

PI TAU SIGMA OUTSTANDING AWARDS

UIC Alpha Sigma

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Philanthropic contributions to the college, campus partners, and community members during the 2015-2016 school year demonstrate UIC Alpha Sigma's commitment to educational excellence and community involvement.

As part of our mission to improve the academic success of fellow engineering undergraduates, UIC Alpha Sigma provided unlimited assistance to those needing help in math, science, and engineering classes. Tutoring sessions, held twice a week, were organized and hosted by PTS members.

In addition to assisting students with classes, UIC Alpha Sigma created events to increase students' proficiency in using essential software tools that are fundamental in both industry and academia. Officers developed comprehensive lesson plans for a series of weekly, hour-long workshops on MATLAB and SolidWorks. In these sessions, students were given structured lessons with time to practice under the guidance of an experienced member who has used the software extensively for research or internship. Members also received access to the workshop PowerPoint presentations to serve as a useful reference tool.

As a national honors society, it is our duty to support and promote the achievement of our members. Because engineering students are faced with many choices regarding their future and professional success, UIC Alpha Sigma assembles a group of PTS alumni to participate in a panel discussion about future options of graduate school and industry employment. This year's panel was very informative and gave PTS members insight into the decisions they will be faced with upon graduation.

Often throughout the semester, the College of Engineering and other engineering societies on campus reached out to UIC Alpha Sigma members to volunteer at their events. Devoted to maintaining a successful relationship with campus partners, PTS officers and members volunteered whenever requested. The MIE Open House, ASME Luncheon, and Engineering Expo are some of the events UIC Alpha Sigma members volunteered at this year.

To promote professional and academic development, UIC Alpha Sigma also organized guest speaker and facility tour events. A design engineer from Dremel gave members valuable insight on a career in design and consumer products, as well as a first hand look at the journey of a product from conception to reality. Members of UIC Alpha Sigma also had the opportunity to tour both Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. These visits exposed members to state of the art laboratory facilities while exploring potential career paths and internship opportunities. Additionally, these experiences reinvigorated members as it captivated some of their passion in the physics and design that brought them into the engineering field.

This year ten members and two alumni of UIC Alpha Sigma attended the National Convention. Our contributions to the college and community on a volunteer basis, as well as our commitment to excellence in education, UIC was willing to appropriate funds to our organization and make our presence at the National Convention possible. Our ongoing highest turnout at the National Convention is also a testament to our commitment, and involvement in Pi Tau Sigma.