PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2010-2011

Rochester Delta Pi

A. Initiations

The Rochester Delta Pi Chapter uses the metrics in place by nationals to identify potential members. Once identified, interested candidates attend an informational meeting. Chapter officers present the students with an overview to the Society as a whole and to the Rochester Delta Pi chapter specifically. In addition to the national guidelines, our chapter requires initiates to polish a bent and meet with each faculty member individually. Faculty members sign a signature book as proof of their meeting and approval of new members. Initiates present these items to the chapter officers at the initiation ceremony. After the history of the society has been told and the oath to uphold the core values recited, initiates are invited to sign the signature book the chapter has continuously held. After the completion of the formal ceremony, all new members and current members are invited to attend a dinner at a local restaurant.

This year, a total of twenty-three new members were initiated at two ceremonies:

Fall Initiation:

- Thursday, November 11, 2010
- Initiated 18 members

Spring Initiation:

- Thursday, April 14, 2011
- Initiated 5 members

Spring Initiation - Left to Right: Chapter Advisor Dr. Wayne Walter, Initiates Jeff Chiappone, Bobby Jones, Steve DiGerardo, Nick Hensel, Liz Fischer, Chapter President Chris Rinauto, Chapter Secretary Phil Amsler

B. Activities

Community Service:

This year, two new community service opportunities were explored; both with a focus on helping first, second, and third year mechanical engineering students excel in their core engineering courses.

First, chapter President Chris Rinauto was approached by advisors and staff from both the College of Engineering and the Mechanical Engineering department looking for tutors. Chris proposed the idea of organizing tutoring sessions at a chapter meeting and recruited three members who were then paired with students. The majority of members, unfortunately, were too busy for the long-term commitment required, so it is unlikely that a formal tutoring relationship will develop between Pi Tau Sigma and the College of Engineering or ME department.

In another attempt to serve the Mechanical Engineering department, the chapter organized review sessions before final exams. Three separate sessions were offered: one for freshmen who needed help with introductory classes, one for Mechanics of Materials and Dynamics, and one for Thermodynamics, Fluid Mechanics, and Heat Transfer. Pizza was served at each session. While there wasn't much interest from freshmen, the other sessions were well attended, and lessons learned will be applied to similar review sessions in the future.

Community Building:

This year the Rochester Delta Pi chapter continued a number of community building activities within the college. The first event was geared toward building a stronger relationship between the student members and the faculty of the department. With the help of the Mechanical Engineering Department Head, Dr. Edward Hensel, the chapter organized our second annual Speed Network event between ME faculty and PTS members. The students were paired with faculty for brief 5-minute meetings before rotating. Once all students had met with all faculty, lunch was served and time was provided to exchange contact information or continue conversation.

The second major community event was our annual Senior Pig Roast for Mechanical Engineering Seniors, faculty and staff. This event is co-hosted with the college's ASME chapter. Andrew Komendat, chapter VP, did an excellent job organizing food purchases and coordinating with ASME members. Junior officer and 2011-2012 President-Elect Brenda Lisitano coordinated recreational activities. Over 100 pounds of pork were dry-rubbed and smoked in three electric smokers. Because there was a delay in finding a suitable electric source for all three power-hungry smokers, the meat was fully cooked and pulled just in time for the start of the event. In all, about 150 students, faculty, and staff attended.

C. Other

Outstanding Performance Award

The chapter was awarded an Outstanding Performance Award at the 2011 National Convention for chapter performance during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Fundraisers:

The Rochester Delta Pi chapter is primarily funded through pizza sales. The college organizes opportunities for clubs to sell pizza in the common area of the college building. Student members are trained to meet Monroe County heath and safety standards. On assigned days volunteers setup equipment and the pizza stand before retrieving the delivered food products. The sales encompass the lunch hours and are run entirely by chapter members (normally taking 8 to 10 students). This year the chapter was assigned a total of twelve sales, accounting for the majority of the financial revenue.

Chapter Meetings:

This year the chapter held at least two meetings per quarter throughout the academic year to discuss organization events. Food was provided and the executive board defined the meeting agenda. Members were informed of events and encouraged to provide feedback and ideas.

Graduating Members:

Michelle Bailey
Dylan Connole
Stephen Cramb
Matthew Garofalo
Tiffany Heyd
Christopher Rinauto