PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013 MARYLAND TAU MU

A. Initiations

Recruitment and Requirements

The Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 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 ME 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 is 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.
- 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, 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 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 a picture with the banner. 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 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 president presents the award to him/her. This year, as the same as last year, the students voted for Dr. Bigio, the former undergraduate director, however he was unable to attend the ceremony. 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 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. Pictured below are a few pictures during the ceremony

B. Activities

Meetings

Description of Meetings

Meetings are held twice a month for inductees, members, and officers on Monday or Tuesday night throughout the semester. 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 faculty Award and Pi Tau Sigma Outstanding Service 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.

Professional Events

ExxonMobil Luncheon

We have again received a very generous donation for ExxonMobil. Our future president and vice president attended a luncheon in the spring when the donation was given. They had the opportunity to meet and talk with employees of ExxonMobil. As a result, our relationship with ExxonMobil has been greatly strengthened. Not only do they offer our society a generous yearly donation, but we will be hosting future information sessions and luncheons with them. This will provide an opportunity for our members to ask questions of current employees and leave resumes, increasing our members chances on receiving internships and employment.

ExxonMobil Dinner

Our chapter held the first ever information session in conjunction with Exxon Mobile. We had a recruiting representative come to a dinner session in which we provided Chic Fil A food. The recruiter spent the first thirty minutes going over good practices when applying to jobs and then for the remaining thirty minutes we had an open forum. Members and initiates were able to ask the recruiter any questions they may have about the process.

Marlin Steel Wire Information Session

Our chapter again hosted a presentation and information session with the President of Marlin Steel Wire, Drew Greenblatt. During the presentation Drew Greenblatt discussed how he bought the Baltimore based company and revamped it to better compete and flourish against international competition. Following the presentation, the president and vice president joined several members of the faculty for dinner to further discuss his experiences.

Resume Book

For the first time ever, 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.

Graduate Information Session – M.S. Systems Engineering

Our chapter hosted an information session for students to learn more about gaining a master's degree in system engineering. We had a guess speaking and light snacks for the people who attended the session. This was also in conjunction with ASME. Approximately 25 students attended this information session.

Service Events

Furniture Build-A-Thon

Once again Pi Tau Sigma was involved in the Furniture Build-A-Thon hosted by Tau Beta Pi. The furniture is built by the University of Maryland engineering students. It is then divided up into teams according to their society. The furniture is then donated to charity during the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. This year the furniture was bought from IKEA and built by the students. The team was able to build multiple pieces of furniture at the end of the day.

Relay For Life

This year, in conjunction with ASME, 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. We fell just short of this goal as we did have many last minute donations. In total, University of Maryland raised over $142,909.70 through 159 teams and 1,614 participants.

Tutoring

One of the major initiatives for the incoming president was to establish a tutoring service for current members. By using a google spreadsheet form, we were able to get multiple tutors to volunteer their time to tutor other struggling students. The students being tutored were not only in our organization but also within the engineering school in general. We worked closely with faculty of the engineering department to start to take on more and more students. In the end of the first semester, our organization had tutored approximately 50 hours.

Social Events

Kick-Off Party

We held another early semester kick-off party in the spring. The party was held at an officer's house shortly after the initial meeting for new potential members. The intention of the party was to give current members and officers the chance to mingle with the new inductees in a friendly and fun social atmosphere. The party was a great success, as it attracted many of the older members initiated several semesters back. We intend to continue improving our kick-off parties and other social events in order to better promote the society and strengthen participation and cohesiveness among its members.

Officers Dinners

As is tradition we begin every semester with an officers dinner at Jason's Deli just off campus. This allows the officers to catch-up after a long break and to get organized for the coming semester. General schedules are set and tasks are divided up among the officers. It is also a great opportunity to look back on the previous semester and make adjustments to the initiation process in order to increase overall involvement.

Department and School Events

ESC Meetings

The Engineering Student Council holds monthly meetings that give the societies the opportunity to announce any activities they have coming up, sign up for food sales 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. All major societies and clubs throughout the A. James Clark School of Engineering attend. It is the duty of the PTS's ESC representative to represent our society at the meetings. The ESC Rep. then forwards all he learns at the meeting to the President and any other officers.

Ad-Hoc Committee Meetings

Our chapter of Pi Tau Sigma was very involved in the bi-weekly departmental meetings. Either the president or one of the vice presidents attended every bi-weekly meeting with the leaders of the Mechanical Engineering department. Also present at the meetings were other societies within the mechanical engineering school. 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.

Fundraising Events

Food Sales

This year our society was able to continue to support the University of Maryland and at the same time support our group. We provided doughnuts and coffee inside the main entrance to Glenn Martin Hall, the main engineering building on campus. The food sales offered a great opportunity to provide a service to the students and faculty as well as raising funds. Our food sales dates were generally taken on Friday morning as scheduled during the ESC meetings. The fundraising and food sales officers and new inductees looking to reach their involvement requirement worked the table. Prices remained unchanged from previous semesters.

Awards

Pi Tau Sigma Service Award – Megan Frey
Pi Tau Sigma Memorial Award – Gregory Yu
Pi Tau Sigma Faculty Award – Dr. David Bigio

Graduation Seniors for the 2012-2013 Academic Year

Gregory Barr	***Vincent Bellitti***
Jillian Bucheim	***Jacob Butcher***
William Dunham	***Jeremy Finifter***
Andrew Foote	***Genna Gold***
Kevin Howie	***Richard Landa***
Michael Moraniec	***Brad Passe***
Mark Rogers	***David Rosen***
Vignesh Sachidananda	***Elizabeth Sauerbrunn***

New Executive Board For 2013-2014 Academic Year

Position	Name
President	Grace Murphy
Vice President (Senior)	Elise Gaertner
Vice President (Junior)	Parth Kathrotiya
Treasurer	Jumma Islam
Secretary	Syed Elahi
ESC Representative	Allan Nicholas
Service Chair	Tom Landis
Social Chair	Alec Kanyuck
Food Chairs	Megan Frey/Rebecca Yep