PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2009-2010

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 25% of the junior class and the top 33% of the senior class are eligible for membership in the organization. The chapter advisor, Professor Robert Ribando, 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 25% of juniors and top 33% of seniors 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.

On November 19th, 2009, the Virginia Delta Xi chapter initiated 4 new active members and initiated 19 new active members on April 28th, 2010, one of the largest initiations the chapter has had in recent years.

B. Chapter Activities

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 October 17th, 2009, the Virginia Delta Xi chapter worked in conjunction with local contractors and the Building Goodness Foundation to perform maintenance and light-duty repairs to a group home owned by The ARC of the Piedmont organization in Charlottesville, Virginia. This organization purchases these group homes and oversees their upkeep in order to improve the quality of life of infants, children, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Specifically, initiates helped to clear brush, remove weeds from flower beds, and trim the branches of trees, all to reduce the risk of injury when inhabitants of the home go outside. On April 3rd, 2010, the chapter participated in the Annual

Spring Spruce-Up event at Camp Holiday Trails, an organization that is committed to providing programs and activities for children with chronic illnesses in Charlottesville, Virginia. Those that participated helped the camp staff with landscaping tasks, applied sealer to the wooden decks on numerous cabins, and performed a myriad of additional tasks to help get the camp ready for its summer inhabitants. Finally, the chapter attended the Pi Tau Sigma national convention hosted by Texas Tech Sigma Epsilon from February 26–28, 2010. At the convention, the chapter president, who was representing the Virginia Delta Xi chapter, participated on the Honors and Awards Committee that was responsible for determining which chapters that submitted applications should be recognized and rewarded for their outstanding service and membership.

C. Other

In April 2010, the chapter officers selected a student and a professor to receive 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. These two awards were presented to the recipients at the annual Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering department picnic held at the end of the 2009-2010 school year for graduating seniors in those engineering disciplines.

It is noted that the officer that prepared this annual report was Mark Hazelgrove, the 2009-2010 president of the Virginia Delta Xi chapter. Responsibilities for the position of president in the chapter have been officially transferred to the newly elected president, Hollie Kumpaitis (hk6u@virginia.edu), for the 2010-2011 academic year. The chapter advisor, Dr. Robert Ribando (rjr@virginia.edu), will remain the same for this upcoming year.