PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2017 - 2018

Northeastern University Tau Kappa

A. Initiations

One initiation session was conducted on March 22, 2018. First, an Information Session was held to provide qualifying candidates with background information about PTS, activities members could expect to participate in, and the benefits of joining. At the Initiation Ceremony, and upon their arrival, we had each new initiate sign into a google form that collected their name, husky email and personal email. They were then prompted to make their one-time initiation payment. After a small presentation about PTS from the executive board, our advisor, Professor Taslim, spoke for a few minutes about his expectations for the members and the prestige of being initiated into the chapter. We then sent all of the initiates out of the room, we turned the lights off, lit some candles, and had the bent and crest displayed on the screen from the projector. The initiates were then brought back in with their heads down, eyes closed and their right hands on the shoulder of the person in front of them. After reentering, the initiates were seated and the ritual was read. To wrap the event up, each new member was prompted to sign the Initiation Book and elections were held for Networking Chair, Community service Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. We then offered Qdoba catering and ask the new members to eat and talk with their peers.

The minimum eligibility requirements to attend initiation are to be within the top 25% of middler, junior, and senior classes. Those percentages equated to a GPA requirement of 3.724, 3.684, and 3.775 for middlers, Juniors and seniors respectively. Ultimately, 40 members were initiated.

B. Chapter Activities

Fall

In the fall, collaborating with ASME, we hosted two workshops for a Mechanical Engineering Workshop series which is a student led seminar designed around bringing practical skills learned on co-op to lowerclassmen. The first one was a Soldering Workshop. Around 30 kids attended and PTS taught the basics of soldering while implementing AND logic gates as well as MAYO electric controls. At the end of the event, students were able to turn on a LED by flexing their forearms. The second Workshop held revolved around MATLAB Data Reading and Writing. PTS taught about 25 students how to process data acquired from a mock DAQ system. Lastly,

we also held a community service event at Boston Cares where volunteers served as “Tech Buddies” to lead students in STEM activities. Volunteers worked in small groups to teach students about coding using Osmo software and Ozobots.

Spring

Throughout the Spring Semester, we held three Workshops, two of which were the same as those in the Fall semester (Soldering and MATLAB) as well as a Solidworks FEA workshops where students were taught how to mesh, run simulations, and interpret the results in Solidworks.

Intermixed with all the workshops, we also held some major community service events throughout the semester. Most notably, we participated in Northeastern’s Center for STEM Education day where we sponsored a table explaining the basic principles of how a hovercraft works. At the table we also provided a CD, push-pull cap, glue, and a balloon to build a mock hovercraft with the students. We also volunteered for Building Bridges Event at Northeastern where we explored different engineering disciplines and ran basic activities (specific to each major within the College of Engineering) with high school students interested in pursuing an engineering degree in college.

Initiation was a huge success. It was the biggest initiated class the chapter has ever seen (40 new members), almost doubling our current member enrollment. Elections were held after initiation and four of the new members were elected into e-board positions as those chairs were formerly held by graduating seniors.

As per tradition, the Mechanical Engineering Professor of the Year contest was held to commemorate a professor who made a positive impact on students. The student body voted for Mehdi Abedi, and he was given the award at the end of the Mechanical Engineering Capstone Day at the end of April.

Graduating seniors in the chapter were given the option to purchase stoles and cords to show Pi Tau Sigma pride at the graduation ceremony a couple weeks later.

And lastly, the semester culminated with an e-board changeover meeting where we had the current and new e-board all meet together to transfer over responsibilities and go over lessons learned. The group hopes to continue with the events done this year, and continue to increase Tau Kappa chapter’s impact on the Mechanical Engineering class.