Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2012-2013
Virginia Tech Upsilon

A. Initiations

The Virginia Tech Upsilon Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma saw a very healthy increase in membership during the 2012-2013 academic year. Two initiations were performed during the first half of both the Fall and Spring semesters. The candidates were selected based on their academic standing, in accordance with the requirement set forth by the chapter guide. In order to better orient the candidates on the duties and guidelines of Pi Tau Sigma, an informal candidate social was held at a local restaurant, followed by the official initiation ceremony a week later. In the Fall semester, 23 members were initiated on October 30, 2012. During the Spring initiation, 35 members were initiated on April 2nd, 2013. Both the Fall and Spring semester initiations took place on campus and followed the setting and procedure outlined in our chapter's guide.

B. Chapter Activities

This year, our chapter's officer committee sought to set our efforts on not only membership recruitment, but promoting our society's name around campus as well. Furthermore, we hoped that placing by emphasis on campus events, we would be able to improve the sense of unity between our incoming and existing members. Year after year, our largest campus event during the fall semester continues to be our organizing and sponsoring of the Mechanical Engineering Department's "Senior Composite". In addition to our traditional involvement with the Senior Composites, our chapter also sought to further promote the society by organizing tutoring sessions throughout the Fall semester. High student interest in our semester tutoring sessions led to our efforts in organizing large final exam review sessions at the end of the semester for a few of the historically more difficult mechanical engineering courses such as Thermodynamics, Fluid Mechanics, Heat and Mass Transfer, etc. During Spring semester initiation, it was brought to our attention that many of the students that were initiated into the society did so after having been involved with our society's tutoring/final exam sessions. Moreover, our chapter seeks to continue the organization of these review sessions after seeing over a 500% increase in spring initiations as compared to the previous academic year.

The composite has been providing a legacy of every class of Virginia Tech Mechanical Engineering graduates since the early days of the university. In order to continue the tradition and help the graduating Seniors leave a physical memory at Virginia Tech, the Upsilon chapter has volunteered to sponsor and organize the event. The project consists of contacting a local photographer to set up a week of time when Seniors can schedule to have their portrait taken on campus and later compiled and displayed in the Mechanical Engineering Department on a 60"x40" framed compilation. During the Fall semester, the senior composite also serves as a service hour fulfillment for the newly initiated students. The Vice President of the chapter took on the responsibility of leading this project, while the rest of the leadership team assisted as needed.

With our chapter's large increase in membership from the Fall semester initiation, our officer committee saw this as an opportunity to organize many more successful campus events during the Spring semester. During the Spring semester, our largest campus involvement was in Virginia Tech's "Big Event". This is a campus wide event held once a year during the Spring semester. On this day, Virginia Tech students are encouraged to make a "service team" and volunteer their time with families around the community as a way to give thanks. Our chapter's involvement this year was large enough for us to create our own "service team" with approximately 40 chapter members that volunteered their time for the event. Our service team went out to a local family owned food shelter which was undergoing a renovation at the time, and helped with some of the manual labor. Our members found themselves reorganizing the shelter's garden, mulching flower beds around the property, serving food, and painting the walls of newly renovated rooms for the shelter. Apart from a great event to bring socially together our members, this event also served as the service hour fulfillment for the Spring semesters' initiated students.

The last noteworthy activity our chapter partook in during the Spring semester was in several campus intramural sports. With our large number of Spring semester initiates, our chapter had more than enough students to form various teams in Virginia Tech's recreational sports. Our chapter had a group of approximately 30 different members, including our faculty adviser, who loyally participated in intramural sports tournaments such as racquetball, inner tube water polo, and softball. These events brought many of the members closer together socially and were the source of many of our pictures found on our website! Our chapter's co-ed inner tube water polo team proudly finished with the intramural champion title at the end of the season as well!

C. Other

After a successful academic year, Dr. Scott Huxtable continue to serve as the chapter's faculty adviser, providing invaluable insight and advice in the structure and planning of many of the chapter's events throughout the year. The following officers led Pi Tau Sigma during the 2012-2013 academic year:

Arturo Gomez Rubio, *President*
Joe Ferrara, *Vice President*
Matt Giewont, *Faculty Relations Chair*
Matt Russiello, *Corporate Relations Chair*
Affan Siddiqui, *Webmaster*

The following officers will lead Pi Tau Sigma during the 2013-2014 academic year:

Jamie Cabaleiro, *President*
Ricardo Cruz, *Vice President*
Ian Shannon and Kevin Lefeave, *University Relations Chairs*
John Kutz, *Treasurer*
Jaewoo Park, *Events Chair*
Yohan Yazdi, *Webmaster*