PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2015-2016

Auburn Chi

A. Initiations

This year we held our fall initiation on November 19, 2015, and inducted 26 students into the Auburn Chi chapter of Pi Tau Sigma. Our spring initiation was held on Thursday, April 7, 2016, and 13 students were initiated then. These students were all junior and sophomores who have excelled in their academic endeavors at Auburn University. Potential new members for the Auburn Chi chapter of Pi Tau Sigma are selected from the top quarter of the junior class and the top third of the sophomore class. Only these students are eligible to join Pi Tau Sigma at Auburn University. Every student that meets these requirements receives an e-mail at the beginning of each semester inviting them to an information meeting concerning the requirements to join Pi Tau Sigma and the opportunity to impact the Mechanical Engineering department at Auburn University through involvement in Pi Tau Sigma.

Each potential new member of Pi Tau Sigma must complete a set of initiation rituals in order to join our chapter. First, each potential initiate must obtain signatures from three professors in the Mechanical Engineering department who can attest to the character of the student. This encourages students to interact with their professors and gives our chapter an opportunity to judge the integrity of the individual. Additionally, one of these signatures must be our current standing faculty advisor. There was an exception made for the spring initiation. Our standing faculty advisor would be retiring at the end of the semester, so initiates were made to obtain four signatures, the old faculty advisor, the new faculty advisor, and two professors of their choosing that could vouch for their character.

All potential initiates must also complete two hours of community service. Many fulfill this requirement by volunteering at E-Day, an exploratory program for middle and high school students interested in engineering. Current and future members of Pi Tau Sigma volunteer at this event as tour guides of the Mechanical Engineering buildings or manning help station booths to direct visitors to each engineering building on campus. At the end of this document, is the tour layout of the Mechanical Engineering Building. Other volunteer opportunities for members include IMPACT, Auburn's volunteering organization. The Big Event, a community-wide day of service, and Engineers Without Borders, an organization committed to helping developing countries with engineering solution.

Additionally, each potential new member must polish a bent. This requirement gives the students an opportunity to apply some of the knowledge they have learned in their machine classes and gives them a physical talisman to remember their initiation. It is also an effective way to deter those who regard membership in Auburn Chi as just a resume line. The initiation fee is covered by the chapter for the person with the best polished bent.

Finally, the last requirement for initiation is the attendance of a social event hosted by Pi Tau Sigma. This year's social events included a movie night each semester with the showing of Avenger's Age of Ultron and The Martian respectfully. Additionally, four bent polishing parties (two each semester) were hosted to aid potential initiates in the polishing or their bents. Two Mario Cart nights were also hosted the week after mid-term of each semester to help relieve stress of the student body. Finally, a student panel was hosted for the underclassmen to help them plan their academic schedules and co-op rotations for the coming years.

Once all of these requirements have been met and the students have paid the initiation fee, students can become an official member of Pi Tau Sigma. Our initiation ceremony includes a thorough explanation of the values and ideals of Pi Tau Sigma. The president and vice president also present the fraternity coat of arms and colors to explain the symbolic significance of these items. Following the ceremony, all new initiates are invited out to dinner with the current officers and our faculty advisor to celebrate their achievements.

B. Chapter Activities

In order to increase involvement over the past year, the general meetings were made mandatory with missing members being placed on probation. Graduating while on probation status would mean that the member would not be able to order cords and stoles nor affiliate themselves with the Auburn Chi chapter of Pi Tau Sigma past graduation. The procedure to get off probation was voted among the officers to be attendance of another Pi Tau Sigma hosted event either social or service to replace the missed meeting. The chapter grew from 34 active members to 69 active members with active status defined by not being on probation.

To not burden members with the inability to be reinstated out of probation and to foster a greater community spirit amongst the mechanical engineering student body and department, the social and service events were expanded. Bent polishing parties were doubled from last year to allow easier access for the initiates to polish their bents. A Movie Night was held once a semester in a large lecture hall. For the fall semester, a viewing of *The Avenger's: Age of Ultron* was held on Monday October 12, 2015. The spring movie was *The Martian* and was held the night of March 29, 2016. An additional social even of Mario Kart Night was held on November 2, 2015 to allow members to relieve some stress mid-semester.

Pi Tau Sigma increased its campus presence through service events this year. Many initiates and members volunteered at Auburn University's annual E-Day on February 26, 2016. Members gave tours to middle school and high school students through the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering with specific focus at the mechanical engineering building, Wiggins Hall. The mechanical engineering tour consisted of an explanation of what mechanical engineers do in the lobby, and then a tour of the Design and Manufacturing Laboratory followed by a tour of the Auburn Formula and Baja SAE teams. Additionally, Pi Tau Sigma members manned the mechanical engineering booth where they answered questions and gave demonstrations of props that exemplify phenomena that often occur in the study of mechanical engineering. Pi Tau Sigma also participated in Auburn University's Big Event this year for the first time on March 5, 2016. Pi Tau Sigma members formed a Big Event team and helped an elderly member of the Auburn community with yardwork.

Two new officer positions were also created over the past year. The Alumni Relations Chair was created to catalog all past members of Auburn Chi and retain contact information from graduating members. The goal is to eventually ask one of our alumni to come back and speak to the chapter for career advice and job openings with their company. It will also form a networking circle for Auburn Chi members. The Industrial Relations Chair was created for the purpose of contacting companies to come in and speak about job opportunities and to compile a resume book for all the members to hand out at career fairs. Auburn Chi did not host any career speaker events this year, but plans to reach out to the Auburn chapter of ASME to bring a company in to speak to the mechanical engineering department.

Two members, Jessica Dyk and Anna Bradley, went to national convention this year at the University of California Los Angeles. They had the opportunity to meet several other passionate young engineers and chapter sponsors. Upon their return, they decided that the best way to garner more activity among the chapter would be to enact a points system. Members would be able to earn points by participating in more Pi Tau Sigma social and service events. Members with the most points would then be rewarded by going to lunch with the deans of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. An interview process for new initiates is also being discussed among the new officers for the coming year to help foster a better community atmosphere for engaged students.

E-DAY 2016 TOURS

1. One Tour Guide will be in Front of the tour group, and One Tour Guide at the Rear of the Group
2. Guides will lead the group through the path labeled below, stopping at each labeled stop, and will gather tour guests into the areas provided at each stop. Guides should interact with the group as you move through the building.
3. Guides will only narrate Stop 1 (PC Lab) with a brief mention of the Lab and relevant departmental facts given in the Departmental Summary Sheet.
4. Both the DML and War Eagle Motorsports will have speakers
5. One Guide will have a sign with Green, Yellow, and Red Circles
6. The Green sign should be shown through the first 5 minutes of each stop. The Yellow sign will be displayed at 5 minutes, and the RED sign will be displayed at 7 minutes, at which point the time at the tour stop will end.
7. After exiting the car team area, lead the participants out the side exit of the building, letting them know the tour has ended. Our guests may either go on other departmental tours or return to the department displays in the Student Center.

