PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2014-2015
Clarkson Tau Gamma

A. Initiations

At the beginning of each semester, our chapter submits a request to the Clarkson University Registrar for a list of names and contact information of those students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering who have met the academic requirements for admission into Pi Tau Sigma. For the past few years, our chapter has delivered the invitations to potential initiates by hand which was also done by our chapter during the fall semester. It has been our belief that this puts a face to the organization and is more personal. However, this has led to an issue where if a student either lives off campus or if the student is not around at the time of delivery, the letter is left in the student's mailbox. This led to people not receiving their letters in a timely fashion and missing the process for initiation. During the spring semester, only emails were sent to the potential initiates and this resulted in a similar number of initiates for that semester. Once the student receives the invitation they attend a set of meetings that are required to become a member which are listed below.

1. Information Session: All current members and eligible students interested in joining Pi Tau Sigma attend this meeting. This meeting is intended to explain what Pi Tau Sigma is and specifically what the Clarkson Tau Gamma chapter actually does. Information sheets, background packets and a list of important dates are distributed. This meeting also helps current and future members to meet and for new initiates to ask questions.

2. Initiate Examination: Initiates that decide to join the Clarkson Tau Gamma Chapter are required to take a test on both the formation of Pi Tau Sigma and the chapter history. Rough Bents/keys are also distributed to initiates as well as signature sheets at this meeting. Signature sheets require the initiates to get at least 10 current member and 3 professor signatures. The initiates are required to talk with the professors regarding the research they perform so as to give each initiate an idea of the research opportunities in the department as well as to build relationships with professors.

3. Service Activities: Each initiate is asked to complete at least 2 hours of service for initiation. This year, initiates were required to find their own opportunities for community service as this demonstrates a willingness to perform the service and join the honor society.

4. Hand in Signature Sheets: One week before initiation, initiates are required to hand in their completed signature sheets. Initiates are allowed to drop by during the evening at their convenience. Multiple officers wait to collect the completed sheets in order for the initiates to get to know the officers and also to ask us questions on the roles we have as officers for Pi Tau Sigma Tau Gamma Chapter. It is a great opportunity for initiates to get to know who we are and it is a good way for the officers to learn more about the future members of Pi Tau Sigma. This is also the time where any member who has

completed community service outside of Pi Tau Sigma can submit a signed letter of completion.

5. Dress-up Week: This is done the week of initiation. Initiates are required to be in business formal attire while on campus from 9AM-5PM. They must also wear their keys with Pi Tau Sigma colored ribbons. This increases the visibility of Pi Tau Sigma on campus and gives the initiates a chance to be recognized by their classmates.

6. Initiation: At the end of the week the initiation ceremonies are held, to which all current members are asked to come. A judging of the polished bents occurs at that time. The individual with the best bent is not required to pay the membership fee, which encourages initiates to do a good job of polishing. At the end of the spring semester we held our annual banquet at a local restaurant, which was the Lobster House this year. For the spring semester officer elections took place as well. A further description can be found in the activities section.

The fall 2014 semester brought in 11 new members. The spring 2015 semester brought in 12 new members.

B. Chapter Activities

This past academic year our chapter participated in a number of community service activities with the help of our new initiates and current members. These activities increased both the visibility and comradeship of our Pi Tau Sigma chapter on campus.

Convention

Unfortunately, the Tau Gamma Chapter was unable to attend the national convention due to conflicts with school sponsored events. Several members had sporting events to partake in. In addition, convention fell on the dates of Clarkson University's Spring Career Fair, which lasted for two days and had different companies attending each day. Since Clarkson emphasizes internship experience as a graduation requirement, there was a lack of interest in attending the national convention.

Outstanding Professor Award

Traditionally, an award for the best educator in the MAE Department has been given to a professor that exemplifies what it means to be a professor. We continued the activity this year and honored a professor at our annual banquet. Near the end of the semester our chapter voted to give Dr. Suresh Dhaniyala this award. He was invited to our yearly banquet as an honored guest along with his wife and his name was engraved on the Pi Tau Sigma honor roll plaque located in a display case outside MAE Department office.

Banquet

As mentioned earlier, our chapter typically holds a yearly banquet at the end of the school year to celebrate the new initiates, honor our most outstanding professor, and rejoice about an excellent school year. This year we hosted our banquet at the Lobster House. A few special guests were able to join our banquet which included Dr. Dhaniyala, Kathryn Johnson, the Vice President for Student Affairs and International Relations at Clarkson University, and Dr. Kenneth Willmert,

our chapter’s faculty advisor. Ms. Johnson was invited to speak about the development of the university and future plans for the campus.