2019-2020

Auburn Chi

A. Initiations

Selection

Fall initiation for new members of the Auburn Chi chapter of Pi Tau Sigma took place on October 28, 2019 and 22 students were inducted. The spring initiation took place on April 6th, 2020, with an additional 15 students inducted. 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, and Auburn's "The Big Event", 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 career fair events, resume development workshops, 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. For the Spring 2020 induction ceremony, we held our initiation virtually using Zoom, due to the global pandemic. The same schedule and routine were followed as past ceremonies, and we plan to hold our customary celebration dinner in the fall once classes resume.

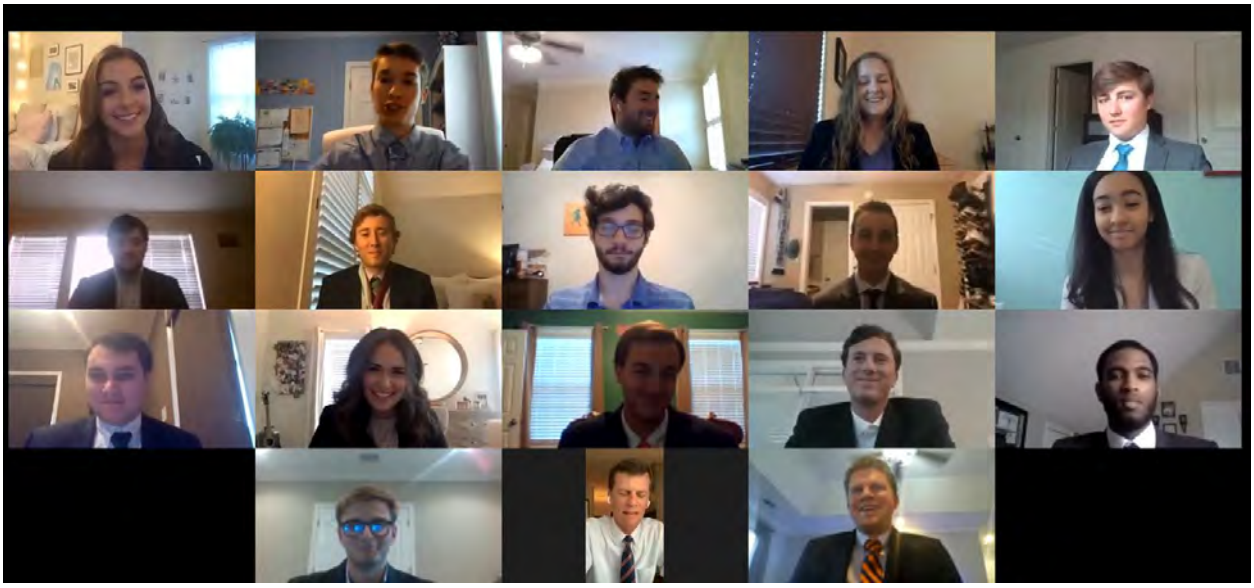

Figure 1: New inductees during the Spring 2020 Initiation

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. A main focus for the year was to work on career development for members. We worked with Auburn's career development office and had a speaker talk about how to do an elevator speech and ways to improve your resume. The members then practiced their speeches with each other giving them constructive criticism and confidence before they speak in front of future employers. Following this event, in the same week, we had a smaller scale career event prior to the Career Fair with ASME that allowed members to have longer, more in-depth conversations with companies and gain more practice and confidence when talking to companies. Multiple job offers came from this event.

Pi Tau Sigma

Elevator Pitch/Resume Workshop

February 5th at 5 PM in Shelby 1120

"I've got an elevator pitch, an escalator pitch, and, just to be safe, a stairway pitch."

Do you.....

- Dread awkward conversations at the career fair?
- Don't know how to randomly walk up to a company and tell them how awesome you are an ask for a job?
- Have no idea how to make a resume?

Then come to Pi Tau Sigma's Elevator Pitch and Resume Workshop Event is the place for you!

- When: February 5th at 5:00pm
- Where: Shelby 1120

AND if that's not enough reason, there will be FREE CHICK-FIL-A!!

Chick-Fil-A's core values just happen to be:

1. Make Eye Contact
2. Smile
3. Speak Enthusiastically
4. Stay Connected

That alone will get you an internship

Sometimes I'll start a sentence and I don't even know where it's going. I just hope I find it along the way.

Figure 2: Resume Workshop Notice

Social Events

Each semester this year featured a couple of dedicated nights for prospective members to polish and paint their bents. This was held in the Senior Design Lab, and students were taught how to safely use Dremel Rotary Tools to produce a nice finish for their bents. Furthermore, board game nights were organized during the fall semester, in order for new members to get to know one another better. Unfortunately, the planned social events for the Spring semester had to be cancelled due to the global pandemic. They will likely be rescheduled for the Fall of 2020, in order for the new initiates to meet each other.

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 where 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 current 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 fall 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

Two delegates from the Auburn Chi chapter (Nicholas Devereaux and Sean Gant) attended this year's National Convention in Rochester, NY. They gained a better sense of involvement with Pi Tau Sigma, as well as insight into methods for the continuing improvement of the chapter.