West Virginia Delta Theta Annual Report
2019-2020
Jayden Dignan-President

For the 2019-2020 academic year, West Virginia Delta Theta had a peculiar year as I am sure many chapters did. During this academic year, we were only able to hold one initiation and we were not able to hold any of the activities and events that we had planned for the year. We did however hold many meetings and take ownership of our very own room on campus where we can store memorabilia, study and hold our meetings.

During our Fall initiation on the 7th of November, we were able to initiate 7 Juniors, doubling our chapter size. This was very fortunate as we were not able to hold a Spring initiation. Before we held our initiation ceremony, I received the list of possible initiates from our chapter advisor which I then presented to the other members during one of our meetings. During our meeting, we went through the list of all of the eligible members to determine if there were any reasons as to why they should not be a member of Pi Tau Sigma. As our University is quite small, there are no strangers in our classes, and we all know and help each other. There were no objections to any of the possible initiates and as they were all in the top 25% of their class with the required GPA, they were all sent an invitation into our chapter. If there were more initiates, taking the number to over 25%, we would have invited the candidates that had the highest GPA, acknowledging them for their hard work and achievements.

During our initiation the candidates are led into a dark, candlelit room and all sit down facing the officers. After each candidate agrees to uphold the Pi Tau Sigma values and the ceremony is concluded, the officers shake each of the new initiates hands using the Pi Tau Sigma handshake. We then have light refreshments after the ceremony has finished. A picture of our Fall initiation can be seen below.

Fall Initiation Ceremony (L-R): Dr. Yogendra Panta, Joseph Hazelwood, Trevor Hawkins, Kieren Samarakoon, Maria Gonzalez, Navarre Campbell, Alex Scott, Jayden Dignan, Ana Alonso Olea, Ashton McNicholas, Michael Ecker-Randolph.

As more than half of our chapter members and all of our officers are Fall semester athletes, we did not hold any events or activities during this semester as our members were constantly travelling for soccer, golf, volleyball, cross country and swimming events. We did however hold biweekly meetings to plan activities and events for the Spring semester, as well as organizing and cleaning out our new room.

Our first event for the Spring semester was the national convention in Rochester NY. As we were able to drive to Rochester, we were able to send 3 members to the convention which was fantastic. Our advisor instructed that the president and secretary had to attend the convention, so we decided to do an application process for the last position, explaining why they wanted to attend the convention and what they hoped to get out of it. The convention was a great learning experience for the three members that went, and they were able to take some great ideas away with them and implement them back at campus.

The next event that we had organized for the Spring semester was a series of workshops at a local elementary school in late March. We were going hold 3 workshops at a local elementary school with 4 different members attending each workshop, where we would host fun activities such as a bridge building competition using popsicle sticks to help interest young kids in engineering. Unfortunately, the elementary schools closed down the week before we had arranged to hold these workshops.

Our third event for the semester was going to be an engineering banquet for all engineering majors that were a member of their respective organization, e.g. ASME. The purpose of this event was to try and increase campus involvement and engineering society members by hosting a free dinner and giving a free t-shirt to everyone that joined their respective organization and attended the dinner. We were also going to present the professor of the year awards for each engineering department at this event. This event was scheduled for April 23, but we had already seen an increase in engineering society members through the advertising that we had been doing before campus closed. Hopefully the event will be able to run next year using the materials that we bought and organized from this year.

The last event for the semester was the annual engineering design expo, where we were going to assist ASME in organizing and running the event at the end of April. The design expo had struggled slightly since the university shifted campus in 2017, and we wanted to help ASME to get it back to where it used to be by providing them with some extra support.

I hope that the next semester is able to resume as normal, and that West Virginia Delta Theta is able to have a successful year. Provided the semester resumes as normal, the eligible initiates will be invited to join Pi Tau Sigma from the previous semester and the professor of the year award will also be presented.