2017-2018
UAB Phi Tau

To begin this report, it should be stated that UAB Phi Tau chapter is going through changes. In the past, our chapter has been mediocre when compared to other chapter across the country. This has been due to mismanagement and misunderstanding of the expectations of the members. As president, I wanted to address this and begin the tough road of change. I believe with a few simple changes, strong leadership, and clear expectations with a simply instituted merit system, our chapter can be a top tier chapter.

A. Initiations

Selection Process and Requirements from Initiates

The selection process was set to match the standard set by nationals in the constitution. They are as follows:

Undergraduate and graduate members were chosen based on "engineering ability, scholarship service, leadership, and integrity".

Undergraduate Members were in the last two years of UAB's mechanical engineering program, with a scholastic ranking in the upper twenty-fifth (25) percentile of the student's respective classification, and a grade point average greater than or equal to 3.25.

For any last term seniors who qualified for initiation were given permission by the chapter president and chapter advisor. One issue that we ran into was the initiation of a member that was going through early graduation. We were not aware of the issue due to a late submission of the initiation list to secretary –treasurer. This was resolved by communication between the secretary –treasurer and chapter advisor this spring. The UAB Phi Tau chapter now has a better understanding of the process.

Graduate members were selected from students having already completed an accredited undergraduate degree program in mechanical engineering and are currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral degree in mechanical engineering. Master's degree candidates had completed one academic term of residency, ranked in the top 25% standing of all graduate student candidates in the mechanical engineering program, and had a minimum GPA of 3.5/4.0.

All of our initiates were given the same simple requirements of:

- Attend all meetings. If unable to attend, send a clear reason.
- Be present at any event held or sponsored by our chapter.
- Maintain academic standing.
- Seek out opportunities to serve.
- Communicate. Communicate. Communicate.

Initiation Ceremony and Rituals

Fall 2017 Initiation Ceremony was held on December 6th for 12 new members lead by the president Matthew Arnwine and historian Jordan Whitson.

Spring Initiation Ceremony was held on April 12th for 1 new member lead by the president Matthew Arnwine and historian Jordan Whitson with an attendance of 12 members to witness the ceremony. An alternate initiation day was held on April 16th for a prospective member who could not attend the initial ceremony.

The rituals of both ceremonies were held to the standard set by nationals. They were held with a formality, professionalism, and distinction. The ritual goes as follows:

- One of the active members shall lead the initiates into the dimly lighted room, if possible done through candlelight.
- The President and Vice President (or next of leadership) are stationed behind a desk or table.
- The Crest and Insignia of Pi Tau Sigma shall be displayed by picture on table in front as well as via a projector, so that initiates can clearly view them.
- The initiates shall be assembled before the officers. The President shall call the initiation ceremony to order. The ritual speech is given and the emblems are explained.
- Following the the ceremony, the Pi Tau Sigma handshake is shared individually with each initiate. This is followed by the handshake being shared between all present and active members.

Celebration

The celebration of initiation usually follows the ceremony with food and drink where fellowship between new initiates and active members can be done.

B. Chapter Activities

Fundraisers

This is one area of growth that the Phi Tau chapter needs to address. This year we did not have a successful fundraiser due to other projects. We did manage to partner with some other groups for fundraisers. One attempt a fundraiser was coffee sale, but do to the timing of the event, it was over shadowed by another group. Plans for the fall of 2018 include a food truck sell

Community Services

Our biggest community service event was the **29th Annual ASME Egg Drop Contest held** April 6th. While this was an ASME event, PTS volunteers were there and active in representing our chapter. While this is a weak error for our chapter as well, many of our members participated in other groups community service.

University Projects

The Inspire Series

The biggest project that our chapter did was a university wise, engineer focused lecture series titled "The Inspire Series". This was spearheaded by the president, Matthew Arnwine under the pillars of Engineering, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship. The series was guided by the belief that some careers may span a lifetime, but for others it is a launch pad. We wanted engineers to hear from those that have used engineering to plow new paths, traverse uncharted territory, and silence the stigmas to change our world. The goal was to inspire students to do the same. We held three separate lectures on March 23rd, March 30th, and April 6th. This project had star speakers who brought very impactful messages to the students. Here are the speakers and a short bio:

- **Lloyd Cooper | Industrial Designer**
  - Lloyd leads a product development firm. He recently got to speak at TEDxBirmingham

- **Dr. Joel Dobbs | UAB Executive in Residence**
  - Dr.Dobbs is a CEO of a consulting firm. Leads the UAB Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program as well as the iLab.

