PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2011-2012

U.C. Irvine Alpha Beta

A. Initiations

There are several procedures to complete the Initiation procedures in U.C. Irvine Alpha Beta chapter. First of all is the selection process, which as juniors, the performance of these candidates is within the top fifth of their class and as seniors, the performance of these candidates is within the top 30% of their class.

Once the invitations get sent out, an information session will set up within the next week for these interested candidates. During that information session, we give a general overview of the society's history, as well as a review of the society's involvement on campus. Initiation requirements are laid out, and the events for the quarter are shown. It is also an opportunity for student candidates who are interested in joining to ask any questions or voice any concerns. At the end of the information session, we ask all interested candidates to fill the initiating forms within in one week, which contains their contact information and the payment. We make sure to cater to those unable to attend the informational meeting with secondary follow-up meetings, or one-on-one interactions, to ensure each candidate receives an equal amount of attention in recruitment.

There are five events and activity requirements for each candidate to fulfill, and includes social (2), community service, technical, and fundraising. Since U.C. Irvine Alpha Beta chapter operates at the quarter system like the most of the U.C. schools, we plan to have around one event every other week for the candidates. In this way, it would be easier for them to save the date and time to meet up and have more time for officers to meet and coordinate on a weekly basis. Once we are done with putting up all the events, candidates who completed all the requirements will move onto the initiation ceremony.

The process of the initiation ceremony has been a set tradition for our chapter. We hold the initiation on the Friday of the ninth or tenth week on an initiating quarter. During the initiation ceremony, we meet up around 5pm on Friday, welcome the initiates, hold an ice breaker, and then send them out on a scavenger hunt on campus. Once they finish finding out the final meet up location from the scavenger hunt, we then transport them to our ritual place for the ceremony with a beautiful night time view of the surrounding areas, in a candle lit alcove adorned with the symbol of Pi Tau Sigma.

At the ceremony, we explain to them the history, ritual and objective of our chapter, the significance of our symbol and key, and the meaning of being a Pi Tau Sigma member. At the end of the ceremony, white roses are handed out to each candidate. After the ceremony, we head out to our reserved restaurant to celebrate with our chapter advisor. The place varies every quarter. At the end of the cerebration dinner, certificates, keys, and cards are handed out to each candidate, and individual pictures for each initiate are taken with the officers and advisors.

Below as our schedule for our Fall 2011 initiating quarter.

Note:

1. Difficulties for arranging a company tour arose, as such a second tour was later arranged in Winter Quarter, usually our society's transition period between boards, and took place at Parker Aerospace.

Week	Approx. Date	Approx. Time	Event
1	9/28/11	Wednesday, 3:30pm	Officer Meeting for planning quarter
2	10/3/11	Monday, 11am-12pm	First Informational Meeting
	10/4/11	Tuesday, 10-2pm	Engineering Student Organization (ESO) Involvement Fair (fundraising)
3	10/10/11	Monday, 7-9:30pm	Movie Night (Star Trek)
4	N/A	N/A	Office Meetings for planning
5	N/A	N/A	Office Meetings for planning
6	11/5/11	Saturday, 11am-2pm	Joint Honor Society BBQ (with Tau Beta Pi, Eta Kappa Nu, Chi Epsilon, and Sigma Gamma Tau)
7	11/10/11	Thursday, 10am-2pm	Korean BBQ Taco Fundraiser
8	N/A	N/A	Office Meetings for planning
9	11/22/11	Tuesday, 9:30-12:30pm	C&D Zodiac Aerospace Tour
10	12/2/11	Friday, 12:30-4:30pm	Alumni BBQ (community service event)
	12/2/11	Friday, 5pm-8pm	Initiation and Banquet Dinner

B. Chapter Activities

A shortcoming of previous years (and shared by honor societies on campus in general) was member retention. This year's activities were geared to overcome that with more active attempts at involving members in addition to initiating new candidates. Typically, one of the socials offered by our chapter is a movie night. In order to better cater to the busy lives of engineers, as well as be more budget friendly, our movie night was arranged in an auditorium on campus, and snacks were provided to everyone free of charge.

UCI's engineering honor societies traditionally hold 2 joint society BBQs at a local park every year, and is always a great success. The spring joint BBQ was bolstered by the recent emergence of additional honor societies on campus, Omega Chi Epsilon and Alpha Sigma Mu, the latter of which was started by our chapter's vice president at the time, with the aid of our

chapter advisor.

For community service, our chapter traditionally serves at events on campus for the school of engineering. In the fall, this is the Alumni BBQ, where engineering alumni are invited to come back for free food and to see the new senior design projects for this academic year. PTS members volunteer with registration, food cooking and serving, as well as general assistance with the event. The event itself is coordinated by the School as well as with leadership from each honor society.

Typically our chapter has pizza sales for fundraising, which provide a great opportunity for initiates and members alike to socialize. However, the actual amount fundraised was not much to fund beyond initiation costs and yearly club registration fees to the school. This year, two new approaches were done. First, at the ESO Involvement Fair, the chapter held a Halloween themed fundraising, with homemade pastries that the chapter prepared the night before. This involved creative themed cupcakes as well as other baked goods. A second fundraiser built on the popular fundraising item of Korean BBQ at UCI, by turning them into Korean BBQ tacos. This fundraiser was more successful, and helped to start a bigger fund for potential future activities, ideally those for more engineering related projects.

As a technical requirement, company tours are arranged with local firms in fields related to mechanical engineering. This year, tours at C&D Zodiac Aerospace and Parker Aerospace were performed. Initiated who cannot attend tours are able to makeup the event through attendance of on campus technical seminars, such as those offered by ASME or other engineering student organizations.

On the administrative side, the society functions under weekly officer meetings with our chapter advisor, Professor Michael McCarthy, as well as our MAE office Editorial Assistant, Tanya Eberhard. These meetings help layout the plans for the current and future quarters, as well as reflecting on events afterwards in order to set improvements for future office boards.