Pi Tau Sigma Annual Report

Drexel Xi Chapter

2017-2018 Academic Year

A. Initiations

Selection Process

The selection process for the Drexel Xi chapter of Pi Tau Sigma is dependent upon both the prospective member's academic record as well as their willingness to be involved in university activities. A list of prospective students in the Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics department at Drexel University who have met the academic requirements for the Pre-Junior, Junior and Senior class standing is provided by the Academic Advisor of the department to the President of the Drexel Xi chapter one month prior to the induction ceremony. Next, the President of Pi Tau Sigma Drexel Xi contacts each prospective member to invite them to be a part of the honor society. The stipulations set out in the invitation to be inducted into the honor society are: (1) Attend an informational meeting explaining Pi Tau Sigma and (2) Attend the induction ceremony. We also host a dinner for the inductees following the induction ceremony to celebrate their accomplishment.

Requirements

Each prospective member must meet the requirements set forth by National Pi Tau Sigma via the Constitution, and reinforced by the Drexel Xi Pi Tau Sigma Constitution. These academic requirements for Pi Tau Sigma Drexel Xi chapter are reflected as follows:

- student's ranking must lie in the upper 25% percentile of the student's respective classification
- A last term senior who is in the upper 25% percentile of the seniors' class, who is deemed worthy, may be initiated only upon permission of the Board of Directors

Within these ranges, Drexel Xi Chapter also requires a 3.5 GPA minimum. If there is not a reasonable number of students who meet the GPA requirement, as determined by the officers and advisor of the chapter, the range is opened to edge of the range but not past the 3.25 GPA Nationally required floor.

Ceremony, Rituals, and Celebration

Induction ceremonies were held twice during the 2017-2018 academic year. The first induction ceremony was held during the fall quarter on Friday, November 17th in the Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics Seminar Room with the members of the Pi Tau Sigma Drexel Xi executive board in attendance. There were 14 students inducted. The second induction ceremony was held during the Spring quarter on Friday, May 3rd which was also in the Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics Seminar Room with members of the executive board in attendance. There were 6 people inducted. Our rituals uphold the script found in the Pi Tau Sigma National Constitution. Following the rituals of Pi Tau Sigma, a photo of the initiates with the present executive board was taken in the Main Building of Drexel University. After each induction ceremony, initiates were invited to celebrate their achievements with the executive board with a dinner paid for by Pi Tau Sigma Drexel Xi chapter. The majority of initiates attended the celebratory dinner and found it a great time to network and meet new members of the organization. The inductees of both induction classes are pictured below.

Fall 2017 Pi Tau Sigma Drexel Xi Induction Class

Spring 2018 Pi Tau Sigma Drexel Xi Induction Class

B. Chapter Activities

Leadership and Service

Pi Tau Sigma Drexel Xi works to keep a line of communication between faculty and students to better improve the effectiveness of course evaluations and general departmental improvements. The first step in the development of this line of communication was a survey submitted to sophomores, pre-juniors, juniors and seniors within the mechanical engineering department at Drexel to learn the strengths and weaknesses of our department from the student's perspectives. The survey was met with outstanding participation from the student body. The responses were recorded, analyzed and prepared into a presentation that was given to the department head of the mechanical engineering department, providing the department with data that will hopefully lead to further improvements to the engineering college's largest department.

Additionally, one of the members of the board was asked to serve on the undergraduate tenure and promotion committee for a professor in the Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics Department during the fall term. This involved creating a survey to gauge the professor's quality of teaching, willingness to help and interact with students, and ability as a research and organizational advisor. The survey was disseminated, results were examined, and a report was written and submitted to the department head.

In the winter term, Pi Tau Sigma and ASME were tasked with finding a student who had participated in a co-op with the Boeing Company and was willing to discuss his or her experiences during the college's Engineering Leader of the Year Award Ceremony. The award was being presented to a Boeing executive which is why they wanted a student who had had a co-op with the company. After much searching, Pi Tau Sigma found a suitable candidate who was chosen to speak at the event.

Professional Events

Every year Drexel Xi's chapter of Pi Tau Sigma works to host events geared towards professional development. During the 2017-2018 academic year, two such events were held. The first of which was a graduate school information session and Q&A. Pi Tau Sigma members are among the top academic performers in their respective classes and, therefore, are very likely to consider attending graduate school at some point in their futures. This is the reason this event was deemed important to put on, because these students should be well-informed and prepared to make that decision when the day comes. The chapter worked with the university's career development center and the college's graduate affairs department to host the event, enlisting the help of professors and career advisors to discuss the pros and cons of graduate school, things to consider, how to apply, and more. Drexel Xi also partnered with Drexel's chapter of Tau Beta Pi to host an Engineering Futures seminar. This was a successful and fun interactive event that exercised team chartering.

