PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2012-2013

South Carolina Delta Tau Chapter

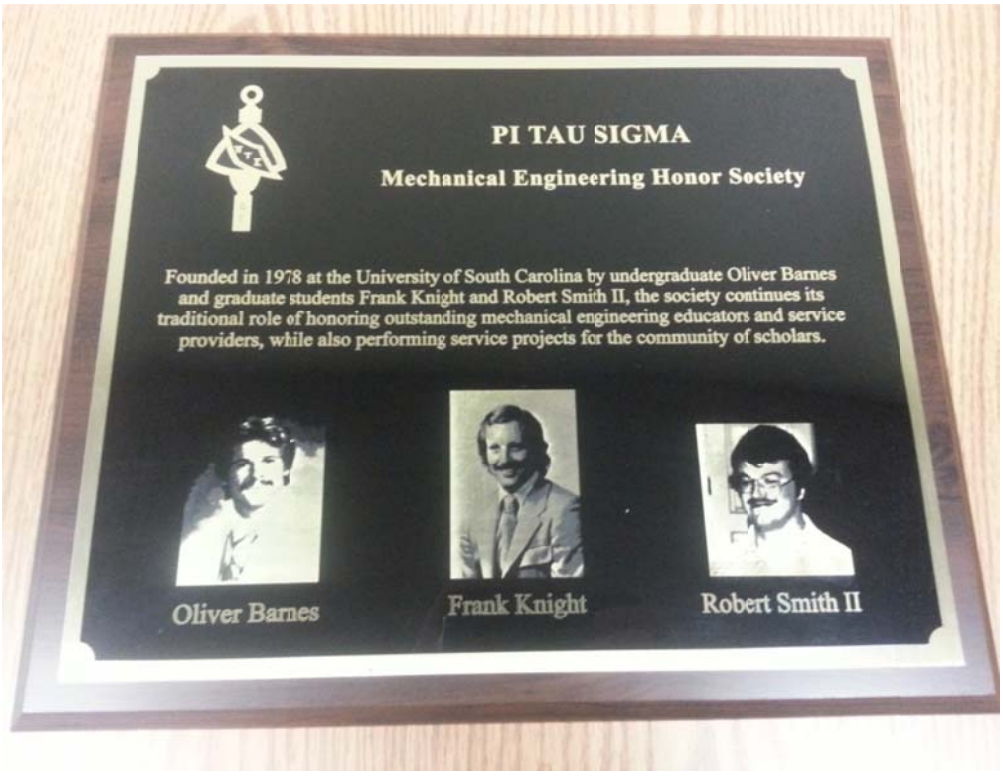
A. Initiation of New Members

Current policy for initiation into the South Carolina Pi Tau Sigma Delta Tau Chapter (PTS-Δτ) is to identify (a) undergraduates who have completed their 2nd semester with a 3.5 GPA or higher and (b) undergraduates who have completed their 3rd semester with a 3.5GPA or higher. The President of Pi Tau Sigma distributed a congratulatory letter to all nominees, which included details regarding the initiation process, the initiation fee, date for induction and attire requirements.

B. Chapter Activities

A new PTS-Δτ advisor took over this year. Prof. Michael A. Sutton replaced Prof. Jeffrey A. Morehouse when Jeff retired from the university in January 2012. With support from Prof. Sutton, PTS-Δτ induction was conducted on January 17, 2013. A total of 24 new members were inducted at that time, one of the largest classes in USC history that dates back to 1978.

A plaque was erected honoring our founding fathers, Mr. Robert Smith III, Mr. Frank Knight and Mr. Oliver Barnes. The plaque also highlights PTS-Δτ's dedication to honoring outstanding



mechanical engineering educators and service providers. The plaque will be displayed in the lobby of the engineering building. Additional plaques have been purchased to (a) identify the current PTS-Δτ officers and (b) identify previous PTS-Δτ awardees.

PTS-Δτ held an awards ceremony on February 26th, 2013 to acknowledge distinguished educators in the mechanical engineering department. Awards were presented by officers of the society.

Officers of PTS-Δτ for 2012-2013. Left to Right in Photo: Whitney Tharp (Vice President), Artem Aleshin (President), Scott Phillippi (Secretary), and Leeanna Valentine (Treasurer).

The professor of the year award was presented to Dr. Jamil Khan, who is currently Chairman of Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Carolina.

President Artem Aleshin and 2013 Faculty Educator of the Year, Prof. Jamil Khan.

The young professor of the year award was presented to Dr. Dale McCants.

Vice President Whitney Tharp and 2013 Young Faculty Educator of the Year, Dale McCants. Dale teaches the capstone design sequence in Mechanical Engineering.

The service provider of the year award was presented to Mrs. Renee Jenkins for her continued excellence in undergraduate and graduate student support within the Mechanical Engineering Department.

Treasurer Leanna Valentine and 2013 Service Provider of the Year, Renee Jenkins. Ms. Jenkins oversees the graduate and undergraduate student services in Mechanical Engineering

In 2013, PTS-Δτ held its first annual pinning ceremony with 16 attendees. The pinning ceremony was created to support new initiates and was held on April 14th, 2013. New initiates were presented with (a) their PTS-Δτ certificate, (b) PTS-Δτ card and (b) a new PT-Δτ pin. The PTS-Δτ pin was provided by the new advisor of PTS-Δτ, Prof. Michael Sutton.

PTS-Δτ 2013 Pinning Ceremony Attendees shown after completion of award presentations. Special guest speaker was Mr. Robert Smith III, one of the founders of PTS-Δτ at the University of South Carolina. Front row: L-R: Diana Larrabee, Dorothy Johnson, Richard Chase Dunn, Whitney Tharp, Christian Ramirez, and Scott Phillippi. Back Row: L-R: James Mittman, Andrew Mohs, James Cole Jackson, Daniel Rager II, William Byrne, Roger Poore, Stuart Sand, Patrick Rogers, Artem Aleshin, and Austin Meredith.

C. Other

In 2013, PTS-Δτ created a tutoring program to offer free mentoring services in several critical subjects including: Thermodynamics, Statics, Solids, Dynamics, Calculus I & II, and Physics I & II. Tutoring sessions will be offered several days throughout the week at pre-established times or by personal appointment.

In 2013-2014, PTS-Δτ is planning an overhaul of the society structure while also beginning the process of developing a commitment to selected service activities. Items that the society is considering at this time are as follows;

- Develop and publish the first PTS-Δτ Manual for operations, including duties and responsibilities of officers and members
- Develop a pledging process where inductees will demonstrate a minimum level of commitment to service
- Develop a process for identifying service projects and ensuring that progress is made on them.
    - Determine whether there should be standing service projects that PTS-Δτ always performs as part of its normal activities.
    - Ascertain ways to raise funds to support the service activities in the society.
- Develop a timeline for activities so that everyone is aware of their responsibilities and the due dates for specific items.