Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2015-2016
University of Maryland Tau Mu Chapter

A. JAMES CLARK
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

A. Initiations

Each semester, Advising for the Department of Mechanical Engineering provides both the President and the Vice President with a list of the potential students eligible for PTS. This list allows the executive officers to reach out through email to setup the Information Session which acts as the kickoff general body meeting for the semester. This meeting is the primary general body meeting for the semester. Other meetings would be added as the semester moves on. At the meeting, Initiates are introduced to the concepts and information pertaining to PTS and the Tau Mu Chapter in particular. They are also provided with an Inductee Packet which outlines the PTS history, Tau Mu history, and the requirements for entry. The requirements for each semester are listed below:

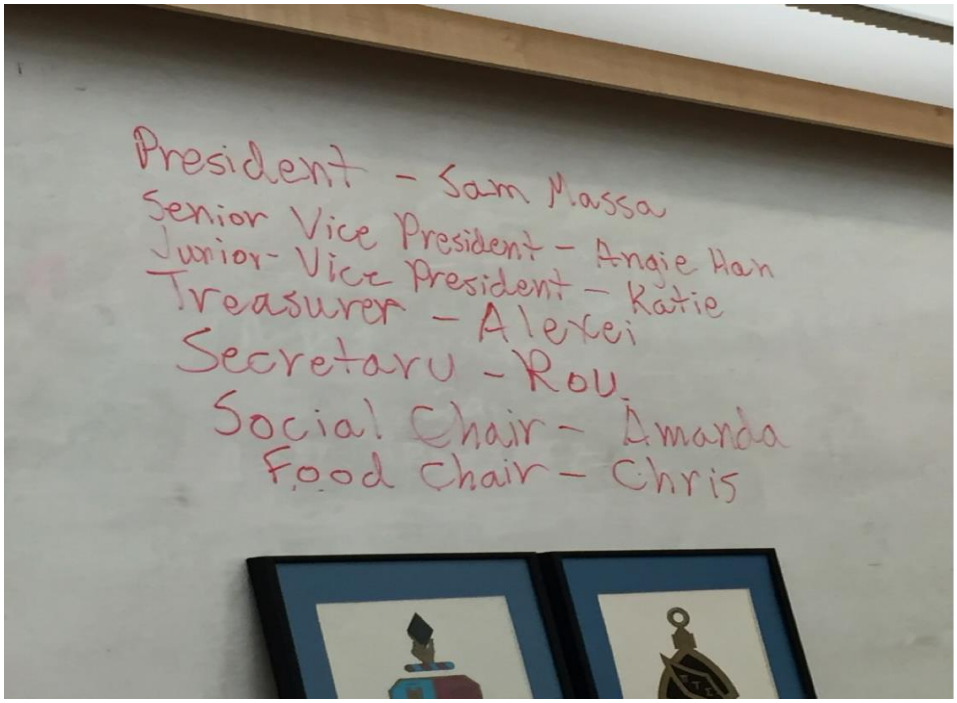
1. Attend all general body meetings, especially the Information Session
2. Obtain 10 signatures of Pi Tau Sigma Members, 5 signatures of Pi Tau Sigma Faculty (Campus President, Dr. Mote counts as 2 faculty signatures), 1 signature of the Pi Tau Sigma Advisor, and 10 signatures of Pi Tau Sigma Initiates
3. Obtain at least 10 event points which include PTS events, engineering events, and professional career events. Initiates must have an Executive Officer sign off for the events.
4. Pass the electee exam
5. Payment of $60 in dues to the treasurer at initiation
6. Attend initiation ceremony

If the Initiates complete the above requirements, they are able to attend the Initiation Ceremony. The ceremony begins with the Electee Exam. This is supposed to “test” the Initiates’ mechanical knowledge along with their knowledge of PTS. The executive board only really looks at if the students has read and understood the PTS history and traditions. Initiates are usually nervous about passing this, but everyone passes the Electee Exam. It is just a way to make the students read into the history and traditions of PTS.

Following the exam, the initiates are asked to walk into a candlelit room and state his or her name as they come in. The ceremony then proceeds on with generally the script provided on the PTS National website. The initiates are then asked to come to the front, sign their name in the Tau Mu log, and perform the secret handshake. The Tau Mu chapter teaches the handshake to the initiate as he or she signs their name. Following the signing of the log, the initiates have become full members, and the more celebratory part of the ceremony can begin. In the recent years, this entails handing out the chipotle orders that the initiates ordered the week before. The new members have a chance to converse and eat as the President goes through some events coming up for PTS and the engineering school in general. Older members participate at the ceremony as well with their presence and celebration afterwards. The Initiation Ceremony is a good chance for the President to ask the members what they want to do in the coming semester and what they expect. These ideas are written on the board and recorded to be talked about among the Executive Officers

The Fall ceremony usually ends here, but the Spring involved elections for the Executive Board as well. The position is presented, and volunteers raise their hands. If more than one raises a

hand, they both leave the room after a brief statement from each, and the room votes. Otherwise if uncontested, the individual who volunteers receives the position. The picture below shows the white board after this year's votes.



