Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report

2016-2017

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.). This year only one initiation was held, which took place on January 12, 2017, as the majority of initiates were abroad during the fall quarter.

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 2017-2018 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 workshop to aid students with the internship application process.

To begin the winter quarter, the qualifying junior members were initiated. Multiple company tours were arranged with contacts employed at nearby companies. Another event took place to introduce junior members to senior members with food provided and speakers employed at nearby companies.

At the start of the spring quarter, a meeting was held within the first week of school in order to elect the new officers of the society for the 2016 – 2017 academic year and talk about the events that would be happening during the spring quarter. 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. A Lockheed Martin Space Systems tour was arranged for members of the chapter as well as other engineering students. Lastly, a final

event will occur towards the end of the quarter where the members will go out for food and the seniors will provide information about Senior Design to the juniors in the society.

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.