PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2014-2015
UIC ALPHA SIGMA

A. Initiations

Junior and senior level undergraduates in the top 25% and 35% of their respective classes are considered eligible for membership in the UIC Alpha Sigma chapter of Pi Tau Sigma. The selection process began with obtaining a list of mechanical engineering students who meet these requirements. The chapter Vice President sent an email to the potential pledges containing information about Pi Tau Sigma, the requirements and benefits of membership, and the initiation process.

Those interested were required to schedule an interview with an active Pi Tau Sigma member. The interview process assessed each candidate's personal, academic and professional goals, as well as their intended level of participation and leadership in UIC Alpha Sigma. This crucial step of the initiation process not only guaranteed that only those who were believed to uphold the values of Pi Tau Sigma were selected for membership, but also gave current members an opportunity to gain service hours and form relationships with new initiates.

The initiation ceremonies were held on a Friday during the final few weeks of each semester. During the ceremony 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 state his or her name and promise to uphold the values expected of a PTS member. After the ceremony, a celebration dinner was held at a local restaurant. Pledges, active members, and the chapter officers attended.

Fall 2014
12 Members initiated November 21, 2014

Spring 2015
11 Members initiated April 10, 2015

Figure 1: Fall 2014 Initiates

Figure 2: Spring 2015 Initiates and Officers

B. Chapter Activities

University Service Activities

Tutoring: UIC Alpha Sigma hosted tutoring sessions twice a week, open to undergraduates needing extra assistance in math, science, and engineering classes. Officers and active members ran the sessions and anyone was invited to attend. The sessions provided not only an academic service to students, but also exposed the College of Engineering student body to learn about Pi Tau Sigma and interact with its members. Many tutoring attendees have gone on to become PTS members.

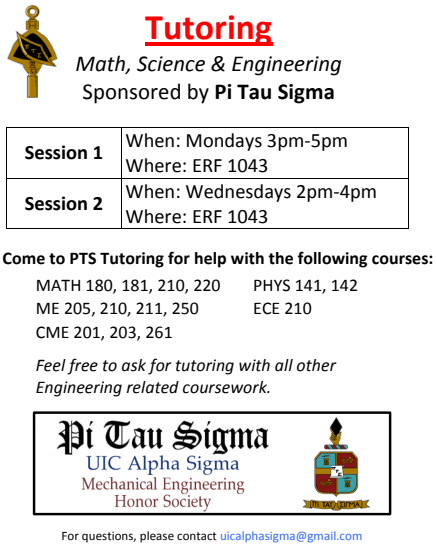

Figure 3: Spring 2015 Tutoring Flyer

FE Exam Prep Scholastic Bowl: This year UIC Alpha Sigma added another event to their repertoire that proved very beneficial to its members. The Scholastic Bowl covered FE Exam material and was open to the entire College of Engineering. UIC Alpha Sigma officers and members spent weeks studying FE Exam review manuals to compile a cache of practice problems they felt gave the most accurate and thorough representation of material covered on the FE Exam. At the event, these practice problems were presented in PowerPoint form to participants who worked in teams and competed for prizes. The event was held once per semester and is expected to remain a permanent activity in the following years.

College of Engineering Volunteering: Often throughout the semester, the College of Engineering and other engineering societies on campus reached out to UIC Alpha Sigma members to volunteer at their events. The MIE Open House, ASME Luncheon, and Engineering Expo are some of the events UIC Alpha Sigma members volunteered at this year. Members gained service hours for their participation in addition to valuable networking experience.

Community Service

High School Outreach: In the Fall 2014 semester UIC Alpha Sigma partnered with a PTS Alumni—a physics teacher at Mother McAauley High School—to give a presentation about the various engineering disciplines and their personal experiences as engineering students at UIC. The outreach program consisted of an interactive presentation, a formal Q&A session, and ended with one-on-one conversations between the students and the PTS members.

Figure 4: High School Outreach

Figure 5: High School Outreach

Blood Drive: In the Spring 2015 semester UIC Alpha Sigma partnered with LifeSource to host an on-campus blood drive. PTS members coordinated, promoted, and volunteered at the event. Many PTS members also gave blood donations. The blood drive was held for six hours and 56 units of blood were collected—exceeding the goal set by LifeSource. In addition to their donations on campus, many donors expressed interest in becoming regular donors and set up memberships with LifeSource.

PTS Meetings

Officer Meetings: PTS officers met weekly during the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 semesters. The officer meetings ensured accurate and timely communication about events and chapter goals. The president ran each meeting and the secretary took notes which were distributed to all officers at the end of each meeting via email. PTS Members interested in running for officer positions in the future were also invited to attend these meetings to gain a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Board.

General Body Meetings: The purpose of UIC Alpha Sigma's general body meetings was to communicate information about PTS events and member expectations. These meetings also served as an opportunity for the members to socialize with each other. Attendance was taken at each meeting and recorded by the secretary. Five of these meetings were held each semester.

Alumni Panel: Each semester UIC Alpha Sigma assembles a group of PTS alumni to participate in a panel discussion about the differences between graduate school and industry employment. This year's panels were very informative and gave PTS members insight into the decisions they will be faced with upon graduation.

Tours

This year, UIC Alpha Sigma members had the unique opportunity to tour both Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. These visits gave members the chance to tour state of the art laboratory facilities while exploring potential career paths and internship opportunities.

Figure 6: Argonne Labs Tour

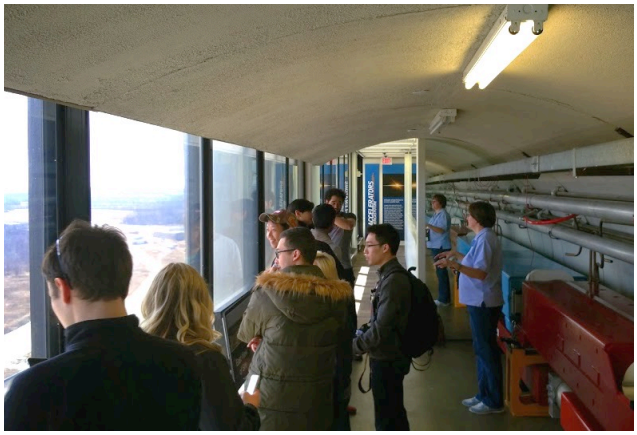

Figure 7: Fermi Lab Tour

Social Gatherings

Bar Crawl: Both semesters, UIC Alpha Sigma hosted a bar crawl targeted at all engineering students, but open to everybody—including PTS Alumni. T-shirts, a requirement for participation in the activity, were sold on campus for $12-15 each. These bar crawls proved to be a lucrative fundraiser, with over 200 shirts sold in the Fall and Spring semesters combined.

National Convention

By pursuing avenues of fundraising within the college, UIC Alpha Sigma was able send twenty members and officers to represent the chapter at the 2015 National Convention at the University of Illinois. Officers sought out contributions from various sources by demonstrating Pi Tau Sigma's philanthropic contributions to the college. This required multiple presentations and meetings with the department head, the Engineering Council Student organization, and Chicago Organization Funding. UIC Alpha Sigma's contributions to the college on a volunteer basis and their commitment to improving the educational value of the school gave their benefactors every reason to want to be involved with this great society. The convention was a great time to catch up with friends and partners from chapters around the country, network with industry professionals and to continue growing relationships from the previous year's convention.