2018-2019
The University of Texas at Austin Texas Kappa
Full Annual Chapter Report

A. Initiations

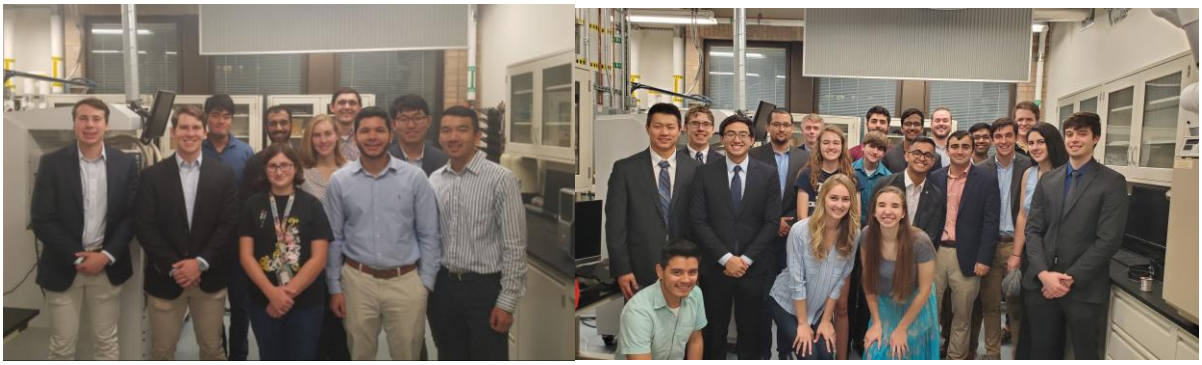
A change in the initiation procedure was brought on by the new officer team that was elected for the spring 2019 semester. The decrease in number of initiates and candidate participation spurred this change.

The selection process for the fall 2018 semester was based on the rank of students in the Mechanical Engineering program. Juniors in the top 25% of their class and the top 35% of seniors were invited. Invitations were emailed to qualified students from the PTS chapter sponsor and a PTS officer. For the spring 2019 semester, the officers decided to invite the top 25% of sophomore Mechanical Engineering students who were classified as juniors by credit hours. This was one of the efforts to increase activity, membership, and presence of Pi Tau Sigma. The top 25% of the junior class and seniors in the top 35% of their class were also invited. The invitations for the spring 2019 semester were sent via email from the Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department. The purpose of involving the Chair was to emphasize the significance of Pi Tau Sigma to prospective initiates.

The requirements from initiates also differed between fall and spring semesters of this school year. For the fall 2018 semester, initiates had to fulfill five volunteer hours and five social hours. They also needed to complete a selfie portfolio where they took selfies with PTS officers. Additionally, initiates were required to attend every general meeting, pay dues, pass the constitution quiz, and attend initiation.

For the spring 2019 semester, the officers simplified the initiation process. The requirements included attending each general meeting, passing the constitution quiz, attending initiation, and paying dues. Initiates were required to complete five club hours—which include volunteering and social events. If the initiate was unable to attend a general meeting, they could make it up with an extra club hour. The new requirements allowed for a more forgiving initiation process which is necessary for busy Mechanical Engineering students.

The initiation ceremony and rituals remained the same throughout the fall and spring semesters. The prescribed initiation ceremony procedures were performed in the Chapter Sponsor’s lab. Initiation for the fall semester was Friday, December 7th. There were seven new initiates. The spring initiation was Friday, May 3rd with 23 new initiates. Celebrations for the fall and spring initiates included going to restaurants together where the chapter treated everyone for a job well done. Finally, initiates, members, and alumni were added to a new PTS Kappa Connections LinkedIn group in the spring.



Fall 18' and Spring 19' Initiation

B. Chapter Activities

The chapter was involved in several different activities and collaborated with other organizations such as ASME and SWE. PTS members and initiates volunteered at a wide array of events. To name a few, our members could be found volunteering at the Texas mock trials for high school students, Shoal Creek clean-ups around the city of Austin, the Central Texas Foodbank, and Habitat for Humanity. We let our members know about volunteering events that they could go to for volunteering hours, but were unable to plan our own.

Various Service Events Involving Texas Kappa Members

For social activities, PTS held weekly bowling socials on campus, lunch hangouts every Friday, game nights, and a pool party for its members.

Weekly Varsity Pizza Socials

Our chapter also encouraged PTS members to attend talks set up by the Engineering school. This included graduate student panels, talks by distinguished professors, and lectures by notable members of the engineering community.

Graduate Panels and Professor Research Seminars

During general meetings, top professors in the Mechanical Engineering Department spoke to the club with dinner provided. A variety of topics were covered from the future of materials to the latest developments in nuclear robotics. Companies, like EthosEnergy, visited during general meetings as well to discuss internship opportunities and the latest developments in industry.