PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2012-2013

University of Southern California Tau Beta

A. Initiation

The Tau Beta chapter of Pi Tau Sigma holds two initiations for new members every school year. Members are invited to join the USC chapter of Pi Tau Sigma by fulfilling the following academic requirements, calculated by cumulative GPA:

- Seniors must be in the top 30% of their class.
- Juniors must be in the top 25% of their class.

These class standings are determined by completed unit count, as determined by the University of Southern California:

- Juniors: 64-95 completed units
- Seniors: 96 or more completed units

The initiation ceremony consists of the Tau Beta chapter faculty advisor, Dr. Paul Ronney, reading about the history and traditions of the Pi Tau Sigma organization. Members who are being initiated recite a phrase stating that they will uphold the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Code of Ethics for Engineers. This ceremony is ended with an official introduction into the Tau Beta chapter of Pi Tau Sigma. Immediately after each initiation, the Tau Beta chapter hosts a social event with food to help new and existing members get to know each other better and talk about the organization.

In the course of the past year, this initiation was held on September 28th, 2012. The initiation in September introduced 8 new students into the Tau Beta chapter of Pi Tau Sigma. The Spring initiation was held on April 12th, 2013, where 4 new students were initiated.

B. Chapter Activities

At the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year, the Tau Beta chapter of Pi Tau Sigma set several goals:

- Increase visibility on campus and member involvement for events
- Improve infrastructure to keep the organization sustainable for future years
- Encourage members to apply for Pi Tau Sigma scholarships since the Tau Beta chapter was now "In Good Standing"
- Host at least:
    - One community service event
    - One industry related event
    - One social event
    - One field trip
    - One faculty mixer
    - An initiation in both the fall and spring semesters

To begin the school year, the Tau Beta chapter enlisted the help of a second faculty advisor, Irice Castro, to both find prospective members of our Pi Tau Sigma chapter as well as send out invitation emails. Irice Castro was the undergraduate advisor to the Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering department at USC, so she was extremely helpful in encouraging many of the eligible mechanical engineering undergraduates to join Pi Tau Sigma.

After the initial invitations to join Pi Tau Sigma were sent, the first meeting was held for all members and all potential members on September 21st, 2012. During this meeting, the President and Vice President were introduced. This meeting explained the goals of our chapter, the events that our chapter was planning on organizing, as well as the benefits of joining Pi Tau Sigma. The first initiation was held one week later, on September 28th, in which the new members officially joined the Tau Beta chapter of Pi Tau Sigma. Immediately after initiation, elections for the 2012-2013 school year were held. The results of that election were as follows:

- President: David Kingman (senior)
- Vice President: Kai Jun Chew (senior)
- Secretary: Rachel Glazer (junior)
- Treasurer: Andrew Ezarik (senior)
- Service Chair: Traci Chang (junior)
- Industry Chair: Eduardo Aldana (senior)
- Social Chair: Adam Devine (junior)

The first event for Pi Tau Sigma members took place a couple days before initiation, on September 20th, yet all members and potential initiates were invited to attend. This event was the first social event of the academic year.

The next event was the first of several Industry Nights that were held in collaboration with the USC chapter of Sigma Gamma Tau (Aerospace Engineering Honor Society), a

continuation of last year's initiative. The guest speaker was an engineer (and USC alumna) from Boeing Commercial Airplane, on October 3rd 2012. Another Industry Night took place on November 1st, with representatives from the NASA Orion Space Program (held also in conjunction with the USC chapter of AIAA). The final Industry Night of the academic year was on March 7th, where two speakers from SpaceX spoke. These were all great opportunities for attendees (mainly Pi Tau Sigma and Sigma Gamma Tau members, although all others were welcome to attend) to learn about the companies as well as the daily responsibilities of engineers in industry.

There were also two information sessions held throughout the year in conjunction with Boeing, in which recruiters, alumni, important company figures such as the Senior VP of Human Resources, and current USC students who held intern positions with Boeing spoke about working for the company and their experiences. The events were open to all USC students in all majors (mainly in engineering, science, math, business, and finance), and many of the attendees were members from Pi Tau Sigma. This was a great opportunity for members to speak to Boeing recruiters, hand out resumes, and enjoy food while hearing about the company.

