PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT 2010-2011 MARYLAND TAU MU

A. INITIATIONS

Recruitment and Requirements

The Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 inductees underwent the same selection process as previously used at Maryland. The details are as follows: the president receives the contact information of the top 25% by GPA of the junior ME class and top 35% of the senior ME class, where class status is determined by the number of credits earned. 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 Tai Sigma are explained.

The requirements 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.
- Polish the bronze PTS key by oneself. The inductee who best polishes theirs gets their induction fee waived.
- Pay the induction fee of $60.
- Attend all general body meetings as well as the induction ceremony.

Ceremony

At the induction, the president and senior VP 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, which is 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 dimmed. The inductees who have fulfilled all the requirements are

lined up by the treasurer, just outside the room. Each gets their picture taken, enters the darkened room, approaches the desk, and says his/her full name. Then he/she takes a seat in the front row, facing the desk.

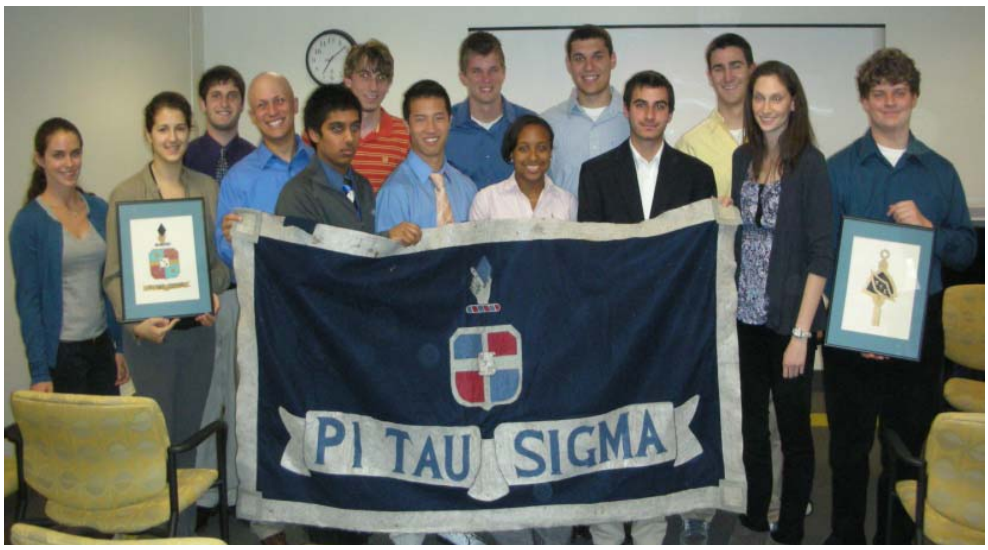
Once all the initiates are seated and the treasurer shuts the door, the ceremony begins. The president and senior VP follow the verbal proceedings as detailed in the 2004 Pi Tau Sigma Chapter Manual. Once the proceedings are done, one by one the inductees sign their names in the Maryland Tau Mu member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

Celebration

The secretary switches the lights back on, 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. During this, each induction class poses for 3 pictures, one group photo with the banner, another with the faculty advisor joining them and one more in which they are encouraged to make silly faces and gestures. The stoles are then passed out to graduating seniors, and we continue to relax as the ceremony usually occurs just a few days before exams begin.

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 an award presentation and elections are held for every officer position. The Purple Cam Shaft is presented to the faculty member who the PTS members voted for. The faculty member is invited to the ceremony and to celebrate, and the award is presented to him/her by the president. The Purple Cam Shaft is meant for a faculty member who is dedicated to the students, helpful, and all around impressive. 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 hall 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. Pictured below are the inductees for the 2010-2011 academic school year.

December 10th 2010: Eleven Inductees



May 4th 2011: Fifteen Inductees

B. Activities

Meetings

Description of Meetings

There are bi-weekly meetings held for inductees, members, and officers on Wednesday nights throughout the semester. These meetings are run by the president and about 30 people attend each meeting. This year, the meetings were held in a ME conference room, and the president would write the upcoming events and dates on a white board. The

main lead 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. We also added signing up to sell food for our food sales at the meetings, and this proved to be a much better method than via email which was how it was done in the past. Also, by writing all the names on the board, it helped people learn names better (and especially tested the president's ability to learn names, faces, and spelling!).

The meetings were also a time for members and inductees to vote on chapter matters. This included voting for dates of activities, T-Shirt designs, Award recipients, and other activities. It also gives people a chance 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, we enjoy some nice hot pizza provided by our Food Chair, and we have a chance to take a mid-week break and relax with friends.

