

A Message from the CGSA President

What a great year 2018-19 has been for the Chemistry Graduate Student Association (CGSA)! In August, three new officers were elected including, Megan J. Toda as President, Arghya P. Ghosh as Vice President, and Kritika Bajaj as Secretary. Anthony Ewurum continued as the Treasurer for a second year. We kicked off our reign by hosting the annual Welcome Picnic for new graduate students. Our next event was our Career Day, where we hosted four successful UofL chemistry PhD alumni for panel style discussions with our graduate students. CGSA officers and members also conducted campus tours for prospective graduate students.

Our culminating and most anticipated event was the Derby Lecture Series. We have been so honored to continue this grand tradition, which started in 1978. We were delighted to host Sir J. Fraser Stoddart, the 2016 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, as the 2019 Derby Lecturer. As tradition goes, Sir Stoddart presented a general audience lecture and a technical lecture at the Gheens Science Hall and Rauch Planetarium on the Belknap Campus. These lectures were very well-attended and audiences left inspired by Stoddart's years of accomplishment and words of wisdom, both for academia and life. The CGSA hosted a banquet dinner and a picnic in his honor. The evening of the dinner was simply magical. Prof. G. B. Hammond and his wife Mari Mujica hosted the Derby Picnic at their beautiful Shelbyville farm and it was so evident that all were enamored by our Old Kentucky Home's beauty. The exclamation point on the series was the Kentucky Derby itself. The CGSA had the privilege to join Stoddart at Churchill Downs for the most exciting two minutes in sports, for what turned into a historic day.

It was a joy for me to watch Sir Stoddart bring so much happiness to all the graduate students who had the honor to meet him and it was equally a joy to see how much he enjoyed his visit to Louisville. The CGSA continues to make its mark on the chemistry department and on our beloved university. We are excited to see what next year has in store!

Until next time,

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