PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2011-2012
Clemson Phi Kappa

A. Initiations

Dates:
Fall: September 26, 2011
Spring: February 20, 2012

Selection:
A prospective list of new initiates is given to us with the help of the undergraduate student coordinator. The requirements to be a member for Pi Tau Sigma is the student needs to be in the top 15% of the senior class, the top 10% for the junior class, or the top 5% of the sophomore class. After this recent National Convention, these criteria will change to eliminate sophomore selection and only select individuals who are at least juniors by ME credit hours.

Initiation Procedure:
The students are asked to wait outside the room until initiation is ready to begin. They are blindfolded and required to walk in, holding hands, single file, and sit in the first rows. The rest of the Pi Tau Sigma members are in the back listening. The initiation procedure designated in the Pi Tau Sigma guidelines is followed as far as what needs to be said to the new initiates. Once the initiation is over, a small dinner is held for both the new initiates and the current members so that they can interact and meet one another, followed by the first meeting of the semester.

Requirements from Initiates:
The initiates know coming in that they are required to do a service project of some sort. This can include helping the chapter with event planning or pursuing a philanthropy project. The initiates are also required to obtain signatures of recommendation from two ME professors.

B. Chapter Activities

Rube Goldberg Design Competition
For the first time ever, Pi Tau Sigma and ASME co-hosted a Rube Goldberg Design Competition. Pi Tau Sigma had 5 teams representing the organization, and ASME had 1. Each team (of 3 – 5) was provided with a $40 budget from their respective organization, and the goal was to design a Rube Goldberg Machine that ultimately popped a balloon. General Electric (GE) sponsored this event, providing prizes for the winning teams and sending industry representatives as judges. Each team was provided with a list of rules/constraints that their machine must obey. The teams were given their balloons the day of the competition, and extra points were given if the team's machine managed to cause the balloon to rise in elevation as well as pop. This event had one of the largest turnouts that any PTS-hosted event has ever had, and every team/spectator had an extremely good time. Photos are inserted below.

Annual Fundraiser (Golf Tournament):

Every year in the fall we hold a golf tournament as a fundraiser for our Pi Tau Sigma chapter. This year was our tenth one. We invite industry partners to play and sponsor the event. These corporate sponsors are where 90% of the funds are raised. Having industry representatives in the tournament allows for not only students and ME faculty to interact on a non-academic level, but it also allows for networking opportunities for both the students and companies playing in the tournament. This year, we were fortunate enough to have both Michelin and Milliken, as well as two generous food providers, sponsor the tournament. Milliken was our silver sponsor, providing us with a $250 sponsorship, and Michelin was a gold-level sponsor, providing us with a $500 sponsorship. Additionally, the Hudson Bagel Company and Mellow Mushroom Pizza provided us with food and prizes. We had a total of 16 players this year.

National Convention:

We sent two of our members to the national convention this year. We used the Golf Tournament money to send our President (Michael LaCour) and our Vice President (Freddy DeAngelis). Freddy DeAngelis is going to transition to President next year, so we felt that it was appropriate to send him to National Convention to better understand PTS before he officially takes over this local chapter. We had a wonderful time, and we gained multiple new ideas for fun activities next year, including cross-chapter career fairs, new local chapter officers, and more service project ideas. The chapter worked with Clemson's Student Government as well as the ME Department to help fund/organize the trip, although most of the funding came from the Golf Tournament money.

Mechanical Engineering Awards Banquet:

Pi Tau Sigma is responsible for hosting the annual awards banquet for the Department of Mechanical Engineering. This is held in April, during the Awards Week for the university. In order to help the Mechanical Engineering Department pay for the catered dinner, Pi Tau Sigma contacted more industry sponsors. ExxonMobil sponsored us on the gold-level, and GE was our co-sponsor. GE sent 3 representatives to the banquet, and ExxonMobil sent 2. Both groups were able to interact with some of the top ME students in Clemson, and GE gave a short presentation about their Undergraduate Edison Program. Pi Tau Sigma is also responsible for the Eugene H. Bishop Award, which recognizes excellence in undergraduate teaching. The chapter polls the

students of the department in order to select the winner. This year's award went to Dr. Donald Beasley, who is very worthy of this award.

Facility Tours:
Our chapter was fortunate enough to organize a facility tour during the Spring Semester. Specifically, we were able to send some of our members on a fully-funded guided tour of our local BMW facility, where we were able to see a BMW vehicle built from start to finish.

C. Other

The chapter has decided to change the officer titles and responsibilities around slightly. Now, the Vice President will be automatically initiated as President the following year. This will give the VP a full year to essentially shadow the current President, and thus when the President leaves (graduates), the VP will already have experience with running the organization. Additionally, our Social Chair position has been re-titled "Industry Chair," and this position is now solely responsible for communicating with industry representatives and sponsors to help get better sponsorship and representation for the organization.