PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2010-2011

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 request is sent at the start of the semester to the University's Enrollment Services Department for a list of eligible students, which is returned to our faculty advisor. Our first request for the Fall 2010 semester was modeled after the request used by the local chapter of Tau Beta Pi, but generated only half the number of names anticipated. The following request for the Spring 2011 semester was rewritten from scratch, but yielded similarly deficient results. It was subsequently resolved to request the entire list of mechanical engineering students for future semesters and have our faculty advisor sort the list personally. This creates more work for him, but guarantees us a complete and correct list, as well as allowing us to track lower division students who are likely to be eligible upon reaching junior status.

Most of the honor societies within the College of Engineering have extensive initiation requirements for candidates to complete, including the original incarnation of our Chapter. We have discovered, however, that there are many eligible students who would otherwise be invaluable to our organization, but choose not to pursue membership in most honor societies because they don't want to feel like they're "pledging a fraternity." Seeking to set a new standard on campus for academic honor societies, our requirements are deliberately fewer and less restrictive. Our philosophy is that having achieved the requisite academic standing, the candidate has already established his or her commitment to mechanical engineering and by extension, to Pi Tau Sigma. The candidate is then placed in the position of being initiated because he or she wants to be involved, and not simply as a reward for having jumped through hoops. Responses to this approach have been universally positive. Our requirements for initiation are exclusively:

1. Polish an individual bent and help polish the main bent on campus, for the purpose of becoming familiar with the symbols to be explained during initiation, showing individual pride in ΠΤΣ, and visibly demonstrating the standard of work quality to which the candidate holds him- or herself;

2. Participate in Chapter activities to the extent the candidate's schedule permits, for the purpose of getting to know the Chapter's members and helping to distribute the workload;
3. Attend initiation, the necessity of which requires no explanation; and
4. Pay the initiation fee, the breakdown of which is fully disclosed.

Our initiation ritual is performed as contained within the Ritual Manual and is conducted in a classroom on campus. Following the ceremony, we take a group photo in front of our main bent and then go out to a restaurant to celebrate.

b. Chapter Founders: October 6, 2010 (18 Active, 1 Honorary)

Founding Members – October 6, 2010

c. **Fall 2010 Semester: December 4, 2010 (2 Active)**

Fall 2010 Initiation – December 4, 2010

d. **Spring 2011 Semester: April 16, 2011 (14 Active)**

Spring 2011 Initiation – April 16, 2011

B. Chapter Activities

a. 2011 National Convention

Bill Johns attended the Convention in Chicago and was appointed Chair of the Infrastructure, National Officers, Alumni Activities, and New Initiatives Committee. The committee nominated Dr. Gloria Wiens as Eastern Region Vice President, Dr. Raghu Echempati as Vice President at Large, and Dr. Alex Moutsoglou as Secretary-Treasurer, all of whom were elected; the committee also successfully submitted a proposal to amend the national constitution and bylaws to create the framework for chapter-based and area-based alumni associations.

b. Campus Events

Our Fall 2010 semester began with a presentation by Natalie Katzka at Engineering Meet-N-Greet (formerly Freshmen Welcome Day) on Saturday, September 4. The following week we participated in the University's Week of Welcome, showcasing all of the campus student organizations, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 8 and 9. Both of these events allowed us to advertise Pi Tau Sigma to the campus at large. During the Spring 2011 semester we participated in the College of Engineering's Engineering Week (E-Week) celebration from February 21 to 25. We also participated in the College of Engineering's Open House for incoming freshmen on Saturday, March 26.

c. Chapter Meetings

At the time of our Chapter's reorganization and through the Fall 2010 semester we met weekly. It was decided during the Fall 2010 semester that beginning with the Spring 2011 semester we would have general body meetings every other week with officer meetings held in the intervening weeks. This system has proved satisfactory. We share office space on campus with Tau Beta Pi, so have held officer meetings there, though our meetings are usually held in a classroom.

d. Fundraising

Our Chapter attempted a fundraiser through a local business called "Cha for Tea," during which students who submitted a voucher at the time of their purchase would enable $1 of their drink purchase to be donated to the Chapter. Unfortunately, this event was a general failure, resulting in only $11 raised. Similar projects are being considered at restaurants and other businesses, and other student organizations are being asked about their fundraising programs in an effort to come up with more effective ideas. A small amount of our initiation fee goes to the Chapter, but that sum does not amount to anything significant and we are unwilling to charge more to join than is necessary. The next administration of

our Chapter is being charged with the task of finding a reliable fundraising effort that we can employ on a regular basis.

e. Industry

While it is widely known that a graduate with a BSME may enjoy a career in design and related activities, there are many other career fields and subfields available which are generally unknown to most students. To that end, our Chapter invites guest speakers to campus to discuss their background, how their work relates to mechanical engineering, and how an interested person may obtain a career in their field. Students are then afforded the opportunity to ask questions of the presenter and to generally network with working professionals. To date we have had two presentations: one by John Rogers, Senior Laboratory Engineer at Honeywell International, Inc., who discussed an overview of his 40-year career in test engineering; the other a joint presentation by Isaac N. Ikram, M.Sc., PE, Biomechanical Engineer of Biomechanical Research & Testing, LLC, and Christopher J. Brignola, PE, of Vollmer-Gray Engineering Laboratories, Inc., on forensic engineering, in particular car accident reconstruction and injury causation analysis. Our goal for the future is to have one guest speaker per month.

