PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2010-2011
Drexel Xi Chapter

A. Initiations

a. Selection Process

The Selection Process for the Drexel Xi chapter of Pi Tau Sigma is dependent both on the prospective member's academic record and their willingness to get involved. A list of prospective students in the Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics department at Drexel University who meet the academic requirements for the Junior and Senior class standing is provided to the President a month prior to the induction ceremony by the Academic Advisor for the department. The list is then screened by the Department Head to ensure that anyone who has violated the Honor Code for Drexel University is removed from the list. After the list has been screened, the President will contact each prospective member and invite them to join. In order to be inducted, the prospective members must attend both an informational meeting explaining Pi Tau Sigma and at least two events hosted by either Pi Tau Sigma or the Mechanical Engineering Department. These events tend to take the form of social events (cheese steak runs, bowling, or movie nights), volunteering events (open house events or community service), or educational events (industry presentations, FE exam reviews, or guest lecturers). If the prospective meets these requirements, they are inducted in to Pi Tau Sigma.

b. Requirements from initiates

All prospective members must meet the requirements set forth by the National Pi Tau Sigma as outlined in the Constitution. Prospective members must also attend two events hosted by either the Mechanical Engineering Department or by Pi Tau Sigma. The prospective members must also be cleared by the Department Head to ensure they have not violated the Drexel Academic Honesty Policy.

c. Initiation Ceremony, Rituals, and Celebration

The induction ceremony is held on a Friday night near the end of the Fall and Winter terms. The ceremony usually takes place in the Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics Seminar Room with the Department Head and the Drexel Xi chapter Advisor present. The ritual follows the script found the in National Constitution. Following the ceremony, a picture is taken of all inductees and the Executive Board in the Great Hall. To celebrate the achievements of the inductees, the Department of Mechanical Engineering takes the inductees and Executive Board out to dinner at a local restaurant. The Department Head, Chapter Advisor, and an invited Guest of Honor are present at the dinner.

d. Fall Initiation

The Fall Initiation Ceremony was held on Friday, December 3rd, 2010, and 13 total initiates were inducted.

e. Spring Initiation

The Spring Initiation Ceremony was held on Friday, April 29th, 2011, and 16 total initiates were inducted.

B. Chapter Activities

a. Chapter Meetings

Chapter meetings are held once a term, around week 5. The chapter meetings serve as a way to effectively communicate with the members of Pi Tau Sigma the upcoming events and opportunities available to them. These meeting are usually held in the evening to accommodate members both in class and on coop. Special chapter meetings are also held at the beginning of the Fall Term and end of Spring term for graduating seniors. At these meetings, we discuss how Pi Tau Sigma can help graduates in the future. Most communication between Pi Tau Sigma and its members is via email. Periodic emails are sent from the Pi Tau Sigma email address to the members informing them of important events and other information.

b. Community Services

Over the past academic year, Pi Tau Sigma members have participated in Girl Scout Science Saturdays at Drexel University, volunteered with the American Helicopter Museum in West Chester, PA teaching classes about flight and helicopters, and volunteered with Children's' events at the Philadelphia Zoo. See more events for volunteering in Section H of this document.

c. Convention Participation

The Drexel Xi Chapter sent 6 members to the National Convention in Chicago in February of this year. The majority of the members were from the Executive Board, but several general members were invited to attend as well.

At the National Convention, Haider Hassan and Christopher Elko from Drexel Xi each chaired one event and resided over the proceedings the following day as the Parliamentarian. Our chapter also won several awards including Outstanding Chapter and a member won first prize of the Griggs scholarship.

d. Fundraising

The Drexel Xi chapter currently has three means of funding for our organization. The first is from dues; at the time of initiation students are asked to pay $45, $35 of which is for national dues and $10 which is designated for the Drexel chapter. The next portion comes from our Mechanical Engineering Department; they typically fund Pi Tau Sigma with $4000 a year which covers half of our expenses for convention and our bi-annual dinners after our induction ceremonies. In return, Pi Tau Sigma helps and supports the department by volunteering for Open Houses and other events as well as assisting them on a scholarship committee. The remainder of funding for convention and events comes from the student allocated funds (SAFAC), which Pi Tau Sigma applies for each year. For the 2010-2011 academic year, Pi Tau Sigma received $3,984 from SAFAC to use for various events.

e. Joint Events

This past year we held two events with the Drexel Chapter of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). The first was an industry presentation by Air Products, in which ASME secured the speaker and Pi Tau Sigma assisted in advertising and promoting the event. We had a successful turn out of about 50 students. Another joint event held with ASME was FE Exam reviews, in which Pi Tau Sigma hosted and ASME helped advertise. The reviews were targeted to those junior and senior students taking either the October 2010 or April 2011 exams and took place one a week for the eight weeks prior the exam day.

f. Social Events

The Drexel Xi chapter hosts a social event every other week during the academic term. These events range from events open to just Pi Tau Sigma members to those which any student may attend. Some examples of these events are: Cheese Steak Runs, Movie Nights, Finals Pizza Party, Dave and Busters Social Hour, Graduation Celebrations, and Alumni Networking Evening.

g. University Events

The Drexel Xi chapter actively participates in the following events with the University:

-Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics open houses

-College of Engineering open houses

These events are held periodically in the fall and winter. Depending on the event, Pi Tau Sigma member will host a table and talk to prospective students about mechanical engineering and Drexel University, give tours of the engineering labs, or provide general help assistance in the event.

h. Volunteering

The members volunteer as judges in the Delaware Valley Regional Science Fair which takes place in April every year for middle school and high schools. Pi Tau Sigma members spend day talking to the student engineers or scientists about their project and life as an engineer. Pi Tau Sigma also helps to set up and break down the science fair.

C. Other