



MARCH 26, 2021

URSA MINOR BEER TASTING EVENT

THE BOND BETWEEN CHEMISTRY AND BEER

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Did you know that brewing beer is a meticulous craft? Part of the craft is through the foundation and integration of chemistry principles. Although my academic coursework and background is far from the chemistry lab, I was able to learn more about how chemistry and beer intersect to create a perfectly brewed and savory beverage.

On Mar. 18 at 7 p.m., I had the opportunity to virtually attend the Ursa Minor Beer Tasting Event through a partnership established between Ursa Minor Brewing and the College of St. Scholastica to further explore the crafting of beer and its invigorating tastes.



The virtual beer tasting event was attended by 40 people, including faculty members from the School of Science (specifically from the chemistry department), beer connoisseurs and students ages 21 or older.

CEO Ben Hugus of Ursa Minor Brewing led the discussion with the support of Dr. Aileen Beard, dean of the School of Sciences and Dr. Zachary Via, assistant professor of chemistry.

Before Hugus led us through the tasting event of three distinctly crafted beers from Ursa Minor Brewing, Dr. Via provided us with a presentation that further explained the relationship between chemistry and beer crafting with respect to elements and chemical compounds.

Dr. Via touched upon the four main components that make up beer: grain, hops, yeast and water. He mentioned that grain is almost always barley as it is a nice fermentable carbon source for yeast. To make barley into a pale malt, it must undergo germination. If you would like your malt to be darker, then you must kiln roast it to deepen the color.

Hugus then led the discussion in sharing the exhilarating experience that comes with drinking a cold pint of Ursa Minor beer. In reference to Ursa Minor Brewing and its principles, Hugus said, "We are all about people. We use beer as a tool to bring people together." Just like the College of St. Scholastica, Ursa Minor Brewing values the importance of bringing people together as a community.

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SURVEY: ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND SPRING SHORTS

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A significant number of the CSS student community were willing to share their thoughts on an array of springtime topics.

In a survey sent to the student community, students were asked their thoughts on the degree of celebration for St. Patrick's Day. Overwhelmingly, 57.1 percent of students found the holiday to be adequately celebrated. 28.6 percent of students don't celebrate the holiday as closely, but found it to be cool as it was.

There were but a mighty few, coming in at 8.6 percent of students, that chose to say that St. Patrick's Day deserved to be a month-long celebration of green. The remaining 5.7 percent of the student population found it to be an overrated holiday in general.

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A MESSAGE FROM EDITOR IN CHIEF HEIDI VOIGT:

DUE TO COVID-19, THE SCRIPT IS CONDUCTING ALL INTERVIEWS VIRTUALLY. EXTERNAL INFORMATION IN ARTICLES WAS OBTAINED THROUGH A COMBINATION OF EMAIL, PHONE, AND/OR VIDEO CHAT INTERVIEWS.