Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report

2011-2012

Rochester Delta Pi

A. Initiations

The Rochester Delta Pi Chapter uses the national criteria to identify potential candidates (the top 35% of 3rd, 4th and 5th year mechanical engineering students at the university) and invites them learn more about the organization. Potential candidates are encouraged to attend an informational meeting at which they are given an overview of the Society and the specifics about our chapter requirements. The Rochester Delta Pi chapter asks interested candidates to polish a bent and meet with each mechanical engineering faculty member. At the private meeting with each faculty member they obtain the professors endorsement and signature of approval. This affords each candidate a personal meeting where they can build a professional relationship with our distinguished staff at RIT.

Bent sanding is a time honored tradition requiring time, energy and attention to detail. We offer bent sanding events where officers meet with the candidates, assist them in their sanding work and answer any questions they may have about the society. This year we had two bent sanding sessions, Oct 21, 2011 and Feb 23, 2012. Initiates present the polished bents to the officers at the initiation ceremony. The bents are also worn by graduating members in good standing for the commencement ceremony.

At the initiation ceremony, the officers review the history of the society. Candidates then recite the oath to uphold the core values and add their signature to the chapter's ceremonial signature book. At the conclusion of the formal ceremony all new and current members are invited to attend a dinner at a local restaurant. This year a total of 12 new members were initiated at the fall and spring ceremonies.

Day, Date	Members initiated
Thursday, November 3, 2011	10
Thursday, April 3, 2012	2

B. **Chapter Activities**:

Welcome Back - Fall Picnic – October 7, 2011

Chapter members met on campus for a picnic to catch up with each other after the summer quarter and share summer employment stories. It was a great opportunity to network and informally discuss plans for the coming year.

Winter decorations for the College of Engineering – December 8, 2011

Chapter members decorated a holiday tree outside the mechanical engineering building and hung paper snowflakes in the hallways of the engineering building. A sign was placed near the tree recognizing the chapter's work in decorating. The event was an

opportunity for members to get together and celebrate the holidays before winter break. Refreshments and snacks were served while members watched holiday movies together.

Senior class, Thank you, Pig Roast – May 17, 2012
The annual pig roast is held by Pi Tau Sigma with assistance from ASME and financial support from the Mechanical Engineering Department. The purpose of this event is to celebrate the Mechanical Engineering seniors' accomplishments and thank our members for their involvement in our organization. All of the food is purchased by PTS and the pig roasts are smoked on campus by chapter members under the advisement of a certified food handler. This year's pig roast was very successful with approximately 100 people served. All RIT mechanical engineering seniors were honored and the Rochester Delta Pi chapter took the occasion to extend an invitation for honorary membership to Dr. Hany Ghoneim. Dr. Ghoneim, a long time faculty member, was chosen for his commitment to his students and his involvement in supporting undergraduate research opportunities.

Pizza Sales – Net $1365.41 profit
Pizza sales are the main source of income for our chapter. All engineering clubs participate in this fundraiser at RIT. This year Pi Tau Sigma participated in twelve pizza sales resulting in $1,365.41 profit for our chapter. All members are trained in food safety each year in order to work at the fundraiser. Two members per shift work throughout the day. Multiple trainings took place on in September and October. Pizza is sold from 11:00 to 14:00 in the foyer of the engineering building. With twelve sale days many members have the opportunity to contribute their time and energies for the success of our organization.

Graduate Seminar – A discussion with a researcher, business owner or entrepreneur
Each week a respected engineer presents his/her research or business success story. This is a lecture open to the entire college of engineering faculty and student body. When Malcolm McLaren spoke about engineering in the entertainment industry all Pi Tau Sigma members were invited to join him after the lecture for a personal meet and greet. There he talked further about his designs and his experiences in getting into the industry. A majority of Pi Tau Sigma members attend the weekly lecture.

Volunteering at Margaret's House – RIT's on campus daycare center
This year we laid the foundation for chapter members to volunteer and share their love of designing, building and play with staff and children at the on campus daycare next year. The idea is to do a simple building event for young children at the daycare. We are going to introduce mechanical engineering skills using marshmallows and drinking straws to the children as they build some simple small structures (houses, cubes, pyramids, etc.).

Officers and members attended Rochester Engineering Society Networking Event – March 21, 2012
President Brenda Lisitano, Vice President Elizabeth Fischer and Treasurer Daniel Crossen along with several chapter members attended a networking event hosted by the

Rochester Engineering Society. This was a good opportunity to introduce ourselves and raise awareness of Pi Tau Sigma in the Rochester engineering community.

Mechanical Engineering Social – March 30, 2012
Rochester Delta Pi chapter graciously sponsored any member wishing to attend the mechanical engineering department social by reimbursing half of the admission price. This benefitted both the organization and the department bringing everyone together to enjoy a relaxing time, good food and lively discussions among faculty and students outside of the classroom setting.

Chapter meetings
Chapter meetings were held throughout the year with all members being invited via email.
The meetings were scheduled with consideration to the RIT exam schedule and to allow maximum participation by members. Besides email many members were personally contacted. Refreshments were provided at meetings to encourage attendance.

At the final chapter meeting cords and stoles were distributed to graduating members in good standing who had purchased them to wear at graduation. This helps enhance our visibility in the community and gives graduating members a lasting memento of their involvement with the chapter.

National Convention – San Jose, CA - March 2-4, 2012
This year chapter President, Brenda Lisitano, attended the convention in San Jose, California. Thanks to generous sponsorship by the RIT Mechanical Engineering Department much of the cost was defrayed. A detailed report was given to both the chapter and the department head, Dr. Edward Hensel on the lessons learned and new ideas for the chapter. Many new connections were made with other chapters in the area and the hope is that there will be a co-sponsored event next year that will further strengthen our connections and common interests.

Dr. Hensel and the Mechanical Engineering Department at RIT are very interested in helping the RIT chapter potentially host a national convention in an upcoming year. An exploratory committee will be formed at the onset of next school year to explore the possibility and determine the resources and connections required.

Chapter Initiatives:
LinkedIn Group
A Chapter LinkedIn Group was created and all current and past members from the RIT chapter were invited to join. This will assist graduates and current members in networking. All current and graduated members have been invited at their school email addresses. Current membership is at 11 members but growing as each member reaches out to their contacts and new members join the network.

Facebook Group

Chapter members were encouraged to join the National Pi Tau Sigma Group as well as the chapter version. The RIT PTS Group currently has 26 members. The page is used to update members on current projects and also allow them to view pictures of group events.

Past graduated member's certificates and membership cards
Over the past decade a few of our members have been on co-op or away from school when their certificates and cards have arrived. Thus they had not been able to be delivered to them. This year we worked with the office of alumni relations to get a letter drafted and sent with the materials to those who no longer reside in the city.

Amendment to Chapter By-Laws
A recommendation was made on amending the by-laws to create a second vice president position for our chapter. A vice president for internal affairs and a vice president for external affairs will be spelled out in our By-Laws. The change was passed by the membership.