PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2011-2012

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, these initiations were held on September 23rd, 2011, and February 24th, 2012. The initiation in September introduced 6 new students into the Tau Beta chapter of Pi Tau Sigma, and the initiation in February introduced 13 new students.

B. Chapter Activities

At the beginning of the 2011-2012 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
- Host at least:
    - Two community service events
    - Two industry related event
    - Two social event
    - Two field trips
    - 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 Simbol, to both find prospective members of our Pi Tau Sigma chapter as well as send out invitation emails. Irice Simbol is the undergraduate advisor to the Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering department at USC, and 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 16th, 2011. 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 fall initiation was held the following week, on September 23rd, at which the new members officially joined the Tau Beta chapter of Pi Tau Sigma. Immediately after initiation, elections for the 2011-2012 school year were held. The results of that election were as follows:

- President: Nathan Pandian (senior)
- Vice President: Damian Pherigo (senior)
- Secretary: David Kingman (junior)
- Treasurer: Francis DyBuncio (senior)
- Service Chair: Kai Jun Chew (junior)
- Industry Chair: Felipe Figueroa (senior)
- Social Chair: Bryan Choy (senior)
- Website Chair: Quraish Shamim (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 beginning the Industry Nights that were held throughout the year by our chapter in collaboration with the USC chapter of Sigma Gamma Tau (Aerospace Engineering Honor Society). The guest speaker was an engineer at General Electric Aviation, and he spoke about his experiences in with GE Aviation along with life lessons in the field of

engineering. The whole engineering school was invited to attend, so many engineering students outside of Pi Tau Sigma were able to learn from the speaker.

The next event was an information session from Boeing, in which recruiters, alumni, and current USC students who held intern positions with Boeing spoke about working for the company and their experiences. The event was also open to all USC students in engineering, 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 pizza while hearing about the company.

Another Industry Night took place on October 20th, with a representative from Boeing Space and Satellite. One of the managers from the Boeing facility in El Segundo spoke about the various things that are being done to advance the satellite industry. Furthermore, the Boeing representative was so impressed by the enthusiasm from our Pi Tau Sigma members that he offered to set up a tour of their factory for our chapter.

The next Industry Night brought a guest speaker from Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center on November 9th, who spoke about vibration analysis and acoustic testing done on their vehicles. The final Industry Night of the academic year was on February 2nd, where a Spacecraft Systems Engineer from Boeing spoke about editing resumes and presenting yourself to interviewers. All of the Industry Nights were 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.

The signature event of the fall semester hosted by the Tau Beta chapter was the Second Annual Student-Faculty Forum. This event took place on October 28th, and this past fall was the second time the event had ever taken place on campus. During the event, many of the aerospace and mechanical engineering faculty who taught elective courses gave a short presentation on what each elective class was about and what material was taught in the courses. This event was extremely beneficial because it provided students with a much more in-depth overview of the upper-division engineering elective classes than the short description provided in the course catalog. Additionally, the information given by the faculty was posted on the chapter's website to be available to all students in the department. Food was also provided at the event to allow students and faculty to socialize after the course presentations 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 the newly organized Industry Nights, the Tau Beta chapter also collaborated with Sigma Gamma Tau to organize several Industry Tours 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 November 11th. This was repeated on March 23rd for those who were unable to attend the first time. A picture of Pi Tau Sigma members and Sigma Gamma Tau members on the tour is shown

below. Members also attended tours of the facilities of Northop Grumman on November 18th, as well as those of Boeing Space and Satellite on February 10th. 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 events, members also had an opportunity to give resumes and talk to recruiters at the companies. These events provided much insight into how the different companies in industry operated - an experience many members had not been exposed to before.

We had three members attend the national convention at San Jose State University from March 2nd through March 4th this year: Nathan Pandian, the president, Felipe Figueroa, the industry chair, and Kai Jun Chew, the service chair. This was the fourth straight year the Tau Beta chapter attended the national convention, and it was very helpful to learn more about events and rituals done by other chapters. The convention attendees from our chapter also participated in the break-out session that brainstormed various community service, social, and networking events that Pi Tau Sigma chapters could hold. This proved to be very useful, since our chapter plans on planning some of those events in the upcoming year.

The final event of the year was participation in Relay for Life, which was an event set up on campus by the American Cancer Society to help raise money for cancer research. The event took place on March 31st, and the Tau Beta chapter was able to raise nearly $100 to donate to the cause. The Relay for Life event was another opportunity for our chapter to get involved with community service, and because the event drew so many different

students from USC, having our club there also helped 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 few 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 our event attendance has been better than it has ever been in the chapter's recent history.

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. Also, detailed explanations of elective courses in the aerospace and mechanical engineering department were posted on the website, as a result of the Student-Faculty Forum that took place in the fall.

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
- Continue the Industry Nights for the whole engineering school
    - The goal is to collaborate with even more engineering honor societies in order to increase the frequency of the event
- Send three or four members to the national convention at Ohio State 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