2017-2018

West Virginia Delta Theta

Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report

A. Initiations

Selection Process: To be inducted into the West Virginia Delta Theta Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma, the induction requirements must be met (listed below). The list of those who qualify are then brought to the current members at a meeting. There, they determine if each candidate upholds the character and integrity expected of a member of Pi Tau Sigma. All students that meet the requirements of the chapter to join are then invited to the initiation ceremony.

Requirements from all Initiates: The top 25% of the junior and senior class was considered for induction. It was also confirmed that potential inductees were at least halfway through the mechanical engineering curriculum, based upon their transcripts. This had to be added because in more than one case, transfers to the department who had not passed any MAE courses, technically met all the other academic requirements.

Ceremony and Rituals: The ceremonies for this chapter take place in a classroom in the evenings. The inductees are required to meet in a separate classroom and perform some ice-breaker activities and team building exercises. They are then led to the classroom where the lights are off and several candles have been lit. We used dim florescent bulbs to light up posters showing the key and coat of arms which are placed at the front of the room. The current members are lined up at the front of the room while the inductees sit facing the front. Once they are seated, the Pi Tau Sigma rituals are followed and the inductees become members. An induction fee of $65 was collected from each initiate.

Celebration: After the ceremony, the chapter pays for a meal for all to attend. Pizza, chips, and drinks were served after both inductions this academic year

Fall Induction: The Fall induction took place on November 30th, 2017 at 5pm. Five new members were inducted.

Spring Induction: The spring induction took place April 24th, 2018. Three new members were inducted.

New Members: Even though our chapter size is very small compared to other colleges, we have close to a 100% acceptance rate of students who are eligible and invited to join our chapter. We, as a chapter, strive to make sure all mechanical engineering students know about our great

organization and try to help them succeed in their school life so that they can one day be eligible to join.

B. Chapter Activities

At West Virginia University Institute of Technology, the members of Pi Tau Sigma meet every other week to discuss campus events, engineering news, and plan activities to improve the development of our fellow members and classmates. Listed below are the activities the chapter was involved in during the 2017-2018 school year.

Meetings: This year the chapter continued meeting bi-weekly to go through our normal chapter duties, discuss engineering related topics, and plan events. A previous initiative in which members presented a new technology or design that relates to the mechanical engineering field is discussed during meetings as a way to ensure all members understand what great things mechanical engineers can achieve. It can be about any current going on in the world of engineering (new tech, failures, career tips, etc.) When there were no volunteers to present, this part of the meeting was replaced with an interesting video form Destin Sandlin, a mechanical engineer from Alabama who operates the Smarter Every Day You Tube channel.

https://www.youtube.com/user/destinws2

Convention: We secured school funding that allowed us to attend the national convention using very little of the honor society's money. This allowed us to use the money collected from new initiates to provide a meal after the initiations, customized chapter polos to our members, and graduation cords to our seniors at no charge. The dean of the college of engineering, dean of students, and the college's Student Government Association provided funding for a rental vehicle, hotel, and travel expenses for the trip to Miami, FL. Five members attended the national convention. A picture of us on the Miami campus is shown below. We gathered a lot of knowledge from the presenters and other chapter members. We brought back many of the ideas relating to community outreach, social, and fundraising events back to our local chapter to help us reach out to more people who might not know our organization. We are working hard every semester to host more events and improve our relations with other organizations on our campus.

Design Exposition: WVU Tech's ASME and Pi Tau Sigma organizations collaborate on a big event at the end of each year where all engineering students showcase their senior projects to members of the industry, community, and university. The fourth annual event took place April 19th, 2018 and nearly 200 people attended.

https://www.wvutech.edu/news/2018/04/20/student-design-expo-highlights-research-projects

ME Luncheon: Pi Tau Sigma took a leadership role in the annual mechanical department luncheon. The event was held on April 17th, 2018. The luncheon was highly supported by the department. At this year's luncheon, we honored Dr. Panta, our current PTS advisor and beloved professor of mechanical engineering. He has worked hard in organizing our chapter and helping us achieve funding for various events. We invited all mechanical engineering students and faculty to the event, so it was a great networking opportunity for students to get to know their peers and professors. Pi Tau Sigma received a mini grant from the student government association to provide pizza, drinks, and cake to those in attendance. The grant also allowed us to purchase a plaque for Dr. Panta.