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THE WONG STREET JOURNAL GRAD EDITION

In this issue:

- A word from the president
- Recent graduate achievements
- An overview of recent and upcoming events.
- Prof. Jones: New Doc on the Block.

On the radar:

- March 12th: ChEGSS annual meeting
- April 8th: Spring Banquet
- May 20th: Profs vs. Grads Softball
- May: PGSS Softball Begins

We've Got Issues!

Hello Chemical Engineering! Welcome to the 2nd issue of the Wong Street Journal – Grad Edition. Well, it's March and it smells like elections! On March 12th, we will be holding a general meeting to go over a few important issues, not the least of which is the vote to elect next year's council members. We're looking to fill up all our positions: if you're interested, see the VP Admin (Ed Swanson – Wong 5090) as soon as possible to pick up a nomination form.

I'd also like to take this occasion to announce that, thanks to David Chin, the official ChEGSS website is now

online at <http://chegss.mcgill.ca>. The website is loaded with up-to-date information on your favourite graduate student association! Also, be sure to check out the recipe for the dish voted best-in-show at the potluck a few weeks ago: Rujira Jitrwung's green thai curry! Along with some other delicious recipes, it is posted on the website.

All the best,

Jason Tavares
ChEGSS President

Recent Graduate Achievements

Papers:

S. Bergeron and P. Servio, *Reaction rate constant of propane hydrate formation*, Fluid Phase Equilibria.

M.R. Kamal, J. Uribe Calderon and B. Lennox, *Surface Energy of Modified Montmorillonite*. J Adh Sci.

A.J. Pelley and N. Tufenkji, *Effect of Particle Size and Natural Organic Matter on the Migration of Nano- and Micro-Scale Latex Particles in Saturated Porous Media*, Journal of Colloid and Interface Science.

L. Rao and R.J. Munz, *Effect of surface roughness on erosion rates of pure copper coupons in pulsed vacuum arc system*, Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics.

Conferences:

M.R. Kamal, J. Uribe Calderon, *Effect of the Surface Properties on Clay Dispersion and Properties of PS Nanocomposites*, CREPEC 2007, Montreal (Poster).

ChEGSS Council 2007-2008

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**Next issue coming in
September 2008!**

Marty Keeps You Posted

Another semester is about to finish, and ChEGSS has been busy organizing activities for our grad and post-doc members. We hope you've enjoyed our recent events and we'd like to take this opportunity to highlight our recent events and look towards some upcoming ones. On January 16th, we welcomed our new and returning students with a **New Student Potluck Lunch**. Our thanks go out to everyone that participated and brought delectable dishes from their home kitchens, or from Montréal's fine take-out establishments. Congratulations to Rujira, whose homemade Thai Chicken Curry was voted best dish of the lunch. The weekend of February 1st marked the **2nd Annual ChEGSS Ski Trip**, where our members pooled their monies and cars to make an excursion to beautiful Mont Ste-Anne. Our brave skiers and merry-makers soldiered through heavy winds on the drive up so that they could master alpine and cross-country trails that were laden with powdery snow and could finish off each day with a fireside après-ski back at the chalet. Perhaps next year we shall answer the question "what's better than six dudes in a sauna?"

For all of the early risers (profs, students and staff), we've been doing something new this year: the **ChEGSS Pancake Breakfasts** on December 7th and February 8th. Contrary to the stereotype, many graduate students arrived well before noon to fuel that day's research with coffee, fruit, juice and, of course, pancakes. Mr. Swanson's whisk-less batter-making technique was unstoppable, while ChEGSS President Jason Tavares worked the hotplates like no other could.

Looking towards the future, ChEGSS will be having its **Annual General Meeting** on March 12th to review and plan our activities with our members and to elect next year's ChEGSS Executive. Come for the free pizza, stay for the discussion, and leave as one of our new Executives. Speak with any current ChEGSS Executive to find out more details about what positions are available and why volunteering your time will help us help you. Also upcoming is the **ChEGSS Spring Banquet**, which will be taking place in early April. Rumor has it that it will be BYOW, so stay alert for updates via e-mail and poster. Finally, ChEGSS members: start getting in-shape for the ChEGSS team in the **PGSS Summer Softball League** in late May. Details will follow, but you'll want to be in peak physical condition to lessen the effects our team will have on you. Suggestions for a cheeky new name would also be appreciated; we've already been "Flashers & Strippers" and "Chemical Dependency." Perhaps your participation is all we need this year to push us from second-place to league champions?

Finally, thanks to everyone whose participation makes these events successful. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Prof. Elizabeth Jones under the microscope



Where did you do your schooling?

I did my undergraduate degree at the University of Waterloo, my master's and PhD at Caltech L.A. and my post-doc at Collège de France in Paris

What did each of these very different environments have to offer?

Caltech was special because it was small and people were very passionate about science, although I didn't really like L.A. Paris is one of my favorite cities and I really enjoyed living there, especially since it was so easy to travel around. The lab group was also very nice and really worked as a team.

When did you decide you wanted to teach and why did you choose McGill?

I decided I wanted to be a professor in my first year of undergrad. Though I went to California for graduate school, I always said that I didn't want to be part of the "brain drain" and knew that I would be coming back to Canada.

Although it's been hardly a year since you started teaching, what can you say you enjoy the most about teaching?

One thing I really enjoy about teaching is the interaction with the students, especially when they are eager and excited to learn. On the flip-side when students cheat it's very disappointing.

Can you tell me a bit about your research?

I look at the role of physical forces in embryonic development, specifically blood flow and shear stress but I would like to expand on that in a more general sense. Embryonic development can also be used as a model to understand cancer because cancer co-opts developmental pathways, basically anything cancer does happens in a more organized way in embryos.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I don't have much spare time, but I have joined a belly dancing group and I really enjoy traveling and do it whenever I can.

What three things would you bring to a deserted island?

A snorkel, a book and of course suntan lotion.