PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2011-2012
Purdue Beta

A. Initiations

For our specific chapter, all undergraduates entering their 4th semester (2nd semester within ME department) with a GPA ≥ 3.6 are invited to join. Each consecutive semester the GPA requirement drops 0.1 till it is 3.3. From this group of students, those interested go through a pledge process approximately 8 weeks long.

This process begins with invitations to qualifying students to attend the pledge callout which usually happens the third or fourth week of the semester. The VP of Pledges presents who and what we are as one of the oldest Pi Tau Sigma chapters and what will be required of the pledges throughout the pledging process. Meetings for pledges are held every two weeks throughout most of the semester in order for pledges to get to know each other, the organization, and to keep up on their responsibilities. Pledges of the Purdue Beta Chapter are required to interview at least 5 officers and chairs within the organization and complete signature sheets that include every officer, chair, pledge, and a specified number of actives and professors. These two things must be done before activation. Additionally, leadership positions have been created within the pledge class that mimic the actual structure our chapter. Thus, a president, treasurer, test files chair, service chair, and secretary were elected within each pledge class. These positions allow pledges to become familiar with the leadership opportunities as they pledge the society in order to promote greater participation when they become actives. The service chair, in particular, organizes the pledge class to complete their service or philanthropy project each semester. For the fall semester, the pledge class organized and ran a carnival for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lafayette. The spring semester class decided to participate in a campus-wide service project called *Boilerblast* aimed at meeting the needs of the community surrounding Purdue. Lastly, the pledges are required to take a pledge exam testing them on their knowledge of Pi Tau Sigma, nationally and locally. At this point, the pledge process is completed and VP Pledges looks at each pledge individually using a quantitative system to see if each pledge has put forth an effort in throughout the pledging process. If there are any pledges that are borderline in their commitment to the society, one or two officers will interview the pledge in question to verify if there are valid reasons for a lack of effort and to gauge whether or not he/ she really wants to be part of Pi Tau Sigma. This year there were four or five pledges that were border-line in their effort; however, after conducting interviews of each pledge, we found that each one wanted to be a truly active member and we had no issues with their activation. The reason for this is to allow our Pi Tau Sigma chapter to be something more than a bullet on a resume. We want to make sure our actives stay engaged so that we can make a difference on our campus and even nationally. Each member reflects on our organization and therefore we want each member to accurately reflect the heart of our chapter. The best way we found to do this is to begin with the pledge process, garner commitment early on, and get them engaged as soon as possible.

Lastly, initiation and the banquet are held on the same night of dead week. We initiated each pledge in front of all the officers and explained the basic principles of Pi Tau Sigma.

Additionally, we give each pledge a Pi Tau Sigma polo to where to events and meetings upon their initiation. Following the ceremony is our end of the semester banquet at a local restaurant to welcome new members and to see the graduating ones off. This is also the time we hold election for the next semester of officers while we wait till the first meeting of the following semester to elect all chair positions.

Fall 2011 Pledges (20)
Activated December 6th, 2011

Andrew Yuill
Daniel Webb
Manoj Lokanathan
Nate Bergman
Yuxing Zhang
Jason Brauer
Ying Chen
Jordan Metz
Jian-Wei Khor
Samuel Hass
Dustin Youngs
Mark Roberts
Allison Graban
Teakon Kim
Kok Keong Khoo
Ma Shaochen
Oliver Hirch
Corey Yoder
Andrew McBain
Alec Seng

Spring 2012 Pledges (21)
Activated April 24th, 2012

Ching Yang Chong
Gaurav Dhar
Zhi Jian Chong
Katherine Frangos
Wyatt Hodges
Carlin Hormann
Adam Lagro
Michelle Lau
Justina Lee
Jili Liu
Ben Marchi
Gregory Melzak
Christopher Mills
Siew La Pang
Adam Potrzebowski
Raghav Ramachandran
Bruce Schroeder
Tanuj Siddarth
Scott Wendholt
Jason Wndler

B. Chapter Activities

Our chapter has coordinated many activities to serve the mechanical engineering department, students, and our community this past year. Some of the activities have been developed over the years and sustained while many others have been created or greatly improved. It is our goal as an organization to serve the ME department, promote academic excellence, create a community within ourselves for the benefit of our members and to create a fun atmosphere outside of the classroom for students to socialize and get to know one another. In order to make this report as clear as possible and to keep each of the events from running together, each activity will be listed and described individually below:

ME Golf Outing

This event is always a favorite, especially of our ME academic advisor. It typically happens once a year although that can vary based on weather and other events. This year it happened in the fall and we had a very good turnout of over 40 people. The event is a golf scramble in teams of four and it is open to anyone in the ME department including faculty and professors. We charge a small fee per person, enough to cover our cost, which we were able to make even smaller this year by getting sponsorship from Eli Lilly. No one from Eli Lilly was able to make it this year, but in the future, we also see it as a good opportunity to network with a company or two by having them join us for the day.

