Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2015-2016
Georgia Tech Nu

A. Initiations

The initiation process for the 2015-2016 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 2015 semester was held on November 23, 2015 at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and included the induction of 30 members. The newly inducted members and officers were addressed by Dr. Craig Forest, an Associate Professor at Georgia Tech, following the ritual ceremony and dinner. Dr. Forest discussed his effort in creating the Inventure Prize, a competition in where Georgia Tech students compete to win start-up funding.

The initiation ceremony for the Spring 2016 semester was held on April 25, 2016 at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and included the induction of 19 members. The newly inducted members and officers were addressed by Dr. Matthew McDowell, an Assistant Professor at Georgia Tech, following the ritual ceremony and dinner. Dr. McDowell discussed his research in micro and nano engineering.

B. Chapter Activities

The following chapter activities are presented in chronological order for the 2015-2016 academic year.

<u>Fall 2015</u>

Information Session I – 8/31/15

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 – 9/1/15

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.

Bowling Social – 9/8/15

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 9/15/15

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 – 9/22/15

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 – 10/2/15

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.

Individual Key Polishing III & Invention Studio Tour – 10/7/15

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.

TEAM Buzz Volunteer Event – 10/17/15

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 – 10/29/15

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.

Retro Video Game Night – 11/13/14

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 – 11/16/15

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 – 11/23/15

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. Craig Forest discuss his research.

General Elections – 11/30/15

Elections were held for all Spring 2016 positions. Current or newly initiated members filled all positions.

Officer Turnover Meeting – 12/5/15

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.

<u>Spring 2016</u>

Information Session I – 1/25/16

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 – 2/1/16

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.

Boeing Flight Simulator Tour Social Event – 2/13/16

Attended a tour of the Boeing flight simulators. Nu chapter partnered with the Aerospace Engineering Honor Society to set up the tour and many Nu chapter members and initiates attended.

Rocky Mountain Proceeds and Trivia Night 2/23/16

The volunteer chair organized a trivia event open to members and initiates at an on-campus pizza restaurant where Pi Tau Sigma received and donated a percentage of the proceeds to another on campus fundraiser, For the Kids, helping Children's Hospital of Atlanta.

Science Olympiad Volunteer Event – 3/5/16

Several Nu chapter members and initiates participated in this community service project helping out at an on campus high school science competition. Members helped with check-in and other logistics for the event.

Tech Beautification Day Volunteer Event – 3/12/16

Completed four hours of cleaning projects 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, cleaning bus stop stations.

Individual Key Polishing I & Invention Studio Tour – 3/15/16

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 – 3/16/16

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.

Yogli Mogli Proceeds Night – 3/17/16

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.

Georgia Tech Auto Show – 4/2/16

The fundraising chair organized a booth selling food at on-campus car show event put on by the school. Pi Tau Sigma had a tent selling grilled hot dogs and hamburgers as a fundraiser and received a percentage of the proceeds. This event helped spread awareness of Pi Tau Sigma throughout campus

Initiation Examination and Bent Judging – 4/11/16

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.

General Elections – 4/18/16

Elections were held for all Fall 2016 positions. Current or newly initiated members filled all positions.

Spring Initiation Ceremony and Banquet – 4/25/16

Initiates who had completed all requirements for membership were required to attend an initiation ceremony held at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. Initiates were provided a banquet dinner and listened to Dr. Matthew McDowell discuss his research in micro and nano engineering.

C. Other

All information regarding the chapter for the 2015-2016 academic year has been previously noted in this report.