PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2013-2012
Clarkson Tau Gamma

A. Initiations

At the beginning of each semester our chapter submits a request form to the Clarkson Student Administration Services offices for the names of the eligible students who have met the requirements to become a member of Pi Tau Sigma. The Student Administration Services office sends us the names, email addresses, and local school addresses of each entitled student and with this information we are able to continue a tradition that started 4 years ago. Instead of sending a mass email to the perspective members inviting them to join, a personalized letter to each student is generated. All of the current members then meet to stuff and label individualized envelopes. These are split among the members to personally deliver to each student. We have found this procedure to be much more effective in attracting new members than emails. Students receive a lot of general communication from the University which is often ignored. The personal letters, personally delivered, has resulted in a considerable increase in our membership. 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 5 professor signatures. The initiates are required to talk with the five professors regarding the research they do 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: A number of service and related activities are held throughout the semester and initiates are encouraged to participate. Each initiate is asked to complete at least 2 hours of service for initiation. The main service activities which took place in the fall 2013 and spring 2014 semesters was to help in the mechanical and aeronautical laboratories. Initiates helped the laboratory director set-up experiments and reorganize the labs after a semester of use.

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. Officers are also asked to encourage the

new members to think about taking a position as an officer. 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.

Since the last academic year, few changes were made to the initiation process and membership has remained constant.

The fall 2013 semester brought in 16 new members and the spring 2014 semester brought in 14 new members. A photo of the Clarkson Tau Gamma Chapter after the spring initiation can be seen in the figure below.

Figure 1: Spring 2014 Initiation

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.

Engineering Festival
The festival happened during the fall semester and consisted of a variety of activities with the help of several organizations on Clarkson's campus. This was the fourth year the festival took place with the purpose of encouraging middle school and high school students to take an interest in studying engineering. Pi Tau Sigma's activity involved the use of a catapult to launch a ping pong ball into an array of cups. If the students could adjust the catapult so that the ball landed in one of the cups, they got to pick out a piece of candy. A demonstration of how to use the catapult was first showed to the students and then they were able to launch the balls on their own. The festival was a big success and our members were very involved and excited to teach students how to launch the catapult. A few of the incoming initiates used this festival for their service requirement.

ABC Exam Review
All freshman engineering students must take a basic math exam called the ABC exam, sometime during the semester, in order to pass Calculus I. This is beyond the normal exams in the course. Students are required to get a very high score on basic math topics in order to pass the exam but can take the exam as often as needed. Pi Tau Sigma members held review sessions for the last 4 exams given during the semester. We were able to have our members sit individually with students and show them examples as well as answer questions the student had.

Pi Day
Every year on Pi day, March 14th (3/14), (This year they put Pi Day on the 13th of March) the Math Department holds a carnival day for the elementary, middle, and high school students who are located in the area. Unfortunately this year Pi Day was canceled due to inclement weather.

Graduate Engineering Information Session
Each fall semester Dr. Kenneth Visser, the Graduate Committee chair for the MAE Department, holds a graduate information session sponsored by our chapter and the local chapter of ASME. This session is intended to provide engineering students of all disciplines with information about the graduate school process. He outlines the recommended steps for applying to graduate school and financial aid as well as answers any questions juniors and seniors may have. This session is always well attended and provides a useful mechanism for exposing students to graduate school as well as promoting Pi Tau Sigma.

Convention
This year we were able to send five students to the national convention at Texas A&M. We determined that it would be most helpful if we took at least 2 juniors that would be involved in a leadership role next year to the conference so that the class next year would have a good idea of what convention was all about. Since the convention was a distance away from Potsdam, NY we were very fortunate to take as many students as we did. We received funding from our MAE

department, Dean of Engineering, Dean of Students, and our President Tony Collins. Overall it was an excellent experience enjoyed by all and I think that the juniors we brought learned a lot about what goes on at the national level. They brought back a lot of new ideas for future activities.

Figure 2: Texas A&M Convention

Outstanding Faculty Award

Traditionally, an award for the best faculty/staff in the MAE Department has been given to a professor that exemplifies commitment to bettering the Mechanical engineering department and helping students pursue their passions. We continued the activity this year and honored a staff member at our annual banquet. Near the end of the semester our chapter voted to give Mrs. Tina Shatraw, secretary of the mechanical and aeronautical department, this award. She was invited to our yearly banquet as an honored guest along with her husband and her name was engraved on the Pi Tau Sigma honor roll plaque located in a display case outside MAE Department office.

Figure 3: Outstanding Faculty Award Winner Tina Shatraw

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 Mrs. Shatraw, Dean Ahmadi, the Dean of Engineering, and Dr. Kenneth Willmert, our chapters' faculty advisor. Dean Ahmadi was invited to speak at the banquet on behalf of the university and give a few words of wisdom on what we could each do to fulfill our true potential as we were getting ready to leave Clarkson. He spoke about his extensive background in an engineering field and talked about his many years teaching at Clarkson. He encouraged us to truly try numerous different experiences so that we can become well round employees and citizens within the engineering field. The dinner was an excellent success with everyone greatly enjoying themselves.

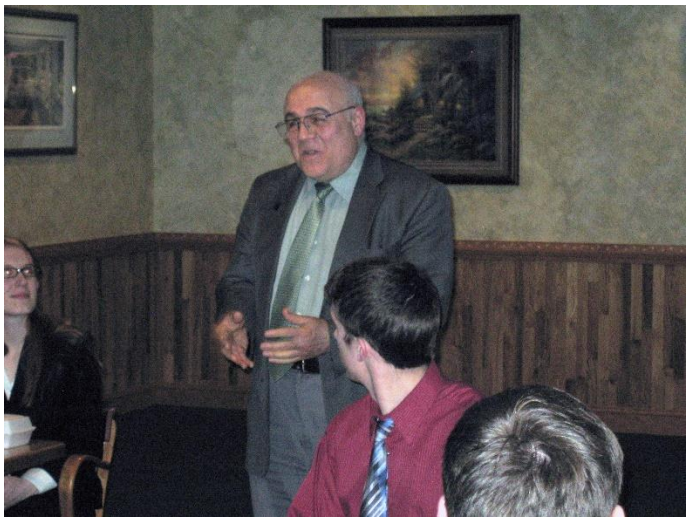

Figure 4: Banquet Dinner Special Guest Dean Ahmadi