PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2015 – 2016
University of Connecticut Pi Psi

A. Initiations

Our chapter held two initiations for the 2015 – 2016 academic year. Our fall initiation took place on September 30th, 2015 where six new members where initiated into our chapter. Our spring initiation took place on March 29th, 2016 and initiated five new members for a total of eleven initiates for the year. Our chapter selected the top 20% of sophomores, the top 20% of juniors, and the top 35% of seniors to come to an informational session to learn about the honor society and how to become a member. The initiates were required to get an engineering textbook signed by three different mechanical engineering professors, talk to a professor about their research and write a short summary of what they learned, bring $60 dues and supplies, and were also required to sand and polish the brass Pi Tau Sigma bents. At initiation, the initiation fee was waived for the initiate with the highest quality polished brass bent.

The initiation process begins with the initiates waiting outside the initiation room waiting to be called in one by one. Once called in, the initiate first speaks to a Pi Tau Sigma member who verifies the signatures in their book and verifies the initiate spoke to a professor about their research and wrote a summary about it. Once completed, a new initiate is called in and the initiate moves on to stage two where he or she is quizzed on their favorite mechanical engineering subject by our chapters advisor to test their proficiency in their coursework. Once completed the initiate pays their dues to the treasurer and sits at a table with a white rose placed in front of them until all initiates have complete these preliminary steps. Once all initiates have progress through these steps, the initiates are read the initiation script by the president and vice president with initiates responding as necessary, ending with the president conferring upon them full membership into Pi Tau Sigma and entrusting them to uphold the ideals that Pi Tau Sigma represents.

Following the initiation the Pi Tau Sigma members excluding those just initiated vote on the best polished brass bent and waive the initiation fee for the winner. After declaring the winner, pizza and drinks are served and a short quiz is given to the initiated members to test their ability to work together as a team as well as their knowledge of mechanical engineering.

B. Chapter Activities

For the fall semester our chapter activities included sessions in the computer lab where we practiced our CAD skills, the fall initiation, and a design project where we decided to make an electromagnetic launching device. Though we did make good progress on the electromagnetic launching device, our progress was stunted by winter break.

For the spring semester the big event was the annual convention in Los Angeles. There we enjoyed meeting other Pi Tau Sigma members, seeing the space shuttle at the science center, and listening to the interesting guest lectures from people in academia and industry. We also had the opportunity to explore the city and see interesting places such as Hollywood hills, the beach, and USC. While touring USC we were able to meet the USC Rocketry club and hear about their goals of becoming the first group of undergraduate students to put a rocket into space. This inspired our chapter to start a rocketry initiative where we set out to develop a rocket of our own.

For the rest of the semester, this rocketry initiative shaped the many of the activities are chapter took part in. In order to raise money we held a fundraiser in the student union selling Pi Tau Sigma shot glasses. Using the proceeds from this, we bought several model rocket kits and assembled them as a chapter. To celebrate the ending of the semester we finally launched them in a member's back yard. Other events throughout the semester include a trivia competition, elections, and a resume critiquing session.