PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2009-2010

Connecticut Pi Psi

A. Initiations

During the semester, one of the secretaries will send out a list of eligibles to the chapter president. These eligibles are selected based on the GPA and include the top 33% of seniors and top 25% of juniors. These eligibles are contacted through email and are invited to a meeting to find out more about the chapter and honor society in general. They are notified of when the initiation will be and are invited to come to that.

For the initiation, they need to bring a mechanical engineering textbook with 3 signatures from mechanical engineering professors as well as a check for the initiation fee. The occasion is business casual and starts with each eligible showing their signed textbook. They are then brought into a dark room, lit only by a candle, with the faculty advisor. Here, the advisor asks the eligible engineering questions which if answered correctly keep the candle lit. After the advisor has stumped the initiate, they return to the room with the others, pays the initiation fee, and signs into a membership book. After all the eligibles have completed this, the president and vice president welcome the initiates into the society by reading their respective passages from the chapter manual. The eligibles are now officially members of Pi Tau Sigma.

There is usually a pizza party and social gathering after the initiation so that the new initiates get to know each other. In the spring, there is a general body meeting held at the same time so that elections can be held for the next year.

Initiations were held on November 17, 2009 and April 27, 2010. There were 2 initiates in the fall and 10 initiates in the spring.

B. Chapter Activities

During each semester, the mechanical engineering department calls for volunteers to help with the university open house. Each semester, 5 students volunteered to help and be tour guides for the event. The students were asked to bring groups of parents and students to different stations with demonstrations as well as answer any questions they might have.

Typically the chapter meetings are encompassed into the meeting for eligibles as well as the initiation ceremony. There is usually pizza and soda available to help promote attendance. Officers meet more frequently to help plan activities however it is always a challenge to meet with everyone having a busy schedule. The chapter president also attended the national convention at Texas Tech this year.