PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2012-2013
California Sigma Eta

A. Initiations

a. Membership selection, requirements, rituals, and celebration

Our membership selection is based on academic eligibility as defined in the National Bylaws. A formal request is made by our faculty and alumni advisors, for a complete list of mechanical engineering students in attendance. The list is then manually sorted by the advisors to ensure that all eligible students are invited for initiation. Previously, an automated list was requested from the University's Enrollment Services Department, however, this method for unforeseen reasons returned an incomplete list of students. The manual sorting method to determine a list of possible new members has proven to be intensely more effective.

Like other honor societies within the College of Engineering, we require a strict list of requirements to be completed. During our first year as a refounded chapter, the requirements for initiation were much less demanding such that our young chapter could build a strong foundation of members and to gain visibility within the College of Engineering at CSULB. Last year, our executive board decided to increase the requirements both in number and commitment required to becoming a part of our prestigious network of hard-working individuals. This year, we implemented the same requirements as last year but we were clearer with new initiates regarding what was required and provided a more rigid timeline for each requirement to be completed in to avoid last minute completion of requirements (up to and including on initiation day).We believe this approach separates the eligible students and highlights those who not only meet the academic requirements, but who also command the personal and professional qualities that Pi Tau Sigma members exemplify. This way, new members remain active and involved throughout the course of their educational career at California State University, Long Beach and hopefully even thereafter as well through our Alumni Association. Our requirements to be completed by the predetermined initiation date are as follows:

1. Pay the initiation fee, the breakdown of which is disclosed.
2. Polish an individual bent. Students are encouraged to periodically seek advice from previously inducted members when working to complete their individual bent. Prior to initiation, students are required to complete a 'sign-off' sheet, where current Pi Tau Sigma Members of the faculty, student members, and officers are required to sign off both the caliber of the polished bent, and also the completion of the other requirements.
3. Polish the main bent on campus. Officers monitor appointments where new members polish the bent for thirty minutes of their day. This activity provides visibility to Pi Tau Sigma, while also providing

students with practice and tips to better polish their individual bents on their own.

4. Complete ten hours of tutoring in the Pi Tau Sigma Mechanical Engineering Tutoring Center or other approved community service. Students are also encouraged to host new service projects with the partnership of other members and officers.
5. Participate in a minimum of one social activity. Several activities and events are offered for the members and initiates to get to know one another, and attendance is encouraged at all events.
6. Attend bimonthly meetings as time and schedule permits.
7. Attend prescheduled initiation ceremony.

The initiation ceremony is performed according to the National Ritual Manual where the initiates are approved based on requirements and the completion of the individual bent, then led into the PTS Tutoring Center for the traditional ceremony. Following the ceremony, current members and officers host a lunch for the new initiates and Honorary Members, following a group photo in front of the main bent.

b. Fall 2012: December 1, 2012 – 13 Active Members

Fall 2012 Initiation Initiates, Advisors, and Officers – December 1, 2012

c. Spring 2013: April 20, 2013 – 18 Active Members

Spring 2013 Initiation Initiates, Advisors, and Officers – April 20, 2013

B. Chapter Activities

a. Campus Events

California Sigma Eta began the year with their traditional participation in the University sponsored Freshman Welcome Day. We believe it is important to instill visibility and accessibility to students very early in their educational careers, concerning the existence and availability of Pi Tau Sigma, including sharing the benefits and requirements of admittance. Similarly, Pi Tau Sigma members attended Engineering 101 classes throughout the semester, again to promote the engaging society and Pi Tau Sigma Mechanical Engineering Tutoring Center. Our officers staffed a table at the Week of Welcome, along with other campus societies and clubs. This event allows us to promote the honor society as well as the Pi Tau Sigma sponsored Tutoring Center and the possibility of majoring in Mechanical Engineering to all students.

Pi Tau Sigma's largest on-campus event this year was our second, annual Humans vs. Zombies event held during Engineer's Week during which students within the college attempted to make it through the week without being turned into a zombie.

This year our chapter organized the game for over 200 participants. See Section e., Outreach, for more information.

b. Chapter Meetings

During the 2012-2013 academic year, our chapter continued its tradition of holding a meeting or social event biweekly. This year though, we changed the day, time, and location of each meeting so that all members, regardless of work and school schedule would be able to attend meetings. This method has proven effective to communicate the information regarding updates and events, while also promoting socialization and community within our members. Average attendance for meetings during the 2012-2013 academic year was 17 students per event.

c. Fundraising

Aside from continuing to sell snacks to the engineering student body through the snack store that president Sarah D'Avella began last year, several attempts were made to raise money to fund our chapter's purchase of supplies for our tutoring center, our appreciation meetings to thank tutors for their dedication to helping other students, and our chapter's attendance at National Convention at The Ohio State University. The first event held was a fundraiser at the Yogurtland frozen yogurt store next to campus. The chapter primarily used this as a social event but was also able to raise $100.

