Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2016 - 2017
Georgia Tech Nu

A. Initiations

The initiation process for the 2016 - 2017 academic year remained relatively unchanged from the previous year. Eligible initiates included the upper quarter of juniors and upper third of seniors by class rank. These students received notification of eligibility from the Vice-President early in the semester and were invited to attend one of two information sessions in the following week. The information sessions conveyed the purpose and ideals of Pi Tau Sigma and also detailed chapter events and student involvement opportunities. Interested students received packets which detailed the following requirements for initiation.

- **Complete at least two mechanical engineering courses**
  This requirement ensures that initiates have made appropriate progress toward completing core curriculum classes within mechanical engineering. It also serves to verify that eligible students have confirmed their interests and are unlikely to change majors.
- **Attend information session**
  Eligible initiates receive important information regarding the initiation process at this meeting. Circumstantial exceptions are made if a student cannot attend; however, that student must schedule a meeting with an officer to receive this information.
- **Obtain two mechanical engineering faculty recommendation signatures**
  No formal recommendation letters are required; however, initiates must receive faculty signatures as an endorsement of their academic excellence and integrity. An underlying function of this requirement is to promote faculty-student engagement and to connect initiates with mentors and possible research advisors.
- **Obtain five Pi Tau Sigma member signatures**
  This item necessitates networking within the organization and promotes camaraderie that ultimately bolsters participation and visibility of the chapter on campus.
- **Pay $70 lifetime dues**
  Initiate dues help to fulfill obligations to the national organization and also fund the initiation dinner and various chapter activities.
- **Polish individual Pi Tau Sigma key**
  Initiates must polish individual keys to the satisfaction of the current executive board members. Initiates show commitment and dedication to the organization through several hours of detailed polishing. The chapter uses this requirement to connect initiates with the student-run Invention Studio which provides all students access to top-of-the-line equipment found in a professional machine shop.
- **Attend two Pi Tau Sigma social events**

Social events include organized dinners, company information sessions, key polishing gatherings, and other various Pi Tau Sigma sponsored events. These events encourage the formation of fraternal bonds among initiates and current members.

- **Attend two general meetings**
  Meetings are held on a biweekly basis throughout the semester. Initiates receive information on upcoming events and meet current members through their participation.
- **Present a short self-introduction presentation at a weekly meeting**
  The presentation introduces new initiates to the membership through a discussion of personal interests and goals.
- **Submit a paragraph regarding personal goals within Pi Tau Sigma**
  Initiates are required to think deeply about their involvement and contribution to the organization. Executive board members read the submissions and can identify areas for improvement in the initiation process and ideas for future events.
- **Pass the initiation examination**
  The initiation exam consists of questions regarding the history of Pi Tau Sigma both on a national level and chapter level. Initiates are provided a brief history to study when they receive their initiation packets at the information session.
- **Complete community service project**
  Initiates must volunteer their time to one of several community service projects that aim to develop their understanding of the value of a mechanical engineering degree in society.
- **Attend mandatory initiation ceremony and banquet**
  An initiation ceremony is held each semester during the final week of classes. Formal business attire is required of all participants. The ceremony is conducted by the president and vice-president and includes the reading of the rituals. Following the ceremony, a catered banquet dinner is provided to initiates and officers as well as a guest speaker who addresses all members upon the conclusion of dinner.

The initiation ceremony for the Fall 2016 semester was held on November 28, 2016 at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center from 7PM to 10PM and included the induction of 24 members. The newly inducted members and officers were addressed by Dr. Caroline Genzale, an Assistant Professor at Georgia Tech, following the ritual ceremony and dinner. Dr. Genzale discussed her journey through likes and dislikes of the Mechanical Engineering profession and how she ultimately found her passion teaching and researching Engines.

The initiation ceremony for the Spring 2017 semester was held on April 17, 2017 at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center from 7PM to 10PM and included the induction of 17 members. The newly inducted members and officers were addressed by Dr. David Hu, an Associate Professor at Georgia Tech, following the ritual ceremony and dinner. Dr. Hu

discussed his research in the biomechanics of animal locomotion and gave advice on how to present technical work throughout an engineering career. The work he does has been featured in *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Popular Science* and *Discover* magazine. His laboratory has also appeared on 3D TV as part of a nature documentary by 3DigitalVision, "Fire ants: the invincible army," available on Netflix.

