PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2016-2017

Connecticut Pi Psi

A. Initiations

The Connecticut Pi Psi chapter held two initiations for the 2016-2017 academic year. The fall initiations took place on November 16th, 2016, where 17 new members were initiated into the chapter. The spring initiation took place on April 26th, 2017, and four new members were initiated, bringing the total for the entire school year to 21 new members initiated. Our chapter invited the top 25% of juniors and the top 35% of seniors to attend an informational session to learn about Pi Tau Sigma, how to become a member, and the benefits of joining. The initiates were required to get a mechanical engineering textbook signed by three different mechanical engineering professors, talk to a mechanical engineering professor about their research and write a paragraph summary of what they learned, and pay $60 for dues.

The initiation procedure started with the initiates being called into the initiation room one by one. The initiate would then first meet with the Pi Psi treasurer in order to pay the $60 dues. Once this was completed, a new initiate was called into the room to meet with the treasurer, and the first initiate would then speak to a different member of the Pi Psi chapter. During this step, the chapter member would verify the three signatures that the initiate obtained from the mechanical engineering professors. The initiate would then move on and speak to another member of the chapter, who would discuss with them the paragraph they wrote about a professor's research. Finally, the initiate would move on to speak with the last chapter member, where they would receive their brass bent and a white rose. After every initiate had completed all of these steps, the president and vice president of the chapter read to them the initiation script from the PTS rituals on the Pi Tau Sigma site. Once this final step was completed, each initiated was conferred on them full membership into Pi Tau Sigma by the president of the Pi Psi chapter.

Following this procedure, a short quiz is handed out to all newly initiated members to test their ability to work together as a team as well as their knowledge of engineering concepts. The result of the quiz has no bearing on anything related to initiation and is simply a fun exercise to get the new initiates to get more comfortable with each other. During this time, pizza and drinks are served. At the end of the initiation, members are encouraged to sand and polish the brass bents they received and to carry their white rose with them the next day to class.

Summary of 2016-2017 Initiations

Initiation Date	Active	Graduate	Honorary
11/16/16	17	0	0
4/26/17	4	0	0

(Initiates from the Spring 2017 initiation ceremony)

B. Chapter Activities

For the fall semester, the Pi Psi chapter activities included a trivia night, a guest speaker event, and the fall initiation in addition to weekly chapter meetings. The weekly chapter meetings were held to discuss plans for future events and encourage networking between members of the club. During these meetings members assist each other in finding internships, writing resumes, and building schedules. The trivia night event was held on October 26th, 2016. This event was open to all current chapter members or prospective members, and was hosted by the chapter officers. The guest speaker event was held on November 9th, 2016. This event was open to all current chapter members or prospective members, and our guest speaker was professor Xinyu Zhao. Dr. Zhao is a mechanical engineering professor at the University of Connecticut and she spoke to us about her research in combustion modelling and computational fluid dynamics. From this event, one member of our chapter actually was able get a position working in Dr. Zhao's lab.

For the spring semester, the Pi Psi chapter activities included attending the Pi Tau Sigma annual convention in Philadelphia, a 3D modelling tutorial, and spring initiation in addition to weekly chapter meetings. The annual PTS convention in Philadelphia was by far our biggest event of the semester. The Pi Psi chapter sent eight of our members to Philadelphia to attend the

convention hosted by Drexel University. Our members truly enjoyed the opportunity to explore the city of Philadelphia, network and socialize with other PTS members from around the country, and tour the impressive engineering labs at Drexel University. After annual convention, the other event held in the spring semester was a 3D modelling tutorial. This event took place on March 8th, 2017, and was open to all current chapter members and prospective members. The event was hosted by the chapter secretary, who has a lot of experience in 3D modelling. Our members were taught the basics of 3D modelling using the NX CAD software. During the spring semester we also held elections for new officer positions for the 2017-2018 school year. The elections took place on February 22nd, 2017, and was open to all active members. Each candidate was given time to read a short speech detailing why they would be right for the position they were running for. At the end of all of the speeches, each member present was given a piece of paper to submit their votes on. The votes were tallied by the sitting secretary.

(Pi Psi members at the PTS annual convention hosted by Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA)