PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL
REPORT 2013-2014
MARYLAND TAU MU

A. Initiations

Initiation Requirements

The Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 inductees underwent the same selection process as previously used at the University of Maryland. The details are as follows: the president requests and receives the contact information of the top 25% by GPA of the junior ME class and top 35% of the senior Mechanical Engineering class from the Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies. The number of credits earned determines class status. The president invites the potential inductees to attend the first general body meeting of that semester, during which the organization, objectives, as well as the requirements for joining the Maryland Tau Mu chapter of Pi Tau Sigma are explained.

The requirements, as they have been in the past, are as follows:

- Obtain a total of 26 signatures: 10 from fellow inductees, 10 from current members or officers, 5 from faculty who are members of PTS, and 1 mandatory signature form Dr. Peter Sandborn, the faculty advisor.
- Obtain a minimum of 10 points by participating in PTS sponsored events over the course of the semester. Each PTS event is pre-assigned a point value, in general 1 point per event. Running events can earn the inductees 1 point per hour worked, with a maximum of 4 points/event, and helping out with an event (i.e. posting flyers) earns extra points as well. The events are described in the activities section.
- Pass the Maryland Tau Mu Inductee exam by scoring at least 70%. The exam tests the knowledge of basic engineering terms and problems, PTS history, and Maryland Tau Mu specifics. Extra credit is awarded for witty and clever answers.
- Pay the induction fee of $60.
- Attend all general body meetings as well as the induction ceremony.

Ceremony

At the induction, the President and one of the Vice Presidents sit behind a desk illuminated by two candles with the PTS banner in front of them. Also on display are framed pictures of the PTS crest and key. The current members and officers, usually around 20 people, sit in the room with the front row vacant. The faculty advisor sits on the far left of the room. The lights are turned off, allowing the room to be light only by the candles and the low ambient light through the frosted glass windows. The inductees who have fulfilled all the requirements are lined up just outside the door by one of the officers. Each inductee enters the darkened room, says his/her full name, and takes a seat in the front row, facing the desk.

Once all the initiates are seated and door is shut, and the ceremony begins. The President and Vice President follow the verbal proceedings as detailed in the 2004 Pi Tau Sigma Chapter Manual. Once the proceedings are done, one by one the inductees sign their names in the Maryland Tau Mu member registry and learn the secret handshake from the president.

Celebration

The lights are then turned back on, and the President congratulates the inductees on their induction as members, and the crowd applauds. Food and drinks from Chipotle are served, and new and old members mingle. Stoles and chords are passed out to graduating seniors and certificates and membership cards are presented to other members.

In the fall, the ceremony would have officially ended at this point and members are free to leave whenever they want. However, in the spring, there is are elections held for every officer position. Elections then follow, and are done quite informally, with the president conducting the proceedings. Each position is called, the previous holder gives a brief explanation of the duties, perks and challenges of the relevant office, and individuals are nominated by themselves or by anyone else. Nominees then give a short speech about why they are the best candidate for the position and are escorted outside the room once they have all spoken. The president calls for a vote by a show of hands. The winner is determined and the President exits the hall to congratulate him/her. The process repeats itself until all positions are filled. The ceremony is then concluded.

B. Activities

Chapter Meetings

Meetings are held several times throughout the semester for inductees, members, and officers on a weekday night. The president runs the meetings. About 15-20 people attend each meeting. This year, the meetings were held in a Mechanical Engineering DeWalt Seminar room. The president would write the upcoming events and dates on a white board. The main organizer for each event would then give a brief update of how things were moving along, ask for more volunteers, and set up outside meeting times if necessary.

The meetings were also a time for members and inductees to vote on chapter matters.

This included voting for dates of activities, award recipients for the Pi Tau Sigma Service Award and Pi Tau Sigma Memorial Award presented to a student member each year. Members are free to ask questions and volunteer for activities. This is also the time for the president to check up on the inductees to see how their progress with the requirements is going, and to direct them to other members if they need help. At the end of every meeting, the Food Chair provides pizza and drinks for the members who attended. This gives members the opportunity to relax and enjoy the company of their fellow members and inductees.

<u>Professional</u>

Resume Book

In continuation from what was started last year, our chapter started a Resume Book in which we were able to supply all employers that visited our chapter and to many employers and recruiters at the career fair. This allowed our members another way to connect to the market. We cannot say for sure whether or not this led to any official jobs but we believe that if we continue to add to the Resume Book and get all members, new and alumni, we could significantly improve Maryland's chapter of Pi Tau Sigma connections.

Every year in conjunction with the A. James Clark School of Engineering Career Center various workshops and information sessions from a wide variety of companies and on a large variety of topic are help. Pi Tau Sigma participates in these workshops and conferences by going to them as groups. Initiates have the opportunity to earn points by attending the workshops or

information sessions. Some of the more technical sessions the initiates are requires to write a brief summary on what they learned at the session or conference.

