Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2013-2014
Georgia Tech Nu

A. Initiations

The initiation process for the 2013-2014 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 bi-weekly 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 2013 semester was held on December 03, 2013 at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and included the induction of 21 members. The newly inducted members and officers were addressed by Dr. David Hu, an Assistant Professor at Georgia Tech, following the ritual ceremony and dinner. Dr. Hu discussed his research in Fluid Mechanics and drew from his personal experiences to give advice to the members on moving forward with their academic and professional careers.

The initiation ceremony for the Spring 2014 semester was held on April 22, 2014 at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and included the induction of 25 members. Initiated members participated in the ritual ceremony and were provided dinner along with some of the current officers. The guest speaker was Dr. Asegun Henry, also an assistant professor at Georgia Tech. Dr. Henry shared his experiences with his work in Heat Transfer and Energy Systems and specifically its relation to solving the energy problem.

B. Chapter Activities

The following chapter activities are presented in chronological order for the 2013-2014 academic year.

<u>Fall 2013</u>

Information Session I – 9/16/13

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 – 9/23/13

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.

ME Night at Tech Rec – 10/9/13

The chapter sponsored a night for all mechanical engineering students to gather and learn about internships, research, and Pi Tau Sigma. All students were able to play billiards, darts, and also bowl free of charge following a presentation by the mentorship chair on the opportunities available to mechanical engineering students.

Pi Tau Sigma Key Monument Polishing – 10/22/13

Initiates and members gathered to polish the large brass Pi Tau Sigma key which stands in front of the mechanical engineering building on campus in which the chapter is housed. This project was completed so that campus visitors could be drawn to read the plaque which sits under the key and recognize the involvement of the chapter on campus.

TEAM Buzz – 10/26/13

Completed four hours of outdoor landscaping projects at Jerusalem House, a housing provider for low-income families affected by HIV/AIDS. Several Nu chapter members and initiates participated in this community service project which was planned by another on-campus organization.

Individual Key Polishing I & Invention Studio Tour – 10/28/13

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 – 11/11/13

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.

College of Engineering Research Fair – 11/12/13

The Nu chapter hosted a job fair for all undergraduate engineering students seeking on-campus research positions. Faculty members from all engineering disciplines were invited to set up booths with the purpose of advertising their research and connecting with undergraduates qualified to work in their labs. A flyer from the event is pictured below.

Bellwood Boys & Girls Club – 11/15/13

Assisted a local Boys & Girls Club with maintenance projects and made improvements to areas where children learn and play. This event was not organized by the Nu chapter; however, several members participated in three hours of hands-on community service.

Homeless Shelter PB&J – 11/19/13

Initiates and members made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches alongside other various campus organizations for a local homeless shelter. The sandwiches were distributed to community members who sought assistance from that specific shelter the following day.

Social Dinner – 11/22/13

The social chair hosted a chapter-funded dinner at a local pizzeria for all members and eligible initiates to attend. Initiates were able to meet current members and all were able to relax and socialize after a busy week of midterms.

Trees Atlanta – 11/23/13

Members planted trees for three hours in the Westview neighborhood of Atlanta as part of Trees Atlanta's ongoing campaign to beautify the city and improve environmental awareness.

General Elections – 11/25/13

Elections were held for all Spring 2014 positions. All positions were filled by current or soon-to-be-initiated members.

Initiation Examination and Bent Judging – 11/26/13

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.

Officer Turnover Dinner – 11/29/13

A chapter-funded dinner at a local restaurant 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.

Fall Initiation Ceremony and Banquet – 12/03/13

Initiates who had completed all requirements for membership were required to attend an initiation ceremony held at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. Initiates were provided a banquet dinner and listened to Dr. David Hu discuss his research in fluid mechanics.

<u>Spring 2014</u>

First Officer Meeting – 1/13/14

Officers met to discuss goals for the chapter for the spring semester and share ideas for events. Improvements were brought forth and each officer was assigned action items to be addressed in the coming weeks.

Information Session I – 1/21/14

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 – 2/4/14

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.

Trees Atlanta – 2/8/14

Members and initiates took part in Trees Atlanta's tree-planting campaign in local neighborhoods. This event showed the importance of contribution to the community and the environment. A photo of three Nu chapter members participating in the event is below.

Global Soap Project – 2/8/14

Members participated in a soap recycling event where they cut and packaged bars of soap made from leftover bars retrieved from hotels. The recycled soap was then sent to those who have limited access to soap in Africa.

General Meeting – 2/10/14

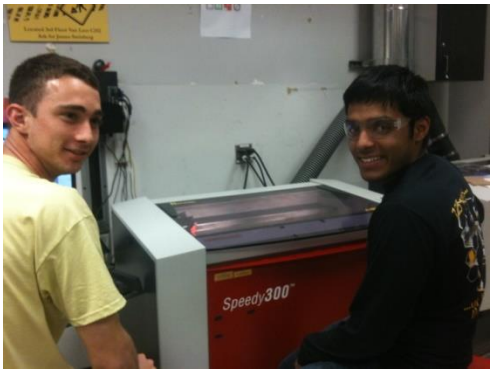
The first general meeting of the semester was held and upcoming events were discussed. Initiates were able to meet current members and get started on their initiation requirements.

