PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2011-2012

Virginia Tech Upsilon

A. Initiations

The Virginia Tech Upsilon Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma saw a healthy increase in membership during the 2011-2012 academic year. Two initiations were performed during the first half 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, 25 members were initiated on October 20, 2011. During the Spring initiation, 6 members were initiated on March 29th, 2012. Both the Fall and Spring semester initiations took place on campus and followed the setting and procedure outlined in the chapter guide.

B. Chapter Activities

After a successful recruitment during the 2010-2011 academic year, Virginia Tech Upsilon Chapter sought to strengthen the chapter and become more effective at reaching out and helping the students and faculties of the Mechanical Engineering Department. During the Fall semester, the chapter continue to serve the department by taking on the duty of organizing and sponsoring the annual senior composite. In order to assist the seniors in their decision to pursuit research or industry after graduation, the Upsilon Chapter organized several "Fireside Chats" with faculties, as well as invited several companies to information sessions to establish connections for students. The chapter also sought to provide service to the underclass engineering students by partnering with the Department of Engineering Education and sponsoring and organizing of a mentoring program, aimed to help guide Freshmen and Sophomore engineering students in establishing a productive study habit and more effectively planned their future engineering courses.

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 consist 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 new members were required to serve as assistance to the photographers for 2 one hour shifts, while the members initiated in the Spring semester were required to hand out miniatures of the composite to Seniors. The Vice President of the chapter took on the responsibility of leading this project, while the rest of the leadership team assisted as needed.

The Fireside Chats were organized by the Faculty Relations Chair. The Director of Graduate Studies graciously accepted the chapter's invitation to speak at an informal gathering. The relaxed setting allowed for students to speak casually with the faculties and discuss their

concerns regarding graduate school. Topics such as admissions, fellowship, assistantship, research and post-graduation advice were discussed and questions were answered by the faculties as they were able.

In order to support the graduating seniors who are interested in working in the industry, the chapter organized several information sessions. The chapter reached out to companies such as GE Environmental Health and Safety Leadership Program, Honeywell, Kollmorgen, and GE Energy throughout both the Fall and Spring Semester. Some of the information session took on the traditional format of a presentation in front of interested students, while others were more informal, involving students mingling with company representatives on campus or at the company's site. The Corporate Relations Chair spearheaded the outreach effort, with the help of our Webmaster, who collected a digital copy of members' resume, were able to provide several successful information sessions to both the members of the chapter and the general student population.

After several meetings on the best method to have a wider influence in the College of Engineering, the leadership board decided to partner with the Department of Engineering Education and sponsor a Mentoring program during the Spring semester. The Mentoring program is aimed at Freshmen and Sophomore engineering students. By providing a group of underclass students with a designated mentor, the chapter hopes that we can help the younger students in their transition from general engineering courses into specific majors. The mentors consisted of chapter members volunteering 2 hours of their time every other week, while the chapter sponsored food and drinks for the mentors and their mentee. The new program received wide acceptance and the chapter plans to continue the program in the upcoming academic year.

C. Other

After a successful academic year, Dr. Scott Huxtable continue to serve as the chapter's faculty advisor, providing valuable 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 2011-2012 academic year:

Jackey Chen, *President*
Tyler Frantz, *Vice President*
Phil Kwon, *Faculty Relations Chair*
Stephanie Ball, *Corporate Relations Chair*
Christine Beauchene, *Webmaster*

The following officers will lead 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*