f. Outreach

Our Chapter's principal outreach effort is the creation and maintenance of a mechanical engineering tutoring center, which represents the only formal tutoring support anywhere on campus for engineering coursework. All previous tutoring support fell victim to continuing budget cuts. Tutors volunteer their time and tutoring services are free of charge to students. The Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department is co-sponsoring our effort, having supplied us with an unused and securable classroom and supplies, and has provided us with a computer with engineering software for the tutoring center. A soft opening was held March 21-25, and the Pi Tau Sigma Tutoring Center formally opened on April 4. In addition to this project, several of our members also serve as mentors within the Leaders in Freshmen Engineering (e-LIFE) program sponsored by the Associated Engineering Student Body. We also held a fundraiser on May 10 at Coyote Cantina in Redondo Beach, CA, to benefit both The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and our Tutoring Center.

g. Social

Students generally join honor societies for the sake of the academic honor and related line item on their resume. What distinguishes a strong honor society from other barely existing groups, at least on our campus, is the existence of a strong programming and social agenda. We held an ice cream social on Wednesday,

September 8, a YouTube Night on Wednesday, December 8, and have periodically relocated a regular meeting to a local restaurant either on or off campus and are planning a bonfire at a local beach at the start of summer. We intend to continue to develop our social programming over the next year.

C. Other

a. Chapter Reorganization

The California Sigma Eta Chapter was originally chartered at California State University, Long Beach, on May 13, 1966, but went inactive in the spring of 2002 due to lack of activity, having initiated only nine active members during its last four years and holding no initiations in its last year. Interest in the Chapter was renewed with inquiries in the spring of 2009 followed by a campus petition to reorganize the Chapter in the fall of 2009. The founding reorganizational meeting was held on March 24, 2010. Due to insufficient time to arrange the event by the end of the spring semester, the initiation of the founding members took place on October 6, 2010, with Dr. C. Barclay Gilpin (CA ΣH ’68) supervising the Ritual on behalf of the National Council.

b. Chapter Officers and Advisors

i. Founding (Spring 2010) and 2010-2011 Officers

1. Executive Board

President	Bill Johns
Vice President	Natalie Katzka*
Treasurer	Kimberly Schrock
Secretary	Ellen Skow
AESB Representative	Deedee Banh

*(*Studied abroad Spring 2011. Acting VP Charlton Thayn.)*

2. Committee Chairs

Fundraising Chair	Charlton Thayn
Industry Chair	Steve Esparza
Outreach Chair	Bryan Carino
Social Chair	Angela Bobadilla
Webmaster	Kimberly Schrock

ii. 2011-2012 Officers

1. Executive Board

President	Natalie Katzka
Vice President	Sarah D’Avella
Treasurer	Jonathan Koster
Secretary	Bryan Carino

AESB Representative	Phillip Sturtevant
(Alternate AESB Rep	*Andrew Romero)*

2. Committee Chairs

Fundraising Chair	Christopher Seid
Industry Chair	Kyle Foss
Outreach Chair	Tamara Wilson
Social Chair	Molly Butler
Webmaster	Jessica Wilbanks

iii. Founding (Spring 2010) and 2010-2011 Advisors
   1. Faculty Advisor: Mr. Allen Teagle-Hernandez
   2. Student Life & Development (SLD) Advisor:
      a. Dr. Jeff Klaus (Spring 2010)
      b. Mr. Matt Cabrera (2010-2011)

iv. 2011-2012 Advisors
   1. Faculty Advisor: Mr. Allen Teagle-Hernandez
   2. SLD Advisor: Mr. Matt Cabrera
   3. Alumni Advisor(s): Bill Johns, Charlton Thayn

c. Graduating Seniors

Bill Johns – Pursuing an MSME at California State University, Long Beach
Kim Schrock – Seeking employment
Ellen Skow – Pursuing a Ph.D. at Georgia Institute of Technology
Deedee Banh – Seeking employment
Charlton Thayn – Seeking employment
Angela Bobadilla – Seeking employment
Aaron Arnold – Working as a Design Engineer for Chevron
Cesar Maldonado – Pursuing an MSME at California State University, Long Beach
Patrick Murphy – Pursuing an MSME at University of California, Irvine
Sergio Varela – Pursuing an MSME at California State University, Long Beach
Rogelio Rosas – Pursuing a Ph.D. at University of Wisconsin, Madison

d. 2010-2011 Chapter and Individual Awards

i. Definition of Terms
   1. SLD: Student Life & Development – The office in charge of all student organizations on campus.
   2. AESB: Associated Engineering Student Body – The governing board of student organizations within the College of Engineering.

ii. Chapter
   1. SLD – Best New Organization (Nominated)

2. SLD – Excellence in Organizational Management (Won: Silver Award)
3. SLD – Outstanding Programming (Nominated)
4. AESB – Organization of the Year (Nominated)
5. AESB – Most Improved Organization of the Year (Won)
6. AESB – Service Organization of the Year (Nominated)

iii. Individual

1. AESB – Outstanding Leader of the Year: William Johns (Won)
2. AESB – College of Engineering Faculty Member of the Year: Mr. Allen Teagle-Hernandez (Won)

e. Alumni Association

The California Sigma Eta Alumni Association held its founding meeting on May 4, 2011, immediately following the Chapter's installation of officers for the 2011-2012 academic year. 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. Alumni Association officers are:

President:	Bill Johns
Vice President:	Aaron Arnold
Secretary-Treasurer:	Allen Teagle-Hernandez

f. 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.

iii. Discussion Board: http://csulbpts.freeforums.org/

Hosted by FreeForums.org, this is a bulletin board on which users register accounts and may conduct discussions in real time on any topic of interest to the Chapter, our Alumni Association, and/or our friends. Chapter and alumni officers are given certain moderating rights to help manage the site and guide discussions. User groups also permit varying levels of permissions, which allow for private discussions or debates only viewable to their intended audiences and not to the general public.