B. Chapter Activities

The following chapter activities are presented in chronological order for the 2016-2017 academic year.

<u>Fall 2016</u>

Information Session I – 8/31/16

Eligible students were invited to attend an information session about Pi Tau Sigma. Chapter activities were discussed by current officers so that interested students could learn about the organization on a national and chapter level. Initiation packets were distributed to interested students and food was served to all in attendance.

Information Session II – 9/1/16

A secondary information session was hosted for those students unable to make the first meeting due to academic or personal conflicts. The structure of the meeting remained the same.

Bowling Social – 9/8/16

The social chair hosted a chapter-funded event at the on campus bowling alley, Tech Rec, for all members and eligible initiates to attend. Initiates were able to meet current members and all were able to socialize, bowl, and play other games.

Barrelhouse Proceeds Night 9/15/16

The fundraising chair organized a campus wide event at an on-campus restaurant where Pi Tau Sigma received a percentage of the proceeds. This event helped spread awareness of Pi Tau Sigma throughout campus.

Individual Key Polishing I & Invention Studio Tour – 9/22/16

Initiates gathered to polish their individual keys with input from a few of the officers who were in attendance. A PTS member gave a tour of the Invention Studio so that initiates could be made aware of the equipment available to them to use in polishing their keys and also in their future classes.

Individual Key Polishing II & Invention Studio Tour – 10/2/16

Initiates again gathered to continue polishing their keys at the Invention Studio. This event also served to promote camaraderie within the initiate class by encouraging socialization and collaboration.

Individual Key Polishing III & Invention Studio Tour – 10/7/16

Initiates again gathered to continue polishing their keys at the Invention Studio. This event also served to promote camaraderie within the initiate class by encouraging socialization and collaboration.

TEAM Buzz Volunteer Event – 10/17/16

Completed four hours of landscaping projects at Walker Park in the Atlanta area. This project was organized by another on-campus organization, and was open to the entire campus. Several Nu chapter members and initiates participated in this community service project.

Individual Key Polishing IV – 10/29/16

Initiates again gathered to continue polishing their keys at the Invention Studio. This event also served to promote camaraderie within the initiate class by encouraging socialization and collaboration.

Retro Video Game Night – 11/13/16

The social chair hosted a chapter-funded game night on campus for all members and eligible initiates to attend. Initiates were able to meet current members and all were able to socialize and play old and new video and board games.

Initiation Examination and Bent Judging – 11/14/16

Initiates were required to attend this meeting and pass an initiation examination administered by the current officers. Initiates submitted completed initiation packets as well as their polished keys for judging. The current officers judged the keys and determined which of the keys were deemed acceptable. Initiates who had satisfactorily completed all of the initiation requirements were notified and invited to attend the initiation ceremony.

Fall Initiation Ceremony and Banquet – 11/28/16

Initiates who had completed all requirements for membership were required to attend an initiation ceremony held at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. Dr. Caroline Genzale was the keynote speaker and provided insights on careers in Mechanical Engineering, along with her research.

General Elections – 11/21/16

Elections were held for all Spring 2017 positions. Current or newly initiated members filled all positions.

Officer Turnover Meeting – 12/7/16

A meeting was planned for all current and future officers to meet and share lessons learned and ideas for improvements the following semester. Formal documents were transferred to the new officers for their use.

Spring 2017

Resume Book - All Semester

This semester, Pi Tau Sigma continued to build its resume book that is given to potential employers. This was a great way for members to get their resume in the hands of people who were looking for candidates. Members emailed their updated resume, as well as their job interests (full-time, internship, co-op) to the PTS officers.

Mentorship Program - All Semester

The mentorship chair launched a mentorship program that allowed members to be a mentor for a 1st to 3rd year ME student. The time commitment was roughly one hour every two weeks to meet with or otherwise communicate with the mentee. This was an awesome opportunity that looked great on resumes, and was a great way to give back to the Georgia Tech community.

FASET Organization Information - 1/23/17

A representative from the FASET ("Familiarization and Adaptation to the Surroundings and Environs of Tech") organization spoke briefly about leadership opportunities and answered any questions about joining FASET.

Information Session I – 1/24/17

Eligible students were invited to attend an information session about Pi Tau Sigma. Chapter activities were discussed by current officers so that interested students could learn about the organization on a national and chapter level. Initiation packets were distributed to interested students and food was served to all in attendance.

