PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2012-2013

Virginia Delta Xi

A. Initiations

The initiation procedure of the Virginia Delta Xi chapter follows the requirements and procedures set forth in the Pi Tau Sigma Constitution and Bylaws. Students in the top 10% of the sophomore class, top 25% of the junior class, and the top 35% of the senior class are eligible for membership in the organization. The chapter advisor obtains a list from the secretary of the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering that identifies students' GPAs and class rank. From this list, the advisor selects the top students and provides the chapter president with the names of these students.

Potential initiates are sent an email invitation to join the organization and those interested are required to attend a mandatory information session outlining the history of the organization, the community service requirement, and the dates of important events throughout the semester. In addition, eligible members must fulfill a 4-hour community service requirement to proceed to the initiation ceremony. These initiates can either complete the service project that is organized by the chapter or they can complete an independent, pre-approved service project through a number of service-oriented organizations at the school, such as Habitat for Humanity or Madison House.

Following the successful completion of the service requirement, initiates attend an induction ceremony held at the end of each semester. All facets of the induction ceremony follow the ritual procedure outlined in the Pi Tau Sigma Constitution and Bylaws. To celebrate the initiation of the new members, a pizza party is held during the ceremony while all the new members are gathered. As a part of the induction ceremony initiates are expected to polish the bents that they receive and are given emery cloth to assist the process. Additionally, all new members are given ribbons with Pi Tau Sigma's colors, azure and murrey. Last but not least, all initiates are taught the secret handshake as outlined in the 2012 Pi Tau Sigma National Convention.

On December 4th, 2012, the Virginia Delta Xi chapter initiated 5 new active members for the fall induction period. On April 16th, 2013, the Virginia Delta Xi chapter added a total of 10 more new active members.

B. Chapter Activities

For the second consecutive year, the Virginia Delta Xi chapter hosted a networking night at the University of Virginia. This year, we decided to co-host the event with the UVa. Chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. On September 18th, 2012, the chapter hosted representatives from Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Capital One, Clark Construction, ColonialWebb, Deloitte, Newport News Shipbuilding, and NSSA Regional Maintenance Center. This event

served as an opportunity for all 4th year mechanical and aerospace engineers to meet employees from these well-known companies and potentially seek employment. The event was extremely well received by students, employers, and even faculty. It was hosted in our design and lounge room with food and drinks provided through the engineering student council, and approximately 75 students of the 120 student class attended. Additionally, a number of students in our class ended up with jobs with companies that were represented at the networking night as a result of being in contact with the representatives that attended. Many companies expressed their satisfaction with the event stating that it was the best one they had been to at the school and reiterated their desire to attend in following years.

Each semester, initiates are required to fulfill a 4-hour community service requirement for membership in the organization. While eligible members are free to pursue pre-approved independent service projects, the majority of students fulfill their requirement at a service project organized by the chapter.

On November 17th, 2012, the Virginia Delta Xi chapter volunteered at Camp Holiday Trails to assist with their process in closing down for the winter. This service consisted of inspecting building foundations and reinforcing them with gravel as needed, as well as cleaning in the main meeting hall. Camp Holiday Trails is a non-profit organization that is committed to helping children with special needs. They run a summer camp for these children, allowing the kids to experience an overnight camp and many exciting outdoor activities.

For the second year, Pi Tau Sigma was included in the Engineering Leadership Dinner and Discussion, on October 2nd, 2012. The 3rd Year Representative of Virginia Delta Xi attended the event and added their valuable input to the discussion. Additionally, she was able to communicate with various other engineering organizations to increase transparency and attempt to coordinate on future events. This event also helped inform our organization regarding new funding sources. Events like this are a good sign that Pi Tau Sigma is gaining reputation and status as a noteworthy honor society at the University.

As in past years, Virginia Delta Xi sent a representative to the Pi Tau Sigma National Convention. This year Ohio State Pi Mu hosted the convention from February 22nd – 24th. The 3rd Year Representative attended the convention so that she could better serve the organization as the likely President for the 2012-2013 year. She came away with many different ideas that she wishes to build upon in the upcoming year as our next President.

This trip was only possible due to additional work to obtain funding through the school. The President and 3rd Year Representative worked hard with members of the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering faculty and the overall engineering school to apply for travel funding. In the end, they were able to draft a comprehensive budget and funding request and were granted $125 from the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering department chair.

On April 6th, 2013, the chapter participated in the Annual Spring Spruce-Up event at Camp Holiday Trails. The goal of this event was to fully prepare the camp for the children that would be visiting in the coming months. This five hour event included cleaning all the cabins and ensuring that each cabin had all the items required on the checklist. Most of our members were

able to participate in construction activities; some even learned the proper technique for splitting concrete blocks.

For the first time, we coordinated a pick-up soccer game during the last week of class against the UVa. ASME chapter. Although our game was rained out and wasn't able to be rescheduled, we generated a lot of interest among our members, and we plan to host multiple sporting events next year.

C. Other

In May of 2013, the 4th year class of mechanical engineers selected the recipients of the PTS Student Award and the Outstanding Mechanical Engineering Faculty Award, respectively. These individuals were selected based on their continual demonstration of the ideals of the organization and because they act in a professional manner in all their endeavors. For the first time, we decided to award two faculty awards to two excellent professors. These awards were presented to the recipients at the annual Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering department picnic held at the end of the 2012-2013 school year for graduating seniors in those engineering disciplines.

Another point of note is that Virginia Delta Xi has been fostering a bond with the ASME chapter and plans to participate in events together in the future. We expect to have extended cooperation and activities in the upcoming school year.

It is noted that the officer that prepared this annual report was Stuart Diller, the 2012-2013 President of the Virginia Delta Xi chapter. Responsibilities for the position of President in the chapter have been officially transferred to the former 3rd Year Representative, and newly elected President, Allison Bacon (acb9bf@virginia.edu), for the 2013-2014 academic year. Additionally, in light of his retirement beginning in the summer of 2013, our previous chapter advisor, Dr. Robert Ribando, will be stepping down. After working with the department head, we appointed Gavin Garner (gtg7g@virginia.edu) to be our new faculty advisor. Also, elections were held for all other available officer positions, and 4 additional new officers were elected for the upcoming year.