PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2013-2014

Northeastern Tau Kappa Chapter

A. Initiations

We held one initiation this past year, during the Spring 2014 semester. Most Northeastern University programs, including the Mechanical Engineering curriculum, takes a total of five years to complete and includes three, six-month cooperative work experiences in industry. Due to the five-year program instead of four years, the name "Middler" is given to third year students, between their Sophomore and Junior year. To determine eligible candidates for out chapter of Pi Tau Sigma, the following students were selected:

- Top 25% of the Middler class
- Top 25% of the Junior class
- Top 33% of the Senior class

Reaching out to Middler students allows for more time to be involved as a member of Pi Tau Sigma as an undergraduate student.

An information session was held for all eligible students to attend and learn more about the honor society's values and associated activities. Food was provided and a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation was presented. One week later, on April 1, 2014, the initiation was held. Thirty-six students were initiated: 20 Middlers, 8 Juniors, and 8 Seniors.

B. Chapter Activities

B.1. Community Service

B.1.1. Rosie's Place

On Saturday, November 2nd, we cooked and served a lunch at Rosie's Place (www.rosiesplace.org) just a few blocks south of Northeastern University's main Boston campus. Our chapter also sponsored this meal with funds from the previous year's initiation. Rosie's Place was founded in 1974 as the first women's shelter in the United States. Their mission is to provide a safe and nurturing environment that helps poor and homeless women maintain their dignity, seek opportunity and find security in their lives. Six members attended and worked for about six hours. Below are a few pictures from the event.

B.1.2. Greater Boston Food Bank

On Friday, March 28th, we volunteered at the Greater Boston Food Bank (www.gbfb.org), sorting and organizing food and goods to be distributed to food pantries all across Eastern Massachusetts. Eight members attended this event. Below is a picture from the event.

B.2. Professional Networking

An initial Professional Networking chair was elected during our Spring 2013 elections for the first time. A goal was established of holding at least one "Professional Networking Event" each semester.

B.2.1. Fall Event

On Tuesday, October 29th at 7:00pm, our chapter's first professional networking event was held in a classroom on campus. Employees from Fikst, iRobot, and InVivo Therapeutics came and presented about their respective companies and typical co-op and full time mechanical engineering positions they have available. Food was provided for the event.

B.2.2. Spring Event

On Wednesday, March 16th at 7:00pm, we held another professional networking event for our chapter's members. Representatives from Joule Unlimited, MITRE, and E-Ink presented at this event. Again, food was provided for the presenters and attendees.

B.3. Social Event

On the evening of Tuesday, April 15th, we organized a social event at a local bowling alley, King's. This was on the last day of classes and before the start of final exams. Approximately ten members attended, played pool, skee-ball, and did some necessary relaxing and socialization before the start of spring semester's final exams.

C. Other

Our chapter runs a student-voted Mechanical Engineering Professor of the Year award. We made an online forum and sent it out to all of the mechanical engineering students, sophomore year and above. A total of 184 votes were cast, and Professor Askan Vaziri won the award. A certificate was presented to him on the morning of Tuesday, April 15th at the mechanical engineering spring senior capstone awards reception. He later received a plaque with his name inscribed on it for the award.

Through the past year, our officer board executed a significant re-structuring of documentation and communication with the goals of sustained growth of our chapter and easier transitions from officer board to officer board. In addition, this year was the first year we had a Professional Networking Chair and Community Service Chair. Their respective events proved these new positions very useful. We will continue to use these chairs as elected officer positions for years to come.