PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2019-2020

UIC Alpha Sigma at the University of Illinois at Chicago

A. Initiations

As a widely recognized, well-reputed, and active honor society within the university's College of Engineering, UIC Alpha Sigma continues to grow as a prestigious organization. The chapter leadership strives each semester to recruit and induct only the most upstanding and motivated new members from among the many qualified candidates. As the chapter's reputation has grown, the initiation requirements have become more competitive and the initiation process itself more interactive.

While invitations to the initiation process are administered according to the standards required by the national Pi Tau Sigma leadership, the UIC Alpha Sigma chapter strives to recruit members who will participate actively – not only within the society, but also in the university and professional communities. Toward that end, chapter-specific initiation requirements in previous years have included attendance at Pi Tau Sigma general body meetings during the semester prior to initiation and a minimum number of hours of participation in chapter activities each subsequent semester in order to maintain active status.

The process for initiation into Pi Tau Sigma UIC Alpha Sigma is initiated with an interview between current Pi Tau Sigma members and potential members who have been invited. Qualified students received an invitation to schedule an interview with one current Pi Tau Sigma member or officer. The interviews were conducted relatively informally and served to acquaint the candidate with the chapter and its leadership and vice versa. After completing interviews for all interested candidates and reviewing attendance records for candidates at general body meetings, the chapter leadership formally invited the initiates from the final round of selection to become members of Pi Tau Sigma.

The initiation ceremony conforms to the process used to initiate new chapters at the national convention. After lining up in alphabetical order outside of the meeting location – in this case, a classroom – the initiates were brought into the dark room and seated in two rows in front of the chapter officers seated opposite at a dimly-lit table. After the chapter president and vice president had reviewed the expectations, mission, values, and history of Pi Tau Sigma, the candidates repeated the initiation vow individually and shook hands with each officer.

The post initiation celebration was held at a local pizza restaurant and was open to all newly initiated, active-status members, and Pi Tau Sigma alumni. A bent-polishing and plaque-staining day was held after initiation in the spring ceremony for all new initiates and members from the year as a chapter bonding exercise.

Fall 2019 Semester

Initiation Date: October 14th, 2019 Members Inducted: 5
Initiation Date: October 16th, 2019 Members Inducted: 1
Initiation Date: October 17th, 2019 Members Inducted: 2

Spring 2020 Semester

Initiation Date: March 9th, 2020 Members Inducted: 12

Initiation Date: March 13th, 2020 Members Inducted: 2

B. Chapter Activities

Fall 2019

Over the past few years, the recognition and reputation of UIC Alpha Sigma has greatly increased within the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Engineering and beyond. This year, the chapter put this forward momentum to great effect and strove to build upon the success and experience from the previous year.

The chapter held three general body meetings. The first meeting was held to welcome back continuing members at the university and to allow for nonmembers to attend if any were interested in joining but wanted to know more about the organization. The 2 succeeding general body meetings were members only. The chapter officers met weekly between general body meetings to organize and coordinate activities and duties throughout the year.

Since Pi Tau Sigma is an honor society for mechanical engineers, in Fall 2019, our chapter held a career fair prep event. At the event, we allowed attendees to improve their resume and interview skills while also providing attendees with headshots. Our chapter held this event because of the upcoming career fair, and we wanted to make sure everyone who attended our event was prepared and ready for potential interviews and/or job offers. Food and refreshments were provided to attendees. The event was open and free to everyone in the engineering department.

The next significant event after the career fair prep event was initiation for the Fall 2019 initiates. 1 main initiation with a dinner afterwards was held while 2 make up initiations were held for potential members who could not attend the main initiation.

A reoccurring event held biweekly was homework nights. Our chapter reserved a room on campus and provided attendees a place to study while also provided snacks such as ramen, donuts, coffee, etc. Some homework nights were open to members only while some were open for all to attend. The goal of our homework nights was to provide a space where attendees could study with other fellow engineers and/or friends.

The final event held in the fall semester was the biannual Pi Tau Sigma bar crawl. We partnered with local bars and sold t-shirts with wristbands for a bar crawl on a Friday night. The purpose of this event was to fundraise for our chapter while also hosting a social night for members and nonmembers to meet and network.

Spring 2020

Spring 2020 started off as a busy year, but due to the recent events involving the COVID-19 pandemic, the semester was cut short due to the limitations caused by social distancing. Officers continued to meet weekly before the closure of Illinois in person and officers met through zoom during the quarantine.

The first event our chapter hosted was a general body meeting. This meeting would allow us to welcome back returning members while also allowing potential members attend if more information was needed. The other main goal of the first general body meeting was to finalize the attendees for the Pi Tau Sigma National Convention at Rochester, New York in 2020.

After the general body meeting, the next event was the convention in Rochester, New York. 7 members attended the event where we went to workshops, labs, panels, career fairs, etc. It was an enjoyable experience and an informative one.

In February, we were getting ready to prepare for the Pi Tau Sigma national convention in 2021 at UIC, so to focus more on that, we decided to increase the frequency of homework

nights in the spring semester to allow for members to further interact with recently initiated members. We still wanted to provide a space for attendees to come and efficiently study.

The last significant event of the semester was the initiation of potential members. The initiation was held in March on the week before Illinois shut down. An initiation ceremony was held and a dinner took place afterwards at a local restaurant, with only 1 make up initiation needed.

There were plans for further events we would have hosted. We were in contact with the CEO of a company for a potential guest speaker event and were planning a Fall 2020 bar crawl with a custom t-shirt design created by a Pi Tau Sigma member. Due to COVID-19, our last event was the initiation and dinner. We've been continuing to monitor the situation to see how things change and how plans may have to be altered for the 2021 National Convention.