Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report

2015-2016

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, fall initiation fell on November 16th and winter initiation fell on March 8th.

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. 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. In completing these events, the fall quarter was finished off by having our fall initiation. Most of the members were able to attend this event and dinner was provided.

To begin the winter quarter, a short meeting was held to gain more insight to desired events from the members and hand out the fall initiates' certificates and membership cards. After, our society helped in planning the events for the National Engineers week at Santa Clara University. This activity also occurred partly in the fall quarter, but most meetings were held at the beginning of the winter quarter. Different members attended each meeting and event ideas were discussed at the meetings. Another event that occurred during the winter quarter was dinner with a graduate student. In this event, the previous president of our chapter, who is now a graduate student at Santa Clara University, came to dinner with our society to answer any of the members' questions about going to graduate school. This was a fun event and our entire chapter was able to attend. To finish off winter quarter, winter initiation was held and, again, most of the members were able to attend for food and to welcome the new initiates into the society.

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. Some of the events that will be occurring during the spring quarter will be assisting with Santa Clara University's Preview Day, where all admitted students come to see the school, and SEEDs, Spring Engineering Education Days. At Preview Day, members help by directing guests to the places they desire to go and answering their questions. SEEDs has yet to take place, but some of the members have agreed to help the professors run experiments that will be put on to educate high schoolers about engineering. The members also agreed that they wanted to tour the NASA Ames wind tunnels, which will be happening on an approaching Friday. 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:

A few other activities that do not fit in the two categories occurred during the school year. To begin, all of the members were also invited and involved in Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honors Society. In this society, all of our members were required to tutor for an hour a week during the school year.

Also not stated, our members are very involved in research with the professors at Santa Clara University and help other members become familiar with the professors whose research coincides with their interests. In doing this, many of the members are planning to continue their education into graduate school.