Professional Workshops

- Resume Writing Workshop
- Cover Letter Writing Workshop
- Job Search Workshop
- Interview Techniques Workshop
- Evaluating Job Offers & Salary Negotiation Workshop
- Job Search 201: Networking and Online Resources

Professional Information Sessions

- Oculus VR Presentation
- Geographical Sciences Career & Internship Fair
- Material Science & Engineering Open House
- FBI Information Session
- Internship & Co-op Networking Panel
- NSA 2014 Technical Showcase
- Antra Information Session
- Aerotek Information Session
- Human to Mars Summit
- Take the Lead: A Woman's Empowerment Conference
- Buying Energy for a (really) Big User by UMD Facilities Management

Service Events

Relay For Life (April 12th)

This year Pi Tau Sigma sponsored a team at the University of Maryland Relay for Life. Relay for Life events are life-changing cancer fundraising events that help communities across the globe fight back cancer. Our team name was "We Are ME- UMD". It was a play on the abbreviation of Mechanical Engineering. In total our team set out a goal to raise $500 dollars. In total we raised $525 and had 16 members show up to the event. The event was also a good social experience for initiates and members. We had a tailgate where we cooked burgers and hotdogs. Additionally, we all played soccer and other games. We also walked and ran around the track to show our support for the cause which we gathered for in the first place. Overall it was a lot of fun for the chapter.

Azalea Classic (May 3rd)

About five or six members participated in the Azalea 5k Classic, which raised money for a local elementary school, Underwood Street University Park. All the proceeds went to programs at the school and it was a good way for Pi Tau Sigma members and initiates to get outside into the local community and help the community out while getting some exercise and even socializing some. The initiates received a couple points for attending and some of the other members attended as well.

Department and School Events

Department Meetings

Our chapter of Pi Tau Sigma was involved in an informal meeting each semester will the leadership from all the organizations within the department and the department head. The President attended with the leaders of the other Mechanical Engineering department societies. Through this meeting we were able to build relationships with the faculty and other student organizations. We brought to the attention any issues that our members had and in return gave opinions on any initiatives that the department was thinking about moving forward on.

Freshman Ice Cream Social

Each Fall the Mechanical Engineering Department holds an Ice Cream Social for all the incoming Mechanical Engineering Freshman. The President and Junior Vice President attended this social to help raise our awareness to the incoming freshman. It is important that all students are aware of our organization well before they are eligible to be nominated to become part of Pi Tau Sigma. We also helped welcome the students to the University and the A. James Clark School of Engineering making them feel welcome and answering any questions they may have come across in their first few weeks at the school.

A. James Clark School of Engineering Picnic

Each Fall the A. James Clark School of Engineering holds a Picnic for all of its students. This year Pi Tau Sigma Held its own table for all of the Engineering school to see what the society is all about. We quizzed the students that stopped by on some basic Engineering principles. The goal was to raise school wide awareness that Pi Tau Sigma exists and the goals and principles behind the honor society.

Maryland Day (April 26, 2014)

Our exhibit at Maryland 2014 was an astounding success. Maryland Day was original started by President Dan Mote in 1998. He wanted to expend agriculture day, started the now annual event of Maryland Day. It occurs every April on the last Saturday, and allows clubs, academic and social societies, and academic departments to show to prospective students and the community of

some of the great things happening at Maryland. It is a great atmosphere with people of all ages enjoying it.

The exhibit we had this year was built with collaboration with the Mechanical Engineering Alumni Cup Team and UMD ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) student chapter. It was a large, 6 foot by 6 foot by 5 foot Rube Goldberg machine, designed and built to allow kids and even adults to start the sequence of events. The machine allows us to show many aspects of engineering, such as levers, unbalanced masses, siphons, Newton's cradle, gear ratios, Geneva wheels, and many more topics. The project was a hit with the Maryland Day crowd. We also had our banner, and other items from our lounge on display for the public. The exhibit helped get some publicity and the kids enjoyed learning about engineering concepts in real life.

Awards

Pi Tau Sigma Service Award – Sarah Niezelski

Pi Tau Sigma Memorial Award – Grace Murphy

Graduating Seniors

Graduating Seniors for 2013-2014 Academic Year	
Grace Murphy	Syed Elahi
Rebecca Yep	Rany Shadid
Megan Frey	Xiang Zhang
Luke Sindall	Gregory Krummel

New Executive Board

New Executive Board for 2014-2015 Academic Year

Position	Name
President	Parth Kathrotiya
Vice President (Senior)	Alec Kanyuck
Vice President (Junior)	Nick Holthaus
Treasurer	Tom Landis
Secretary and ESC Representative	Daniel Levine
Service Chair	Ryan Hegarty
Design Leader	Nick Fleming
Webmaster	Ryan Hagarty