Balloon Games

At the first general body meeting of the semester, we once again started our ice breaker tradition from Spring 2009. In the fall we had an inductee team and a member team battle with balloon forts. We used scrap wood from our Design ME lab and built a fort with string and Duct tape to protect 10 balloons. Then each member and inductee takes a turn throwing a piece of wood across the room at the other team's fort. The members crushed the inductees by popping all of their balloons first!

In the spring, we tried a different game where every person tied a balloon around each ankle. Then members and inductees ran around the room trying to pop everyone else's balloon. The winner, inductee Greg Yu, won a Chipotle gift card! These games provided a good way for some quick bonding, and also a fun way to play with balloons.

Professional Events

ExxonMobil Information Session & Luncheon

ExxonMobil was one of our big donors again this year. We held an information session with them in the fall, and attended a lunch with them in the spring. The fall information session was co-hosted with the MD chapter of Tau Beta Pi, where the president of each society met to order the food, reserve the room, contact the speaker, plan out the agenda and organize the event in general, so the work was evenly split and evenly funded. The event included a presentation on the internship experience at ExxonMobil by two of our own Pi Tau Sigma members (Anne Lederer and Erick Alves de Sa). The formal presentation was given by UMD alumni and former PTS president Charlie Choe. Approximately 100 students from varying majors and years attended this event, and after the presentation and Q&A session for both Charlie and internship presentation, students were encouraged to enjoy a Potbelly's sandwich and to leave their resumes with the recruiters.

The spring luncheon was an opportunity for officers from the different organizations that received a donation from ExxonMobil to meet. Once again, UMD recruiter and alumni Charlie Choe came to lunch to present the checks to each society. PTS used the money to help subsidize costs for the members who attended the national convention this year.

FE/PE Information Session

The mechanical engineering department once again sponsored a FE/PE Information Session which is organized and advertised by Pi Tau Sigma.

The information session was a success and there were about 40 students coming from all the engineering majors. We even had a record number (or close to) of mechanical engineering students sign up for the FE exam in April! The event even provided 7 free new edition reference books to the lucky few students in the audience!

Georgia Tech Graduate School Info Session

Dr. Paul Neitzel from Georgia Tech came and gave a very informative presentation on a couple graduate school opportunities at Georgia Tech. He described his research, and that of some of his colleagues. We had a nice group of 10 students show up to learn about graduate school in general, and the GT experience.

Service Events

Furniture Build-A-Thon

In the fall, Tau Beta Pi hosted a Furniture Build-A-Thon to donate various pieces of furniture built by UMD engineering students to a charity during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Pi Tau Sigma put together a beautiful, level, console table. We had a team of 10 cutting, sanding, staining, and building for at least 5 hours a day for one week in one of our woodshops. The effort was well worth it, as we made a wonderful table that was donated on our behalf, along with those made by Chi Epsilon, Mechanical Contractors Association, and TBP.

Relay for Life

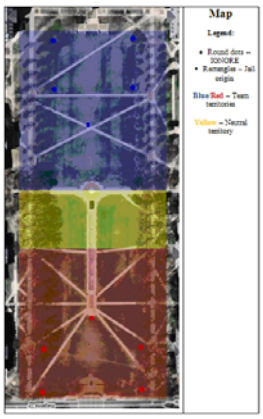
This year Pi Tau Sigma teamed up with ASME in our annual Relay for Life event at UMD. Although it was a cold weekend in April, we had a great turnout of about 20 people and a lot of fun! We spent time raising money for the event and collecting donations at our food sales. Throughout

the night we played soccer, football, tug-of-war, Frisbee, and we had a Zumba lesson! The members were able to bond as we reflected on the struggle some people have to go through and as we came together to raise money and support them.

Tutoring

Throughout the year, PTS members tutor other mechanical engineers in their classes. Our undergraduate advisor contacts us when she has students requesting tutors, and we offer free office hours and one-on-one tutoring sessions. This helps us give back to the department and it is a rewarding experience.

