PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2017-2018

Georgia Southern Beta Iota

A. Initiations

Student eligibility was based on academic standing per Pi Tau Sigma's guidelines. Juniors who were in the top eighth of their class and seniors who were in the top fifth of their class (based on a ranking by GPA and credit hours earned) received invitations to come to an informational session, which amounted to approximately 100 eligible students. Those choosing to join our chapter then paid the $65 membership fee to receive membership materials and a chapter t-shirt at induction. Induction ceremonies, with all appropriate rituals as read from the provided ritual booklet, were performed on September 27th, 2017 and March 14th, 2018. Both induction ceremonies were held in the Skybox and adjoining conference room of The Clubhouse (local popular bowling alley), and all members were invited to participate in two hours of free bowling and food catered by the Clubhouse after the initiation rituals were read from the chapter guide. The rental of The Clubhouse Skybox for the two hours of bowling was partially funded by our university's Student Government Association (SGA), after the funding request process was completed. All new members were registered with the national chapter after induction was performed.

Table 1. 2017-2018 Academic Year Initiations

Semester	Active	Graduate	Honorary
Fall 2017	18	0	0
Spring 2018	13	0	0

(Above: Fall 2017 Induction, former and new members at the Clubhouse)

Community Service:
Each member was required to complete at least 4 hours of community service and 4 hours of Pi Tau Sigma "involvement" in meetings, career fairs, and/or activities before the end of each semester. The past school year we had around 30-40 active members who were involved throughout the year, with five to ten students who were out due to internships or Co-Ops who were excluded from the community service hours requirement. New members were required two hours of community service, along with two ours of "involvement" in chapter meetings/activities. Members completed these hours by joining on campus cleaning, donating towards Habitat for Humanity, and other non-chapter service activities. Fall semester, a group of approximately 8-10 members gathered for campus cleaning on a Thursday night, to pick up trash and clean up pathways and sidewalks around campus. We partnered up with Tau Beta Pi and raised over $200 in donations towards Habitat for Humanity, by selling pizza & drinks and having jars where students could pick a faculty recipient as a winner for the 'Blue Shaft' award. The funding for this fundraiser was provided by SGA to Tau Beta Pi. Our members participated by selling and buying food, cleaning after the event and promoting along campus. Outside of club opportunities, students were awarded with service and "involvement" hours by attending the STEM career fairs, the EAGLE EXPO career fair, peer tutoring any students, attending chapter meetings or any outside volunteering that involved the community. Some took the opportunity to visit elementary and middle schools for after school programs, while others took on helping promote STEM education at fairs and schools.

Convention Participation:
After much deliberation, our chapter was able to send former president Elizabeth Robinson to the 2018 Pi Tau Sigma National Convention in Miami, Florida. At the time of the convention a new upcoming president had yet to be elected and the second representative planning on going had a job interview the Friday of. Elizabeth was able to meet with lots of employers, get advice on future endeavors and career plans and proudly receive a check for an outstanding award submission by former president Jenny Shaffer from Nationals last year.

Chapter Meetings:
Chapter meetings were held every other Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Meetings consisted of PowerPoint presentation informing students of any information on upcoming events, meetings, fundraisers, guest speakers, etc. After every meeting the power points were sent as reminder to those who came or were not able to attend. Most meeting were informational to keep members in the loop of all events happening throughout the semester, which sometimes included pizza!

Guest Speakers and Plant Tours:
We had a former member and chapter officer come speak on the professional and career life he obtained after graduating and starting his career. He spoke to members about Space X and how the post-grad life is. He mentioned meeting the recruiters from Space X at the

Nationals Convention last year and how his involvement in school activities helped him land his first job. We also sent a couple student members for a plant tour at Edwin I Hatch Nuclear Power Plant. When the career fair coming up, we had Bridges Adams come in from student services speak on LinkedIn and advice students on how to pitch their resume and talk to recruiters at the career fair.

(Above: Students and guide tour at Hatch Power Plant in Baxley, Ga)

Fundraisers:

This year we conducted two very different fundraisers. First we held a fundraiser night at Wild Wing Café at the Statesboro location where students were encouraged to attend and bring friends and family where a percentage of the earnings that day would go towards Pi Tau Sigma. We also sold CEIT Pullover Sweaters available to all students and faculty. They were designed by the president of the chapter and once approved by the University, sold to all. From the Wild Wing Café fundraiser, we raised $253.84 and the pull over fundraiser brought in $929.89. All fundraisers were split between Pi Tau Sigma and Tau Beta Pi 50/50.

(Below: One of four colors of the CEIT Pullover sweaters sold at the fundraiser.)

Fall End of Year:

To celebrate the close of the year and the accomplishments of our graduating seniors, our Pi Tau Sigma chapter worked with our fledgling Tau Beta Pi chapter to organize a casual end-of-semester BBQ for the mechanical engineering department. Due to classes being cancelled and finals schedule being removed because of hurricane warnings earlier that semester, we changed it to a pizza party fundraiser. As mentioned before, Tau Beta Pi funded the event and provided Pizza Hut pizza with drinks. This event took place during 'finals week' to provide students with easy access to food and relaxing time with others. We used the departmental awards that were created last year by former Pi Tau Sigma members to award the selected faculty. Voting for two of the awards was carried out using popular vote on a Google form, sent to all ME faculty, staff, and students. The "Golden Wrench" professor award was awarded to the professor whom students felt had been the most helpful professor in the department that semester, and students were encouraged to submit stories of their nominees on why that professor ought to be selected. The "Departmental MVP" faculty/staff/student award is an award for any person (faculty, staff, or student) in the ME department whom is thought to be the Most Valuable Player in the department, and voters were encouraged to submit a rationale for why their nominee deserved this award. These two awards are pictured below with the winners of last years event.

(Above: "Golden Wrench" Professor Award and "Departmental MVP" Faculty/Staff/Student Award Plaques [mounted in ME main office])

However, the fan favorite award was the "Blue Shaft" professor gag award, which was 3D printed and customized with the Georgia Southern logo. This award was voted on using donation cups with professors' names on them. Students/faculty were told to use their spare change to vote on the professor that had "shafted" them the most that semester. The proceeds were donated to the local Habitat for Humanity, to be used towards a house build. A total of $219.07 was raised by voters of the "Blue Shaft" award and the pizza and drink sales this fall. The pizza party and awards turned out to be very successful and a way to relax and relieve stress during finals week. Although it was successful it is hopeful that the BBQ will take place on the next years to come.

(Above: 3D-Printed and Mounted "Blue Shaft" Professor Gag Award)