PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2009-2010
Santa Clara Alpha Epsilon

A. Initiations

The selection process of new members into the Santa Clara Alpha Epsilon chapter is based on the top of the junior and senior classes in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Santa Clara University. Members were selected from the top 25 percent of the junior class and top 33 percent of the senior class.

For the 2009-2010 year, two initiations were performed during the fall and spring quarters. These initiations were held on November 4, 2009 and May 13, 2010. Official Pi Tau Sigma Rituals were followed for both ceremonies, as described in Appendix A: Rituals of Pi Tau Sigma in The Pi Tau Sigma Chapter Guide. The Pi Tau Sigma handshake was shared individually with each initiate following the initiation ceremony.

Following the fall initiation, all new initiates and current members shared a dinner to celebrate. The night following spring initiation, all members were treated to a dinner out at a local restaurant. The celebrations following the initiation ceremonies gave the officers and senior members the opportunity to better acquaint themselves with the new and younger members in preparation for officer elections for the next school year as well as celebrate each members achievements.

New officer elections were held on June 1, 2010. All members returning as undergraduates for the 2010-2011 year were encouraged to apply for officers. All those running for office were required to give a speech to all members, after which all current members voted anonymously.

B. Chapter Activities

The chapter activities at Santa Clara University for the 2009-2010 school year were aimed at increasing involvement and awareness of PTS on campus and nationally, networking within the Department of Mechanical Engineering, communication among the university's engineering organizations, and involvement in community outreach.

During the 2009-2010 academic year two of Santa Clara's PTS officers, consisting of the president and recording secretary, attended the National PTS Convention at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. This year marked the first time Santa Clara University has participated in a National Convention. The president of the 2009-2010 year made it mandatory for future presidents to attend in order to keep the chapter in good standing with the national office by promoting officer involvement. It is the hope that this will increasing chapter activities in the future.

The major activity of Santa Clara Alpha Epsilon chapter is the yearlong weekly ME time. One day of each week a lunch is prepared for all members of the Department of Mechanical

Engineering, including undergraduate and graduate students. This event acts to strengthen the relationships and promote networking among all members of the department in a more laid back and not strictly academic environment.

One of the more rewarding events the Alpha Epsilon chapter was involved in this year was volunteering at the Third Street Community Center in San Jose, CA. The goal of this event was to promote interest in a career in engineering during Engineering Month. The community center provides an afterschool program for elementary school children that supports academic and social development. All engineering organizations at the university were involved, including Tau Beta Pi, ASME, IEEE, Engineers Without Borders, and Society of Women Engineers. Each week of the month highlighted an area of engineering, comprised of computer, electrical, mechanical, and civil engineering. The organizations teamed up to provide short lesson plans and activities to emphasize each area.

For the week focusing on mechanical engineering, Pi Tau Sigma teamed up with Santa Clara University's ASME chapter to volunteer on February 4, 2010. Both groups brainstormed and decided upon building catapults out of popsicle sticks, rubber bands, and glue. The group first gave a short lesson plan on what mechanical engineer does and the engineering design process in general. A short tutorial was given on how catapults functions, followed by the children designing and sketching their ideas. Once the design phase was complete, the catapults were built and a competition was held. The volunteering opportunity proved to be extremely rewarding for both Pi Tau Sigma members as well as the children in the program.

The chapter also participated in Santa Clara University Preview Days, which introduces the university to prospective students. Multiple members, including officers helped with directing prospective students to presentations within the School of Engineering and talking to these students and their parents. During the Preview Days, the PTS president also participated in a discussion with prospective students at NASA Ames at Moffett Field, California.