Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2014-2015
Georgia Tech Nu

A. Initiations

The initiation process for the 2014-2015 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 2014 semester was held on November 25, 2014 at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and included the induction of 24 members. Dr. Caroline Genzale, an Assistant Professor at Georgia Tech, addressed the newly inducted members and officers following the ritual ceremony and dinner.

The initiation ceremony for the Spring 2015 semester was held on April 14, 2015 at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and included the induction of 21 members. Dr. Ken Gall, a Professor at Georgia Tech, addressed the newly inducted members and officers. He discussed the process of creating a startup and his experience with MedShape, a company he started after becoming a professor at Georgia Tech.

B. Chapter Activities

The following chapter activities are presented in chronological order for the 2014-2015 academic year.

<u>Fall 2014</u>

Information Session I – 9/10/14

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 – 9/11/14

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.

Pi Tau Sigma Key Monument Polishing – 9/20/14

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.

Social Dinner and Game Night – 9/22/14

The social chair hosted a chapter-funded dinner 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 board games.

Volunteer Closet Clean Up Event – 10/1/14

The volunteer chair organized an event to clean and organize the Pi Tau Sigma office space open to all members and eligible initiates to participate.

Step It Up 5k Volunteer Event – 10/5/14

A group of Pi Tau Sigma members participated in an on campus 5k event organized by The Gamma Eta chapter of Alpha Xi Delta. All proceeds of this event went towards Alpha Xi Delta's philanthropy: Autism Speaks.

Movie Night Social – 10/18/14

The social chair hosted a movie showing on campus for all members and eligible initiates to attend. Initiates were able to meet current members and all were able to relax and socialize.

TEAM Buzz – 10/25/14

Completed four hours of landscaping projects at Oakland Cemetery. 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.

Pumpkin Carving Social 10/27/14

The social chair organized a event when members and eligible initiates carved pumpkins in groups. This gave them an opportunity to get to know each other during a seasonal social.

Individual Key Polishing I & Invention Studio Tour – 10/28/14

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.

Invention Studio: Laser Cutter Social 11/3/14

Social chair organized an event when a university lab instructor demonstrated how to use the laser cutter machine. This gave the initiates and members to be made more aware of the tools that are available for classes as well as for personal projects.

Individual Key Polishing II – 11/4/14

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.

ME Night at Tech Rec – 11/5/14

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 bowl free of charge following a presentation by the mentorship chair on the opportunities available to mechanical engineering students.

Yogli Mogli Proceeds Night 11/7/14

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

College of Engineering Research Fair – 11/11/14

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

Social Dinner – 11/22/14

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 as the semester came to a close

Initiation Examination and Bent Judging – 11/24/14

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 – 11/25/14

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. Caroline Genzale discuss her research.

General Elections – 12/1/14

Elections were held for all Spring 2015 positions. Current or newly initiated members filled all positions.

Officer Turnover Meeting – 12/3/14

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 2015

Information Session I – 1/19/15

Eligible students were invited to attend an information session about Pi Tau Sigma. The structure of the meeting remained the same as those in the Fall semester.

Information Session II – 1/20/15

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.

PTS Mentorship Program – All Semester

PTS members and initiates volunteered to serve as mentors to 1st and 2nd year mechanical engineering students. The members were able to serve as a valuable resource for the younger students, encouraging them to succeed and answering their questions. This also helps to spread the word about Pi Tau Sigma.

Pinnacle AIS Information Session – 2/16/15

Representatives from Pinnacle AIS came to Georgia Tech and gave an information session that lasted for an hour just for Pi Tau Sigma members and initiates.

Dance Party Social – 2/20/15

The social chair hosted an event with the GT Dance Company. The GT Dance Company brought a dance instructor and taught Pi Tau Sigma members how to dance for two hours.

PTS Key Polishing Event – 2/26/15

Initiates gathered to polish their individual keys with input from a few of the officers who were in attendance.

Rocky Mountain Pizza Trivia Proceeds Night – 3/3/15

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

PTS Key Polishing Event II – 3/10/15

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.

Sting Hunger Now – 3/25/15

This is a meal-packaging event held on Georgia Tech's campus. 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.

GT Autoshow – 3/29/15

Each year, the PTS chapter at Georgia Tech sets up a tent at the annual autoshow on-campus and provides food for the people that come to the event. This helps raise funds for the organization while providing a service for the spectators at the car show.

PTS Social Saturday Event – 4/4/15

Our social chair organized an event for PTS members for interaction outside of general meetings and schoolwork. Members socialized and played games of table tennis and ultimate Frisbee.

Initiation Examination and Bent Judging – 4/6/15

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 – 4/13/15

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. Ken Gall discuss his startup company, MedShape.

General Elections – 4/20/15

Elections were held for all Spring 2015 positions. Current or newly initiated members filled all positions.

Officer Turnover Meeting – 4/25/15

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 2014-2015 academic year has been previously noted in this report.