PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2009 - 2010

Michigan-Dearborn Alpha Pi

A. Initiations

Selection Process
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.

Initiate Requirements
All initiates are required to attend one informational meeting to learn more about Pi Tau Sigma and to be assigned their initiate projects. They are required to complete an initiate project, usually an on-campus volunteer activity. For Fall of 2009, the initiates helped with a holiday canned food drive and for Winter of 2010, the initiates helped with the Student-Faculty Gathering. In addition to this, all initiates must pay national and chapter dues, as well as attend the initiation ceremony.

Initiation Ceremony and Celebration
For Fall 2009, nine new members were initiated on December 3, 2009. The initiation rituals were performed, proceeded by officer elections. Afterwards, initiation was celebrated with a game night shared with another organization, Tau Beta Pi.
For Winter 2010, four new members were initiated on March 28, 2010. The initiation rituals were performed, proceeded by officer elections. Afterwards, initiation was celebrated with a banquet shared with two other honor societies on campus, Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu.

B. Chapter Activities

Fall 2009 Meetings
There were general meetings in October and November, to discuss future event plans and initiation. There was one initiate meeting on October 26th, to provide information to the initiates about Pi Tau Sigma and the requirements to join.

Canned Food Drive
Our chapter ran a holiday canned food drive. Collection and participation was part of the fall initiates' project. Several boxes of nonperishable food was collected and donated to a local church that runs a shelter for homeless people in the community.

Fall Initiation
Fall initiation took place on December 3rd, followed by officer elections. Nine new members were initiated. A full executive board was elected from the initiates and the four current members that attended.

Game night with Tau Beta Pi
After the fall initiation took place, several Pi Tau Sigma members participated in game night with the Tau Beta Pi honor society. This was a social night that included food, video games, and board games.

Winter 2010 Meetings
There were several general meetings in the winter semester to discuss future event plans and initiation. There were three initiate meetings on February 18th, March 10th, and March 11th, to provide information to the initiates about Pi Tau Sigma and the requirements to join.

Social nights
In the winter semester we held two social nights, February 4th and April 8th. They were held at a local sports restaurant.

Football Squares Fundraiser
From January 23rd to February 8th we held a fundraiser. The fundraiser was a drawing with a football theme. For the prizes, we were able to get several donations from local restaurants totaling approximately $250. Our goal was to raise money for the graduating seniors' stoles and for professional development speakers. We were able to successfully raise $500 for our chapter.

Mechanical Engineering Student-Faculty Gathering
On March 15th, our chapter held a gathering for all mechanical engineering students and faculty, with the help of our Mechanical Engineering department. The goal was to encourage conversation between professors and students. Everyone enjoyed pizza and refreshments, and we had a very successful event.

Winter Initiation
Winter initiation took place on Marc 28th, followed by officer elections. Four new members were initiated. A full executive board was elected from the initiates and the six current members that attended.

Winter banquet
After the winter initiation, our chapter shared a celebratory banquet with two other engineering honor societies, Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu. There was a buffet dinner and afterwards Andrew Toy, the advisor of Tau Beta Pi, spoke a few congratulatory words to the new members.

Stoles and Cords
As one of our projects, the graduating seniors were contacted for stoles and cords. As part of our fundraiser for the winter semester, we were able to pay for some of the costs. Seven graduates completed commencement wearing Pi Tau Sigma graduation gear.

Website
Throughout the course of the winter semester, improvements were made to our chapter's website, with the help of our webmasters. This summer, additional improvements are being made in order to make a more user-friendly and updatable website.

ASME collaboration
Starting late in the winter semester, additional efforts were made to instill cooperation between the two major mechanical engineering groups on campus. Pi Tau Sigma members attended the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) meetings, and also attended the Detroit ASME chapter's Awards Banquet. In the coming semesters, plans are already being put into place for cooperative events, for example a tour to a local power plant.

C. Other

Throughout this academic year, there was a drastic and substantial improvement in our chapter. With the help of the fall initiates, attendance improved, funds were raised, and events were successful. In the fall, a typical general meeting would yield two members. In the winter, with the assistance of many enthusiastic new members, attendance reached to over seven members on average.

Not only did participation increase, but our leadership perspectives and cooperation made our winter semester end on a high note. Even though our chapter is relatively small, we were still able to successfully hold several events while still branching out to help with other organizations trying to revive their groups and promote the engineering profession.