PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL REPORT

2010-2011

Tuskegee University Sigma Psi

Figure1. Current Members of Sigma Psi and Advisor

A. Initiations

The students that are selected to become prospective members of the Sigma Psi Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma go through a three step initiation: the selection, the interview, and the process.

In the selection portion of the initiation names are submitted to the president and the advisor of the chapter of the students that qualify according to the national guidelines of the organization. The president is responsible for contacting the prospective members about their interest in our organization and inviting them to the informational. The informational is welcoming and informative, so that the prospective members can get to know the current members and gain knowledge about the organization. After the informational the prospective members are contacted about interviewing.

During the interviewing sessions the prospective members are asked a series of questions to see if they are a good fit for the organization. These questions consist of: standard interviewing questions as well as questions that are random and fun. An example of the

random questions is “Why is the sky blue?” This question always has some interesting answers as well as interesting looks when it is asked. After the interviewing process is complete the current members of the organization get together and determine who best fits the organization. The students that meet the qualifications are contacted. The students then become initiates and are prepared to complete step three of the initiation: the process.

During the process our initiates are required to be dressed in white t-shirts, the same color wash of jeans, white tennis shoes, and white socks. Our initiates are also required to learn a number of things that have to do with the organization and with the history of our school such as: poems, songs, and rules. The process usually last about 6 weeks and at the end of the process the initiates are required to present a project that is on a mechanical device. The project consists of: a 20 page technical paper on the mechanical device, a wooden tri-board display, a wooden model of the device, and a presentation of the project. The project has to be presented in front of the current members, the advisor, and other invited faculty members. After the process is completed the prospective members are initiated in a small ceremony with the current members and the advisor in attendance.

This past year we had 8 initiates during the fall semester (December 7, 2010) and 5 initiates during the spring semester (February – April 22, 2011). Once an initiate becomes a member of the organization he or she is given a line name, number and line shirts are ordered. The initiations are a lot of fun, and the organization is the beginning step to great, lifelong friendships.

Figure 2. Fall 2010 Initiates Presentation of the Drawbridge

Figure 3. Fall 2010 Initiation Night

Figure 4. Spring 2011 Initiates Presentation of the Elevator

B. Chapter Activities

The Sigma Psi Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma is in a rebuilding phase; therefore, we have not put on many chapter activities for this past academic year. We, as a chapter are trying to introduce and implement new activities that will benefit the underclassmen as well as the future mechanical engineering students that will attend Tuskegee University. Some of these activities include: more hands on activities, mentoring programs, and tutoring programs. A hands on activity that our chapter would like to implement, is to restore an old engine in our Ford Motors Company Lab. We feel the hands on activity would give more experience to students as well as be interesting and fun. We have also started a mentoring program within our college for mechanical engineering freshmen to help them in their transition from high school to college. This program is also used to help the incoming freshmen with their classes; what they should take and tips on how prepare and master the course. We also are in the process of partnering with other clubs and organizations such as NSBE to tutor any student in the areas of mathematics and engineering.

The Sigma Psi chapter attended the National Pi Tau Sigma Convention that was located in Chicago Illinois at University of Illinois Chicago (Alpha Sigma Chapter). At the convention we participated in the financial handling of funds for the organization. We voted on various financially supported things within the organization. It was a great opportunity to actually see how the organization is run and to interact with different chapters. It was a great networking experience.

A fundraising event that we have sponsored this past academic year was Pi Tau Sigma Day. The purpose of Pi Tau Sigma Day was to raise awareness about our organization. The activities were themed around the quantity 'π'. The activities were the following: pie throwing contest, pizza pie eating contest, pie sale, twister, jump roping, music and a display table with recent projects. In the pie throwing contest people paid various prices, depending on the target, to throw whipped cream pies from behind a table into current members and faculty's faces. The pizza pie contest consisted of contestants paying a price and to see who could eat the most pizza slices in 3 minutes and 14 seconds. There was an assortment of pies for sale. The game Twister and jump rope were available to play. The day was fun filled and brought more awareness to our campus about Pi Tau Sigma.

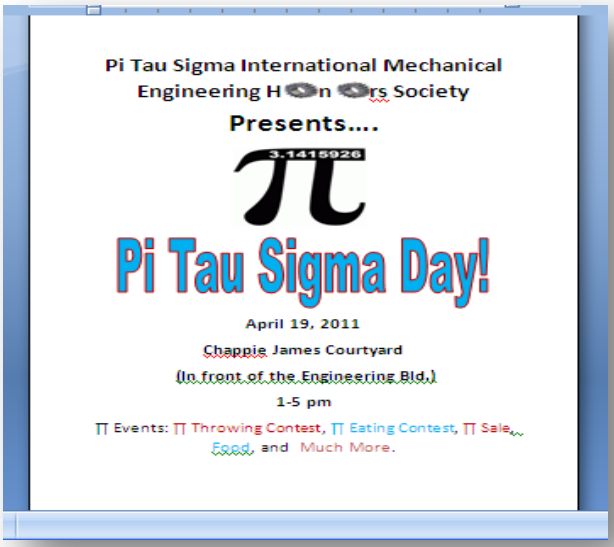

Figure 5. Flyer for Pi Tau Sigma Day

Figure 6. Pie throwing contest

C. Other

The Sigma Psi chapter is a small chapter, but we are big at heart. We are close knit family that enjoy being apart of a wonderful organization.

Figure 10. Members jump roping at Pi Tau Sigma Day with initiate projects in the foreground.