Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2017-2018
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 volunteer for the School of Engineering on behalf of the student chapter. Since only 11 students from the junior class were invited the join for this year, one initiation was held. This initiation took place on February 12, 2018. Since one initiate was unable to attend the initiation ceremony, a make-up initiation was held on February 16, 2018

During initiation, members of the society and the initiates meet to go through the traditional Pi Tau Sigma initiation ceremony. Afterwards, both initiates and active members are invited to sit down together and eat, helping familiarize the new initiates with the active class. Potential activities are also pitched and discussed at this time to get feedback from members.

Chapter Activities:

A Fall Quarter initiation was not held this year, due to a large number of the eligible student candidates being abroad for that part of the year. Active members were involved as student volunteers for the School's Open House day, interacting with interested high school students and representing the school as a whole. Additionally, a tour and info session for Space Systems Loral were co-organized by Santa Clara Alpha Epsilon, as well as the student chapter of ASME on campus.

During Winter Quarter, our initiation of the junior class of mechanical engineering students was held. 11 candidates joined Santa Clara Alpha Epsilon, and these candidates and active members joined together afterwards to eat and get to know each other. After initiation, there were several volunteer activities for members within the School of Engineering. For Engineer's Week, Pi Tau Sigma sponsored a paper airplane competition as part of an engineering carnival. Members also participated in an admitted student calling campaign, to answer questions for high school students debating whether or not to attend Santa Clara.

Spring Quarter was the most active quarter, thanks to both junior and senior members participating in events for the entire quarter. Students once again volunteered for Santa Clara's Preview Days, a weekend dedicated to welcoming admitted students and providing tours and information to them. Elections were held on Tuesday, May 22 to determine the officer board for the next year. An event called "Life after SCU" was held on May 31, where several alumni and faculty were invited to come and sit on a panel for current undergraduate mechanical engineering students, answering questions about the different paths that one may take upon receiving their bachelor's degree, and how to go about pursuing these paths. Finally, a Senior Dinner was held to congratulate those graduating from Santa Clara.

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, and some members presented their work at conferences or in journals.