PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2015-2016

Clemson University Phi Kappa

A. Initiations

Mechanical Engineering Students who rank in the top 15% of the senior class, 10% of the junior class, and 5% of the sophomore class are extended invitations to an interest meeting. To be eligible for initiation, students must also have successfully passed ME 2010 Statics and Dynamics. This class is the first ME class taken after completing the first year General Engineering program and is known to be one of the most challenging classes at Clemson. Implementing this requirement ensures that initiates are fully immersed in the rigorous ME curriculum and still maintaining an exceptional GPA. Attendance at the interest meeting and initiation ceremony and payment of dues are required to attain membership.

At the interest meeting, the potential new members meet the officers and learn more about the organization at the interest meeting. There were three members initiated in the Fall on October 26, 2015. In the Spring semester, 19 were initiated on February 11, 2016 and two initiated on March 10, 2016. The second initiation in the Spring was to held to accommodate those who couldn't attend the first initiation due to mandatory ME labs held that evening. The initiation ritual includes the secretary and treasurer leading the group of blindfolded initiates into the darkened room where the crest and insignia are illuminated. The president and vice president read the rituals and ASME code of ethics and initiates take the pledge. The ceremonies were followed by dinner provided by the chapter which allowed for time for the initiates to get to know one another and the officers.

B. Chapter Activities

Our major chapter event is hosting the annual ME Department Awards Banquet. The banquet brings students, faculty, industry representatives, and university donors together to honor outstanding achievements by students and faculty in the department. Approximately 150 people were in attendance at the event this year on April 6, 2016. PTS was involved with the planning of nearly every aspect of the event from the keynote speaker to the menu choices. The officers worked with the department head to find a speaker from our external advisory board with an interesting and inspirational career. PTS collected student votes and comments to choose the professor to receive the annual award for excellence in teaching. The officers also reached out to industry contacts to obtain new financial sponsors to offset the costs of holding the banquet. The PTS officers acted as the emcees of the event, adding opening and closing remarks, introducing the keynote speaker, and presenting the professor award. The new initiates to PTS were also honored at the event.

During Fall 2015, PTS members participated in the College of Engineering and Sciences annual 5K Fundraising Fit Run. In the Spring, PTS joined forces with ASME and ASHRAE to help put on a special career fair focused on industries hiring MEs and related majors. During chapter meetings, the president took note of comments regarding what students thought the department needed to improve on and brought this feedback to the ME undergraduate advisory board meeting. Financially, the board made a decision to switch banks to save the organization money in monthly banking fees. Throughout the year efforts were made to update old record keeping processes, including digitizing files and starting work on a new website. Plans are in the work for future events, including bringing back the Fall Student and Faculty Golf Tournament Fundraiser.

C. Other

The Clemson Phi Kappa chapter used to be very active but in recent years appears to have lost its vigor. With a completely new leadership board, the officers had a steep learning curve. The board is already enthusiastically working to restore the organizations prominence on campus. This academic year produced triple the number of initiates as compared to the previous year due to improved advertisement and communication to the eligible students. The board plans to continue growing the organization in numbers, involvement, and reputation in 2016-2017.