PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2011-2012
Georgia Tech Nu
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia. Chartered November 29, 1932. Number 14.

Goals for 2011-2012

The goal of this year was to grow the value of the organization to its members. It has become quite visible that very few existing members outside of the executive board remain active in the organization once they have completed initiation. We believe this provides a large opportunity for improvement in establishing an organization which truly meets our founding objectives to "foster the high ideals of the engineering profession, to stimulate interest in coordination of departmental activities, to promote the mutual professional welfare of its members, and to develop in mechanical engineering students the attributes necessary for effective leadership and the assumption of the responsibilities of a citizen in a democracy." In this effort to grow our organization and create value for members outside of the benefit one receives through his or her resume we created three new initiatives: mentorship program, graduate student interaction, and organizational goals discussions.

Activities

Our new mentorship program has grown significantly over the past two semesters seeing a double in participation in the spring semester. Pi Tau Sigma members must apply and interview to be a part of the program. Students are selected for their extracurricular involvement, communication skills, knowledge of the university and the school of mechanical engineering, and enthusiasm for being a mentor. Freshmen and sophomores are introduced to the program through mechanical engineering wide emails as well as presentations to the freshman seminar classes. Interested students must apply as well to help us pair them with a mentor who has similar interests and is experience in the programs that he or she may be interested in. Throughout the semester there are social events with everyone in the program to allow mentees to interact with more than one upper classmen. Mentors and mentees meet at least twice in the semester outside of these events around two weeks before midterm exams and before registration for the following semesters. We expect this initiative to continue to grow and leverage input we have received through follow up surveys at the end of the semester.

Additionally, we have expanded our assistance to our members for graduate school to include interaction with graduate students themselves. We hosted a PhD candidate in mechanical engineering who spoke to students about the reality of graduate life, finding a program and a professor, and what value one truly derives from these programs. This talk was very honest and extremely helpful in aiding members to analyze for themselves whether they want to attend graduate school. In the future we look towards interacting with MEGA, the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Association at Georgia Tech.

To further these efforts, the spring semester we began devoting approximately half of our meeting times to holding open discussions as to how we view the organization currently and what we believe would create an

organization that has value in continued membership. One of the major conclusions was to host an outreach event to middle school to high school students to stimulate interest in STEM and hopefully in mechanical engineering. Hosting this event would also help us to reorganize our volunteer events. Currently our volunteering extends to a variety of organizations including Soles for Souls, Books for Africa, Tech Beautification day, and others. While these events have a positive and sustaining impact on our community and beyond, they do not utilize our skills as engineers. We look towards moving all of our volunteering towards activities that have this quality. Additionally, we have been talking with representatives from Clemson and Auburn about hosting an event that encourages the interaction of our chapters. Pi Tau sigma is an excellent networking tool and we hope to extend that beyond our own university. While these ideas do not translate to much change this year, they are a part of the requisite planning that should hopefully produce a much more vibrant organization over the next years.

In addition to these new initiatives, the Nu chapter has continued its regular social activities, volunteer events, and initiate activities. Our chapter participated in the Team Buzz service day as well as the Tech Beautification day. These campus wide events aim to increase tech's impact on the Atlanta community and to give back to the campus. A significant accomplishment was in our Soles for Souls drive where our chapter collected 60 pairs of shoes through two weeks of publicity and a week of tabling on campus. These shoes were then sent to Africa to impoverished communities. Our members paid for shipping as a donation to the cause. Our chapter also assisted in the FIRST Robotics League Competition held at Georgia Tech serving as judges and guides for the event. We sorted textbooks to be sent and distributed in rural Africa as a part of Books for Africa as well.

Our chapter attended multiple Georgia Tech sports events including one basketball game, the spring football game, and two baseball games. Prior to one of the baseball games, we held a tailgate for Pi Tau Sigma, Sigma Gamma Tau, and the Society of Women Engineers members. This not only helped our members to interact with each other, but to also expand beyond the borders of mechanical engineering to network with similarly motivated students. We also hosted the concessions at the Georgia Tech Autoshow selling more than $1,000 dollars of concessions and making more than $400 dollars for the organization.

Initiation

Our initiation events included two key polishing parties each semester to help initiates to learn how to polish their keys. It is a requisite of our membership that each member must have polished a key to the satisfaction of existing members at the time of their initiation. Our initiates, along with our active members, also attended at least one of the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering's Distinguished Lectures. Initiates must also do the following:

- Obtain two ME faculty recommendation signatures
- Obtain five PTS member signatures
- Pay $70 dollars dues

- Attend at least two chapter events (socials, weekly meetings, etc.)
- Present digital presentation about oneself at a weekly meeting
- Submit a paragraph about your future in Pi Tau Sigma
- Pass an initiation examination
- Complete a volunteer service project
- Attend the initiation ceremony and banquet

We held two initiation banquets at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center that hosted a manager from John Deere and a senior manager of product development at Boeing, Robert W. Stoker, Ph.D.

Awards & Recognition

Lee Bouldin
Pi Tau Sigma Outstanding Senior
Jacqueline Knotts
Pi Tau Sigma Outstanding Junior

New Membership

Fall 2011 Pledges – Initiation December 1st

Ashley Barnes	Bill Bailey
Daniel McAlister	Dante Montgomery
David Caplan	Eric Sanford
Gloria Wu	Grady Baker
Gregory Jones	Juan Linarez
Kevin McCauley	Lee Stokes
Matthew Parekh	Matthew Schumann
Niall Brown	Noah Brunk
Parkhar Srivastava	Ravi Haksar
Rohan Katoch	Sam Redding
Stephen Waller	Cole Simpson
Douglas Broadwell	Jason Shieh
Adam Kolojejchick-Kotch	

Spring 2012 Pledges – Initiation April 27th

Tsz Li	David Claxton
Jeremiah Roberts	Michael Quintana
Bryan Hill	Melissa Orr
James Morrison	John Mueller
Jamison Go	Laurynas Bileisis
Nahum Lazarus	Michael Kline
Shyam Rangarajan	Saigokul Kannan
Bryan Levy	Jin Kim
Benjamin Thomas	Mathew Cribb
Dante Dimenichi III	Kassim Ali

Chapter Officers

Fall 2011 Officers

Meghan McCandless	President
Lee Bouldin	Vice President
Jordan Leary	Treasurer
Rachel Van Stelle	Secretary
Fernando Bazerghi	Volunteer Coord.
Lauren Bowers	Social Chair
Mark Schmid	Factory Tours
Jackie Knotts	Mentor Program
Chad Bednar	WSSAC
Keith Weaver	Homecoming
Jason H Lee	Webmaster
Daniel Toler	Auto Show

Spring 2012 Officers

Lee Bouldin	President
Keith Weaver	Vice President
Grady Baker	Treasurer
Jason Shieh	Secretary
Gloria Wu	Volunteer Coord.
Kurt Scheffrahn	Social Chair
Noah Brunk	Factory Tours
Matthew Parekh	Corporate Connect
Jackie Knotts	Mentor Program
Dante Montgomery	Webmaster
Daniel Toler	Auto Show

Chapter Advisor

Dr. Wayne Whiteman, PE

Website

www.me.gatech.edu/pts/