Saint Gobain Information and Networking Session - 1/26/17

Attended a joint info-session with the SHPE (Society Of Hispanic Professional Engineers) organization. The Saint Gobain recruitment team met to talk about Full-Time and Internship Opportunities.

Information Session II – 1/30/17

A second information session was hosted for those students unable to make the first meeting due to academic or personal conflicts. The structure of the meeting remained the same.

Resume Blitz Volunteer Event - 1/31/17

This event was an easy, rewarding way for members to complete their volunteer requirement for the semester. The event took place outside the Invention Studio in the manufacturing related disciplines complex, where PTS members gave peer feedback on resumes of mechanical engineering students. With the Spring Career Fair just around the corner, many

students appreciated the last minute critiques before they spoke with employers. A signup sheet was sent out before the first general meeting.

3 Dollar Cafe Social Event - 2/13/17

Located in west midtown, a short walk from campus. The dinner and networking event took place following the general meeting that day, and food and non-alcoholic beverages were provided by the club.

Initiate Meet and Greet - 2/21/17

Current members and potential initiates met to discuss the benefits, opportunities, and requirements to join Georgia Tech's chapter of Pi Tau Sigma. The event was located at Crecine Apartments on campus. Card games, a pool table, and Chick Fil A were included.

Yogli Mogli Proceeds Night - 2/22/17

Members enjoyed some frozen yogurt. A portion of the proceeds were donated. For Pi Tau Sigma members, this counted as a social event. For those that were not affiliated, they joined us and helped our organization grow.

PTS National Convention - February 24-26, 2017

This year the national convention was held at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. Two PTS officers attended the convention. Georgia Tech PTS is now planning to host the 2019 national convention.

Individual Key Polishing I & Invention Studio Tour – 3/2/17

Initiates gathered to polish their individual keys with input from a few of the officers who were in attendance. A PTS member gave a tour of the Invention Studio so that initiates could be made aware of the equipment available to them to use in polishing their keys and also in their future classes.

Top Golf Night - 3/7/17

Members got to hone in their golf skills, savour some appetizers, and network with other members on a Tuesday night.

Individual Key Polishing II & Invention Studio Tour – 3/16/17

Initiates again gathered to continue polishing their keys at the Invention Studio. This event also served to promote camaraderie within the initiate class by encouraging socialization and collaboration.

Atlanta Science Festival - 3/25/17

PTS volunteers were needed to help plan and run 2 demo booths (pig heart anatomy & potato osmosis).

Rocky Mountain Pizza Night - 3/29/17

Members and initiates went to Rocky Mountain Pizza for dinner. This counted as a social event. The organization paid for food and non-alcoholic drinks for initiates and members.

Initiation Examination – 4/3/16

Initiates were required to attend this meeting and pass an initiation examination administered by the current officers. Initiates submitted completed initiation packets.

Individual Key Polishing III & Invention Studio Tour – 4/6/17

Initiates again gathered to continue polishing their keys at the Invention Studio. This event also served to promote camaraderie within the initiate class by encouraging socialization and collaboration.

Cleaning PTS Bent Statue - 4/6/17

Members and Initiates were invited to help polish the PTS statue located outside the manufacturing related disciplines complex mechanical engineering building.

Tech Beautification Day - 4/8/17

PTS had a group project cleaning on campus. This project was organized by another on-campus organization, and was open to the entire campus. Many Nu chapter members and initiates participated in this community service project, participating in landscaping.

Bent Judging - 4/10/17

The current officers judged the keys and determined which of the keys were deemed acceptable. Initiates who had satisfactorily completed all of the initiation requirements were notified and invited to attend the initiation ceremony.

General Elections – 4/10/17

Elections were held for all Fall 2017 positions. Current or newly initiated members filled all positions.

Spring Initiation Ceremony and Banquet – 4/17/17

Initiates who had completed all requirements for membership were required to attend an initiation ceremony held at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. Dr. David Hu was the keynote speaker and provided insights on presenting technical findings during a career in Mechanical Engineering, along with his research.

Officer Turnover Meeting – 4/26/17

A meeting was planned for all current and future officers to meet and share lessons learned and ideas for improvements the following semester. Formal documents were transferred to the new officers for their use.

C. Other

All information regarding the chapter for the 2016-2017 academic year has been previously noted in this report.