PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2013 -2014

Texas Delta Gamma

A. Introduction

Building on the previous years we strive to remain in good standing with the national Pi Tau Sigma organization. Two initiations have been held for the 2013-2014 academic year, services to the university that have previously been provided have been maintained for this academic year. In order to improve participation and prestige of the Texas Delta Gamma chapter we plan on implementing more engineering based community service to engage our members, these plans will be rolled out this coming 2014 – 2015 academic year.

B. Initiations

Requirements

Membership into Pi Tau Sigma Honorary Mechanical Engineering Society, Texas Delta Gamma Chapter is extended to only the students who demonstrate desire and skills along with hard work. Pledges must demonstrate high scholastic achievement and demonstrate extraordinary accomplishments. Members of Pi Tau Sigma-Texas Delta Gamma must include only the top students from the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Texas El Paso. Based on this criteria and discussion with our faculty advisor Dr. Ahsan Choudhuri, a series of academic requirements were set at UTEP. Our main criterion for selection of juniors and seniors was to have a minimum cumulative GPA requirement of 3.5 or higher. Along with a great academic standing, we required the potential students to be involved at UTEP.

Application Process

Candidates who met the established requirements were sent an application packet, which includes the following:

Welcome Letter

This is an introduction and explanation about Pi Tau Sigma and the requirements membership into Texas Gamma Chapter. Also, a brief description of how the chapter contributes to the University and the community.

General Information

We requested the students some general information to ensure we have the correct contact information for example: complete name, e-mail address, contact phone number, grade level etc.

Application

A copy of the resume and a cover letter were required in order to evaluate the potential members. Potential members who are interested in joining Pi Tau Sigma were welcomed to complete the application, which was reviewed by the Vice-President and the President. In order to be accepted, both officers must agree about the student.

1) Resume – This should include any projects the student was involved in, completed or assisted in. Internships, research and any other pertinent engineering skills gained while pursuing their mechanical engineering career at UTEP. Additionally, education and community service experience are considered.

2) Cover Letter – This letter should contain your interest in the National Honorary Mechanical Engineering Fraternity Pi Tau Sigma as well as explain why you would be a good candidate to represent Pi Tau Sigma, Texas Delta Gamma Chapter.

Induction Ceremony and Rituals

All candidates selected as initiates into the Texas Delta Gamma chapter are sworn by a code of honor to protect the secrets of the actual initiation ceremony; however we will share some of our rituals and tradition's.
First, the initiates are blindfolded outside of the place where the initiation will take place and are instructed to place their right hand on the shoulder of the initiate in front of them. Secondly, the secretary and treasurer lead the initiates to a location which was not previously disclosed. This exercise strengthens the trust between the inductees amongst them, since they rely on each other to move forward. Finally, once everyone is set in their appropriate seat, they are inducted by repeating the NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineering and promising to uphold the ideals and values of Pi Tau Sigma Honorary Mechanical Engineering Fraternity.

The fall 2013 induction included nine new inductees, as well as ten active members who were recognized during the ceremony. The spring induction included five new inductees as well as eight recognized active members.

C. Chapter Activities

This year our main focus was to increase the number of students, not only graduating with a mechanical engineering degree, but also maintaining a high GPA. Nonetheless, we participated in a few outreach activities for entering freshmen.

Tutoring

ACES is a support and study area at UTEP for engineering students. Pi Tau Sigma supported ACES by providing tutoring services for engineering courses. While UTEP provides several tutoring services for Math, Chemistry, Biology and English courses there is a lack of resources for engineering students who need assistance with engineering courses like: dynamics, mechanics of materials, or thermodynamics. All members from Pi Tau Sigma volunteered their time to support a tutoring program. The students who volunteered logged on average 3 hours a week in tutoring office hours for both semesters. Initially, a concern was that the students did not know about the program but we coordinated with the department of mechanical engineering at UTEP and the associates of ACES to publicize it. In total, approximately 700 hours of tutoring were recorded for the entire year.

Campus Outreach

Our society participated in an outreach event on, titled the Mechanical Engineering Open House for Pre-engineering students. We encouraged students who were deciding on their major of study to choose mechanical engineering by explaining the fun and the hard work of the mechanical engineering profession. The event also included a description of the Pi Tau Sigma society and let students know we have tutoring available. The explanation of the society also helped encourage the students to strive for a successful academic career and encouraged them to apply for membership.