

Chemical engineering students network and lead with AIChE

The Department of Chemical Engineering is proud of the work its students lead each year to highlight its accomplishments and create a sense of community for students. Each semester, events such as barbecues, banquets, movie nights, attendance and presentation at conferences across the country are student-planned and student-led.

For example, in April 2019, members of the student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Chemical Engineering Graduate Research Association (CEGRA) hosted a banquet at Nick's to provide an opportunity to network with faculty and staff, and alumni. The event featured faculty emeritus David W. Yarbrough, Ph.D. who was in part responsible for the growth of the department after it's beginning in 1966.

Also last spring, the AIChE Car Team developed and constructed a Chem-E Car – the first in many years that competed in the regionally AIChE Chem-E Car Competition. Annually, students develop and construct a car powered with a chemical reaction intending to compete and place. If the team and car place in the top three competitors at the regional conference, they advance to the nationals at the Annual AIChE Student Conference. Our team is already developing strategy for a strong showing at the next competition.

Looking forward, the student chapter of AIChE has also recommended a program for upper-level student volunteers to help orient freshmen entering the department and introduce them to opportunities for student success specific to chemical engineering. A proposal, developed and written exclusively by students, is currently under review by the faculty. Way to go ChemE students. Wings Up!