Another method of fundraising decided upon by the executive board was to raise the cost of dues for new initiates to $55. When our chapter was refounded a few years ago, we intentionally priced our dues very low to make it affordable and not make price a hindrance for new members. Since our chapter has now gained popularity and a solid membership foundation, we decided to raise dues but agreed that if a new member was under financial stress, the chapter would do what it could to sponsor them if they displayed all of the qualities of a great Pi Tau. The new dues of $55 result in an $18.70 donation for the chapter.

As a supplementary fundraiser, the chapter discounted Pi Tau Sigma t-shirts that were printed and purchased last academic year. The shirts did not sell well last year but since they were already paid, we decided to offer them at a discounted rate in order to recuperate some of our money. The shirts were offered to new initiates for $5. And almost every new initiate purchased one.

d. Industry

Pi Tau Sigma members enjoy the opportunity of networking through fellow student members on campus. Industry professionals recognize and award those students who have exemplified their academic and professional excellence, and have asked members to recommend fellow students for internships and positions. Over the past year, five students were hired into internships and full time positions

because of an internally posted job opening by a current member within the California Sigma Eta Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma.

Similarly, student members have shown extreme support for our commitment to professionalism with industry professionals through site tours. On October 26, 2012, Pi Tau Sigma offered a tour of OXY Petroleum's, THUMS Islands. During the tour a Production Engineer took our members out to Island Chaffee by boat and spent two hours giving our members a detailed tour. We learned a lot about oil drilling and production and some of their tank farms. The tour provided students with an opportunity to see the inner workings of these façade-camouflaged islands and an introduction to the oil industry, which not many of our members knew much about.

Pi Tau Sigma Members with Tour Guide Rebecca Greenberg on Long Beach Harbor Pier J – Oct 26, 2013

On March 23, 2013, member and now treasurer-elect, Christopher Perry, organized a tour of the American Shower Door company. The company specializes in home remodeling and uses a state of the art machine shop to offer its customers custom-engineered furnishings. During this tour, Christopher and some of his more experienced coworkers demonstrated the use of several machines for our members, including a water jet cutter, multi-axis lathes, drill presses, punching presses, and grinders. During Chris's demonstration of the water jet cutter, he cut sheet metal into a Carnot Cycle diagram with the insignia of Pi Tau Sigma inside, for

mounting and hanging in the Pi Tau Sigma Tutoring Center.

e. Outreach

The main outreach effort for Pi Tau Sigma is the hosting of the first ever Engineering Tutoring Center on campus. Pi Tau Sigma originally founded the Tutoring Center on April 4, 2011, for the free tutoring of lower level mechanical engineering courses and requirements. Over the past year, California Sigma Eta Chapter has worked to employ volunteers from not only our society, but also to promote the help from other engineering disciplines, specifically from other honor societies, so that we may expand our scope of tutoring to courses within the Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, and Aerospace Engineering. Tutoring is typically handled with scheduled drop-in hours, where students may stop by seeking help in a subject or alternatively, students may make an appointment for tutoring in a specific class or subject with a private tutor during their available hours. All members are requested to provide a tutoring availability schedule for a minimum of 15 tutoring hours during the semester. As our members have become more comfortable with tutoring, we have become able to offer help to students in upper level classes as well. As a thank you to our student tutors, the chapter uses the money earned through our snack-store to host pizza socials at least twice a semester.

During the 2012-2013 school year, Pi Tau Sigma has also paired up with the Engineering Student Success Center to provide peer mentoring on an informal basis for promising young honor students. Through this partnership the tutoring center was lucky enough to receive all new tables and chairs, to replace the individual desks previously in our center, which is much more conductive to a group study environment. During the Spring 2013 semester, the dean of the College of Engineering officially recognized and thanked our members for their selfless efforts to help other students in our college.

Another facet of our partnership with the Engineering Student Success Center has allowed our members the opportunity to speak on several panels promoting honor society, our tutoring center, and being responsible students in general. We also spoke to all sections of Engineering 101 as well.

f. Social

The California Sigma Eta Chapter is very concerned with maintaining strong social involvement among its members. We believe sociability and communication are equally important traits for a successful engineer to possess. All eight of the meetings held this semester were either held at our on-campus pub, at a near by pizza restaurant, or in our tutoring center with some sort of treat (pizza, ice cream, etc.) hosted by the chapter. Our chapter also hosted the second annual game of Humans vs. Zombies during Engineers' Week.