ME Picnic

The ME Picnic is an event that PTS organizes just about every semester and it can take on a variety of shapes and forms. This year we held it only in the fall and partnered with an ME relay event to raise money for the United Way Foundation. Our chapter organized a cookout for the event and got two other ME organizations, ASME and PMEA, to help out. We grilled hotdogs and hamburgers out in the engineering mall and all proceeds were donated to the United Way Foundation.

ME Social

During dead week of every semester, our chapter organizes a social for the ME department to allow students to get away from their studies with finals coming up to relax and socialize. We hold this event at a local bar and provide food for the evening. We invite as many professors as possible, and we have a trivia contests pitting students versus professors. The trivia questions are generated by the pledge class each semester. Additionally, our chapter buys commemorative pint glasses with custom artwork and offers them free to the first 100 students. These have become a kind of collectible the past couple of years because we customize them every semester. This past school year we held this event both in the fall and the spring. This is one of our larger events with between 150 to 200 people in attendance.

ME Forum

This is one of the events that we service that is very beneficial to both students and faculty. Dead week of every semester, we organize this event where it is an open forum between students and faculty to discuss questions and concerns about almost anything. This discussion is facilitated by the president of our chapter and minutes are taken by the secretary. Topics usually range from facilities to computer lab and networking issues to curriculum. All of the major faculty members are requested to come and at a minimum we always have the head of the ME department, the head of the computer labs, and someone very knowledgeable with the curriculum along with whatever other professors can make it. For students, it is a rare opportunity to have a large number of faculty of hand who can collectively address their questions or concerns. On the other hand, this is very beneficial to for the faculty because it allows them to understand what students would like changed and how things are currently working. Every semester, changes are made as a result of the forum. The minutes are posted for the whole school to see and at the beginning of each forum, we address the open items discussed during the last forum to see if any action has taken place. Lastly, we also provide pizza and drinks to promote attendance since it is usually held around dinner time.

Design Creativity Seminar

This event is a partnership with the oil service provider, Schlumberger, and it happens every fall semester. The event is fully sponsored by Schlumberger; however, all of the work and organization lies mostly on our members. Because of the immense amount of work to put this event on, we have dedicated an entire chair position, which is held for one year, in order to make sure this happens. This event takes up an entire Saturday in which 20 to 25 ME students are transported out to a retreat center to collaborate with 4 to 5 Schlumberger engineers on a real-life problem that they are facing. At the beginning of the day, the Schlumberger engineers present their issue, while having you sign a confidentiality agreement, and a retired Purdue professor and Pi Tau advisor functions as a facilitator to brainstorm creative approaches to solving the problem. There is always limited space available, so it is offered first to Pi Tau members and then to the rest of the ME department. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are always included. This event provides students with an invaluable experience into creative thinking and exposure to real-life engineering situations.

Carnival for Boys and Girls Club

Since service is one of the staples of our chapter, this is always a big event for us and also a lot of fun. This event happens every semester and it is a carnival that we as a society put on for the Boys and Girls club of greater Lafayette. This usually consists of a bounce house and a giant obstacle course that we rent for the day in addition to a ton of games and crafts that we organize. Each Pi Tau member who comes to the event runs one of the carnival stations and we hand out

tickets that the kids can redeem for prizes. This was done both semesters this year as it has been done for the last several years; however, in the fall semester, the pledge class organized the whole thing as their service project. In the spring, it was more of an active initiative. Nevertheless, this event is always a lot of fun since it is a rarity to be around kids on a college campus.

