PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2014-2015

Rutgers Tau Iota

A. Initiations

For both the Fall and Spring semester, the initiation requirements are as follows: Juniors in the top 25% of their class and Seniors in the top 35% of their class in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the Rutgers School of Engineering are eligible for initiation into the Rutgers Tau Iota chapter of Pi Tau Sigma, The Mechanical Engineering Honor Society at Rutgers University. Initiates are required to have marked attendance in at least one event held and/or sponsored by Rutgers Tau Iota and/or the Rutgers Engineering Honors Council (REHC). Initiates are also required to pay $65 in dues. Of this $65, $5 is given to REHC and the remainder is used to pay for membership registration, certificates, cards, and bents; any excess dues is then put into the Rutgers Tau Iota chapter's accounts in order to alleviate expenses such as event costs and graduation regalia.

Upon completion of the above requirements by deadlines specified by the Rutgers Tau Iota Executive Board (which vary from semester to semester), candidates are given invitation to the Pi Tau Sigma induction ceremony for the semester during which their requirements were completed. The induction ceremony dates typically fall in November for fall semesters and in April for spring semesters. Each induction ceremony requires business formal dress, and late arrival to induction results in not being initiated into the Rutgers Tau Iota chapter for this semester. In rare instances, make-up induction ceremonies have been held to accommodate for unforeseen circumstances regarding regular induction dates. The proceedings of each induction ceremony are identical in terms of substance; i.e. the traditions of Pi Tau Sigma are passed down to initiates in much the same manner as is the case for newly-formed chapters by Pi Tau Sigma National.

Finally, in celebration of the initiation ceremonies, a banquet is held in the spring semester for Pi Tau Sigma members inducted over the course of the academic year. Pi Tau Sigma's attendance of the banquet is joined by attendance from other engineering honor societies such as Tau Beta Pi, Omega Chi Epsilon, Chi Epsilon, Alpha Eta Mu Beta, Eta Kappa Nu, and Alpha Pi Mu. This banquet is organized by all honor societies as well as REHC to promote overall honors interaction within Rutgers School of Engineering.

This year's inductions took place on November 23rd, 2014, and April 19th, 2015. Additionally, a make-up induction ceremony was held on April 26th, 2015. 18 new members were initiated on November 23rd, 3 were initiated on April 19th, and 2 were initiated on April 26th. In total, 23 new members were initiated this year.

B. Chapter Activities

During both semesters, Pi Tau Sigma mainly worked to support events held by the Rutgers Engineering Honors Council. Events held by REHC and supported by PTS included an industry mentorship program connecting students to alumni in industry, a freshman mentorship program

dedicated to helping incoming engineering students succeed in their classes, and several keynote speaker events where accomplished individuals were able to share their experiences with Rutgers Engineering students.

During the fall semester, in addition to supporting various events held by the Honors Council, Pi Tau Sigma also enjoyed collaborating with Autodesk, Inc. to provide members with first-hand experience using Fusion 360, the company's new cloud-based CAD program. In February, through collaboration between current vice president Breanna Bancheri and former PTS vice president Ryan Ragoza, the chapter held a recruitment event with IASE Co., a packaging company known for designing packaging equipment used by companies such as Johnson & Johnson and Frito-Lay. Finally, the chapter is currently organizing a networking night to be held next semester with support from the Rutgers Engineering Society (RES), with the hope of cultivating strong relationships in both academia and industry for mechanical engineering students at Rutgers University.

C. Other

Pi Tau Sigma at Rutgers University is currently undergoing what may be considered as a "rebuilding phase." As such, executive board officials in charge of the Rutgers Tau Iota chapter are working continuously to expand to presence of Pi Tau Sigma at Rutgers University and, ultimately, to further the capabilities of both institutions.