Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2018-2019
Santa Clara Alpha Epsilon

Initiations:

For the Santa Clara's Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma, an invitation to be initiated is rather difficult to come by, as there are few mechanical engineers at Santa Clara University in comparison to most schools. To begin, the advisor receives a list of the highest GPAs in the junior class. In this list, students who have a GPA around 3.73 and above are given an invitation into Pi Tau Sigma. This usually results in about 10 students being initiated every year, allowing the society to have 10 students at any given time. GPA is the only real requirement to gain an invitation to the society; however, once membership is gained, it is required that each member participate in majority of the events, respond to emails, and help the school with certain events (Preview Day, SEEDS, planning E-week, etc.). Due to there only being 11 initiates from the junior class this year, one initiation was held for the full year. This initiation took place on March 15, 2018.

During initiation, members of the society and the initiates meet to go through the traditional Pi Tau Sigma initiation ceremony. Afterwards, food is provided to all members and plans are made for the society's future, such as desired events. Two initiations are typically held during each year: one near the end of the fall quarter and one near the end of winter quarter. Spring initiation does not take place because there is not much time to become involved with the society if one is initiated in the spring. We plan to continue having two initiations beginning in fall quarter of the 2019-2020 academic year. Each initiation usually brings around 5 to 7 members into the society.

Chapter Activities:

The activities of our chapter this year were limited, but the participation that was seen among the members was excellent. In the fall quarter, a few meetings were held in order to accomplish the following activities: pass out old certificates and membership cards from the previous years, have the members meet each other and have casual conversation with food, and talk about what kinds of events would like to be seen throughout the year. We also organized an internship information panel to aid students with the internship application process and a graduate school application information panel to aid students with the graduate school application process.

To begin the winter quarter, the qualifying junior members were initiated, after which the students and faculty advisor had a chance to get to know each other better and discuss the society's goals over dinner. At the start of the spring quarter, a meeting was held within the first two weeks of school in order to elect the new officers of the society for the 2019 – 2020 academic year and talk about the events that would be happening during the spring quarter. All the old and new officers met later in the quarter to discuss the running of the club and ensure a smooth transition. As a student organization, we participated in the Preview Days event at Santa Clara. At Preview Day, members help by directing guests to the places they desire to go and answering their questions. We also participated in the SEEDs program, in which local high school students are invited to participate in a series of engineering-related workshops and events.

Other:

Outside of the standard chapter activities, our members have become affiliated with multiple different student organizations at Santa Clara University. Pi Tau Sigma members have taken on leadership roles in AIAA, ASME, Tau Beta Pi, Theta Tau, and other non-engineering student organizations. In addition to these leadership positions, many of our members have gotten involved in faculty research with professors of the mechanical engineering department.