PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT, 2015 – 2016

MISSOURI EPSILON

CHAPTER STATEMENT

The functions of the chapter focus on increasing member retention, departmental coordination and involvement, service, and increasing overall chapter visibility within the College of Engineering. Of these, an emphasis on service and chapter visibility is crucial.

NEW MEMBERS

The Missouri Epsilon Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma holds initiations as a high priority. It is our goal to recruit the highest caliber students at the College of Engineering's Mechanical Engineering program. The initiation criterion at the University of Missouri includes junior or senior standing in the top 25% of the class. Prior to initiation, prospective members were required to participate in all chapter events, which included social events with active members, outreach and public service events, and departmental activities. Additionally, all initiates were required to complete a faculty survey, which required them to meet with professors and discuss classes/research opportunities. This serves to increase member visibility within the department. Prospective members were also required to meet with each other and other members during the initiation process so as to further bring them into the chapter fold. Keys were given to the new members to polish, and the member who had the best finished key was given a small reward. Finally, initiates were required to complete a quiz containing important information regarding the society as a whole, in addition to chapter specific details. During the initiation, the history of the chapter was explained and the executive board led the new members through the oath. Before the new members could be initiated they had to turn in national dues. After the ceremony, we celebrated by having dinner so the new members could celebrate with the whole chapter.

Fall 2015	***Spring 2016***
December 10, 2015	April 26, 2016
12 new members	6 new members

CHAPTER/DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The majority of our focus this year was to increase member retention, starting with heavier involvement during the initiation process, and to increase visibility within our department through outreach, volunteering, and fundraising activities.

While increasing group visibility is important, it requires that the members of the group be active and visible as well. Thus, increasing member retention, specifically in the newer members, was deemed a priority. This was done by scheduling numerous volunteering and social activities, which allowed the new members to meet the group in

multiple settings. This proved very effective, and the chapter saw record attendance at its later meetings.

Other events which aimed at increasing retention included numerous chapter social events, participation in College of Engineering team events, and participation in Rec Sports at Mizzou (Sand Volleyball).

Missouri Epsilon sent two members to the 101st national convention: the then current president and now current vice-president. It is very important to our chapter to send next-generation leaders to the convention every year, as the experience is not only valuable to the individual, but to the chapter as a whole in training better future leaders.

The chapter hosted/participated in numerous chapter events as well:

- Caterpillar Information Session: Our Chapter hosts an information session with a representative of Caterpillar every semester. As Caterpillar does not currently attend our college's career fair, this event offers one of the only opportunities for many students to network with a representative of the company.

- Dome Lighting: Our chapter helped host one of the College of Engineering's oldest traditions: the lighting of Jesse Hall for E-Week. Members handed out commemorative mugs and beverages to attendees.

- E-Week Super Smash Bros Tournament: The chapter hosted a fundraising event during engineers' week, in which 64 students faced off in a single elimination Super Smash Bros Tournament! Exhibition matches were held on a projector screen, as well as the final match. The event proved to be a fantastic fundraiser, and got many students from the college involved in a fun, competitive event.

Additionally, the chapter entered a team in the College of Engineering Kickball Tournament, Relay for Life, and hosted a tailgate social.

VOLUNTEERING/OUTREACH EVENTS

Missouri Epsilon placed a large amount of its focus in increasing the amount of service work/ volunteer events hosted this past year. An emphasis was placed on community outreach, specifically aimed at youth involvement. The events in which our chapter participated are:

- Rocket Camp: Rocket Camp is a three day immersive camp aimed at students who are ~10 years old. On the first day students take a series of classes on various aerospace/rocketry topics, such a propulsions or forces acting on rockets, by students with relevant industry/internship experience. Day two is a series of rocketry activities, ranging from payload design competitions, water rocket launches on the quad, and model rocket building. On day three the children attend a launch, where they launch their own model rockets and view launches by members of the local Tripoli chapter. This event is sponsored by alumni donors and has been held for three years. This is Missouri Epsilon's first time hosting, although we were heavily involved in the second Rocket Camp as well.

- High School Weekend: This event is hosted by another group within the college of engineering, and aims to educate high school students on opportunities within the College of Engineering and on various engineering professions in general. Our chapter hosts the Mechanical Engineering activity, which is typically a glider competition. Students are first educated on mechanical engineering, typical work within the profession, and other general information related to the department. They are then thrown into a brief design competition. This event has been hosted by our chapter twice.

- Columbia Food Bank: The chapter volunteers at a local food bank each semester. We are currently exploring the possibility of creating a group of regular volunteers, who regularly volunteer at the food bank, and can further facilitate volunteer opportunities with the rest of the chapter.

- Stream Clean-Up: Our chapter has been involved with Columbia Public Works for several semesters in stream/community clean ups. This is a weekend event, and is typically followed by a chapter social/BBQ.

Members also participated in Relay for Life, and a couple of members coordinated and volunteered at a First Lego League youth robotics tournament. Plans have been made to increase involvement in both activities, while maintaining/increasing involvement in all other service activities. The chapter also hosted a food drive in November, and plans to continue hosting it each fall. The food drive yielded over 220 lbs worth of donations.

TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Officer Elections were held late in the spring semester. Two former chairs were elected into the president and vice-president positions, additionally, a former chair now holds the office of Treasurer, and a highly involved member has been elected into the Secretary role. This year's officer group looks very promising, with a good mixture of veteran members and new members who are ready to continue the activity and expansion of the group outlined by their predecessors.

CHAPTER OFFICERS (2016 – 2017)

Nick Sonntag, *President*
Will Eck, *Vice President*
Paige Compton, *Treasurer*
Matt Scott, *Secretary*

Dan Ratigan, *Activities Coordinator*
Sam Donovan, *Fundraising Chair*
Jaclyn Knezik, *Social Media Chair*

PLANS FOR 2016 - 2017

In the 2016-2017 school year, the new leaders plan to continue trying to inspire involvement and service within the Missouri Epsilon chapter. There are plans to attend next year's convention and also a few fundraising ideas that will benefit the student body as well as our chapter. An emphasis will be placed on fundraising and volunteer events. These in tune will require initiate/member participation, which will further serve to increase retention and chapter visibility throughout the academic year.

CHAPTER ADVISOR

Dr. Jacob McFarland
Mcfarlandja@missouri.edu

A picture from the Super Smash Bros Tournament!

A picture from a general body meeting!

A picture of Missouri Epsilon members volunteering at the local food bank!

Missouri Epsilon members helping students and their parents at the Rocket Camp Launch Day!