PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2015-2016
Tennessee Tau Eta
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee
Chartered April 24, 1950. Number 56.

Initiation

The Tennessee Tau Eta chapter held both fall and spring initiation ceremonies this past academic year. The society recognizes students who are among the top 25% of their junior class or the top 33% of their senior class. Our eligibility requirements state that these candidates must have either already taken or be enrolled in Thermodynamics I by the date of initiation and have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Our first initiation held on September 14th welcomed fourteen new initiates into the Tennessee Tau Eta chapter. The second ceremony on February 9th inducted five new undergraduate students and one graduate student. Society dues were collected concluding each semester initiation ritual and elections were held during the spring meeting as well.

For our initiation ceremony, our chapter adheres to the Pi Tau Sigma initiation rituals. Immediately following the ceremony, new initiates, current members, officers, and the faculty advisor gather for a small social event. This has proven to be a great way for the new and old members to get acquainted with one another and improve chapter unity.

Chapter Activities

Over the course of this academic year, Tennessee Tau Eta held two initiation ceremonies, participated in the University of Tennessee's annual Engineer's Day, and sponsored the MABE Excellence in Teaching Award for the Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biomedical Engineering Department at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Engineers Day has been a UT College of Engineering tradition for more than 100 years. Each October, undergraduate engineering classes are dismissed for one day to allow university students and faculty to spend time interacting with hundreds of potential engineering students from high schools across the region. On October 22, 2015, almost 1,500 students arrived on UT's Knoxville campus to explore and learn about the various aspects of engineering through discussions, project demonstrations and exhibits prepared by UT engineering student clubs and societies. The Tennessee Tau Eta chapter of Pi Tau Sigma held a booth titled “Mechanical Engineering: Manufacturing the Future”. At the table, we interacted with future engineering students and illustrated the various design projects within our mechanical engineering department and highlighting new and exciting manufacturing techniques like 3D printing.

Other

Awards and Recognition
Dr. Jon M. Barker was awarded the 2015 Excellence in Teaching Award.

Each spring, the Tennessee Tau Eta Chapter of 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 within the department nominate faculty based on classroom teaching, advising, participation in student organizations and other student-faculty interaction. This year, the award was given to Dr. Barker for his passionate teaching, consideration for his students, and overall contribution to the MABE Department.

Plans for 2016-2017

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. Furthermore, Pi Tau Sigma will 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 addition to being more present in our department, Pi Tau Sigma plans to become more involved in our community through partnerships with local schools to promote interest in STEM fields.

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.

2015-2016 Chapter Officers

President: Joshua Penney
Vice President: Conor O'Dell
Secretary, Treasurer: Nathan Powell

2016-2017 Chapter Officers

President: Jonathon Hicks – jhicks42@vols.utk.edu
Vice President, Treasurer: Justin Myrick – jmyrick2@vols.utk.edu

Chapter Advisor

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Reporter

Joshua Penney