FULL ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2017-2018

Auburn Chi

A. Initations

Selection

Fall initiation for new members of the Auburn Chi chapter of Pi Tau Sigma took place on November 6th, 2017 and inducted 15 students. The spring initiation took place on April 16th, 2018 introducing 6 additional students. Each candidate for induction was contacted via email notifying them of their academic qualification and inviting them to an informational meeting concerning the benefits of membership in Pi Tau Sigma and the requirements for induction. The candidates emailed each were in the top quarter of their classes, with a GPA greater than 3.25, at least one semester of attendance at Auburn prior to initiation and not graduating the semester of initiation.

Initiation Requirements

Each candidate for initiation into Pi Tau Sigma was required to complete several tasks to be able to participate in the induction ceremony. One such task was to obtain the sponsorship of three Mechanical Engineering professors through their signatures. One of the signatures must be that of the faculty advisor, Dr. Richard Williams. These signatures represent an affirmation of the academic strength and moral character of the student. This process builds up relationships between the students and professors, as well as between the professors and Pi Tau Sigma. It also provides the advisor with an opportunity to meet each candidate prior to initiation.

Each student was also required to complete two hours of community service. They are invited to participate in any of the service events that are organized by or otherwise staffed by Auburn Chi members. This year saw potential inductees assist with E-Day, P.E. recertification, BEST Robotics, the Big Event, and the restructuring of teaching laboratories among other things.

The Pi Tau Sigma bent was issued to each prospective member at the informational meeting, along with instructions for preparing it for the induction ceremony. The member with the best looking bent at initiation, as judged by the faculty advisor, would have their initiation fee waived. The polishing and painting of the bents was an opportunity for the candidates to get to know one another in a casual setting and build camaraderie through light competition.

Finally, each candidate was required to attend a social event for the members of Pi Tau Sigma at Auburn. This included movie showings, board game parties, trivia parties, company mixers, and bent polishing parties. These events introduce the candidates to the social aspect of membership in the Auburn Chi chapter, and allow them to connect with current members who are farther along in their college careers.

Initiation Ceremony

The prospective members were able to attend the initiation ceremony provided they complete each of the above tasks. The final requirement for becoming a full member of our chapter was to be physically present at the ceremony. Once the fulfillment of their requirements was verified, the candidates received a speech, delivered by the president and vice-president of the chapter, detailing the values and ideals that they would be expected to uphold as members of Pi Tau Sigma. This included an explanation of the regalia and colors of the coat of arms. The advisor was invited to speak as well, and he congratulated the new members on their academic success and encouraged them to take an active role as members of the chapter. Each of the new members was then invited along with the officers and members who assisted with initiation to attend a catered dinner in celebration of the night's events.

B. Chapter Activities

Chapter Meetings

There were two general meetings for all members to attend in each semester. The first takes place near the beginning of the semester and lays out the activities for the semester and provides any relevant information. The second meeting includes elections for new officers, which takes place each semester due to our professional co-op program. Any issues are also discussed and voted on during these meetings. Pizza and soft drinks are served at each meeting to encourage and facilitate attendance among members with busy schedules.

Departmental Events & Involvement

Our chapter is deeply dedicated to serving the Mechanical Engineering department in any way possible. Our reputation for providing this service has grown in the past year, as the number of professors that approach with requests for assistance has increased and become a major source of activity. This included facility tour guidance for Professional Engineers attending the recertification event at Auburn University. Chapter members joined with students from other engineering organizations to socialize with practicing engineers as they were led through the various research laboratories on campus.

Pi Tau Sigma facilitated the informational poster session for undergraduate research stipends once again this year. Professors were contacted by chapter members to provide posters and a member of their team to present them. We also built awareness for the event among undergraduate students to ensure attendance and viable applicants. A promotional Pi Tau Sigma booth staffed by chapter members was present to answer questions about the event while publicizing our organization.

Auburn Chi members were also asked to assist with the restructuring of the teaching laboratories in the Mechanical Engineering department. Members and prospective members alike participated in the breakdown and removal of lab equipment to be replaced, thoroughly cleaned the lab spaces, and assisted with the assembly of new equipment. This was highly visible to the Mechanical Engineering professors and greatly appreciated.

Social Events

Each semester this year featured a movie night for the members to meet and relax. Members are polled by the social chair to choose the movie that most people want to see. *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* was shown in the fall and in the spring *Robin Hood* was selected. Popcorn, candy, and soft drinks are provided.

Auburn Chi hosted a board game night in the fall semester. It was held off campus at a member's house, to allow for ample space and a backyard porch area. This enabled us to increase attendance by hosting the bent polishing party in tandem with the games. Bents were polished outdoors and painted inside, after which prospective members could join in the games with current members. Games included Life, Monopoly, Risk, Clue, Apples to Apples, Battleship, and many others. It was very successful in integrating the candidates into the existing membership. Baked snacks and soft drinks were provided.

In the spring, a trivia night was hosted on campus. An online service at www.kahoot.com was used to coordinate the questions and answers through a classroom projector and each student's smart phone or computer. Question sets included science, geography, movies, music, and TV. Candy was given out as prizes to winners.

Service Events

Members of the Auburn Chi chapter volunteered to assist with Auburn's yearly E-day once again in the spring. E-day is a massive event wherein middle and high school students from across the southeast come to tour Auburn's campus. The young students get to visit the different engineering discipline's facilities, learn more about their academic studies, and meet with their students and professors. Members and candidates alike assisted with every aspect of the event. This included tour group leadership throughout the Mechanical Engineering department, staffing help stations to answer any questions from young students or parents, as well as the reception and organization of incoming school groups into tour groups according to their stated interests.

Auburn Chi sent a service team to participate in the Big Event this spring as well. This is a university-wide event wherein anyone or any organization may form a team to perform spring cleaning in the greater Auburn community for churches, non-profit organizations, the elderly, and any other deserving group of people.

Convention

The rising president and vice-president, Christian Moomaw and Katelyn Jenkins, were sent to attend this year's National Convention in Miami. They gained a better sense of involvement with Pi Tau Sigma, as well as insight into methods for the continuing improvement of the chapter.