PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2011-2012
Tennessee Tau Eta
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Chartered April 24, 1950. Number 56.

Goals for 2011-2012

The goals for the Tennessee Tau Eta chapter included inducting new members who uphold the ideals of the organization, giving the MABE Department Excellence in Teaching Award in the spring, volunteering in the surrounding community, and increasing its presence within the department by taking a more active role in departmental activities.

Initiation

The Tennessee Tau Eta chapter held two initiation ceremonies this past year. Our eligibility requirements are that candidates must have either already taken Thermodynamics I or be in the class at the time of initiation and have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. In the fall, we had seventeen new initiates. There was a great turnout for the inductees and we were very pleased with the quality of the new members. Also, we had eight new initiates for the spring 2012 semester. All five officers for next year came from the fall 2011 and spring 2012 inductees.

For our initiation ceremony, we follow the Pi Tau Sigma initiation rituals. After performing the ceremony, the new initiates, current members, officers and faculty advisor gather for a pizza social. It has proven to be a great way for the new and old members to get acquainted with one another and improve chapter unity. The fall initiation ceremony was held on November 17, 2011. The spring initiation ceremony was held on April 10, 2012.

Chapter Activities

During the past year, Tennessee Tau Eta held two initiation ceremonies, participated in the University of Tennessee's Career Services' Career Carnival, participated in the University of Tennessee's annual Engineer's Day, and sponsored the MABE Excellence in Teaching Award in the Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biomedical Engineering Department.

The University of Tennessee hosts an annual event honoring the achievements of the college of engineering. On that day, approximately a thousand high school students, professors, and parents visit the college and look through presentations and exhibits created by engineering students, participate in challenges, and get a brief preview of life as a student at the University of Tennessee. This year, the Tennessee Tau Eta chapter spoke with hundreds of high school students, parents, and professors about the type of work that is involved in Mechanical Engineering, current senior projects, and experiences as a Mechanical Engineering student.

Pi Tau Sigma also held service opportunities with the Knoxville Ronald McDonald House for our members. Additionally, John Utley, chapter president, met with the departmental leaders along with other student organization leaders to help improve the department. Among the new policies set up, a wireless printer was installed in the student lounge in Dougherty Engineering Building, where a majority of Mechanical Engineering classes are held. This prevented students from walking across campus to other buildings with computer labs in order to print. Furthermore, a MABE department student leadership council was established to help student organizations coordinate activities with other groups

in order to improve member turnout and effectively give back to the community. In addition to meeting with department leaders, John Utley also met with the accreditation board during their visit to the University of Tennessee's College of Engineering in order to speak about the curriculum, faculty, and overall experiences with the College of Engineering and the Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biomedical Engineering Department. In addition to these activities, the chapter officers and members cooked dinner at the Ronald McDonald House, established connections with the University's Career Services liaison for the College of Engineering, and worked to build a stronger awareness within the college and department.

Graduates

The Tennessee Tau Eta Chapter is very proud of our graduating members. The graduates and their plans for after graduation are as follows:

Neal Baltuth - Teach for America, Los Angeles, California
Fernando Costa - Gerdau, Knoxville, Tennessee
Brian Daniel - ExxonMobil, Fairfax, Virginia
Stewart Goodwin - Part time summer work with Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee then moving to Sudan, Africa
Gary Hathaway - Amazon.com, Lebanon, Tennessee
Ray Henson - Pursuing a Doctorate Degree in Chemical Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri
Will Lasley - Bridgestone Tires, Nashville, Tennessee
Nikolay Linnik - Key Safety Systems, Knoxville, Tennessee
Robert Rasnick - Pursuing a Master's of Science in Kinesiology with a concentration in Biomechanics at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
John Utley - Pursuing a Master's of Science in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Automotive Systems at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville after a summer internship with Alcoa Intalco Works in Ferndale, Washington

Awards & Recognition

Dr. Kivanc Ekici and Dr. Jeffrey Reinbolt were awarded the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award.

Every year, Pi Tau Sigma presents the Excellence in Teaching Award to the most outstanding professor in the Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biomedical Engineering Department at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Students of the department nominate and vote for the professor in the spring term. This year, due to the voting results, the award was given to both Dr. Kivanc Ekici and Dr. Jeffery Reinbolt for their passionate teaching, consideration for their students, and overall contribution to the MABE Department.

Names of New Members

Fall 2011 Pledges

Clinton Andy Cobb
Hunter Culbertson
Micheal Culley
Anna Davis
Paige Riley Exum
Neal Ganey
Jordan Hamblen
Michael Hinricher
Caroline Hunter
James Marcus Jeter
Alexander Miles
Robert Rasnick
Jessica Elyse Rhyne
Phil Riemer
Mohammad Salehi
Myles Smith
Eric Spraggins

Spring 2012 Pledges

Caleb Clement	Evan Hudspeth	Kevin O'rear
Clint DeLozier	Rob Kennedy	Georgia White
Ashraf El-Messidi	Bailey Ketron	

Plans for 2012-2013

During the next academic year, the Tennessee Tau Eta chapter intends to continue inducting new members who uphold the ideals of the organization. The MABE Excellence in Teaching Award will also be given in the spring. Pi Tau Sigma will also strive to increase awareness of its presence within the department by taking a more active role in departmental activities. In addition, the chapter will continue to present exhibits in the Engineer's Day event held at the university.

In order to start planning for next year, outgoing officers from this year met the newly elected officers after the spring initiation. Old records and electronic files related to chapter business were passed down. The new officers were briefed about the duties of the office as well as important deadlines to follow. Finally, the outgoing treasurer described the chapter's current financial standing.

2011-2012 Chapter Officers

President: John Utley
Vice President: Gary Hathaway
Treasurer: Neal Baltuth
Secretary: Kristen Holdway

2012-2013 Chapter Officers

President: Clint DeLozier
Vice President: Georgia White
Treasurer: Michael Hinricher
Secretary: Rob Kennedy
Outreach Coordinator: Evan Hudspeth

Chapter Advisor

Dr. Majid Keyhani

Contact Information

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Reporter

John Utley