MIT Pi Kappa

MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Chartered May 29, 1947. Number 35.

Goals for 2008-2009

The goals for this year focused on providing more leadership opportunities for members and eligible students; improving student-faculty relationship; and lobbying for a new/expanded student lounge space.

Activities

We started the school year wanting to enhance the MIT Mechanical Engineering department's connection to its alums. The officers met with the department head, Professor Mary Boyce, to discuss ways PTS could be involved in this initiative. The first step taken was helping with the first annual ME Alum Connection Day in the fall. Several PTS members led tours of the undergraduate laboratories and connected with alums who traveled back to the institute. Continuing PTS involvement is expected in the coming years and will be expanded to include writing alum bios to be posted on the department website.

For years, PTS has lobbied for a new or expanded student lounge space as the current one is inadequate in addressing student needs. As the second largest department at MIT, the department should provide a larger student space for its students, as the current one is smaller and not designed for student activities such as meetings. However, because space is a premium, we have not been successful in the past. This year, the department has set aside a conference room to be re-furnished into a student lounge space. The room is not large, but the department administrator has agreed to pay for new furniture (e.g. white boards, couches, coffee maker) after seeing a list of PTS recommendations. This milestone is achieved jointly through the efforts of past and current PTS members. Next year's PTS will be expected to support the transition and maintain the space so that all mechanical engineering students will benefit.

In March of this year, a new pledge organized a PTS Habitat-for-humanity trip to a local community. Around six members attended. This event was part of our empowering leadership goal of the school year as PTS was able to provide the opportunity for any member (not just an officer) to organize an event fit for PTS.

Continuing MIT's attendance to the PTS National Convention, we sent our treasurer, Jodie Wu, to Michigan this year. Following this event, Jodie gave a summary of her trip at one of our general body meetings. She shared with us how other chapters operate their organizations as well as the planning that goes into organizing a national convention.

We continued to design and sell mechanical engineering t-shirts to the department students and sponsored a design competition.

PTS organized the first Student-Faculty Breakfast this spring. This breakfast was the result of many discussions during general body meetings in which officers and members alike voiced our concern that there is inadequate advising in the department and that students and faculty need a less formal setting to build relationships. We prepared a nice breakfast with food from a local diner and bakery. The breakfast was a huge success, well attended by many professors and students who joined together in lively conversations. The event was co-sponsored by the department administrators, who were very enthusiastic about this event and pledge their support for next year.

Finally, PTS held an end-of-year banquet to celebrate the initiation of the new members and to conclude the activities of this year.

Graduates

Adelaide Calbry-Muzyka – Plans unknown
Xiao Wei Chen – Plans unknown
Brian Demers – Apple Computer
Esther Hu – Consulting
Daniel Klenk – MIT Grad School
Michelle Lustrino – MIT Grad School
Aiko Nakano – Investment Banking
William Nolan – Plans unknown
Adam Paxson – Plans unknown
Nathanial Sharpe – Plans unknown
Kathryn Shroyer – Plans unknown
Michael Stern – Plans unknown
Jodie Wu – Grad School
Yi Fei Wu – Plans unknown
Alice Yeh – Microsoft
Julia Zimmerman – MIT Grad School

Names of New Members

Fall 2008 Pledges

Claudio Di Leo	Nick Wiltsie
Shanette Go	Linda Liu
Nikolai Begg	Tish Scolnick
Chris Benson	Rob Utz

Spring 2009 Pledges

Charles Field	Emily Houston
Sun Kim	Ming Leong
Jenna Mckown	Tiffany Tseng
Geoff Tsai	Jennifer Doyle
Tylor Hess	Karina Pikhart
Katherine Ray	Katrina Ellison
Jeremy Franklin	Raymond Ma
Eric Reuland	Kathryn Pesce
Andrew Nanopoulos	Rachel Sharples

Transfer of Responsibilities

The election meeting attendance was lower than expected due to finals and end-of-semester projects. However, we were able to find a newly pledged member who is passionate about improving the mechanical department to head PTS as president for next academic year. The current officers also re-evaluated the current structure of how our chapter is run and decided to make a few adjustments to reflect the changing needs of the department. For example, the sales chair position, which handles our t-shirt sale and all other activities that bring income to PTS, is elevated into a Finance officer position due to its importance. All new positions are detailed in the end of the report with the names of the new officers.

Plans for 2009-2010

Current plans for the 2008-2009 school year focus on continuing the student-faculty breakfast and improving the newly-acquired student space.

PTS would like to expand its tutoring services within the department with the capability of paying our tutors as the demand has always exceeded our supply of tutors.

The evolution of MIT Mechanical Engineering department sees the growing prominence of the “2A” track in addition to the standard B.S. Mechanical Engineering degree. The 2A program grants students greater flexibility to combine a different field with the core ME disciplines. Therefore, PTS plans to organize more projects catered specifically to 2A students in the future.

Chapter Officers 2008-2009

President	Alice Yeh
Vice President	Kathryn Shroyer
Treasurer	Jodie Wu
Secretary	Michael Stern

Chapter Officers 2009-2010

President	Tish Scolnik
Vice President	Shanette Go
Finance	Linda Liu
Student Life	Sun Kim
Academic	Claudio Di Leo

Chapter Advisor

Dr. Thomas Peacock

Contact Information

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Reporter

Alice Yeh