

JULY 2022 | ISSUE 2

PGSC NEWSLETTER

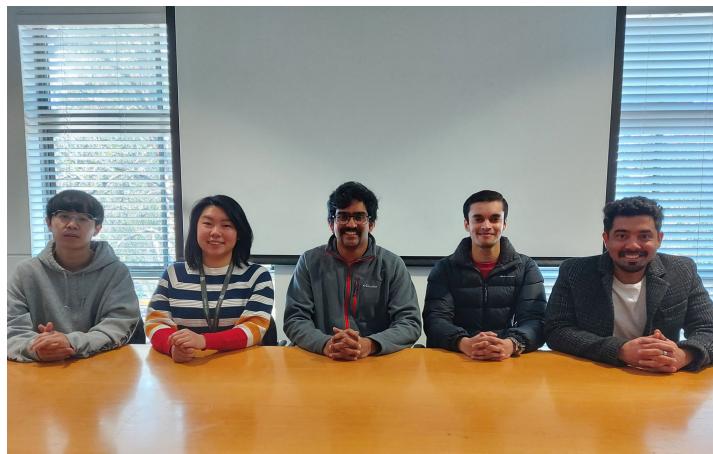


An update of all postgraduate activities in the School of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

WHO ARE WE?



L-R: Wenjie Yang (Vice-President), Yanxi Yu (Vice-President),
Pradeep Murthy (President), Hashim Jalil Khan (Treasurer),
Upalee Labhane (Secretary)

We are a group of highly technical and devoted Chemical Engineering PhD students at USYD.

We organise various professional and social events to benefit the CBE research student cohort.

Our goal is to improve both the culture and development of the CBE students heavily interested in research.

CONTACT US

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**SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL AND
BIOMOLECULAR
ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY**

 **@CBEUSYD**



CBE AT UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

SOCIAL EVENTS

BOARD GAMES NIGHT

7 July

Interesting **board games** can easily gather **HDR students** together and increase interaction, especially if pizza, snacks and beverages are thrown into the mix. Moreover, HDR students across **all USYD faculties** were welcome to join this casual night with an equally interesting mix of people.

Different levels of board games were provided like Catan, Skull, Sushi Go!, Organ Attack!, Cash and Guns, and more. Such a combination proved to be a terrific success!

Big shout out to **Tino Kausmann** and **Jacopo Giaretta** for bringing their games over, and also to **PRESS** (Postgraduate Research in Engineering Student Society) for helping to run and promote the event.



TRIVIA NIGHT



23 June

Our popular **trivia** event has struck again! We appealed to **various faculties around the university** and managed to reel in students from Engineering, Arts, Science and Business.

27 students participated (a great turnout) and it was truly a battle for first place! Special mention to **Yanxi Yu** and **Evie Deaker** (ACFR) for helping to co-ordinate the event, to **Pradeep Murthy** for hosting and to **PRESS** for helping with promoting it.

Congratulations to the top three teams and of course to everyone for participating! Prizes were gift cards.

- 1st: **Neuromorphic Morons** (*Alon Loefler, Miro Astore, Isaac Besarra, Arvin Hadlos*)
- 2nd: **Nerf Herders** (*Athiya Azeem, Jack Naylor, Ryan Griffiths, Jay Tharappel*)
- 3rd: **ITLS** (*James Bushell, Aitan Militao, Thiranjaja Kandanaarachchi*)

SOCIAL EVENTS

MOVIE NIGHT

June 2

Our **Movie Night** was very entertaining, as it gave HDR students a chance to relax and watch a gripping sci-fi movie and we were joined by so many students from around the university! We screened **The Martian** (featuring Matt Damon) and it felt so relevant to our STEM ambitions. Who knows? Maybe one day we will have to face the same fate. Naturally, snacks, pizza, and beverages were provided.



WELCOME BBQ

April 8

CBE held their semesterly welcome BBQ event (traditionally in our own courtyard) to welcome new PhD students and enjoy the many foods and beverages available by the school. This is always a great way naturally to meet new people and support them for (I believe) making the right decision to slave away tiresome days and nights to make a difference to the world!

Naturally, our acting Head of School, **Professor Ali Abbas**, was also present to help introducing and welcoming the students, allow them to share their topics and interests and provide our long-awaited prize for best research paper from 2021. This was awarded to **Tianqi Zhang** for his excellent research paper, entitled *Degradation of cefixime antibiotic in water by atmospheric plasma bubbles: Performance, degradation pathways and toxicity evaluation*.

Congratulations Tianqi and thank you, Professor Abbas!

Good luck to all new and incoming students in their research!
Look forward to hearing about your progress!



SOCIAL EVENTS

VIDEO GAMES NIGHT

April 1

Yes, we held a video games night on April 1. And this was not a joke (April Fools reference).

CBE invited various HDR students across the engineering faculty to have some downtime on a Friday night by playing some **Nintendo Switch games** (namely **Mario Kart** and **Super Smash Bros.**). But why stop there? We decided to hold a **tournament** as well for both, where the winners would receive a lovely little, carved wooden **trophy**, specially done by **David Alam**. Thanks, David!

For the event, we managed to also bring out a Mario-themed cake for everyone to enjoy and relish in. Thank you to everyone for participating and Congratulations to **Frances Wu** and **Simon Lin** for respectively winning Mario Kart and Smash Bros!



ARCADE NIGHT (W/ CERS UNSW)

February 18

CERS UNSW (Chemical Engineering Research Society) kindly invited our CBE HDR students to come along to their arcade night at **Archie Brothers Cirque Electriq** in Alexandria.