Social Events

To promote camaraderie and amiability amongst its members, Pi Tau Sigma Drexel Xi held a number of social events during the 2017-2018 academic year. At the end of each term, Pi Tau Sigma and ASME joined together to provide breakfast during finals week. This is a very popular event for students to unwind and refuel to finish out the term strong. A photo taken during one the finals week breakfasts is shown at the end of the section. During the winter term,

a pizza and games night was held to introduce new and old members and to fight off the cold and gloom.

Fundraisers

The Drexel Xi chapter utilized three means of funding for the organization this year. The first is from dues; at the time of initiation, students are asked to pay $60, $30 of which is for national dues and $30 of which is designated for the Drexel chapter. The next portion of funding is subsidized by the Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee (SAFAC), for which Pi Tau Sigma applies each year. Finally, the executive board applied for specific funding from both the Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics Department and SAFAC to pay for the cost of sending two board members to the 2018 convention and to balance the chapter's accounts with Drexel and the National organization.

University Events

Open houses held by the Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics Department and College of Engineering for prospective and accepted students are scheduled throughout each quarter at Drexel University. Having their own table among other departmental organizations, Pi Tau Sigma members were able to share experiences and knowledge not only of the Drexel University system and atmosphere but of Engineering and more specifically Mechanical Engineering to better inform those considering a similar path of study. Pi Tau Sigma board members, with the assistance of their faculty advisor, were also responsible for the attendance of graduate students who showcased testing equipment used in one of the classes in the department. During one open house, a board member was asked to speak on a student panel about her experiences at Drexel.

Chapter Meetings

Drexel Xi chapter meetings were held at various levels of operations within the organization. Throughout each quarter (fall, winter, & spring) of the 2017-2018 academic year, weekly meetings were held for the officers of Pi Tau Sigma. Meetings were typically at around

5:00pm or 6:00pm in order to accommodate the schedules of those at Drexel with class as well as those on co-op. These meetings were at least one hour long with a detailed agenda, subsequent action items, and minutes dictated by the Recording Secretary. Additionally, quite a few meetings were held to discuss and solve the chapter's financial situation. Such meetings were held with executive board members, the faculty advisor, and/or staff members of SAFAC. General body meetings were also held by the chapter to ensure transparent, consistent communication between the executive board and its members. There was also the matter of electing the new members of office. Members were elected democratically within the organization, some of which went unopposed, but nonetheless were announced to the general body.

National Convention

The Pi Tau Sigma National Convention, held at the University of Miami this February, was a fantastic event for members of various chapters to network, share ideas for more successful chapters, and to discuss important topics that affect the entire organization. Two Drexel Xi officers attended the Convention and were accompanied by their faculty advisor. Highlights of the convention include discussing and proposing motions for issues such as clarifying the qualifications for honorary inductees, remedying national board member term limits, and increasing the initiation fee, the annual Autodesk design challenge, and the keynote speech given by Astronaut Dr. Yvonne Cagle, M.D. Another benefit of the national convention was the presentation given on Tau Beta Pi's Engineering Futures events, which prompted the Drexel Xi chapter to partner with Drexel's chapter of Tau Beta Pi to host the aforementioned Engineering Futures event.

Since the 2017 national convention was held at Drexel, the chapter was in possession of the national convention plaque. Not only did the chapter facilitate and pay for the engravings for the 2017 convention but also brought to the attention of the Secretary-Treasurer the mistakes made with the previous two years' engravings. Having discovered the mistakes prior to the 2018 convention, Drexel Xi also had new plates made for the 2016 and 2015 conventions which was paid for by the national organization.

C. Other

2017-2018 Academic Year Officers

President: **Anshul Shresth**
Vice President: **Ronald Vitola**
Treasurer: **Victoria Shafer**
Corresponding Secretary: **Paul Kaneelil**
Webmaster: **Jessi Turgeon**
Recording Secretary: **Kevin legge**

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Kontsos**

2018-2019 Academic Year Officers

President: **Ronald Vitola**
Vice President: **Kevin Legge**
Treasurer: **Kevin Cunningham**
Webmaster: **Jagteshwar Boyal**

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Kontsos**