

PI TAU SIGMA OUTSTANDING AWARDS

Missouri Epsilon

Steve Schafer

The major thrusts of the Missouri Epsilon chapter throughout the 2015 – 2016 academic year were to expand our level of departmental involvement, increase the number of service events either hosted by or participated in by the chapter, and create an immersive initiation process that would not only aid in increasing member involvement but also create stronger bonds amongst fellow initiates and their current chapter members.

Our first two goals were highly dependent on the third; increasing outreach efforts and departmental involvement require a substantial amount of member involvement. Prospective members must now complete numerous initiation activities, some of which, like the faculty survey and chapter quiz, focus on educating members about their college and Pi Tau Sigma. Other activities, such as social events, volunteering events, and initiate scavenger hunts/surveys aim to create deeper bonds amongst the members of the initiate class. These new initiate events have been wildly successful, and the chapter has seen increased member attendance at all chapter events throughout the past 2 years.

In addition to enhancing our initiation process, the chapter focused on widening its outreach programs and community involvement. Some of our higher profile events are:

- **E-Week Super Smash Bros Tournament:** The chapter hosted a fundraising event during engineers' week, in which 64 students faced off in a single elimination Super Smash Bros Tournament! The event proved to be a fantastic fundraiser, and got many students from the college involved in a fun, competitive event.
- **Rocket Camp:** Rocket Camp is a three day immersive camp aimed at students who are ~10 years old. The camp is free to students and their families, and is supported by MUEAO donors. The camp contains classes taught by senior engineering students on various rocketry topics, as well as numerous rocketry activities such as payload design competitions, water rocket launch competitions, and model rocket launches. This event was planned, executed, and supported by our chapter throughout all phases. Twenty four 9-12 year old students participated.
- **High School Weekend:** Our chapter hosts the Mechanical Engineering activity, which is typically a glider competition. Students are first educated on mechanical engineering, typical work within the profession, and other general information related to the department. They are then thrown into a brief design competition. This event has been hosted by our chapter twice in the past year.
- **Columbia Food Bank:** The chapter volunteers at a local food bank each semester. We also hosted a food drive in November, which we plan to continue annually.

The chapter also participated in Relay for Life, hosted two Caterpillar information sessions, helped host the College of Engineering's Dome Lighting ceremony, and hosted numerous chapter socials. Moving forward, Missouri Epsilon hopes to further increase its presence through coordination of more outreach programs, specifically those aimed at K-12 STEM outreach, and departmental events, such as hosting more industry speakers in either seminars or company information sessions.