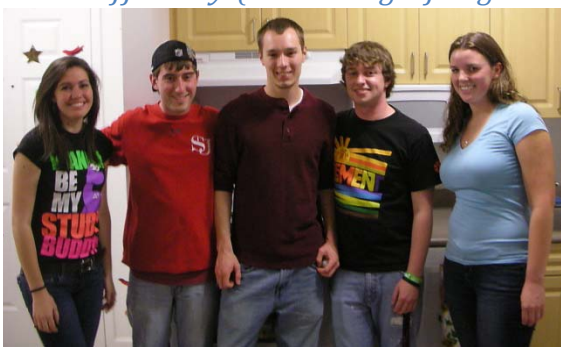
Social Events



Capture the Flag

Once again the A. James Clark School battled on our mall to see which majors would be able to claim bragging rights (and a trophy!) for the semester. This year, our Junior Vice President Lauren Finkenauer organized a tense game of Capture the Flag, where Mechanical teamed up with Civil to defeat the long reigning champions, Electrical, Computer, and Aerospace in a 50 person battle. In the spring, Mechanical won again, this time teaming with Aerospace and defeating all the other majors that showed up (it unfortunately was a cold, rainy day which kept away the weaker majors, but we still had a decent turnout of about 30 people for the hour we could last!).

Kick-Off Party (Revealing of Big-Little Pairs)



This year, we kept the tradition of making Big-Little pairs amongst our members and inductees. The revealing of these pairs occurs at our "Kick-Off" party in the beginning of the semester, which is mandatory for inductees, and strongly encouraged for members (usually about 25 people throughout the night). The Big-Little pairs are encouraged to get lunch, hang out, or just show up to all of our activities together. It is a good way to create PTS bonding pairs, and this year we combined pairs into families of 4 to give the inductees 2 people that they can count on and ask questions to.

Officers Dinners

To start off each semester, all the officers get together at a restaurant (Jason's Deli) and catch up and plan out the semester. This tradition lets every officer have an opportunity to hear about what is being planned and give feedback about what did or did not work the previous year. It is also a nice way to have everyone think of new ideas, and to decide if they would like to head up one of the activities. This year the officers were very good about delegating tasks so that everything did not fall on the president. This also serves as a good place for the officers to start setting up study group times as we find out who has the same professors!

Applebee's Happy Hour

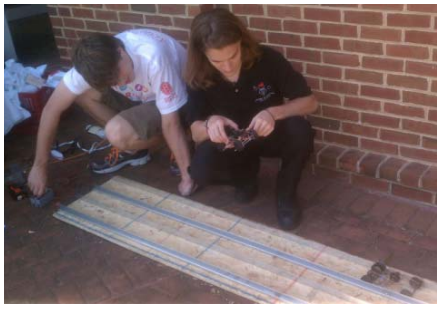
On a nice spring Friday afternoon, PTS members headed over to Applebee's for the happy hour specials. All 10 of us enjoyed the nice selection of appetizers they serve, and the over 21 members could enjoy some nice refreshments after a long week's work. This was a new event and members liked it so much, they wanted to make it a weekly event! Unfortunately it was too late in the semester to squeeze it in, but it is being kept in mind for next year!

Dodgeball

PTS showed its athletic ability at the Engineering Student Council Dodgeball Tournament this year. Our team of 10 put up a good fight, but unfortunately we did not make it to the finals. We did, however, enjoy the pizza, and we also had a good time mingling with the other 8 societies that had teams.

Department & School Events

Maryland Day



Our annual MD Day was once again a success! Our university-wide fair for families to see what goes on at UMD showcased our engineering abilities and our creative sides with our pulley slot cars! Our team of 8 built cars that used a series of pulleys to spin the wheels, and when the brush contacts touched our electrically charged track, they raced to the finish line! Kids enjoyed putting the rubber bands around the pulleys they thought would move the car fastest and flipping the switch to make the cars race. We were able to get our society some publicity and we had a lot fun teaching kids about "How the DC Metro Works!"

Career Paths Presentations

At UMD, there is a career paths class that sophomores and juniors take to learn about the career opportunities and activities in mechanical engineering. The student organization leaders give presentations in this class, and this year Pi Tau Sigma was part of this group, which helped recruit some new members who were thinking about accepting our invitation!

ME Chair Candidate Meetings

The mechanical engineering department had to select a new Department Chair this year, and PTS was asked to send 2 representatives to meet with each of the 4 candidates separately and evaluate them. This was a great experience for our members that could attend since we were able to

promote what student organizations needed and to see what new ideas the candidates had for the department in the future.

Meetings with the Department

The department requested 6 meetings with PTS members this year. We met with the interim department chair to discuss the engineering school as a whole to see what resources students need, to discuss increasing costs to provide new lab equipment, and general department concerns. We also met with the undergraduate director a couple times throughout the year to discuss the classes offered and ABET accreditation requirements. These meetings included several student groups outside of mechanical engineering as well and we all gave feedback for the courses we have taken and to see what other departments are doing.

