FULL ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2019-2020
MIT Pi Kappa

A. Initiations

The fall initiation was held on November 21 and 22, 2019. 29 students were initiated. No spring initiation was held. The GPA requirement was set such that the top 25% of juniors and seniors in Mechanical Engineering were invited.

Initiates were given one week to submit a CV highlighting their community service activities, leadership activities, and research; a short autobiographical sketch highlighting their experience with mechanical engineering; a paragraph about the societal impact and relevance of mechanical engineering; a paragraph about something they are passionate about; and a paragraph of suggestions on improving the undergraduate mechanical engineering experience at MIT. Initiates were encouraged to attend an information session given prior to initiation, regarding the honor society's origin and history, and the potential benefits of membership. Additionally, they were required to attend two social events and one professional development event with Pi Tau Sigma before the initiation date.

Initiates were seated in rows in a classroom facing the president and vice president. The initiation fee was collected from each initiate prior to the initiation ceremony. The lights were turned off, and the projector was used to project side by side images of the Pi Tau Sigma crest and bent. The most updated version of the rituals of Pi Tau Sigma document was read by the president and vice president, and the initiates affirmed their desires to join the honor society. Afterward, the president and vice president shook hands with each initiate. Following initiation, members enjoyed frozen yogurt.

Pictures of the initiates, officers, and chapter advisor are on the next two pages. Since a group picture was not taken at the initiation, we have compiled headshots of the members.

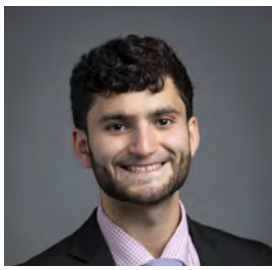
Miki H (President)

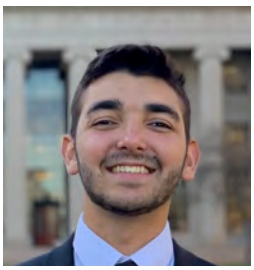
Geneva C (Prof Dev)

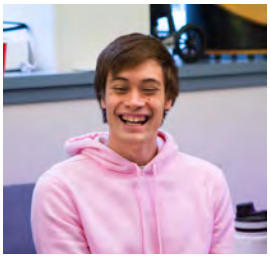
Melissa K (VP)

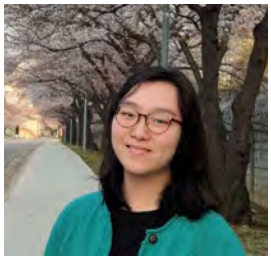
Sarah H (Social/Pub)

Dr. Maria Yang (Advisor)









B. Chapter Events

On September 25, the MIT Pi Kappa chapter held an information session to introduce the organization to eligible students. As most new member recruiting is done during the Fall semester, the chapter hosted a series of social events for eligibles to meet current members and hear about their experience in the organization. These social events were held on October 10 and October 25.

On November 1, the MIT Pi Kappa chapter held the first mentorship event. 24 members of the chapter volunteered as mentors and were paired for the year with underclassmen with similar academic interests. Mentor and mentee pairs met each other and discussed program expectations. The chapter funded mentors to get coffee/lunch with their mentees and foster individual relationships.

On November 14th, the chapter's vice president, Weishan Liao led an interactive Autodesk Fusion workshop introducing the CAD software to members.

On November 16, the MIT Pi Kappa chapter hosted a cookie-decorating study break for holiday fun and member bonding. This event was followed by a Visual Communications workshop co-sponsored by the chapter and the MIT MechE Communications Lab.

November 19 marked the chapter's final study break of the semester. On December 12, the MIT Pi Kappa chapter celebrated the end of the semester with a dinner funded by the chapter.

From January 31 to February 1, the chapter president, Miki Hansen, attended the National Convention hosted at RIT. There, she attended several workshops, toured lab facilities, and connected with other PTS members from around the country.

On February 17, the MIT Pi Kappa chapter held a Valentine's Day social event with its members for member bonding and chocolate fondue was served. T-shirts and laptop stickers, designed by member Hannah Adams, were distributed to members.

On February 28, the MIT Pi Kappa chapter hosted a social event for their mentorship program. We had a round table discussion where mentees asked members for advice about course scheduling, declaring majors, and advising.

On March 6, the MIT Pi Kappa chapter held a workshop on generative design using the Fusion CAD software. President Miki Hansen led the workshop and boba was served during the event. The following events were moved into a virtual format due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On April 21, the MIT Pi Kappa chapter held a virtual graduate school information session for the MIT mechanical engineering community at MIT. Two professors and several graduate student panelists spoke during the meeting to give students an overview of MIT's graduate school application process and personal perspectives on the experience. Several of the graduate student speakers were part of GAME (Graduate Association of Mechanical Engineers).

On April 30, MIT Pi Kappa held a 2-hour workshop on "Transitioning from SolidWorks to Fusion." An instructor from Autodesk led the event online and taught CAD skills to attendees. On May 7, the MIT PTS chapter held a schedule planning event on Zoom where chapter members gave advice to freshmen on MIT mechanical engineering classes to take in future semesters. Over 15 underclassmen attended the event.

On April 24, MIT Pi Kappa held a 1-hour "faculty chat" with Dr. Alexander Slocum, a MIT mechanical engineering professor. The event took place over Zoom and Dr. Slocum discussed his current mechanical engineering projects as well as general advice for members. A second "faculty chat" was held on May 1 with Dr. Maria Yang.