PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2012-2013
Tennessee Tau Eta
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee
Chartered April 24, 1950. Number 56.

Initiation

The University of Tennessee Tau Eta chapter held two initiation ceremonies this past academic year. Our eligibility requirements are that candidates must have either already taken or be enrolled at the time of initiation in Thermodynamics I and have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. In the fall, we had eight new initiates. There was a respectable society turnout for the inductees and we were very pleased with the quality of the new members. Conversely, we had only one new initiate for the spring 2013 semester. Society dues were collected concluding each semester initiation ritual and elections were held during the spring meeting as well.

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 15, 2012. The spring initiation ceremony was held on February 26, 2013.

Chapter Activities

During the past year, Tennessee Tau Eta held two initiation ceremonies, participated in the University of Tennessee's annual Engineer's Day, partnered with the Knoxville Habitat for Humanity during a local build day, and sponsored the MABE Excellence in Teaching Award for 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. Each booth set up for Engineer's Day this year was accompanied by a Grand Challenge in Engineering to present to prospective students as well. Our chapter chose "Making Solar Energy Economical," incorporating this Grand Challenge into our presentation to students.

Pi Tau Sigma also partnered with the Knoxville Habitat for Humanity during a local build. The University of Tennessee Housing facilitated the partnering, transportation, and lunch for Pi Tau Sigma members at the build day. At the job site, members learned how to hang siding on a home using the proper techniques and tools. It was fun for everyone involved and a highlight to the spring semester.

Other

Awards and Recognition
Dr. J. A. M. Boulet was awarded the 2013 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, the award was given to Dr. Boulet for his passionate teaching, consideration for the students, advising duties, and overall contribution to the MABE Department.

Plans for 2013-2014
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 order to start planning for next year, outgoing officers from this year met the newly elected officers after the spring initiation. For the upcoming year, the society decided to reduce officer seats to simply a president and treasurer in hopes of clarifying roles and responsibilities. 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.

2012-2013 Chapter Officers
President: Clint DeLozier
Vice President: Georgia White
Treasurer: Michael Hinricher
Secretary: Robert Kennedy
Outreach Coordinator: Evan Hudspeth

2013-2014 Chapter Officers
President: Matthew Hinricher
Treasurer: Benjamin Walden

Chapter Advisor
Dr. Majid Keyhani

Contact Information
pitausig@utk.edu

Reporter
Clint DeLozier