PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2010 - 2011

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 2010, some initiates volunteered their time, and some helped to re-do our display cabinet. Winter of 2011, the initiates helped with the Engineering Experience day, held for local high-school students. 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 2010, seven new members were initiated on November 21, 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.
For Winter 2011, four new members were initiated on April 3rd, 2011. 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

Meetings
There were general meetings in September and February, to discuss future event plans, conference, and initiation. New initiate meetings were held in October and March, to provide information to the initiates about Pi Tau Sigma and the requirements to join.

Fall Initiation
Fall initiation took place on November 21st, followed by officer elections. Seven new members were initiated. A full executive board was elected from the initiates and the four current members that attended.

Fall Banquet
After the fall 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.

Display Cabinet
Some of the members chose to work on our display cabinet for their initiate project. They took pride in their work and went above and beyond what was required of them for their project, coming back to spend another day on it. The display cabinet is located in the main engineering building on campus, and is the primary way of displaying our organization.

Tour of the Whiting Power Plant
Our chapter worked with the Detroit chapter of ASME to offer a tour of the Whiting power plant to our members. This tour involved a basic lesson on power generation, lunch, a question and answer session, and a guided tour through the coal fired power plant in Erie, Michigan. Every member who attended had great time and found it to be a valuable experience.

National Convention
Our chapter attended the 2011 National Convention. This was a big accomplishment for our chapter, as we have not attended in at least a few years. We were able to secure funding to cover the expenses for five members to attend, and hope to continue to attend now that the groundwork has been laid. This was a great opportunity to learn more about how other chapters operate and improve upon our leadership.

Winter Initiation
Winter initiation took place on April 3rd, 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 Dr. Chris Mi, Associate Professor of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and 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. We were able to pay for some of the costs due to our fundraiser last year.

Website
Our chapter's website has continued to improve with the help of our webmasters. For the past year, we have kept it up to date with the current officers and contact information in case any students want to learn more about the organization. This winter semester, the website has been kept up to date with our PTS events, providing another source of information for interested members.

ASME collaboration
Continuing on from last year, 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. We also collaborated for the tour of the Whiting Power Plant.

C. Other

Throughout this academic year, there were substantial improvements in our chapter. We continued to build on our improvements last year, encouraging participation and making the presence of our organization known. With the help of the fall initiates our display cabinet was completely redone to do a better job showing off our organization. We made a major leap in attending National Convention, which serves as a great resource when talking to potential members. We have talked to administration and have plans to host a student-faculty gathering in the fall semester.

Not only did participation increase, but our leadership perspectives and cooperation will ensure that the organization will continue to grow. 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.