MIT PI KAPPA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2016-2017

A. Initiations

The fall initiation was held on November 23, 2016 and the spring initiation was held on May, 2017. 34 students were initiated in the fall, and 16 students were initiated in the spring.

The GPA requirement was set at 4.7/5.0 for seniors and 4.8/5.0 for juniors, such that the percentage of the specific undergraduate class was as or more exclusive than the top 35% for seniors, and top 25% for juniors. Permission to initiate these seniors was requested from and granted by the Pi Tau Sigma Executive Board, and the chapter advisor.

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 on a moral or ethical dilemma the initiate encountered, the initiate's response, and the relevance of ethical/moral concerns to practicing mechanical engineers; a paragraph about the societal impact and relevance of mechanical engineering; and a paragraph of suggestions on improving the undergraduate mechanical engineering experience at MIT. Initiates were also encouraged to attend an information session given prior to each initiation, regarding the honor society's origin and history, and the potential benefits of membership.

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.

In April following the spring initiation, all members, new and old, were invited to attend a tour of the local Taza chocolate factory, funded by the MIT Pi Kappa chapter.

B. Chapter Activities

On September 30, 2016, the MIT Pi Kappa chapter hosted a 1 hour graduate school admissions session for MIT mechanical engineering undergraduates interested in MechE graduate programs at MIT. The MIT MechE graduate admissions officer and graduate admissions staff gave a presentation, and conducted a Q and A session afterward. The chapter president introduced the speakers, and moderated the Q and A session. Dinner was provided by the chapter. About 40 students attended.

Rebecca Kurfess, the President, and Stephanie Diaz, a representative from the newly initiated Junior Class, of our chapter attended the annual Pi Tau Sigma conference at Drexel. All travel and conference expenses were funded by our chapter.

On October 28th, 2016, the MIT Pi Kappa chapter hosted a recruiting and portfolio review session by the Dutch product design firm MMID. The founder of the company, Marcel Magermans, was the guest speaker. The PTS chapter led efforts on logistics, catering, publicity, and company relations. The PTS chapter president also introduced the speaker, and moderated the first half of the 2 hour session.

On April 22nd and 23rd, 2016, the MIT Pi Kappa chapter and MIT ASME chapter co-hosted beginner SolidWorks workshops for mechanical engineering students with little to no experience in SolidWorks. A two-part workshop was also held on April 20th and April 27th for mechanical engineering students with basic SolidWorks knowledge, including knowledge of extrusions, revolved parts, mating, and assemblies. These advanced workshops instructed students on the use of parametric design, sweeps and lofts, finite element analysis, and surface modeling. Pizza was served at all of the workshops.

The MIT Pi Kappa chapter also conducted the votes for the PTS chapter awards, the Norwich University petition for attaining new chapter status, and the 2019 convention bid. Stoles and subsidized stoles were distributed to graduating members.