition throughout the football season, AIChE provided tailgating service to those who wished to witness and cheer our own Ragin Cajuns. We appreciate all who came out and enjoyed the festivities, and especially thank all who helped set it up.

At the end of the fall semester as is now a new tradition, a party was hosted and set-up by our own AIChE officers. We want to thank them and all who came out to celebrate an end of the semester.



THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM ; Tailgate Setup - - - Fall 2014

Food For Thought

In case you are missing out, you can still join AIChE for the upcoming semester. In addition, you should take advantage of the free national membership available online. This allows you access to several useful online resources. The website is www.aiche.org.

Spotlight:

The Big Event

In addition to the typical meetings and sporting events, there were a few students who participated in other events held throughout the semester

One of these events was UL's "Big Event." This is an annual event held by UL where students give back to their community in a variety of ways.

Participants included members of the Omega Chi Epsilon Honor Society, Mishaun Sturm; Austin Simoneaux; Lawrence "Troy" Manuel; Faith Johnson; Patrick Spiller, and Eric Regel, and Timothy "Steve" Boudreaux. The participants were responsible for re-painting several swingsets at Cathedral-Carmel School.



GETTING READY FOR A DAY OF SERVICE

From Left to Right: Faith Johnson, Mishaun Sturm, Timothy "Steve" Boudreaux, Lawrence "Troy" Manuel, Patrick Spiller - - - October 2014



A TOP TEN RUN; AICHE National Conference Chem-E Team:
From Left to Right: Dr. William Chirdon, Timothy "Steve" Boudreaux, Lawrence "Troy" Manuel, Dr. Rafael Hernandez, Tina Huynh, Patrick Spiller, Eric Regel, Casie Gaskin, Morganna Ochoa - - November 2014

Representing Well

This year several graduate and undergraduate students competed nationally at two different conferences.

In early November, several faculty and students participated in the 3rd Annual Vertech Symposium in Victoriaville, Canada. The students, with help from faculty, headed 2 teams against several finalists from different countries. Ashley Mikolajczyk, Dhan Fortela and Casie Gaskin headed the "Waste to Watts: Positioning urban - based wastes as valuable feed stocks to fuel and chemical production" project which ended up finishing third overall. While John Pippins and Derek Richard headed the "Fuel from waste and the efficient use of energy" project.

Following the success of a regional top five finish in Puerto Rico, the Chem-E Car team competed nationally in Georgia, Atlanta in late November. Led by captain Troy Manuel and co-captain Steve Boudreaux, the team competed against several finalists from the several different countries; and they ended up finishing eighth in the world. Present at the competition included team members Casie Gaskin, Morgana Ochoa, Tina Huynh, Patrick Spiller, and Eric Regel. Other team members included: Ryan Benoit, Jorge Belgodore, Meghan Harrelson, and alumni Branden Trahan and Jatin Patel. They were advised by Dr. William Chirdon. The team will look to continue their success as they head to Tampa, Florida for regionals in April. The team couldn't have had their success without the generous help by Cimation.

We congratulate all who attended these conferences and represented not only our department but also our school so well. These students were also able to attend several seminars to help gain more knowledge and perspective.



SECOND PLACE FINISH

Volley ball Team (from left to right) Top Row: Ibrahim, Jacob, James “Cody”, Lawrence “Troy”, Patrick, Timothy “Steve”, Eric ; Bottom Row: Marie, Erica, Cassi, Angel, Lauren, Meghan - - September 2014

Seeing Green

With all the great events held throughout the semester, AICHE is lucky to have had such great support in terms of fundraising.

In particular, we would like to highlight two of these important contributors included Cimation and Trail Fund-raising.

Cimation was the most important contributor. The department was lucky to receive such a generous donation. Most of this donation was used to help support the Chem-E Car team. This support included at the 2014 Regional Conference in Puerto Rico and the 2014 National Conference in Atlanta. See the “Representing Well” article on page 3 for more information.

Trail fundraiser was another contributor to the fundraising this past semester. Our own graduate student Scott Schiling helped put on the event. In addition, other participants included: Erica Caruso, Jacob Clements, Mishaun Sturm, Lawrence “Troy” Manuel, and Eric Regel. AICHE would like to thank all involved in this event.

Other contributors include alumni, apparel sales, etc. The department and all the organizations would like to thank anyone who was generous in any way.

Not Just Brains

Every year, LES hosts several events for the engineering student body including sports tournaments. In the fall semester the tournaments included volleyball, flag football, and dodgeball. Several chemical engineering students participated on the chemical engineering team that ranged from freshmen to 5th year seniors, and even included two seniors who returned from their co-ops. All teams were led by our own sports coordinator, Patrick Spiller.

The first of these tournaments was the volleyball tournament. Last year, the team was able to dominate the field for a first place win. This year, the team started off slow losing to a new and improved Electrical Engineering team. However, the team responded well by blitzing through Civil, Petroleum, and Mechanical to make it to the championship match. Unfortunately, the team came up short losing close games to finish second.

Next up was flag football. After struggling to find success last year, the team this year responded well. The tournament started off a little shaky though with a tough loss to Petroleum that included a great second-half comeback that just came up short. After the loss, the team took care of Industrial Technology and Civil before having a rematch with Petroleum. Unfortunately, the team came up short again after exhausting all options. The team ended up with a third place finish.

The final tournament was dodgeball. With a three-year defending championship streak on the line, the team had some unexpected pitfalls with several players being unavailable due to having a scheduled conference at the same time period; and they fell short of expectations with a fourth-place finish.

The spring semester sports will include basketball, soccer, and softball.

Looking Ahead

In case you have missed the new features, there have been several improvements throughout the department. These include a new conference room for faculty, a new study room located across from the conference room for students, a new ping pong table in the lounge, and a spacious study area in the duct by Dr. Chirdon's office that includes two chairs and a whiteboard. Oh, and do not forget that there are now several new whiteboards located throughout our wing of the building.

After the success of the past semester, AIChE is looking forward to another great semester. They have some great events scheduled. Tentatively, events include: general meetings (February 12th with DOW Chemical, March 5th, and April 16th with a Young Professional from AIChE), fundraising events, a service events including Engineering Week, and others. Be sure to check your emails, but they are also hoping to get better means of connecting with everyone. So join their Facebook group, follow their Twitter, follow their Instagram, and subscribe to their YouTube page. They will also soon be posting news on the bulletin board located across from the lounge and will be posting on the Chemical Engineering website.

As always feel free to let AIChE know if anyone is having any issues or would like to give any feedback. Thank you all for a great semester, and let's make this next semester even better!

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