PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2011-2012

Michigan Dearborn Alpha Pi

A. Initiations

During the 2011-2012 year, we held two initiations. Fall initiation was held on December 10, 2011 during which four members were inducted into Pi Tau Sigma. Three students were initiated during the Winter semester ceremony scheduled on April 15, 2012.

Selection process:
Selection is made from the Mechanical Engineering students in good standing at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, a list is obtained of the top 25% juniors and the top 30% seniors. The students on the list are sent a letter and an email inviting them to attend an informational meeting to learn more about Pi Tau Sigma.

Requirements from initiates:
To become initiated into the Alpha Pi Chapter, students must attend the informational meeting; this provides them insight into the organization. After attending the meeting, the students must pay their dues and dedicate two hours to a community service project. Last requirement is to attend the ceremony itself.

Initiation ceremony and rituals:
Initiations are conducted in the same manner as done during the convention. Students are lined up in alphabetical ordered and processed into the hall. Initiation process is conducted by the president and the vice president while remaining officers serve any supporting rule that is necessary during the ritual.

Celebration:
Initiation is celebrated with a banquet. The banquet is collaborated between the three engineering honor societies on campus, Pi Tau Sigma (PTS), Eta Kappa Nu (HKN), and Tau Beta Pi (TBP). During the banquet, the initiates are recognized and congratulated for their achievements thus far in their academic career; furthermore, they are encouraged to invite two guests to join their celebrations.

B. Chapter Activities

Welcome Week BBQ:
At the beginning of the Fall semester, PTS participated in the annual College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS) Welcome Week BBQ. This event allows the students in campus engineering organization and honor societies to provide lunch for students as well as welcome new and returning students back to campus after the summer break. This event also gives organizations a chance to promote themselves to the students on campus. Alpha Pi chapter represented Pi Tau Sigma by handing out flyers with information. The members also participated

in setting up and cleaning after the event, additionally, members distributed food during the event.

Welcome Week BBQ

Steel Mill Tour:
The members of Alpha Pi were given a chance to attend the open house at Severstal North America – steel mill located in the historic Rouge Complex right in the city of Dearborn where the school is located. The students were given tour of the different steel making facilities such as steel making, hot rolling, and cold rolling by employees of the mill. This opportunity provided students a chance to observe many of the processes learned about during their manufacturing processes class.

Student-faculty Gathering:
In an effort to promote more student faculty interaction, the members of Pi Tau Sigma in coordination with the Mechanical Engineering Department hosted a student-faculty gathering. This event provided an opportunity for student to have open dialogue with the Mechanical engineering department faculty as well as free lunch. Additionally, this helps students interact with another and a way for new or undecided students to learn about the Mechanical Engineering department and curriculum.

Faculty Lecture:
Additionally to facilitate more student and faculty dialogue, the chapter has asked faculty to volunteer their time to discuss their research with students. Several faculty members have agreed to this, so far only one faculty member has discussed his research followed by a tour of his lab on the UM-D campus. The event lasted for approximately and hour.

Statics Seminar:
One of the most crucial subjects for Mechanical Engineering students is Statics. Therefore, in the Winter semester, PTS along with TBP, hosted a two day seminar reviewing Statics. During these two days, the subject was reviewed by one of the Mechanical Engineering faculty member. Review materials were prepared by the faculty and students of the honor societies. All together four hours were spent and there was a large participation during the event.

Gleaners Food Bank:
Gleaners is a local food bank which provides 70% of its proceeds to local children in need of nourishment. PTS, TBP, and HKN coordinate this event together every semester; members travel to the Gleaners facility in Detroit. At the facility, students split into groups of five, they then collect and package food from the warehouse as requested according to lists provided by employees. The volunteer sessions generally last 3 hours and done at least once every semester.

Science Olympiad:
Science Olympiad is a science competition held for students from elementary to high school. Students compete at their own grade level amongst other schools and students. There are various events from egg drop to bridge construction, during these events, the college students serve as judges and volunteers. This event is sponsored by TBP every Winter semester. Each semester a few PTS students stepped in to help fill remaining spots for judges or general volunteers. This is an all-day event.

Meetings:
Several meetings were conducted this year, and generally conducted by the President. An agenda is prepared by the president who discusses any open issues and then members are allowed to suggest ideas for possible future events. For example, in the future, Alpha Pi chapter plans on having a CAD seminar, making new t-shirts, and a social outing to bumper cars. Participation varies for the meetings but generally quarter to half the members were present.

C. Other

Attending Conference:
In addition to being active on it's own campus, Alpha Pi chapter has been making great efforts at participating on a national level. As of this last convention, Alpha Pi chapter has been present at the convention for two consecutive years. Students prepare proposals and attend several meetings to obtain funding from the students activities office, the college of engineering dean and head of the mechanical engineering department.