Elementary Outreach

This service project is an opportunity for us to reach out elementary kids in the local area and get them interested in the sciences. It normally consists of us doing a science project with several 5th grade classes at Happy Hollow Elementary School. We were able to do it in the spring this year and it was very successful. One of our members found a project to build really simple speakers using Styrofoam bowls, magnets, wire and batteries and it allowed us to teach the fundamentals of electricity, magnetism, and sound to the kids. The project worked like a charm and the kids loved it. They also really surprised us with their knowledge of electricity and electro-magnets in particular. There were probably 12 active members who were able to go and we did the project with about five different classrooms at once.

BoilerBlast

This is a service opportunity that is organized by Purdue to help out with the needs of the local community. This spring we were able to join as an organization, both pledges and actives, and help out local people who had trouble maintaining their properties themselves. It also gave us a good opportunity for us to get to know each other and the pledges.

National Convention

Not much needs to be said from this other than we were able to send three members all the way out to California this year because we are very interested in creating a strong and homogenized national base for Pi Tau Sigma. As a large and one of the oldest chapters, we feel that we have a lot to contribute as well as a lot to learn from the conventions. This year we sent two senior members who have help shaped the society as well as one junior active that could take away what we learned from the convention and implement it. If we just took senior members, much of the experience would be lost upon graduation. Next year, our junior active will be able to lead the trip to the convention next year in Ohio.

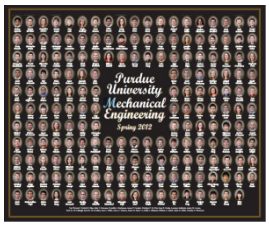
End of Semester Banquet

At the end of every semester during dead week, we put on a banquet for both the incoming new members and the outgoing graduating seniors. We either rent out a local restaurant or cater in food to a location on campus. This is one of our bigger internal events as a society and is a great chance to get away from studying for finals and get to know other members. We also take this opportunity to elect the next generation of officers to make it a smooth transition between semesters. The attendance is normally over 40 people and is always a great time. The included picture was taken at the most recent spring banquet.

Tutoring

Tutoring is one of the major services that we offer to the ME department and has been drastically improved over the past school year. Students struggling in their classes can find us through our website, our advisor, or flyers that we post around the school. We have a chair that is dedicated to organizing this service and setting up Pi Tau members with those requesting a tutor. We cover just about every subject that a ME would need to take and our members are becoming very good tutors while it gives us a chance to refresh old material. During each semester, we had a well-respected professor come and give us tips on how to be more effective tutors. This service is well organized with many of our members putting in several hours a week.

Senior Composite

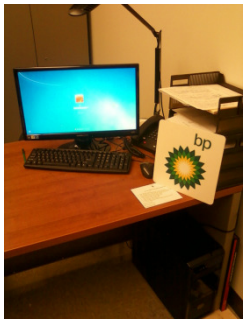


This is a small but important service that we provide to the ME department and graduating seniors. A Pi Tau member each semester organizes each graduating senior to get his composite picture taken over a set of day and in turn, he produces the composite of the entire graduating class for the ME department for that semester. The included composite is the most recent composite of this past spring.

Lounge Sales

Our chapter has generously been given a large spacious kitchen/ lounge area. This facility is new to us this year and it serves two purposes. The first purpose is the business side to our society. We do a lot of different events and activities throughout the year and in order to do that we spend a lot of money. In order to help offset these costs, we run a snack and candy sales out of this lounge, six or so hours a day and five days a week. We have enough members so that each member only has to take a one hour shift to fully staff the lounge. The second purpose to our lounge/ kitchen is publicity. We put up tons of posters and flyers in our lounge and we also have companies come join us. For instance, in the fall, BP joined us by providing free pizza, subs, pasta and drinks in the lounge while they were given a chance to promote themselves and interact with students through our space.

Test Files



This is the other business side to our society that also acts as a service to ME students. Each member that joins our chapter is required to submit at least one test for which he/ she scored over 90 on, while many members give almost all their tests to us. Over time we have collected, organized and archived these tests and we now sell them to students who are looking for practice tests to help them study for upcoming exams. This is an excellent resource for students because many times professors do not give enough material to practice with and it is practice that makes perfect. We have tests from just about every subject imaginable with the ME department and also many outside of it and we sell each test for only 75

cents. This service provides us with hundreds of dollars a week and is a significant contributor to our funding. The office that we know have for this is new this past year and much effort has gone into making it extremely organized for future use. Additionally, we were able to secure funding from BP to sponsor us a computer in the office so that our members can work and get online in during the hours they work.