The California Sigma Eta chapter of Pi Tau Sigma also makes an effort to support other organizations on campus as well. The CalState Long Beach chapter of ASME hosted a convention for the west coast division of ASME. During last minute preparations, several Pi Tau Sigma members stepped up to help ASME host a successful event.

g. Future Plans

One determination of the out-going executive board was to meet with the in-coming officers to establish very specific goals so that planning can be completed over the summer so that more can be accomplished during the school year. As a team, both admininstrations have set the following goals for the California Sigma Eta chapter of Pi Tau Sigma and plan to work together to achieve these goals.

Outreach:

- Formalize the development of an official Peer Mentoring program in partnership with the college-sponsored Engineering Student Success Center.

Fundraising:

- Design a new t-shirt and sweatshirt that can be marketed to the entire engineering student body and will be sold based on a pre-order process.

Member Benefits:

- Reach out to PTS alumni, professors, and the department to develop a Pi Tau Sigma textbook library for use by tutors and tutees alike, for now while in the Tutoring Center but hopefully eventually we will allow students to check books out for short or extended periods of time.
- Compile a resume bank for current and alumni members to be displayed on our website and promoted through faculty and alumni.
- Increased networking with the alumni association. Many of our current members have earned internships and fulltime positions through other members and the executive board would like to make it easier for current and alumni members to remain in contact, specifically regarding employment, guest speaker, and tour opportunities.

C. Other

a. Chapter Voting

Voting is held through the use of a Google Form where each candidate submits a written statement about why he/she will be successful in their chosen running position. Current members have access to the statements and ballot, where the votes are captured electronically and only the current President has access to the results.

b. Chapter Officers and Advisors

i. 2012-2013 Officers

1. Executive Board

President	Sarah D'Avella
Vice President	Brian Iorga
Treasurer	Tyler Woolf
Secretary	Shane Sorbom
AESB Representative	Kevin Vargas

2. Committee Chairs

Fundraising Chair	Kyle Jordan
Industry Chair	Ryan Roebuck
Outreach Chair	Phillip Sturtevant
Social Chair	Mindy Soong

ii. 2013-2014 Officers

1. Executive Board

President	Kevin Vargas
Vice President	Juan Homer Arredondo
Treasurer	Christopher Perry
Secretary	Victoria Ornelaz
AESB Representative	Kevin Nakasone

2. Committee Chairs*

(Committee Chairs are nominated and voted during the first meeting of the semester)*

c. Graduating Seniors

John Baffa – Commissioning Technician - American Commissioning Group
Molly Butler – Pursuing MSME at CSULB
Sarah D'Avella – Project Engineer, SPEC Services
Julie Demshki – Mechanical Engineer, The Boeing Company
Kyle Foss – Water Treatment Engineer
Brian Iorga – Seeking employment
Kyle Jordan – Engineering Coordinator, AT Engineering Services
Vinh G. Ngo – Seeking employment
Cory Ramsey – Engineer, Gekko Engineering
Ryan Roebuck – Energy Consultant, Southern California Gas Company
Adam Rowe – Seeking employment
Christopher Seid – Facilities Engineer, OXY Petroleum Company
Mindy Soong – Mechanical Engineer, Southern California Gas Company
Shane Sorbom – Seeking employment
Phillip Sturtevant – Seeking employment
Albert Thure – Seeking employment
Jason Tran – Engineer, Southern California Edison
Peter Tran – Pursuing MSME at CSULB

Tamara Wilson – Contract Engineer, Disneyland
Kellen Zeller – Design Engineer, P2S Engineering
Trevor Zeller – Design Engineer, P2S Engineering

d. Alumni Association

The California Sigma Eta Alumni Association was founded on May 4, 2011. Since its induction, the society has slowly been gaining members and foundation as graduation terms pass but has struggled recently to gain serious involvement since many of our graduates tend to leave the area. The purposes of the alumni association are to serve as a support structure for the Chapter, and to serve as a means through which alumni may remain in touch with each other and with the undergraduates so the Alumni Associate is determined to grow deeper roots.

e. Websites

i. Chapter: http://www.csulbpts.org/

Hosted by Google, contains calendars, contact information, membership roster, announcements, a document archive containing governing codes, meeting minutes and agendas, newsletters, and other topics of interest.

ii. Alumni Association: http://alumni.csulbpts.org/

Also hosted by Google, this site has functionality similar to the Chapter's website, but with less content as it is still under development.