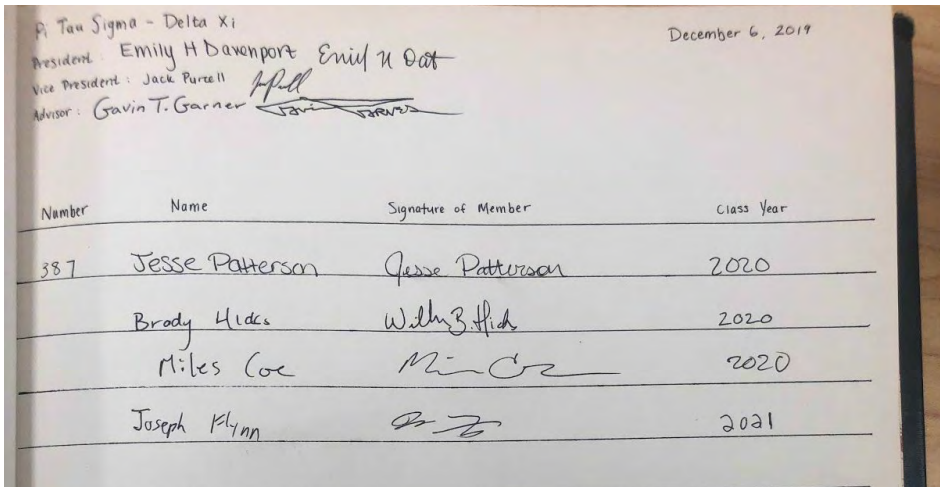
2019-2020
Virginia Delta Xi

A. Initiations

The Virginia Delta Xi chapter held two initiation ceremonies this academic year; one at the end of the Fall semester and one mid-Spring semester. A total of four fourth-year mechanical engineering students were initiated in the Fall. In November, all fourth-year candidates meeting the top 25% GPA requirement that had not previously refused membership as an eligible third-year were notified of their invitation to join via emails and hand-delivered letters from the Exec Board. Those interested discussed membership with the Vice President and/or President, and from there those who wished to proceed attended our initiation ceremony in early December. At the ceremony, the official Pi Tau Sigma induction script was read before the inductees, and once they agreed to the terms of membership, the initiation roll-book was signed by all new members in the presence of the chapter advisor and Executive Board. Pictures of the presiding officers and new initiatives were taken at the conclusion of the ceremony. A total of thirteen third-year students were initiated in the Spring semester virtually via Zoom. In March, all third-year candidates meeting the top 25% GPA requirement were notified via email and an attached PDF letter of their opportunity to join. Those interested discussed membership requirements or questions with the President, and from there the 13 candidates who wished to proceed attended the initiation ceremony. The virtual ceremony held via Zoom was hosted by the President, Vice President, and Faculty Advisor. The President and Vice President shared a google document link with the initiates immediately before initiation that they signed during the ceremony after agreeing to the terms of membership read by the President and Vice President during the ceremony. The President and Vice president used the "share screen" feature to project the crest and regalia of PTS during the ceremony for initiates to view. Images for the Fall and Spring initiations are shown below; unfortunately, for the Spring virtual initiation, a picture of the presiding officers and initiates on the Zoom call was forgotten in the excitement.

Fall Initiation 2019 Presiding Officers: (from left to right) Faculty Advisor Dr. Gavin T. Garner, President Emily H. Davenport, and Vice President Jack Purcell

Fall Initiation 2019 Initiates: (from left to right) William Brody Hicks, Jesse Patterson, Miles Coe, and Joseph Flynn



Pi Tau Sigma - Delta Xi

President: Emily H Davenport

Vice President: Jack Purcell

Advisor: Gavin T. Garner

December 6, 2019

Number	Name	Signature of Member	Class Year
387	Jesse Patterson	Jesse Patterson	2020
	Brody Hicks		2020
	Miles Coe		2020
	Joseph Flynn		2021

Fall Initiation 2019 Rollbook

University of Virginia Delta Xi Chapter Spring 2020
Initiation - April 3rd, 2020

Name	Signature	Personal Email
David M. Barrett		dbarrett419@gmail.com
Zachary Kyle Berman	ZBerman	zachary.berman18@gmail.com
Jack Davis		jackdavis1306@gmail.com
Erin Marie Dubas		dubaserin1212@gmail.com
Cydnie Marie Golso		cydniegolson308@gmail.com
Jack Whitler Herrmann	Jack Herrmann	jherrmann2@outlook.com
Adam Lenox		lenox.adam@gmail.com
Nano Masters	Nathaniel Masters	thefifthmaster@gmail.com
Spencer Pergande		spender22@gmail.com
Joshua Rigby		rigs90@gmail.com
Avery Matthew Walker	Avery Walker	averywalker2164@gmail.com
Lauren Harper Weis	Lauren Weis	lhwe24@gmail.com
Carolyn Wong		cwong9025@gmail.com

