Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2011-2012
San José State University Phi Zeta

A. Initiations

Those invited to join Pi Tau Sigma's Phi Zeta chapter have a GPA of 3.0 or above, are at least at the junior level, and have completed 60 units. The list of such students is received from the Mechanical and Aerospace department office and invitations are sent out by the officers. Possible initiates are required to attend at least two general meetings, participate in a community service event, attend an initiate-faculty mixer, and be present for the initiation ceremony. Initiates are also expected to decorate their PTS plaques and keys prior to the faculty mixer to have signed by each faculty member. The plaques and keys are also judged by the faculty based on craftsmanship and originality. The top three receive gift cards to the university bookstore and have their photos taken with their plaques to be posted on the chapter website.

The initiation ceremony is fairly standard. Initiates meet at a specified location, are blindfolded by the officers, and are lead down a hallway to the room in which the ceremony takes place. The room is dimly lit with candles. At the front sits a table bearing the two symbols of Pi Tau Sigma. This table is where the President and Vice President read the initiation scripts. Before the initiates are seated, they sign their names in a book marking all of the chapter's initiations. If possible, the faculty advisor attends to give a welcoming speech as well. After certificates and member cards are distributed, officer nominations are encouraged for the next year. This way, the following year's officers can be trained by the current officers for a semester before actually taking office. Celebration usually consists of pizza and soda, mingling among members. The Fall 2011 initiation occurred on December 9 and consisted of 28 initiates. Unfortunately, no initiation was held Spring 2012 due to the chapter's resources being exhausted by hosting the 2012 Pi Tau Sigma National Convention. However, a list of possible initiates was received and will be invited to join in the fall.

B. Chapter Activities

In the fall, Phi Zeta members participated in a Halloween-themed bake sale to raise funds for the chapter/national convention. Members were also invited to attend a tour of the arc-jet facility at NASA Ames Research center with the help of one of our alumni. This gave an inside look into some of the technologies used to develop materials used for reentry protection of spacecrafts. Of course our chapter's biggest triumph of the year was hosting the national convention. Over a year of preparation went into the event. Fortunately, with the help of SJSU's dean of the college of engineering, some select staff and faculty, and the Pi Tau Sigma national officers, it was a rousing success! While the convention went very well, our chapter was unable to do much else in the spring semester.

Every May, the Phi Zeta chapter hosts the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department awards banquet. The beginning of the event includes a project showcase of various student groups in the department from SAE Formula competition

cars to AIAA's Design Build Fly planes and even robots from SJSU's Robotics Club. The showcase is followed by a banquet dinner for the sponsors, awardees, faculty, and other attendees. Both student and faculty awards are given out after these presentations including the faculty member of the year award. A portion of the banquet is also given to introduce the initiates of Pi Tau Sigma. The banquet closes with a raffle. In the future PTS looks to work with Sigma Gamma Tau, the aerospace engineering honor society, since it is technically the aerospace department banquet as well and this could garner a better relationship among the two majors. As their first major task, the planning of this event is given to next year's officers.

C. Other

2011-2012 Officer List
President – Alden Wilson
Vice President – Ellen Chu
Treasurer – Cassandra Acosta
Events Coordinator – Karen Wakita
Webmaster – Cynthia Lee
Secretary – Ben Roberts

2012-2013 Officer List
President – Shauna Roth
Vice President – Mrunal Panchal
Treasurer – Obinna Okoye
Events Coordinator – Julian Rosenberg
Webmaster – Rosa Sung