PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2010-2011
Tennessee Tau Eta
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee
Chartered April 24, 1950. Number 56.

A. Initiation

The Tau Eta Chapter held two initiation ceremonies this past year. In the fall, we had two new initiates. There was an unprecedented lack of interest in the fall which raised the need for a more adamant recruiting approach for the spring. This was accomplished by contacting all students that were pursuing a mechanical engineering degree and alerting them that we were initiating new members on a specified date. We had a great response from this method. From the students that were interested, we chose the candidates who had taken Thermodynamics and had a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. As a result, we had nineteen new initiates for the spring 2011 semester.

For our initiation ceremony, we follow the initiation procedure provided on the pitausig.org website. After performing the ceremony, the new initiates and current members gather for a pizza social. It has proved 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 2, 2010. The spring initiation ceremony was held on April 19, 2011.

B. Chapter Activities

During the past year Tau Eta held two initiation ceremonies, participated in the University of Tennessee's annual Engineer's Day, sponsored the 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 visit the college and look through presentations and exhibits created by engineering students. This year, the Tau Eta chapter spoke to the high school students about current senior projects and experiences as a Mechanical Engineering student.

Pi Tau Sigma also sponsored the Homecoming Alumni Barbeque and held service opportunities with the Ronald McDonald House and Habitat for Humanity for our members.

C. Other

Goals for 2010-2011

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

Graduates

We are very proud of our graduating members. Their plans for after graduation are as follows:

Stephen Yontz – Pursuing a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Tennessee

Susan Reid – Pursuing a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Tennessee

Danny Sale – Pursing a PhD in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Washington

Troy Karsten – Accepted position with Siemens, Engineering Leadership Development Program in their Oil and Gas Division

Julie Pender – Accepted position at Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, TN

Sam Arwood – Plans unknown

Nick Jones – Enlisting in the armed forces

Brittany Kopcsak – Accepted position with URS

Timothy McLerran – Attending Air Force Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base Mississippi

Janie Miller – Accepted position with ExxonMobil Downstream Research and Engineering Company

Awards & Recognition

Dr. Robert Bond was awarded the 2011 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. Students of the department nominate and vote for the professor in the spring term.

This year, the award was given to Dr. Robert Bond for his enthusiastic teaching and contribution to the MABE Department.

Plans for 2011-2012

During the next academic year Tau Eta intends to continue inducting new members who uphold the ideals of the organization. The 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.

2010-2011 Chapter Officers
President: Janie Miller
Vice President: Susan Reid
Treasurer: John Utley
Secretary: Brian Daniel

2011-2012 Chapter Officers
President: John Utley (jutley5@utk.edu)
Vice President: Gary Hathaway (ghathaw1@utk.edu)
Treasurer: Neil Baltuth (nbaltuth@gmail.com)
Secretary: Kristen Holdway (kholdway@utk.edu)

Chapter Advisor
Dr. Majid Keyhani

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Reporter
Janie Miller