

PI TAU SIGMA OUTSTANDING AWARDS

Rochester Delta Pi

Tim Frey

Initiations

This past year, our chapter had two of its largest initiates of the century, initiating a total of 23 new members. Each year, eligible students are invited, and then as a part of their initiation, are required to sand and polish a bent that starts off very rough. They are then also required to collect the signatures of the entire Mechanical Engineering faculty in order to meet and talk with all of them. Once the official initiation is over, new and old members, along with many of the professors, all go to the local bar for dinner, drinks, and bar games.

Engineering Outreach

One of the big focuses of the Rochester Delta Pi Chapter is leadership within our department and college, the Kate Gleason College of Engineering (KGCOE). One way in which we stepped up our leadership this year within our department was in hosting tutoring sessions the nights prior to exams in the core Mechanical Engineering classes, such as static, strengths, and fluids. These are some of the more challenging classes due to their exams, and so at each of our tutoring sessions, we go over practice problems and answer any questions that students might have on a topic. Furthermore, this year we had our first ever exhibit at ImagineRIT, which is a huge festival on campus where RIT invites everyone within the local Rochester community to come see all of the great things that the university, its faculty, and its students are doing. For our exhibit, titled “6 Basic Machines”, we designed and built an interactive demonstration of how various simple machines, such as pulleys and levers, work. The goal of the exhibit was to show kids some of the basic tools that engineers rely on work in a fun, hands-on environment. The exhibit was a huge success and we plan on improving it for next year’s festival. Our last big outreach event for KGCOE was our annual end of the year Senior Pig Roast. For this event, we order over 120 lb of pork shoulder, dry rub it, and then stay up all night as we smoke it for 15 hours. The next day, we have a picnic free to all engineering seniors with pulled pork, sides, drinks, and lawn games. This year we had one of our largest turnouts in recent years.

Community Outreach

Along with outreach within the college, we also did a lot of volunteer work. In the fall, we participated in various Foodlink events volunteering time at the local food shelter. We also had members lead a safety training session for local VEX robotics teams. Then, in the spring, we had numerous members volunteer on weekends at the local trampoline park, where they played with children who have special needs. Then, to finish the year, we held a peanut-butter and jelly drive, where we made over 200 PB&J sandwiches and bagged lunches that we gave to the local food shelter to distribute to those in need of food.