PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2009-2010

Clemson Phi Kappa

A. Initiations

Dates:
Fall: October 5, 2009
Spring: February 1, 2010

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. For the sophomore class, we look for students currently enrolled in the ME Statics and Dynamics class and cross them off of the list, with the idea being if the student is capable of still meeting the requirements after he/she has completed the class, then Pi Tau Sigma knows that they are going to continue in the ME curriculum. Our reasoning for this is the student could have a 4.0, but has not completed any ME classes yet and we want to make sure they are going to stay in the ME curriculum.

Initiation Procedure:
The students are asked to wait outside the room until initiation is ready to begin. They walk in single file and sit in the front row. 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.

Requirements from Initiates:
The initiates know coming in that they are required to do a service project of some sort. This can be 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

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 ninth one. We invite industry partners to play and sponsor the event. The corporate sponsors are where 90% of the funds are raised. Having industry 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, due to the economic situation (and most of our sponsors being related to the automotive industry) we didn't have any corporate sponsors. We thought that we might lose money on the event, but with some careful budgeting, we were able to raise $100 for our chapter.

National Convention:
We sent two of our members to the national convention this year. They said they had a wonderful time. The chapter worked with Clemson's Student Government to help subsidize the trip. This allowed Pi Tau Sigma and the ME Department to devote money to other activities.

Greenville Children's Hospital Philanthropy Project:
The requirements for the new initiates in the spring were to complete a service project. We asked the Lab Coordinator if he had anything, as we helped out last year with building a display case for a video game console. He said that he had a project that needed funding and with which the students could participate. The project was to design and build a theft prevention device for the controllers for the gaming console held in the entertainment center (Nindendo Wii). Below is the completed design that was built and delivered to the Greenville Children's Hospital by the spring initates of Pi Tau Sigma.

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. There were some complaints from the past few years about the food, so we looked into it. Rather than a plated meal, we decided to have a buffet. This allowed everybody to get hot food and a good portion size (these were the items people had complained about in previous years). 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. Mohammed Daqaq.

C. Other

N/A