ESC Meetings

The Engineering Student Council (ESC) holds monthly meetings that give the societies the opportunity to announce any activities they have coming up, sign up to sell food in the lobby, and to discuss any important matters. These meetings usually provide the leaders from the different societies within the engineering school a chance to collaborate and pair up with others to host events.

Fundraising Events

Food Sales

We continued fundraising efforts this year with our bi-weekly food sales. This year we sold Shopper's Colossal Doughnuts and Coffee! Although this meant we had to get up at 7:30am to buy the doughnuts fresh, it was well worth it.

We ended up raising enough money to offset some of our expenses throughout the year, and more importantly, we get our name out in the school. This not only helps recruit members, it also helps us receive offers to host companies for information sessions (since we sell the food right outside our main administration office!).

Ford Fiesta Raffle Tickets

Another fund raiser that we participated in this year was the school wide Ford Fiesta Raffle. The school raffled off this nice car and each society received $1 for every ticket sold. The winner of the car was drawn at Maryland Day, but unfortunately no PTS members won =(

Company Sponsorship

As previously mentioned, we applied for a donation from ExxonMobil and we received $750 to help subsidize convention costs for the traveling members. The money also went towards providing food at other events and meetings.

Convention

We had 3 members attend the wonderful convention at UIC this year. We were once again given a few ideas for how to better our Chapter. We spoke with Georgia Tech Nu to see how they recruit members, and we also found out a lot from the presentation from California Pi Omega. The ideas they had for inductee bonding, with the semester long project, and also member and officer bonding with the camping/skiing trips were valuable. In the past UMD members have gone to a close mountain for the college night skiing and snowboarding, and this was something we thought about re-instating this year (however, the weather did not cooperate). We benefited greatly from the career fair (as one member received an internship from that contact!) and we were able to see how the system works. As always, the convention was a great success and we were able to bring valuable ideas back to the chapter.

C. Other

T-Shirts

We finally decided on a design and bought PTS T-Shirts this year! We had a design competition and the winner received a free T-Shirt. The quote was voted on by the members and inductees at a meeting, and we got the T-Shirts in time to proudly wear them around campus. This is helping us get our name out around the school, and also gives us a good shirt to wear for Capture the Flag and Dodgeball next year!

Awards

Every spring, the department holds an awards ceremony where students are presented with different awards, and some are in honor of PTS. The PTS Memorial Award is presented to the senior member who has made outstanding contributions to the University. The PTS Outstanding Service Award is presented to the members for outstanding service contributions to the chapter. The PTS Outstanding Sophomore Award goes to the sophomores who have attained the highest scholastic average. The TA award is presented to the most helpful TA, voted on by members. And lastly, the Purple Cam Shaft award is for the

faculty member who has made the biggest impact on PTS students (this award is only presented at the induction ceremony, not the department ceremony).

This year's recipients were:
PTS Memorial Award—Anne Lederer
PTS Outstanding Service Award—Molly Donovan and Nicholas Hesser
PTS Outstanding Sophomore Award—Robert Ide, Michael Jaja, Michael Kelly, Shichao Ou, and Jeffery Rappaport
Purple Cam Shaft Award—Dr. Chandrasekhar Thamire
TA Award— Andrew Roshwalb

Graduating Seniors

December 2010

Aviva Molotsky
Jeffrey Williams
Maxwell Keeling

May 2011

Amy Zhou
Andrew Trottle
Anne Lederer
Ben Stachowiak
Ben Trettle
Brian Kwong
David Berman
David Eng
Dusita Khimsuksri
Erick Alves de Sa
Jared Leonard
Jasmine Keene
Jessica Lieberman
Jonathan Bueno
Mary Tellers
Michael Neuberger
Peter Phelps
Rameen Taeb
Sarah Bingham
Sarkis Aktavoukian
Steven Phillips
Zev Schramm

New Executive Board & Offices

Executive Board

President: Nicholas Hesser
Senior Vice President: James Wissman
Junior Vice President: Gregory Barr
Secretary: Erica Sanker
Treasurer: Alexander Edgerton

Officers

Events Chair: Molly Donovan
Food Chair: Benjamin Warner
Fundraising Chair: Scott Denion
ESC Representative: Mark Mifsud
Service Chair: Jacob Butcher
Tutoring Chair: Vighnesh Sachidananda
Webmaster: Gregory Yu
Social Chair: Edwin (Ted) Lillie