PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT 2018-2019

South Carolina Delta Tau Chapter

A. Initiation of New Members

Current policy for initiation into the South Carolina Delta Tau Chapter is to identify (a) undergraduates who have completed their 2nd semester and are in the top 25% for GPA and (b) undergraduates who have completed their 3rd semester and are in the top 33% for GPA. The President of Pi Tau Sigma distributed a congratulatory letter to all nominees, which included details regarding the initiation process, a history of Pi Tau Sigma and the SC Delta Tau Chapter, the initiation fee, and the date for induction as well as attire requirements. In addition to the academic achievements needed for initiation, new and existing members are expected to uphold dedication to the local community through service and activities. As of last school year, the addition of graduate students from the Mechanical Engineering Department was also introduced to the SC Delta Tau Chapter.

B. Chapter Activities

B.1. Student Leadership Elections

Leadership is determined at the end of the school year by a chapter vote. Generally, at least two students are nominated for each position, and a majority vote decides the new positions. As voted by the chapter in the end of the Spring 2018 semester, the leadership that continued or began with SC Delta Tau in the Fall 2018 semester were as follows:

- Caleb Summe, President
- Andrew Meisner, Vice-President
- Abigail Simmons, Secretary
- William McMakin, Treasurer
- Eli Losoff, Webmaster

The Spring 2019 elections determined the new leadership for the upcoming Fall 2019 semester. Those elected to positions include:

- William McMakin, President
- Mason Williams, External Operations Vice-President
- Chase Murray, Internal Operations Vice-President
- Kiersten Crouse, Secretary
- Trevor Jonssen, Treasurer
- Megan Brickwedde, Webmaster

Continuing the traditions for the chapter, responsibilities of the President include organizing events, speakers, and identifying as well as recruiting initiates. Compiling a list of speakers and presenters for the biweekly seminar series is handled by the Vice-President, while the Secretary generally documents the activities of the chapter, writes the annual report, and arranges refreshments and locations for meetings and events. The duties of the Treasurer include managing and recording member dues. The position of Webmaster is to manage the chapter's online presence and update information so that the public and past members can stay informed, as well as act as support for any members to answer questions or give information.

B.2. Spring and Fall Induction Ceremonies

The SC Delta Tau leadership led the inductions within the traditions of Pi Tau Sigma. In total between the fall and spring ceremonies, twenty-four new members were welcomed. This is excellent for the future of the chapter. Invitation letters for the next pledge class will be sent out during the early weeks of the Fall and Spring Semesters with the necessary background information and congratulatory message.

Members initiated in the Fall 2018 ceremony

C. Seminar Series

The seminars that SC Delta Tau provides its members is a long running tradition within the chapter. Guest speakers come from a variety of sources including past PTS members, mechanical engineers within the industry, and faculty here at USC. These events help educate and prepare the current members for after graduation and hopefully encourage connections with potential careers.

In the Fall 2018 semester, Mr. James Kilyk from Shaw Industries came to talk to members about the products and processes that Shaw provides as well as roles that engineers can play in their development. This was an excellent opportunity for students to also hear about the internships locally that Shaw may offer.

In the Spring 2019 semester, current Pi Tau Sigma members spoke about their diverse internship experiences. President Caleb Summe spoke about his recent co-op with Toyota during the Fall 2018 semester. Senior Sabrina Carroll spoke about her previous internships with Whiting Turner, Oak Ridge National Lab, and her most recent position with the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, SC. Finally, Secretary Abigail Simmons spoke about her engineering internships with the Walt Disney Company in Orlando, FL.

D. Service and Chapter Activities

SC Delta Tau emphasizes not only service to the community as part of the initiation proceedings but also as members and throughout one's life. In the Fall 2018 semester, members and pledges were able to participate in the USC Middle School Day. During this activity, Pi Tau Sigma alum Matt Testa's hydraulic digger was brought out so a group of local middle school students could operate it and learn about principles of fluid mechanics. The volunteers helped demonstrate and aid students in the operation.

Matt Testa explaining the theory behind his digger arm

Member Bryan Jehlen also extensively tutored a fellow mechanical engineering student in thermodynamics and differential equations. Other students chose activities such as Adopt a Highway, Engineers Without Borders, Inova Blood Donors Services, Pets Inc, and other local service organizations.

In the way of chapter activities apart from volunteer work, this school year the chapter organized the annual trivia nights. The three winning teams are awarded cash prizes for their knowledge in STEM and mechanical engineering-based trivia questions.

E. Preliminary listing of activities for 2019-2020

In the upcoming school year, SC Delta Tau hopes to send students to the National Convention to further nationwide cooperation with other chapters. It is also on the agenda to increase the amount of member social events within the chapter and optimize the quantity of members through diligent campaigning and outreach to the freshmen and sophomore classes. SC Delta Tau also wishes to continue their service activities to the University and members, such as the E-Week and Middle School Day events as well as the biweekly seminars given to members.