- **Dr. James Johnston | Pediatric Neurosurgeon**
  - Dr. Johnston is a Neurosurgeon at Children's Hospital. He worked on the team who developed the Football Helmet to reduce concussions.

- **Chris Bond | Director of Designs For Hope**
  - His teams go into developing country and create engineering solutions to community problems. Chris is doing incredible work around the world.

- **Sean Simmons | Industrial Designer**
  - Birmingham designer who specializes in industrial manufacturing and helping companies revamp and improve processes.

- **Max Polec | UAB Commercialization Accelerator**
  - Max is an Innovation Fellow from the University of Pittsburgh and an entrepreneur.
  - Director UAB's new Student Commercialization Accelerator, helping student take their ideas from mind to matter.

- **Dr. Lee Moradi | Director of Engineering Technology and Innovation Department**
  - Dr. Moradi is the director of EITD helping bring innovative projects to UAB and working with clients like SpaceX and NASA.

- **Tim Hightower | LumBar**

- Tim is a PE from New Mexico and entrepreneur. In Birmingham, he has started his own bar to serve the medical and science professionals in the city and facilitate break- through over beer.

- **Shannon McGarry | FBI Special Agent**
  - Mrs. McGarry is an engineer that transitioned from NASA to the FBI. She has recently relocated back to Hunstville Alabama after being a lead special agent in Europe.

We also partnered with ASME and Society of Women Engineers (SWE) to help broadcast to a larger group of students and to diversify the council leading the project. Overall this was an out standing project and will continue in the next academic year. We have also worked to get bigger funding from the school to help bring in celebrity speakers from other cities as well.

UAB
SCHOOL OF
ENGINEERING
PRESENTS

THE INSPIRE SERIES

SERIES FINALE

APRIL 6TH | 3-5 PM IN BEC 105

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

CHRIS BOND
DIRECTOR
DESIGNS FOR HOPE

DR. JOEL DOBBS
UAB EXECUTIVE
IN RESIDENCE

DR. JAMES JOHNSTON
PEDIATRIC
NEUROSURGEON

SOME CAREERS MAY SPAN A LIFETIME, BUT FOR OTHERS IT IS A LAUNCH PAD. HEAR FROM THOSE THAT HAVE USED ENGINEERING TO PLOW NEW PATHS, TRAVERSE UNCHARTED TERRITORY, AND SILENCE THE STIGMAS TO CHANGE OUR WORLD. WE HOPE IT INSPIRES YOU TO DO THE SAME.

Paintball with Professors

The second big event that UAB Phi Tau lead was Paintball with Professors under the tagline "Please join as we teach these professors a lesson they won't forget". This event was held on April 14th and served as a break from studying for exams and an opportunity to facilitate fellowship between students and professors. While there were only a few students, it was a successful revamping of an old event. We also partnered with ASME to help bring numbers but this was a Pi Tau Sigma lead event.

[UAB Dean of Engineering in light grey shirt in middle left of photo]

PLEASE JOIN AS WE TEACH THESE PROFESSORS A LESSON THEY WON'T FORGET.

PAINTBALL WITH PROFESSORS

TIME: SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH FROM 10AM - 12PM

LOCATION: ***PAINTBALL IS GOOD***, 8651 SERENE DRIVE, MCCALLA, AL (~ 35 MIN from UAB)

COST: $32 WHICH INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS, MASK, GUN, AND PAINT

FOR MORE DETAILS, EMAIL MATT ARNWINE AT **MARNWINE@UAB.EDU**

Brought to you by **Pi Tau Sigma** and **ASME**

PTS Lounge
The last project to mention is the development of a PTS space in the Mechanical Engineering department office. This space is to serve the members of our chapter with coffee and snacks as well a study and group meeting space. This is still in the development stage but the tables and space as well a Keurig machine donation as a parting gift from president Matthew Arnwine.

Meetings

Meetings for our chapter were held monthly to update the members about opportunities in the school of engineering, events held by our chapter and fellowship among the chapter members. Usually, this entailed food and drink to help facilitate this. It also served as an opportunity for members to share projects they are working on. The meetings were usually mot long in duration but were held long enough to be respectful of our members and their other commitments.