

In this issue:

- A word from the president
- Recent graduate achievements
- Marty's already legendary trivia section!
- The best graduate class in the whole department is...
- Prof. Maric: from polymers to ball hockey!

On the radar:

- November 7th:
Video Games Night
- November 14th:
PGSS Influenza Immunizations
- November 15th:
Sushi Night (Ginza)
- November 20th:
ChEGSS Council Meeting
- November 28th:
Fall Banquet (Casa Minhota)
- December 7th:
ChEGSS Breakfast
- January 2008:
Potluck lunch to welcome new students & return of assassins

A New Born Child

Hello Chemical Engineering!

In an effort to reach out to as many grads as possible, we've set up this little newsletter. We hope to publish an issue at least once per semester. In each issue, we'll be presenting upcoming activities and recent graduate achievements. We'll also be putting the spotlight on one particular research group. In this issue, Sarah Evangelista has interviewed Prof. Maric and Ed Swanson has surveyed the grad students on their favorite class.

We have quite a few activities planned until the holiday break. On Nov. 7th, come and test your skills at Mario Kart or Duck Hunt on a big screen at the 1st annual Video Games Night. Interested in warding off influenza for this upcoming

flu season? PGSS is offering immunizations at Thomson House on Nov. 14th. Once immunized, join us for all-you-can-eat sushi at "Ginza" on Nov. 15th. This semester's hot-ticket event is the Fall banquet, to be held at the Portuguese restaurant "Casa Minhota" on Nov. 28th. Before the holiday break, ChEGSS will be hosting a dirt-cheap pancake breakfast. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming events.

As always, if you would like to propose an activity, do not hesitate to contact a member of ChEGSS. We have a lot planned for the Winter semester, but there is always room for more!

Jason Tavares
ChEGSS President

Recent Graduate Achievements

A couple of graduate students have recently completed their degree within our department. In particular, Cao Cin, who worked under the supervision of Prof. Coulombe, recently obtained his Ph.D. degree from McGill. Similarly, Gina de Luca, who worked for Prof. Rey, also obtained his Ph.D. degree. Congratulations from ChEGSS on completing your degree, doctors!

As many of you might know, the 57th Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference (CSCHE) took place in Edmonton, from October 28th to 31st. Several graduate students attended the conference, including Juan Beltran, Andrew Carkner, Felipe Castro, Monika Chmiel, Irwin Eydelnat, Charles Poitras and Caroline Warne-Zoueki. Congratulations to all!

Finally, several graduate students have recently published their work in the literature. The following publications were accepted and can be accessed online:

[Lakshminarayana Rao \(Prof. Munz, Prof. Coulombe\)](#)

Applied Physics Letters

[Arash Shahryari \(Prof. Omanovic\)](#)

Material Science & Engineering C

[Tiffany Zigras \(Prof. Leask\)](#)

Journal of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery

Do not hesitate to have a quick look at the work of some of your fellow grads!

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**Next issue coming
in February 2008!**

Marty's Musings

Q1: Where in the department can you find this lab?

Q2: From which faculty is Mr. Wong (Wong Building) an alumnus?

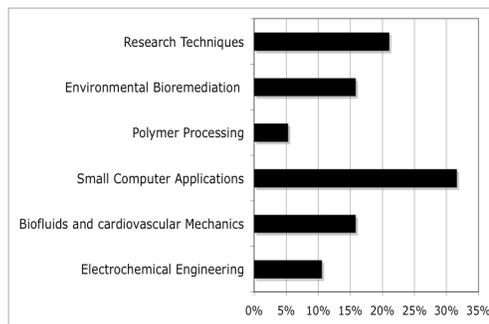
Q3: Let's say you're hanging-out in the store on the third floor of the Wong and you think to yourself "self, I'd really like to purchase a cup of coffee, or perhaps a hot cup of tea." Where's the closest place to do that?

A1: On the department's website I, for one, am disappointed that I was not issued my space suit during the course of my research.
A2: Architecture (and you thought it was Engineering...really now)
A3: The genomics building (no, it is very much NOT the Trotter building)...but good luck figuring out when they're open.

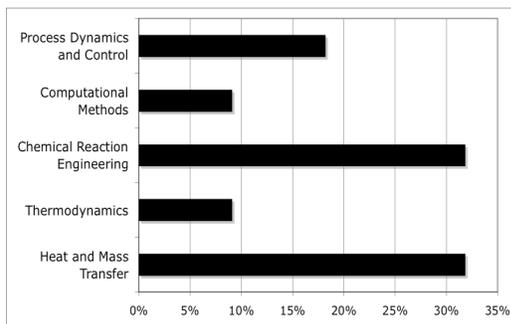
And the winner is...

ChEGSS and Barnes & Associates surveyed students in the department to determine what graduate-level class they would most recommend to new students. We have a definite winner for the elective classes: Prof. Leask's "Small Computer Applications" garnered 32% of the votes. For the fundamental classes (core 600-level), we have a tie: Prof. Coulombe's "Heat & Mass Transfer" and Prof. Berk's "Chemical Reaction Engineering" both accumulated 32% of the votes. Congratulations to all three professors for teaching such highly-appreciated classes!

Elective Classes:



Fundamentals (core 600-level):



Prof. Milan Maric under the microscope



In a continuing effort to develop a better understanding of our department's research activities and its people, ChEGSS recently spent some time with Prof. Milan Maric.

Prof. Maric's academic background is impressive: he obtained both science and engineering bachelor degrees from McMaster University (Canada) and received his doctoral degree from the University of Minnesota (USA).

Before being offered an opportunity to work at McGill, Prof. Maric spent 4 years working in industry where he learned a few things that have really helped him with both his teaching and research at McGill. For one, he feels that he improved upon his communication skills, specifically when having to relay information to people with varying backgrounds, mentioning that he used to teach colloid and polymer chemistry to the pilot plant operators. He also attributes the structuring of his group meetings from his industrial experience, but realizes that at a university one

must be required to be a little more flexible...and patient.

So just what does he do here at McGill? His main research focuses on the synthesis, characterization and processing of block copolymers for nanoporous separations media and organics electronics (e.g.: solar cells, OLEDs). While his research covers a variety of different areas, his collaborations extend into the development of green plasticizers as well as the use of polymers as potential hydrate inhibitors, to name but a few.

Amidst his teaching and research, he somehow also manages to find time to play ball hockey with the graduate students because he feels that maintaining a healthy balance between life and work is critical and really allows you to "keep things in perspective", something that we all need every once and again.

In the next issue... Prof. Elizabeth Jones