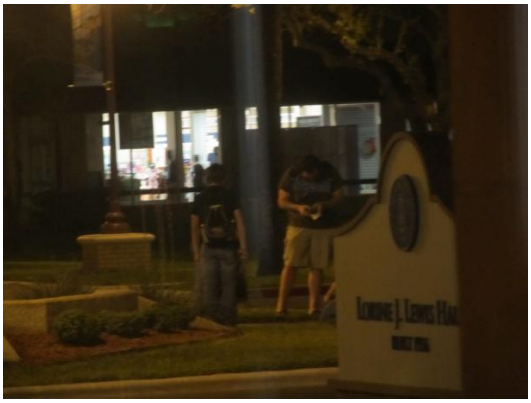
PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2010-2011
Texas A&M Kingsville Phi Upsilon

A. Initiations

We held an officers meeting and using a list of class ranking in descending order we would pick initiates from the list based on the out lines specified in the Pi Tau Sigma constitution based on each class. Once we selected initiates we would hold a meeting for all initiates to let them know of our intentions to initiate them into Pi Tau Sigma, and the requirements we ask of them. Our requirements include: three hours, participation in at least one chapter fundraiser, completion of a Pi Tau Sigma quiz, and attendance to initiation. In the initiation process we always ask the initiates to meet somewhere a little ways away from the building we are holding initiation in and to bring blindfolds. We have them put on blindfolds and lead them around a little bit before bringing them into the initiation room. While the initiates are entering the room we play some Gregorian music, which helps to intimidate the initiates and let them know that they are entering into a serious organization. We carry out the initiation process as specified in the Pi Tau Sigma constitution. When the initiation is over we go to a member's house to share barbeque with the new initiates. Some of our other rituals include an initiate teamwork test, in which we leave written instructions for the new initiates to find and solve three problems found in the FE review manual. We write these problems on the cement with chalk in three different locations around our campus. This helps the initiates get familiar with each other and also work on their teamwork. Also every semester we give the initiates a quiz which asks question about Pi Tau Sigma in a national perspective and also from a chapter specific perspective. We also include questions about the officers which helps ensure that all the new initiates meet the officers and know a little about them. We held two initiations this past year one on November 2010 where we initiated 7 members, and also on May 2011 where we initiated 8 members.

Fall 2010 initiates taking test



Spring 2011 initiates taking test.

B. Chapter Activities

This year we had two of our members attend the national Pi Tau Sigma Conference in Illinois where our chapter won the most improved chapter award. We are fairly involved in our campus. Some activities that our chapter is involved in include the annual "spring fling" carnival. It is a festival in which our school celebrates the spring with music, food, and games. We also get involved with the fall carnival, which is like the spring fling, except that it's held in the fall semester. We were able to serve fajita tacos at our booths for both of those events where we sold the tacos for a profit. We were able to make about $150 at each event. We were fortunate enough to gain sponsorship from a local meat market called La Michoacana, who provided us with a generous discount with their fajita meat. On March 26, 2011 we were also able to take part in the bigger event. It is a large community service event hosted by Texas A&M Kingsville to work on different parts of the city including the campus. We usually get information about these events by attending a leadership conference hosted by our school at the beginning of the school year. This year it was held on September 18, 2010. Many organizations are required to attend this conference where we are informed about the upcoming events for the year. Then throughout the year we hold meetings to discuss the events we chose to participate in. We usually hold meeting only to discuss upcoming events such as initiation, fund raisers, and community service. They range from 20 minutes to about an hour. Another activity that we like to do during football season is tailgating. Although we did not use this event as a fundraiser or community service, we like to take part this event to try to help promote the organization and gain recognition among the other organizations. We also take advantage of this event to get closer to our ASME chapter, which is why we usually have a joint tent at the tailgates.

Texas A&M Kingsville ASME and Pi Tau Sigma at a tailgate

C. Other

Although we are a fairly active organization in our campus, our chapter is still striving to gain more recognition at our school. Some of our future plans include a tutoring service available for engineering underclassmen, joint community service events with other engineering organizations, more social events within our chapter, and computer seminars based on commonly used software used in mechanical engineering such as solid works, matlab, and AutoCAD. We are also looking to add to our initiation process by implementing a formal interview with each initiate to prepare them for job interviews.