Officers in Attendance

Emily H. Davenport (President)	Emily Davenport
Jack Purcell (Vice President)	
Gavin T. Garner (Advisor)	Gavin Garner

Spring 2020 Virtual Initiation Rollbook (picture of initiates and presiding officers was unfortunately forgotten)

B. Chapter Activities

Our first major event was our annual Internship Panel, hosted in early September before the career fair, in order to educate our peers about internship and job opportunities available to them professionally. A number of students, both in Pi Tau and outside of it, prepared presentations about their internship experiences from the summer and delivered them to a room full of engaged first through fourth-year engineering students then fielded questions from them. The event helped younger students start to consider what kind of internships they might want to apply for, and provided a chance for fourth years to reflect on their experiences and consider what kind of jobs they may want moving forward. A volunteer activity our members participated in throughout the Fall and Spring semesters was one-on-one tutoring of younger mechanical engineering students in our core curriculum classes. Additionally, our chapter deepened our engagement with the administration of the Mechanical Engineering Department by arranging to give Department-specific tours to prospective high school students and their families. The content and logistics of these tours was coordinated by the Executive Board, faculty Advisor, and Department, and all PTS members were trained on how to give such tours. Dozens of these tours were conducted by PTS members throughout the year, and the responsibility of maintaining this activity was added to the duties of the chapter's Outreach chair. Our members love this activity as an opportunity to encourage students to pursue Mechanical Engineering and share how impactful the Department has been in our lives. Unfortunately, due to coronavirus canceling in-person activities for the majority of the Spring semester, several events our chapter had planned were unable to be conducted. One annual event our chapter always enjoys participating in is Ladies in the Lab, a philanthropy event hosted by Alpha Omega Epsilon, the professional engineering sorority. This event brings grade-school aged girls to our university to learn about opportunities available for them in STEM and participate in educational, fun activities. In previous years, Pi Tau Sigma members spoke about getting a degree in mechanical engineering, and demonstrated fluid mechanics and physics concepts using a bottle rocket design experiment. The event has been a great success, and our members hope to participate again next year, as we enjoy getting to share our love of engineering with potential future students.

Unfortunately, due to a delay in receiving the eligible students for membership, our chapter had not inducted new third year members prior to the Convention at RIT. This, combined with tight finances prevented our chapter from sending a member to the national convention this year. Our chapter always chooses to send a third year student so they may bring back the knowledge gained, and use their new ideas to help shape our chapter the following year.

Every year, our chapter facilitates the Pi Tau Sigma Outstanding Mechanical Engineering Faculty Award. The award is normally presented by the President of PTS on the behalf of all fourth-year mechanical engineers at the Department's annual awards banquet in April; however, due to the coronavirus pandemic the ceremony did not happen this year. The award was virtually voted on and presented to Professor Gavin Garner, in recognition of his "contributions to students, the Mechanical Engineering Department, and the University." Professor Garner, also our chapter's advisor, deservingly won the award for his unwavering dedication to students and their learning. Pi Tau Sigma was honored to present Professor Garner with this award.

In the chapter meeting held in the Fall semester, members focused on brainstorming new events and ways to foster community between students and faculty in the Mechanical Engineering Department at UVA. Ideas for the chapter going forward include monthly coffee

chats between various professors in the Department and students to create a casual space for conversations outside the classroom and a Department wide semi-formal event to encourage social mingling and networking of undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty. In addition, fundraising ideas were proposed such as volunteering for the University at sporting events. In a virtual chapter meeting held in the Spring, we placed an emphasis on gathering together the newly initiated third years and graduating fourth years to transition the organization into a productive new academic year. We elected an incoming executive board, amended our chapter's Constitution to better reflect the current chapter goals and new national requirements, and congratulated fourth years on all they have accomplished during their tenure at UVA. Despite the odd conclusion of this academic year, I am confident the new Exec Board will continue to improve the experience of Mechanical Engineering students at UVA, and I have no doubt that our graduating members will make an impact on our prestigious profession as they begin their post-university careers.

C. Other

As an initiation requirement, we host key polishing and painting sessions in the lab of the mechanical engineering building, where members use buffing and polishing wheels to get their keys up to a respectable standard. These events are always attended by multiple members, and doing these sessions all together are a fun way to build camaraderie while fulfilling a duty of being in Pi Tau Sigma. In addition, our chapter has started the tradition of wearing the official PTS stoles at graduation. Sadly, due to the delay of in-person graduation ceremonies until either October 2020 or May 2021 for the class of 2020 members, the stoles have not yet been able to be worn. We hope to have the class of 2020 Virginia Delta Xi PTS members wear the stoles at graduation whenever that may be.