



# First-Year Engagement

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## Fall Semester

### Citrus Social

- Citrus Social provided an opportunity for students to enjoy a sunny day at TCU with lemonade, cookies, and their favorite and/or future professors.
- Utilizing our Instagram, GroupMe, and in-person announcements of the event in general chemistry courses we were able to reach not only members within our club but students throughout the department.
- The citrus social gave students the opportunity to see their professors in a more relaxing environment outside of the classroom in hopes of building faculty-student relations and giving truth to the big-college experience, small-college feel.



## Introduction

Texas Christian University's Chemistry Club has always made a conscious effort to interest and include first-year students through events and volunteering. This year the organization focused on boosting numbers and cultivating a stronger community within the Chemistry & Biochemistry Department by specifically holding events to engage first-year students. Events included the citrus social, periodic table of cupcakes, murder mystery play, tie dye event, and jeopardy night. This gave students a chance to get to know their peers better, to interact with a wide range of professors, and to gain knowledge about chemistry from outside the classroom. The success of these events has led to record high attendance not only for the events but also for the Chemistry Club meetings held bi-weekly. The success of this initiative will ensure these and other events will be hosted for years to come, hopefully growing to the size where other schools can join and collaborate, further building a community within the field of chemistry and biochemistry.

## Year in Review

- The TCU Chemistry Club's continued mission is to bring together students from across TCU to foster a positive environment for students to thrive and develop meaningful and valuable connections.
- We have been able to provide opportunities for our members through volunteering at local elementary schools such as Burton Hill Elementary School and George Clark Elementary, giving members the opportunity to demonstrate leadership skills outside of the academic setting, while installing confidence and curiosity in the future generation of chemists.
- To inform our community of the achievements of our faculty, staff, and students, Chemistry Club partnered with fellow professors to make the first volume of *The Catalyst*, TCU Chemistry & Biochemistry Department's first ever departmental newsletter.
- To keep up with the TCU Chemistry club, be sure to follow the Instagram @tcuchemistryclub or scan the QR below.

**37**  
AVERAGE SPRING MEETING ATTENDANCE

**31**  
AVERAGE FALL MEETING ATTENDANCE

TCUCHEMISTRYCLUB

## Spring

### Murder Mystery Interactive Play

- Sam Shah, VP of Social Relations, designed, directed and wrote an interactive murder mystery to engage our members and first-year students in a less serious manner. We began advertising through social media and GroupMe towards the end of November to get the students excited for the murder mystery.
- The first act of the play allowed for the introduction of chemistry-themed characters, ex: Mrs. Arsenic, Mr. Barium, Captain Mercury.
- The clues for the murder were hidden behind chemistry-related problems, including half-lives and molarity calculations that were scattered throughout the science buildings. Students were tasked with finding the mystery locations in groups using clues and solve the problem at that location to receive a hint as to the murder.
- Overall, it was a creative and engaging way to interact with first-year students and show the incredible acting skills of our chemistry club executives.

**135**  
ATTENDEES AT MURDER MYSTERY EVENT



### Periodic Table of Cupcakes

- Midway through the fall semester, the Chemistry Club created a periodic table out of cupcakes to celebrate *National Chemistry Day*. Every member was able to decorate cupcakes as elements, which were then arranged like the periodic table.
- This event helped build connections within the club and served to relax and have some fun during one of the most stressful times of the semester, when many of the first-year students were tackling their first exams.



### Tie Dye Event

- Over 90 participants came to learn how to dye t-shirts with a natural logwood dye
- What we were particularly interested in was the effects of these chemical dyes on the water.
- In the process, we educated 90 General Chemistry students about the chemical, environmental, and ethical concerns that fast fashion brings
- We raised over \$700 to aid our local ACS Chemistry Club Chapter in holding future educational involvement events.



### Chemistry Bootcamp

- One of TCU's many ways to help incoming freshmen feel prepared and supported for a major in the Chemistry & Biochemistry Department.

- All TCU students come from diverse educational-level backgrounds, and Chemistry Bootcamp helps to ensure they have an adequate chemistry foundation before starting their first-semester classes at TCU.

**General Chemistry Boot Camp**

TCU's Chemistry Boot Camp is designed for introductory work of their own pace. You may voluntarily attend at any time.

**Faculty:** Lecturing TCU Chemistry & Biochemistry faculty

**Flexibility:** Participants can opt-in and opt-out at all stages

**Faculty:** Faculty members receive credit for all participants

**198**  
1ST YEAR CHEMISTRY STUDENTS IN CHEMISTRY BOOT CAMP

### Peer-to-peer Mentoring (General Chemistry)

- The help cultivate first-year student's study skills and to aid in their understanding of general chemistry, peer-to-peer mentoring sessions were held after multiple Chemistry Club Meetings.
- Upperclassmen and Chemistry Club Executives volunteer their time to mentor first-year students by helping them study, giving advice, and encouraging them in their academic journey.



### Joke of the Day

Daily chemistry jokes written on the Chemistry & Biochemistry Department's whiteboard by Chemistry Club Executives

Chemistry joke of the Day!  
My chemistry professor explained:  
It's OK. Oxidants happen.

Chemistry joke of the Day!  
If you're not a part of the solution,  
you're a part of the precipitate.

Chemistry joke of the Day!  
Q: What do you do with a sick chemist?  
A: Well, if you can't heal, only you can't.  
Cause, you might as well be a toxin.

Chemistry joke of the Day!  
I think these jokes are  
Sodium funny.  
In fact, I'd sloshes my rear end one!

### National Chemistry Week

- NCW is hosted by the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History involves over ten university and high school groups across DFW
- Our members developed an engaging and fun demonstration on how to make popping boba using apple juice and pink lemonade among other activators.
- National Chemistry week provided the opportunity for our members to work with the community and inspire youth with exciting experiences to pique their interest in chemistry.



### Jeopardy Night: A focus on DEI

- 2023: First annual Jeopardy night, highlighting DEI scientists from around the world.
  - Huge success with over 80 attendees present.
  - 2024: Coming up on April 9th.
- We anticipate another lively evening among students and faculty across multiple departments!