Trees Atlanta – 2/15/14

Members of the Nu chapter devoted their time to planting trees in Atlanta neighborhoods alongside Trees Atlanta, which organized the event. The chapter's recurring participation in these events was greatly appreciated by Trees Atlanta.

Wood Carving Social – 2/19/14

Members gathered to make use of the carpentry tools available to mechanical engineering students in the Invention Studio. Each member or initiate was provided a wood square and encouraged to make an interesting design. A photo of a member and initiate making use of the laser cutter is below.



National Convention – 2/21/14 to 2/23/14

The Nu chapter sent two delegates, both of whom were current officers, to the national convention at Texas A&M. It was important to the chapter that both students would be enrolled the following year to share their knowledge of the convention and the registration process with the chapter delegates in 2015.

General Meeting – 2/24/14

Updates were provided by each officer on upcoming events and several initiates gave short informational presentations about themselves. The secretary and treasurer updated the membership on the proceedings of the 2014 National Convention and the chapter's status with the national organization.

Individual Key Polishing I – 2/25/14

Initiates gathered to polish their individual keys with input from a few of the officers who were in attendance. Initiates made use of the various tools in the Invention Studio to polish their keys.

Atlanta Community Food Bank – 2/26/14

The chapter participated in collecting donated food and helping to inspect and pack the food for a local non-profit organization to distribute to local people in need. Two members are pictured in the photo below at the food bank.

ABB Information Session 2/27/14

The chapter hosted a company information session for current members. A Pi Tau Sigma Nu chapter alumnus returned to give a presentation on opportunities for employment with his current company, ABB Robotics.

Atlanta Community Food Bank – 3/13/14

The chapter again participated in collecting donated food and helping to inspect and pack the food for a local non-profit organization to distribute to local people in need.

General Meeting – 3/24/14

Updates were provided by each officer on upcoming events and several initiates gave short informational presentations about themselves.

Atlanta Community Food Bank – 3/26/14

The chapter participated in collecting donated food and helping to inspect and pack the food for a local non-profit organization to distribute to local people in need. The chapter's recurring participation in service with the food bank was noted by the organizers of the events.

Covenant House – 3/27/14

PTS prepared meals for youth living in the only Atlanta-area crisis housing shelter for youth. This event had a great impact on the well-being of local youth who have been forced into unfortunate situations. Below, two initiates prepare meals at the Covenant House.

Individual Key Polishing II – 4/02/14

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.

Meals for Open Hands – 4/5/14

Some members and initiates delivered pre-packaged meals to elderly and disabled who were unable to obtain their own meals as part of Operation Open Hands. This service had an immediate impact felt by all members who participated.

General Meeting 4/7/14

This was the final general meeting of the semester. Events scheduled for the last two weeks of the semester were discussed along with the upcoming initiation test date and initiation banquet.

Game Night – 04/07/14

Initiates and members participated in card and board games following the final general meeting of the semester in order to take a break from the pressures of end-of-semester schoolwork. Initiates were also able to meet other current members who participated in the event. Photos below show members and initiates enjoying some card games.

Kids in Need – 4/8/14

PTS members sorted through donated school supplies and loaded them into teacher's vehicles so that those teachers could provide those school supplies to children who need them. This program ensured that children from low-income families were provided the tools they needed to succeed and also that teachers did not have to spend their personal funds on classroom supplies.

ME Night at Tech Rec – 4/8/14

The chapter sponsored a night for all mechanical engineering students to gather and learn about internships, research, and Pi Tau Sigma. All students were able to play billiards, darts, and also bowl free of charge following a presentation by the mentorship chair on the opportunities available to mechanical engineering students. The photo below shows some members enjoying a game of bowling.

Global Youth Service Project – 4/12/14

The chapter participated in a Salvation Army event to beautify a local Boys & Girls Club by painting exterior walls and doors and also planting flowers. This service's impact was felt by many members of the community.

Atlanta Community Food Bank – 4/12/14

The chapter participated in collecting donated food and helping to inspect and pack the food for a local non-profit organization to distribute to local people in need.

General Elections – 4/21/14

Elections were held for all offices during the Fall 2014 semester. An officer turnover dinner was planned and final details of the initiation banquet were communicated.

Spring Initiation Ceremony and Banquet – 4/22/14

Initiates who had completed all requirements for membership were required to attend an initiation ceremony held at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. Initiates were provided a banquet dinner and listened to Dr. Asegun Henry discuss his research in micro-scale heat transfer. In the photo below, initiates and officers listen to Dr. Henry's presentation.

Officer Turnover Dinner – 4/26/14

A chapter-funded dinner at a local restaurant 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. The photo below shows officers enjoying their dinner.

C. Other

All information regarding the chapter for the 2013-2014 academic year has been previously noted in this report.