Plenty of delicious food to share around, plenty of **new students** to meet and plenty of **fun games** to explore, including the Bumper Cars, Laser Tag, Mario Kart, Basketball and so many more!

Thanks again, CERS UNSW for hosting this event! We will be sure to collaborate on another event soon enough.

RESEARCH EVENTS

THESIS WRITING WORKSHOP

19 April

CBE PGSC held its **first research-based event** for 2022, namely a **workshop** to help students with important factors for the **thesis writing process**. These included aspects such as the desired thesis structure, planning of writing and data collection, the submission and review processes, the transferring of thesis material to journal publications and vice-versa. Excellent sharing of information and several students from across the faculty joined our event to learn a bit more.

Feedback to the event was generally positive, although we may consider in a future event to discuss about writing techniques and strategies for both writing the thesis and the journal papers for improved clarity.

Big shout out to the various speakers who volunteered their time to speak at this event and share their perspectives. They included **Dr. David Wang, Dr. Farshad Oveischi, Arash Araghi, Julia Soares** and **Haoyue Sun**. Thank you, all!

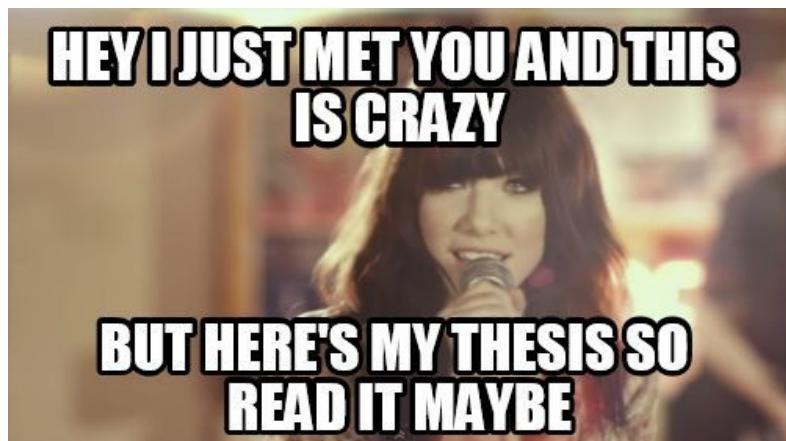


ALUMNI

Below is a list of students who have recently completed their research thesis in 2021/2. These students have taken an extensive amount of blood, sweat and tears over several years to get their contribution to research developed, completed and circulated. This is not an easy task and so they should be truly congratulated for their hard and dedicated efforts!

Please connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) for future updates about current and past students, professors, staff, etc. or even CBE activities.

Student	Thesis title	Supervisor	Date completed
Chang Liu	<i>Electrochemical Hydrogen Peroxide Production Via Oxygen Reduction Reaction</i>	Li Wei	10 August 2022
Maryam Azhar	<i>Design optimisation of a CO₂ pipeline network in Australia under variable flow</i>	Dianne Wiley	16 June 2022
Zaheri Mahumud	<i>Design, synthesis & evaluation of carbon quantum dot-polymer nanocomposites for cardiovascular tissue engineering applications</i>	Fengwang Li	18 May 2022
Yihan Wang	<i>Fabrication of carbon-based metal-free electrocatalyst for chlor-alkali process</i>	Yuan Chen	11 Jan 2022
Zichao Guo	<i>Functionalization and Characterization of Maleimide-activated Agarose polymer and Formation of novel grafted soft co-polymer</i>	Zongwen Liu	15 Dec 2021
Ivan Kristianto	<i>Nitrogen Analysis of Biocrude Oil Derived from Carbohydrates and Proteins</i>	Alejandro Montoya	10 Dec 2021



OTHER NEWS

HDR STUDENT LIFE GRANT

4 August

We were lucky to be provided with a **Student Life Faculty Grant of \$1,000 by the Faculty of Engineering** for the upcoming second semester of 2022. We look forward to utilising the money to hold some very fun and engaging events for the faculty to enjoy, including sporting tournaments (futsal and table tennis), as well as invited talks and seminars. Lots to look forward to!

STUDENT LIFE GRANT

11 March

We were lucky to be provided with a **Student Life Faculty Grant of \$2,000 by the Office of Student Life** for the first semester of 2022. Our aim was to utilise the money to organise social events for students across the entire university instead of just the faculty. We utilised the money to hold the movie, trivia and board games nights.

NEW SOCIETY!

Two members of PGSC, Pradeep and Yanxi, are respectively the Vice-President and Secretary of PRESS (Postgraduate Research in Engineering Student Society). Lots of events happening for all HDR students, social, research and professional-based! Please stay tuned and join and follow our social media by clicking [here](#).

NEW MEMBER!

Please welcome **Upalee Labhane** from Dr. David Wang's group as our new PGSC secretary! **Zixin Lei** will step down to focus more on his thesis. Good luck, Zixin and welcome aboard, Upalee!



FUTURE EVENTS

As this is our second newsletter, we will be including more content over time, with ideas such as:

- Honouring researchers or research students for their achievements or publications
- Major PG student milestones for the year
- Alumni interviews
- School and faculty updates

If you would like to share any ideas around for us to contribute to the newsletter or even suggest new event ideas, then please email us at cbepgsc@sydney.edu.au with your ideas.

PRESS^[1]





THANK YOU FOR READING!

***FOR THOSE ABOUT TO
WORK...WE SALUTE YOU!***