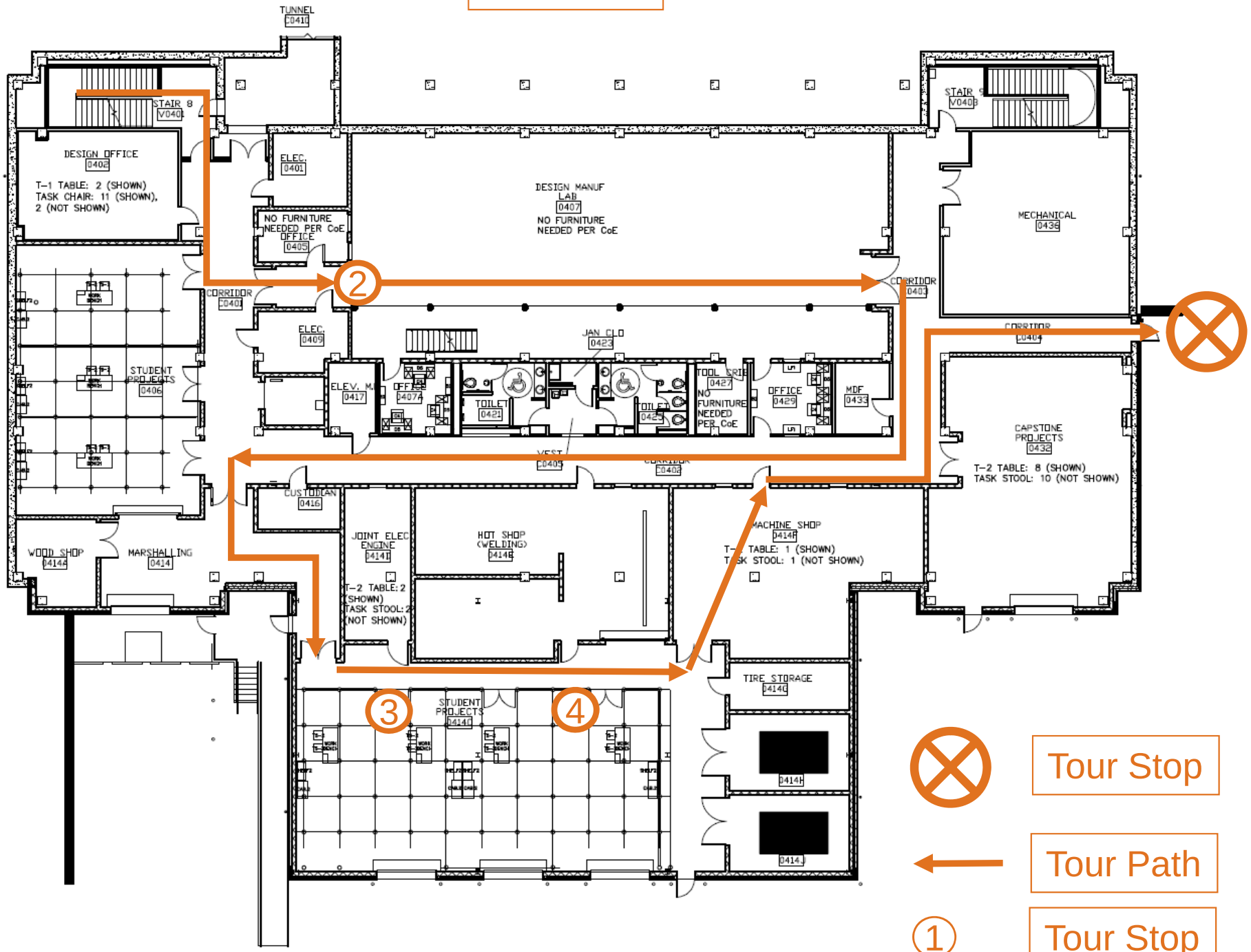
1st Floor

Tour Start

Tour Path

1 Tour Stop

Basement


TUNNEL
0410
STAIR 8
V040
DESIGN OFFICE
0402
T-1 TABLE: 2 (SHOWN)
TASK CHAIR: 11 (SHOWN),
2 (NOT SHOWN)
ELEC.
0401
NO FURNITURE
NEEDED PER CoE
OFFICE
0405
DESIGN MANUF
LAB
0407
NO FURNITURE
NEEDED PER CoE
STAIR 9
V040B
MECHANICAL
0436
CORRIDOR
0401
CORRIDOR
0403
ELEC.
0409
JAN CLO
0423
CORRIDOR
0404
STUDENT
PROJECTS
0406
ELEV. M.
0417
OFFICE
0407A
TOILET
0421
TOILET
0425
TOOL CRIB
0427
NO
FURNITURE
NEEDED
PER CoE
OFFICE
0429
MDF
0433
CAPSTONE
PROJECTS
0432
T-2 TABLE: 8 (SHOWN)
TASK STOOL: 10 (NOT SHOWN)
VEST
0405
CORRIDOR
0408
CUSTODIAN
0416
JOINT ELEC
ENGINE
0414D
T-2 TABLE: 2
(SHOWN)
TASK STOOL: 2
(NOT SHOWN)
HOT SHOP
(WELDING)
0414B
MACHINE SHOP
0414F
T-1 TABLE: 1 (SHOWN)
TASK STOOL: 1 (NOT SHOWN)
WOOD SHOP
0414A
MARSHALLING
0414
TIRE STORAGE
0414C
STUDENT
PROJECTS
0414C
0414H
0414J
2
3
4
Tour Stop
Tour Path
1
Tour Stop