## Illinois Alpha

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

**Goals for 2008-2009**

The goals of the Alpha chapter for 2008-2009 were to expand Pi Tau Sigma's presence at the University of Illinois through recruiting active initiates, introduce active membership status, develop a network of Alpha chapter alumni, expand the variety of general meeting speaker topics, heighten involvement in departmental activities, acquire a new Chapter Advisor, sponsor a first-annual student-faculty forum, introduce a successful tutoring program, initiate a point system and increase the chapter's sociability by encouraging more planned events.

**Activities**

The chapter accomplished all of the above stated goals and was able to make significant strides in the resurgence of Pi Tau Sigma's recognition at the University of Illinois. The fall semester saw the recruitment of a uniquely-dedicated initiation class. Out of the 16 initiates from fall semester, a total of 15 continued to participate in most Pi Tau Sigma functions during the spring semester. Our involvement of initiates in fall and spring semester projects allowed us to groom leaders and provide opportunities for members to excel. Furthermore, the point system allowed for the initiates and member to both strive towards a certain point requirement to gain active membership or fill initiation requirements. Active membership benefits were provided as a means of motivation.

Events from the Fall 2008 semester included barbeques to fund an ACS Relay for Life team donation, the first-annual MechSE Department student-faculty forum, the initiation of a mechanical engineering tutoring program, 5 general meetings, a high school outreach event, happy hours, an Arial Homes design project, and social events. The Relay for Life barbeques were useful for fund-raising and increasing Pi Tau Sigma awareness on campus. The student-faculty forum was the first of its kind for our department and allowed all of the department heads and facility managers answer common questions and promote discourse between the students and faculty. The tutoring program had a successful start pending some problems such as motivation for tutors, adequate knowledge of material topic in subjects, and establishing smooth and organized tutoring sign ups. These issues should be worked on next year to ensure the continued enrichment of the program.

General Meetings covered a range of topics including why people pursue a graduate education, the importance of engineering humanitarian solutions for the developing world, ways to start businesses and careers in entrepreneurship, and careers in academia.

Events from the Spring 2009 semester included sponsoring 3 of the department's Engineering Open House exhibits, sponsoring a Relay for Life team, an additional barbeque fundraiser for the Relay for Life team, a sand volleyball tournament between student organizations and mechanical engineering department faculty, 5 general meetings, social events.

General meeting topics included engineering solutions to water shortages, making the most of internships, working for small companies, and choosing interesting electives.

The high school outreach program provided a semesterly presentation on engineering by members to high school students in both semesters including captivating demonstrations. The purpose of the program was to encourage interest and preparation for engineering through high school curriculum choices.

During the year, the Pi Tau Sigma website was also worked on to provide additional features such as tutoring signups, alumni sign in, executive board login, file storage, research positions database, etc. The website hosting was also switched to under the mechanical engineering department to promote greater pts awareness. The website improvement is still in progress. However, the Illinois Alpha Chapter feels that the improvement of the website will allow for another means to promote awareness, accessibility, and pride for the society.

**Graduates**

Gibson Mammen-Mechanical Engineer at Primera Engineers, Chicago IL
Joseph Miksan
Mickey Mangan – Sales Engineering in Minesota
Derek Holmes
Jeremy Koch – graduate school at Princeton

Timothy Maier – Engineer at Integrys Group Utilities
Nick Musser-Graduate student at Stanford
Amar Patel –Consultant at Deloitte, Chicago IL
Eric Wright-Graduate student at Stanford
David Joyce – Graduate student at Illinois
Hemanth Jasti-Graduate student at Illinois

**Awards & Recognition**

Brian Hughes – Unsung Hero Award
David Kijowski – James W Bayne
Mickey Mangan – Most Valuable Member
Dale Magliola – Outstanding Initiate
Sudeep Gowrishankar –Outstanding Initiate
Eric Gobst – Outstanding Initiate
Jordan Turner – Outstanding Initiate

**Names of New Members**

*Fall 2008 Pledges*

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|---|---|
| Steven Pelech | Dale Magliola |
| Damian Kucbor | Prashant Jayamaran |
| Melanie Willi | Kevin Roggendorf |
| Kevin Remick | David Caballero |
| Brian Hughes | Pranav Singhvi |
| Sudeep Gowrishankar | Elliot Stelsel |
| Brian McGuigen | Brian Roehl |
| Brian Roxworthy | Mark Lebrun |
| Michael Coe | |

*Spring 2009 Pledges*

| | |
|---|---|
| Bryan James | Jordan Turner |
| Tapan Patel | Constandino Mitsingas |
| Michael Verasamy | Ryan Van Echo |
| Dave Austin | Matt Rosenberger |
| Carl Darukhanavala | Ben Bargfrede |
| Eric Reilly | Brock Pollmann |
| Eric Gobst | Jixin Chen |

**Transfer of Responsibilities**

Each officer prepared a report consisting of all contacts made that are useful to Pi Tau Sigma, a detailed list of all responsibilities and actions taken, and a calendar of checkpoints to make sure all of our activies are planned for and completed in advance. Also, each 2008-2009 officer met with their incumbent to explain how to maintain Pi Tau Sigma at Illinois. The chapter also had a dinner with the executive board of the present and future to discuss ideas for areas of improvemement and new endeavors.

Additionally, the professional and social calendars have been agreed upon by the 2009-2010 Executive Board, allowing us to reserve speakers and event locations far in advance.

**Plans for 2009-2010**

During the next school year, the Illinois Alpha chapter will be striving to improve on the goals set for the 2008-2009 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. An effort to expand the variety of topics presented by speakers at meetings will be made. Officers will continue to meet every week in order to communicate efficiently and plan events. Also, engineering projects will be sponsored, which may include building a sterling engine, entering design contests, and the Jerry Sander's Robot Competition during the annual engineering open house

The chapter plans to expand social activities within the organization as well as with other organizations in order to encourage the development of lasting bonds of comradery between members and those of other organizations, with the intent of improving initiate and member retention.

In addition, we will work more closely with the other student societies to sponsor events within our schools Mechanical Sciences and Engineering Department, with particular emphasis on continuing the annual MechSE Forum.

**Chapter Officers**

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|---|---|
| President | Gibson Mammen |
| Vice President | Stephan Suhar |
| Treasurer | David Schmidt |
| Corresponding Secretary | Alan Mellovitz |
| Recording Secretary | Rebecca Storer |
| Historian | Kathryn Svoboda |
| Webmaster | David Caballero |

**Chapter Advisor**

Dr. Dimitrios Kyritsis

**Contact information**

ptsillinoisalpha@gmail.com
http://pitausigma.mechse.illinois.edu/

**Reporter**

Stephan Suhar