Solberg Teaching Award

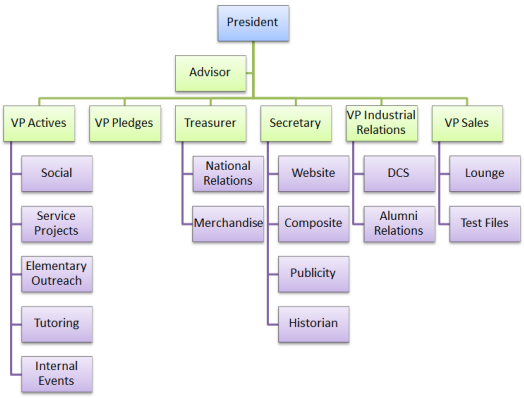
Last, but not least is the Solberg teaching award. This is a teaching award given to an outstanding ME professor and chosen by popular choice. Pi Tau members are responsible for conducting the ballots in each classroom and gathering the results. This occurs once a year and would not happen without our chapters help.

That concludes the breakdown of all of our chapter's major events for this past year. In addition to these, we hold biweekly officer and member meetings. Officer meetings are designed to make sure that everything above is getting done and that everyone is doing their job. The president runs this meeting and sees to it that the organization is running effectively as a whole. The member meetings are held on off weeks from the officers meeting and they are run by the VP of Actives. The purpose of these meetings is to convey important information about what is happening when and to gather volunteers for certain events as well as an opportunity for our members to get to know one another and build a community. That is why we typically order pizza for each meeting. This creates more of a social atmosphere and it gets more people to come and be involved. Additionally, this past semester, we begin tracking the performance of individual actives by keeping track of their attendance, mandating everyone do a service project, and requiring the hour or two of lounge or office sales each week. This past semester, we have seen a significant increase in active participation with all aspects of our society. We know have almost 60 active members, all of which are well documented.

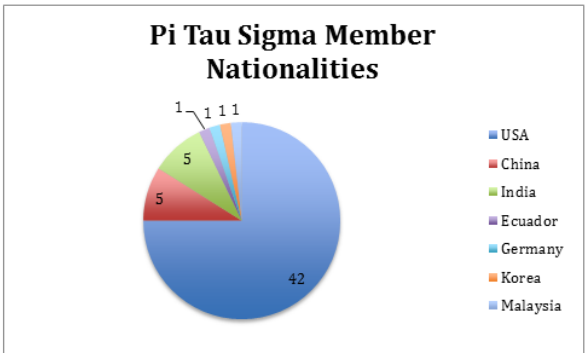
C. Other

Organization is key to our success as a large chapter with almost 60 actives. This past year we have taken great lengths to ensure that we stay organized and remain efficient. This process began with the officers. Because we have 7 officers and 15 distinct chair positions, we needed a better structure to ensure that all positions were held accountable to their roles. That is why we implemented an organization structure that is shown below. This allowed the president to look after each of the officers while each of the officers had chair positions under themselves to oversee. While this is by no means a new idea, it was desperately needed for a society our size and it proved itself very helpful for purposes.

Organization Structure – Spring 2012



The next step taken to continue to organize our society was to better document each of our members and collect demographics for promotional purposes. Over the course of this past year, a variety of information from year, age, gender, nationality, GPA, emails and phone numbers were collected from each active member and in addition to that, we kept tabs on the involvement of every member from meeting attendance to service project fulfillment. We also put together a directory of all PTS members that we made available to everybody. All of these measures helped us to run more smoothly as an organization this year. We can now use this information to help market our society to companies and help our members find jobs. For instance, our society's average GPA is approximately 3.7, which is well above the rest of the school average.



Officer Information

	Fall 2011	Spring 2012	Fall 2012
President	Daniel Brocker	Daniel Brocker	Nate Bergman
Treasurer	Harsha Ilango	Harsha Ilango	Dusty Youngs
VP Actives	Kyle O'Keefe	Kyle O'Keefe	Allison Graban
VP Pledges	Brian Cummiskey	Allison Graban	Matt Brauer
VP IR	Nadim Chakroun	Trey Angus	Adam Potzebowski
VP Sales	Paige Scott	Laura Chemler	Ryan Clark
Secretary	Janet Ferrell	Nate Bergman	Laurel Peterson

Chapter Advisor

Dr. Steven Wereley

Contact Information

Chapter Website: http://www.purdue.edu/pts
President Email: nbergma@purdue.edu