PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2010-2011

Virginia Tech Upsilon

A. Initiations

The Virginia Tech Upsilon chapter of Pi Tau Sigma performed two initiations during the 2010-2011 year. The initiates were selected based on the established academic performance levels in the chapter guide. Recruitment took place in the first half of each academic semester and included an informal information session at a local restaurant followed one week later by an official induction ceremony on campus. In the fall of 2010, 20 new members were inducted into the Upsilon chapter on October 28. In the spring of 2011, 15 new members were inducted into the Upsilon chapter on February 28.

B. Chapter Activities

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the Upsilon chapter focused on recruitment and the development of honor society programs to support the goals of Pi Tau Sigma. Three primary programs were developed to provide service to the department and support the growth of the chapter. As a year-long service activity, the Upsilon chapter coordinated and sponsored the annual senior composite. To support members and encourage active participation, two professional development programs were created and implemented. The faculty relations program provided information, networking and advice for members interested in entering graduate school. The corporate relations program provided information, networking and opportunities for members interested in entering the engineering workforce after graduation.

The senior composite is the annual service project completed by Pi Tau Sigma at Virginia Tech. The composite provides a legacy of every class with a 60”x40” compilation of the graduating mechanical engineering seniors at Virginia Tech. Due to the scale and importance of the project, the activity was led by the Vice President. The year-long project involved all members of the honor society and each member completed two hours of required service as part of their initiation. In the fall, members assisted the photographer during three days of continuous photography sessions. In the spring, members distributed miniature copies of the composite to seniors. The composite is partially purchased with a sitting fee for seniors and the remainder of the purchase is sponsored by the Upsilon chapter.

The faculty relations program was developed to support the professional interests of Upsilon chapter members interested in graduate school. The program was headed by the Faculty Relations Chair and provided information sessions with key faculty at Virginia Tech. The information sessions, termed “fireside chats”, provided an informal forum for members to approach faculty and discuss graduate school, admissions, fellowships, assistantships, research and post-graduation advice. Typically held on campus in the evenings, the fireside chats included coffee and donuts in a round-table style discussion. The future of the program will expand the

sessions to include undergraduate research information sessions and lab tours coordinated with Virginia Tech faculty.

The corporate relations program was developed to support the professional interests of Upsilon chapter members interested in entering the engineering workforce after graduation. The program was headed by the Corporate Relations Chair and sought to provide information and networking opportunities with industry recruiters and representatives. An official outreach letter was developed along with a resume book of active members. The Corporate Chair reached out to many companies, and developed working relationships that will hopefully lead to future networking opportunities and information sessions. Future efforts will include updating and maintaining contacts with Upsilon chapter alumni to provide opportunities for active members to reach out to various industries.

In support of the Upsilon chapter activities, especially recruitment and corporate relations, the chapter website was updated and expanded. The website now includes details of all the activities listed above. This serves the purpose of providing a face to the name Pi Tau Sigma at Virginia Tech. It allows underclassmen to become familiar with the organization and builds a connection with the mechanical engineering community at Tech. Additionally the website includes a resume book of active chapter members. This provides a key tool for the Corporate Relations Chair to reach out to companies and pursue opportunities for Upsilon chapter members.

The Upsilon chapter was not able to participate in the 2010-2011 national convention, but is planning to regain good standing by participating in the future. The efforts necessary to achieve this goal will involve fundraising activities built on the foundation developed in the 2010-2011 year.

C. Other

Dr. Scott Huxtable accepted the responsibility of faculty advisor for the 2010-2011 year due to the departure of Dr. Marty Johnson. Dr. Huxtable will remain the faculty advisor for the foreseeable future to ensure the continuity of Pi Tau Sigma at Virginia Tech.

The following officers led Pi Tau Sigma during the 2010-2011 academic year:
Tim Battis, *President*
Ryan Davenport, *Vice President*
Todd Pickering, *Faculty Relations Co-Chair*
Tory Smith, *Faculty Relations Co-Chair*
Nick Konchuba, *Corporate Relations Chair*
John Meier, *Webmaster*

The following officers will lead Pi Tau Sigma during the 2011-2012 academic year:
Jackey Chen, *President*
Tyler Frantz, *Vice President*
Phil Kwon, *Faculty Relations Chair*
Stephanie Ball, *Corporate Relations Chair*
Christine Beauchene, *Webmaster*