PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2011-2012

Auburn Chi

A. Initiations

Members brought into our chapter during the semiannual initiations were required to be in the top fourth of the junior class or top third of the senior class by credit hours. Students who met these requirements were invited to a meeting during the beginning of the semester to inform them of the process leading up to the induction ceremony. We stressed that they should be proud of their hard work, and that our organization wished to recognize their accomplishments in the form of membership to this honor society. Crediting our extensive local, national, and alumni networks, the candidates learned that Pi Tau Sigma is not just an honor, but also a resource for their academic and professional development. The process for joining involved polishing a bent, attending community service and social events, as well as securing signatures from professors and peers verifying that the initiate was of good character. On the night of the event, polished and painted bents were judged by our advisor for quality, and the candidate with the best bent had his or her initiation fee waived. The ceremony itself began after all of the fees and forms were collected, where the initiates were escorted to the executive suite of our engineering campus and were asked to file into designated seating. They were presented with the ASME code of ethics, PTS ideals, and PTS coat of arms by the chapter president and vice president. Individual candles were lit and put out per detailed instructions, and the initiates then signed the Auburn Chi initiation book after pledging to uphold ideals of the engineering profession. Afterward, newly admitted members were invited to stay for a catered dinner with the chapter officers and advisor.

B. Chapter Activities

Most of our community volunteering activities surround initiation season, where prospective members were required to log hours at various events prior to the ceremony. Scheduled community service events ere coordinated by Jessica Norman, our community service chair. Activities included volunteering at humane societies, food banks, as well as joining university sponsored events throughout the year.

In addition to the initiation requirements, our chapter members regularly served as mechanical engineering representatives at engineering outreach events hosted by other campus organizations. This past spring, Auburn Chi teamed up with Tau Beta Pi to provide support for E-Day, where high school students from around our region came to explore their interest in engineering. Stations for conservation of angular momentum, collision dynamics, frictional forces, and unique material mechanics were mixed with a bit of showmanship to engage young students in the possibility of entering an engineering discipline. This same event had been set up as a coordinated effort between other societies of various disciplines at middle schools, as well as at a yearly robotics competition which brings young students from around the country to compete in engineering challenges. Fundraising was established by mechanical engineering t-

shirt sales, which were purchased regularly by students and faculty, and were also sold widely at these outreach opportunities.

Webpage design and management was handled by Grant Kirkland, who also served as a regular photographer for the chapter. The website showcased his photographs, contact information for the officers, PTS information pertinent to our members, and documents for students interested in joining the organization.

For a second year in a row, Robert Williams served as the social chair to schedule events for members and initiates. We participated in bowling, billiards, dinners, and even the annual kayaking trip out at the Coosa River.

Devin Kalafut, chapter president, and Grant Kirkland, future president-elect, attended the 2012 National Convention in San Jose, California. There they had an opportunity to meet members from around the country to share the drives and goals of our chapter. Specifically, connections were made with officers of chapters within our geographic region to support larger activities and events during this upcoming academic year.