Another event hosted by the Tau Beta chapter called the AME Research Talk. This event took place on January 25th, and this was the first time the event had ever taken place on campus. During the event, several of the aerospace and mechanical engineering faculty who conduct research on campus gave a short presentation on the type of research they do. This event was extremely beneficial because it provided students with a much more in-depth overview of what research is being done by the AME department at USC. Food was also provided at the event to allow students and faculty to socialize after the event had concluded. Since the event was hosted by Pi Tau Sigma, yet was open to the whole aerospace and mechanical engineering department, recognition of our organization on campus was improved. In addition to learning about research, two casual events were organized to get to know faculty members on a more personal level, and to understand how they arrived to where they are now. The first of these was on October 24th, where Prof. Geoff Spedding (AME Chair) was invited to speak. The second was held on March 13th, where the guest was Prof. Charles Radovich.

In addition to the organized Industry Nights, the Tau Beta chapter also collaborated with Sigma Gamma Tau to organize an Industry Tour that would allow members to tour a facility of a company that hires many mechanical and aerospace engineers. We were able to accomplish this by organizing a tour to SpaceX, a company that designs and builds rockets to provide commercial launch services, on February 15th. In addition to touring the facilities, members were able to talk with engineers about the actual work they do for the company. At the end of the event, members also had an opportunity to give resumes and talk to recruiters at the company. This event provided much insight into how some companies in industry operated - an experience many members had not been exposed to before.

We had two members attend the national convention at Ohio State University from February 22nd through February 24th this year: Kai Jun Chew, the vice-president, and

Andrew Ezarik, the treasurer of the Tau Beta chapter. This was the fifth straight year the Tau Beta chapter attended the national convention, and it was very helpful to learn about events and rituals done by other chapters. The convention attendees from our chapter also participated in the break-out session discussing the conventions for the following years and were able to add useful insight into the discussion.

The final event of the year was participation in Relay for Life, which is an event set up on campus by the American Cancer Society to help raise money for cancer research. It took place on April 6th, and the Tau Beta chapter raised $70 to donate to the cause. The Relay for Life event is an opportunity for our chapter to get involved with community service, and because the event draws so many different students from USC, having our club there also helps with the recognition of Pi Tau Sigma among students across the entire university.

In addition to all of the events mentioned above, the Tau Beta chapter of Pi Tau Sigma held various meetings throughout both the fall and spring semesters in order to keep members updated of events and opportunities. These events always included either food or snacks, which provided members with an ideal time to socialize after each meeting.

C. Other

The Tau Beta chapter of Pi Tau Sigma is proud of the improvements that have been made to the organization throughout the last couple years. During the entire 2008-2009 school year, the Tau Beta chapter only held three meetings and did not have a single initiation. The following year, the 2009-2010 school year, the chapter began to organize events, schedule regular meetings, and have an initiation in both the spring and the fall. However, the member involvement throughout that year was somewhat low. Finally, during the 2010-2011 school year, the Tau Beta chapter became "In Good Standing" with the national organization and officially became a student organization registered with USC. Currently, the roster was increased to over 50 members, and many of the members actively attended the organized events.

Throughout the past year, our website has also progressed (http://ame-www.usc.edu/students/pitausigma/USC_Pi_Tau_Sigma/Home.html). We were able to add a calendar so that members could see events held by our organization, as well as recruiting or career events taking place on campus.

While we feel like we have improved significantly over the past year, the Tau Beta chapter still strives to provide even more opportunities for members. A few goals for the upcoming school year are as follows:

- Continue increasing Pi Tau Sigma's visibility on campus
- Continue increasing member involvement
- Continue building relationships with other organizations on campus
- Organize events that bring in members of industry to speak about their field
- Send three or four members to the national convention at Texas A&M University
- Continue to provide methods of connecting members with industry contacts and recruiters
- Host at least:
    - Two community service events
    - Two industry related events
    - Two social events
    - Two events involving faculty
    - An initiation in both the fall and spring semesters