## Illinois Alpha

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois
Chartered March 16, 1915. Number 1.

**Goals for 2007-2008**

The goals of the chapter for 2007-2008 were to increase the amount of participation in society events from active members, increase the number of social and philanthropy events throughout the semesters, revise the chapter bylaws, increase the number of initiates from previous years, and raise pride in the organization of Pi Tau Sigma.

**Activities**

During the past year, the Alpha chapter has been active both within the Mechanical Sciences and Engineering Department as well as the community.

In the fall 2007 semester, the chapter had five bi-weekly general meetings with speakers and officer meetings during the weeks between general meetings. The speakers included mechanical engineering professors and industrial professionals. These speakers provided insightful presentations about their work in their respective field. T-shirts were worn during events to promote PTS awareness in both the school and society. With respect to social events, the society held a barcrawl. The social event was fairly well attended; however, we sought greater participation in the following semester. In regard to philanthropy, the chapter went to a nearby high school to provide engineering demonstrations to the children. Unfortunately, this only happened once, and no follow up attempt was made. In the future, there is a possible chance of math tutoring for the competitions held in February among high schools. Additionally, a bake sale was held to raise money for Relay for Life in the upcoming semester.

In the spring 2008 semester, the chapter continued with 7 bi-weekly chapter meetings with speakers including initiation and officer meetings during off-weeks. The attendance per meeting stayed constant at about 25 members a meeting.

Early in the semester, the chapter was told by its advisor that there had been a rather large endowment set up, and that a set of bylaws would be necessary to distribute the funds. The officers decided that it would be a good idea to spend half of the annual earnings of the endowment on service events, and the other half on scholarships for deserving members and initiates. The chapter's bylaws were completed and will guide the chapter in the future with respect to scholarships and service event funding. According to the new bylaws, officers now serve for one year terms. The chapter felt that this change was necessary to establish continuity within the group. The chapter also made a major switch from committees to project leaders which were used to involve more initiates and members in chapter undertakings. This helped accomplish more during the year, and reduced the number of people in executive board. Only key executive board members were left. The others were project leaders.

As for raising awareness within the mechanical engineering department, the chapter was able to put together two engineering open house projects during the month of March. Engineering open house is an event within the college of engineering that attracts a lot of visitors from the region to view university research, the current projects going on, and an opportunity to showcase the different activites within the society. The first project was Hexapods, and the second was Sandcasting. The Sandcasting project won 2nd place in the Hands on Learning Category. The society was very proud to be able to participate in this event to a greater extent than the year before. Another event that raised mechanical engineering department awareness was the Volleyball Tournament. 5 teams participated in the event; we hope to raise this number in the upcoming year. The winner of the tournament played against a faculty team. This helped further contact between faculty and students outside class.

As for service events, the society was actively able to participate in Relay For Life. The chapter raised money through the use of fundraisers such as barbeques, and bake sale, and through the use of the endowment. We donated 1000 dollars to the American Cancer Society. With respect to social events, the chapter participated in a bar crawl and a happy hour, both of which gave members an opportunity to meet outside of school bounds

As for other events, the chapter participated in an etiquette dinner. The attendance was unexpectedly low for this event. Only half the members that signed up attended. We hope to

improve this next year by making them pay a nominal amount so they feel obligated to come.

The spring 2008 initiation was a large initiation class. We hope to continue to our success in the future with respect to initiate numbers and chapter activities.

**Graduates**

Kyle Hewerdine – University of Illinois Graduate School, Mechanical Engineering, Urbana-Champaign, IL
Mark Hernquist- University of Illinois Graduate School, Mechanical Engineering, Urbana-Champaign, IL
Jessica Lucido- University of Wisconsin Graduate School, Environmental Engineering
David Weiss-Unknown
Joe Miksan-Unknown
Michael Okelman-Unknown

**Awards & Recognition**

David Schmidt – James W. Bayne Award
Michael Okelman- Breakthrough of Ideas Award
Lance Hiebbler- Breakthrough of Ideas Award
Joe Miksan-Unsung Hero Award
David Weiss-Unsung Hero Award
Jeff Peters – Initiate Award
David Joyce – Initiate Award

**Names of New Members**

*Fall 2007 Pledges*

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|---|---|
| David Barron | Michael Debnar |
| Elizabeth Elliot | Greg Formosa |
| Hemanth Jasti | Jeremy Koch |
| Matt Marek | Jacob Mathis |
| Derek McCullough | Nick Musser |
| Patrick O'Toole | Brett Penfold |
| David Schmidt | Max Snow |
| Rebecca Storer | Stephen Thompson |

*Spring 2008 Pledges*

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|---|---|
| Fred Banser | Derek Holmes |
| Prashant Jayaraman | David Joyce |
| Dave Kijowski | Scott Leithem |
| Mickey Mangan | Ryan Matesi |
| Alan Mellovitz | Jeff Peters |
| Carol Regalbuto | Tony Ronald |
| Elliot Stelsel | Stephan Suhar |
| Kathryn Svoboda | Nick Vrkljan |
| Eric Wright | Zachary Schramm |

**Transfer of Responsibilities**

We held a meeting at the end of the year between the old officers and the new officers to ensure proper transfer of positions and to truly capture the new officer's imaginations on new ideas involving the position.

**Plans for 2008-2009**

During the next school year, the Alpha chapter will be striving to improve on the goals set for the 2007-2008 school year. The chapter will continue to have social and philanthropic events to allow for greater interaction between society members.

The chapter will continue to have bi-weekly chapter meetings with speakers at each of the meetings to allow the members to obtain a broader understanding of the potential opportunities with a degree in mechanical engineering. Officers will continue to meet on weeks where there is no general meeting in order to communicate efficiently and plan events.
The Illinois Alpha chapter will continue its mission to increase awareness of the society within the school, with alumni, and with the local community.

In addition, we will work more closely with the other student societies to sponsor events within our schools Mechanical Sciences and Engineering Department.

**Chapter Officers**

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| President | Kyle Hewerdine |
| Vice President | Mark Hernquist |
| Treasurer | Jessica Lucido |
| Corresponding Secretary | Gibson Mammen |
| Recording Secretary | Rebecca Storer |

**Chapter Advisor**

Dr. Andrew G. Alleyne

**Contact information**

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**Reporter**

Gibson Mammen