Highlighting Chemistry Graduate Student Organizations

We asked readers to share information with us about their chemistry graduate student organizations (CGSOs). In this issue we chose to spotlight the Indiana University Bloomington.

Indiana University Bloomington
President: Rebecca Weiner
Vice President: Benjamin Draper
Secretary: Elizabeth Pierson
Number of Members/Regular Participants: 14
Proportion of the chemistry graduate student body at the university that are CGSO members: 5%

ACS: When was your CGSO started?
IUB CGSO: 2009.

ACS: How often does your CGSO meet?
IUB CGSO: Bimonthly, once with the committee and once with the director of graduate studies.

ACS: How do you keep regular members each year?
IUB CGSO: Via volunteers, at least two per discipline.

ACS: What are some of the main activities of your CGSO?
IUB CGSO: Career workshops, breakfast socials, student seminar series, new graduate student orientation, potential graduate student recruitment, travel awards, and social events such as bowling.

ACS: What are your fundraising efforts?
IUB CGSO: We are generally sponsored by the department.

ACS: Do you also do fundraising?
IUB CGSO: We currently are fortunate enough not to have to fundraise, though we have discussed implementing it in the future.

ACS: How does your CGSO inform participants about activities?
IUB CGSO: We get the word out through our webpage and e-mails. We also just started running the IU Chemistry Department twitter, @IUBChemistry.

ACS: What chemistry organization meetings do the members of your CGSO attend?
IUB CGSO: ACS National Meetings mostly.

ACS: What are the goals and objectives for your CGSO?
IUB CGSO: The purpose of this organization is to be a more formal means by which graduate students may help to shape the Chemistry Department graduate program at Indiana University Bloomington. The ChemGRC can address issues of both an academic and a social nature that pertain to the graduate student population. The ChemGRC is not a legislative body. Rather, it will aim to foster a cooperative relationship and to provide a communication channel among faculty, staff, and graduate students concerning department policy and focus.

ACS: So far, what has been your most successful activity?
IUB CGSO: Our seminar series began last year. Two students from the department give a short talk about their research. These seminars are very laid back; we serve refreshments and popcorn. They are well attended and bring up interesting points because of the diversity of the audience. It is a great way for graduate students to find out what’s going on in other parts of the department.

ACS: How might CGSOs become more connected with other CGSOs around the country?
IUB CGSO: We would love to talk to other CGSOs about what they do for their student body. We are still a relatively new organization and would love to improve and expand!

Group website: http://www.indiana.edu/~chemgrc/index.php