PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2017-2018
UIC ALPHA SIGMA

A. Initiations

Junior and senior level undergraduates in the top 25% and 35% of their respective classes were recruited as potential prospects to join the UIC Alpha Sigma chapter of PI Tau Sigma. The selection process began with the chapter VICE President sending out an email to the students who met or exceeded the requirements. This email was detailed with all the necessary information that the potential pledges needed to make an informed decision. The information provided included Pi Tau Sigma requirements, benefits, and the initiation process.

All interested prospects were scheduled interviews with current Pi Tau Sigma members. The interview process assessed each candidate's personal, academic, and professional goals. Each candidate's intended level of participation and leadership was also considered. This selection process ensured that only candidates that were believed to share and honor the values of Pi Tau Sigma were chosen to receive membership to the Alpha Sigma chapter. The interviews also allowed current members to gain service hours and form relationships within new initiates.

The initiation ceremonies were held in the last few weeks of each semester. The chapter President and Vice President sat opposite the pledges, reviewed the expectations, missions, values, and history of Pi Tau Sigma. Each Pledge was required to stat his or her name and promise to uphold the values expected of all PTS members. After the ceremony, a celebration dinner was held at a local restaurant. Pledges, active members, and chapter officers attended and intermingled.

Fall 2017 semester
Initiation date: 10/16/17 Members Inducted: Seven
Spring 2018 semester
Initiation date: 3/15/18 Members Inducted: Eight

B. Chapter Activities

Officer Meetings:

PTS officers met weekly during the fall semester, this ensured communication and timely establishing chapter goals and planning of events. The President ran each meeting, the secretary took notes which were uploaded on the PTS drive.

General Body Meetings:

The purpose of our general body meetings is to communicate information about PTS events and member expectations. These meetings also serve as an opportunity for the members to socialize with each other. Attendance is taken at each meeting and recorded by the secretary. During two of the general body meetings we had voted on the induction of two new PTS Chapters.

Special Topics:

During certain General body meetings special topics took place around the Engineering profession. Such as the invitation of Patrick R. Devanney to speak to members of the importance of LinkedIn, resume, society attendance, and networking. Patrick is the Associate Director of the Engineering Career center. He provided valuable information to members. Other importance topics were given by Jacqueline Swift who is PTS graduate representative. She discussed the importance of a Graduate education, internships, jobs, and extending beyond the UIC walls in engineering.

C. Social Gatherings

Bent & Plaque Polishing: A bent polishing event is held every semester in the weeks following initiation to ceremonially welcome new members into the society and renew the honor of continuing members. Due to the team-bonding nature of the ceremony and the casual, creative workshop environment where it is held, the polishing ceremony consistently has one of the best turnouts of all the social events.

Bar Crawl: Both semesters, UIC Alpha Sigma hosted a bar crawl in the fall targeted at all engineering students. The event was open to everyone including PTS Alumni. To participate,

students purchased wristbands that were to be worn during the event rather than t-shirts that had been sold in the past. Switching to wristband sales proved to be more profitable and seemed to be preferred by the students. The chapter also hosted another bar crawl in the spring and reverted back to t-shirts to have increased visibility for those part of the bar crawl.

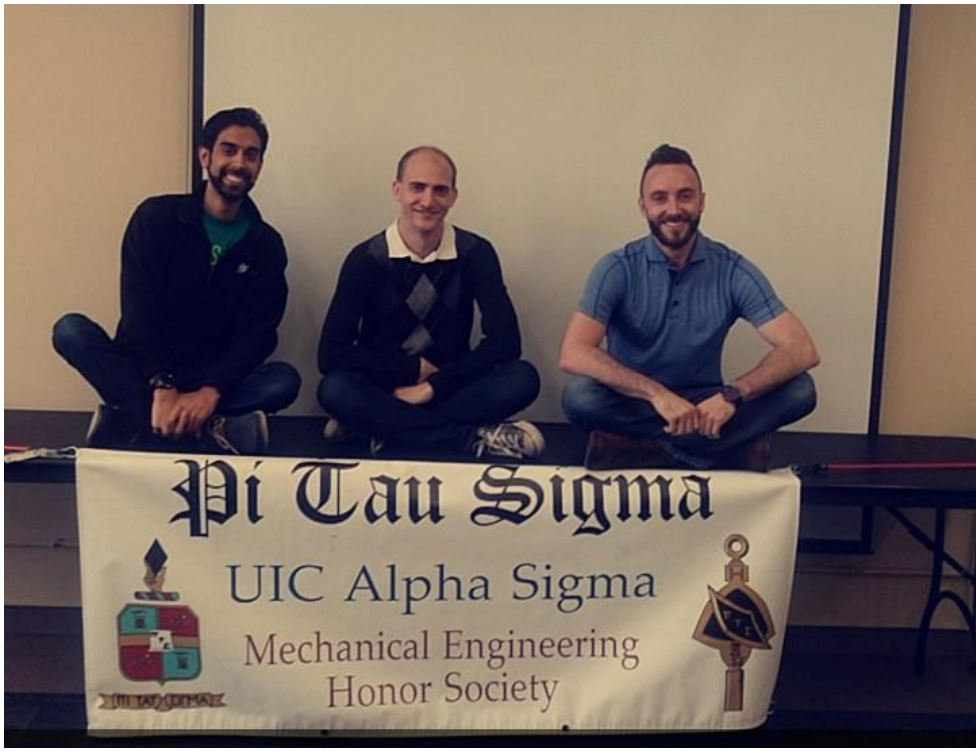
Homework & Coffee Night: Hosting a weekly homework and coffee night proved to be successful for many of the PTS members. Not only do they gain service hours for attending, but a designated room in which students may go to study helped prepare for exams and homework. At the first H&C, points were also awarded to those that brought canned goods for a food drive hosted by UIC.

D. Academic Gatherings

PTS National Convention - 2018

UIC Alpha Sigma was able to send 12 members to attend the national convention with the help of PTS national and UIC funding. It was a great opportunity for our members to network with other engineering students, learn more about the engineering profession, as well as have a great time. The attendant number was up from last years and we hope that the number goes further up in the next PTS convention in Colorado.

PTS Alpha Sigma Regional Convention – 2018

This Spring the chapter was able to host a Midwest convention. Among the attendants were UIC members, Urbana Champaign, the newly inducted Northern Illinois, and Southern Illinois members. Special speeches were given by UIC and PTS Alumni James Lirot and Garrison Buss. Tours were given of UIC's Makerspace, and research performed by Dr. Megaridis fluids lab, Dr. Pan additive manufacturing lab, Dr. Abiade Lab for Oxide Research and Education, and the SAE formula and baja developments. Following the day students performed a mini quiz of certain engineering topics and won prizes of a first place UIC sweater and second place Sparky mascot. The Midwest convention was well received by students and a final farewell dinner was held at a

local Chicago restaurant. In the following academic semesters, we hope that fellow Midwest universities can host one of their own and with greater attendant success.