

The Graduate Association of Chemical Engineers (GRACE) aims to strengthen the department of chemical engineering academically and socially. GRACE holds several social activities within the chemical engineering department and other student organizations. GRACE's social activities build relationships between graduate students, faculty, and staff within the department as well as across campus. GRACE believes healthy social interactions foster strong relationships and collaborations which enhance the research work performed by the chemical engineering department. GRACE's strong leadership efforts have not gone unnoticed. GRACE won the University of Florida Graduate Student Council award for Outstanding Student Organization in 2013.



GRACE has held several social activities so far this academic year including a Chinese New Year Party where graduate students and faculty participated in a dumpling making contest. The GRACE Welcome Party was held to introduce all the new graduate students to the current faculty, staff, and students. GRACE also had a large barbecue held at Blue Springs Park in High Springs, FL at the beginning of the fall semester. GRACE maintains a football seating block and held an official tailgate for the Tennessee football game.

A new event to this year was the Diwali Celebration held on November 1st. There are many international students from India in the chemical engineering department, and this event was held to help them feel a little less homesick over the Diwali holiday. It was also a great opportunity for students to experience a taste of Indian culture. There were plenty of traditional Indian sweets including chakli, laddo, shev, and shankarpali. Students made paper lanterns and decorated diya lamps to celebrate. The event was a huge success!



Additionally, GRACE has been making great strides advancing the academics of the chemical engineering department. Senior members of GRACE have been serving as mentors for incoming graduate students helping with tasks such as finding a place to live, providing guidance on how to clear holds and register for classes, selecting a research advisor, among many other things. This mentor-mentee program has been a great success and will be continued in years to come.

Every year, GRACE holds a one-day research symposium which provides an opportunity to showcase the research in our department to industry professionals, our department faculty, and the department advisory board. The 2014 GRACE Symposium will be held April 10th. Several 15 minute talks are presented in the morning and afternoon grouped by main research area. There will also be a poster presentation. All talks and posters will be judged by faculty and industry professionals providing the graduate students valuable presentation experience and feedback.

GRACE has also been helping proctor exams for graduate courses in chemical engineering. Due to the large number of incoming graduate students and limited number of teaching assistants, much more proctors are required for the basis course exams. GRACE members volunteered their time to serve as these proctors promoting a sense of academic integrity to the incoming graduate students.

GRACE also maintains an alumni network to aid job placement of future chemical engineering graduates.

If you have any questions or want to get in touch with GRACE, please email us at president.grace.ufl@gmail.com!