Below are the two dates and numbers for this past year's Fall and Spring Initiations:

Fall Initiation:
Thursday, November 19
14 Initiated

Spring Initiation:
Thursday, May 5
5 Initiated

B. Chapter Activities

Chapter Events and Fun
The Tau Mu Chapter held several events, and was involved in several ways within the A. James Clark School of Engineering. First, PTS events were held this past year for chapter unity and to assist initiates to reach their PTS event points. The first was a s'mores night. This was held both in the Fall and Spring semesters. Firewood was gathered, and members and initiates were invited to come and have some s'mores while taking a break from their studies. In the Fall, the s'mores night was sponsored with ASME as well as ASME members were invited to join. From the turnout and money spent, this was 90% of a PTS event.

In addition to s'mores nights, a game night was held in the fall semester. Executive officers brought their games from home to play in a classroom in the engineering building. ASME also

co-hosted bringing some games and members. This was a great chance for initiates to meet with one another and with the Executive Board during the semester. The Executive Board played with the participating members and initiates while they were able to play with each other. This was 90% a PTS event allowing the initiates to get to know those who were already members.

The screenshot below is from the email that was informing members and initiates of the upcoming events. The email also shows how members and initiates were informed and involved with the Autodesk Fusion 360 challenge and training.

PTS Exec Board to bcc: me 10/12/15

Hey everyone,

Listed below are the following upcoming opportunities:

1) If you are doing the PTS design competition, the first online tutorial is this Thursday, October 15 @ 6PM. Copied here is the information:

Training on Autodesk Fusion 360 **Getting Started with Autodesk Fusion 360 Webcast – Thursday October 15 @ 6:00pm Central**
GoTo Meeting: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/748785669
Dial +1 (408) 650-3123, Access Code: 748-785-669

2) Smores Night hosted by PTS and ASME: Thursday, October 22 @ 6:30-8:30 PM on the South Campus Quad. Get your mind off those mid-terms and projects with some smores! Mingle with PTS members, PTS inductees, and ASME members (learn more about ASME)!

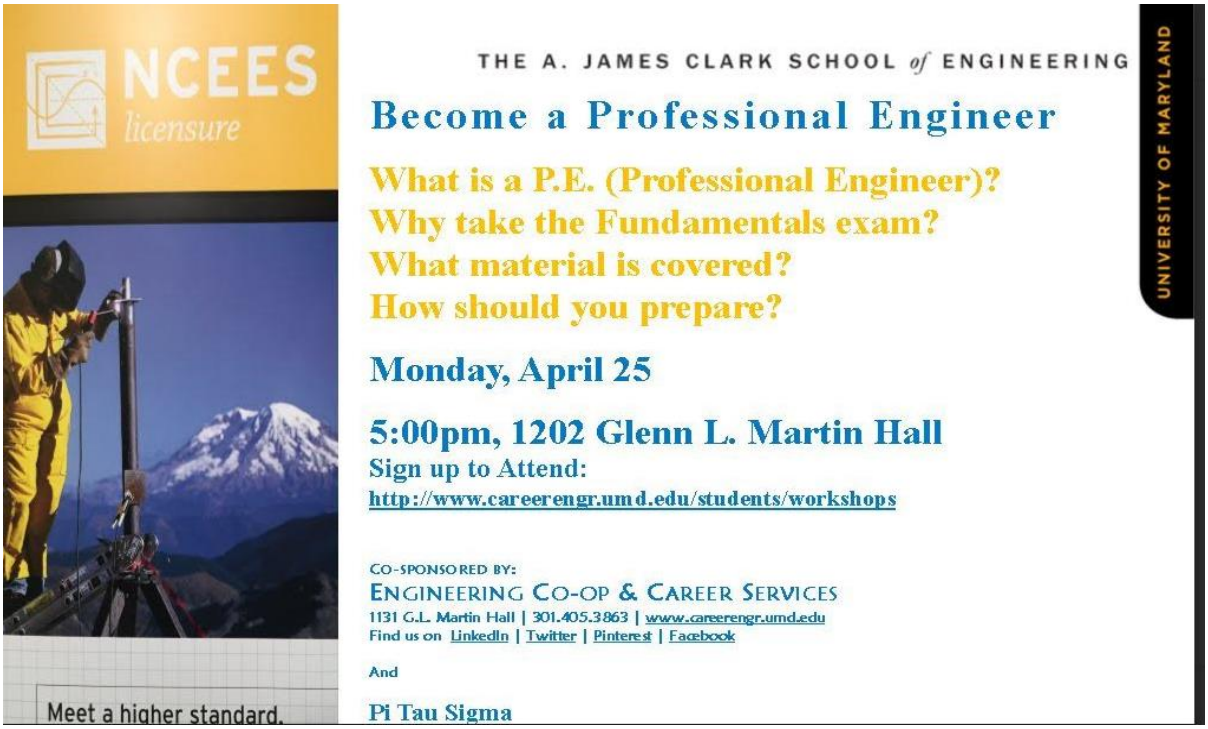
3) Professional Event Talk: Date and Time TBD

4) Game Night hosted by PTS and ASME: Thursday, November 5 @ 6:30-8:30 PM in EGR (TBD). Games!? Come on out to have fun with social and board games. Engineers can have fun too!

Outlining upcoming events in email

Professional Talk

In addition to having fun, the Tau Mu Chapter promotes the professional aspect of the mechanical engineering profession. In the Spring semester, the chapter co-sponsored a talk on professional licensing from the NCEES. The Engineering Co-Op and Career Services Office for the Clark School co-sponsored with the chapter. It was open to anyone who was interested, but initiates were provided points for attending as well. Co-sponsoring involved spreading the word through the email list for PTS and getting as many PTS members/initiates there as possible. Below is a picture of the flyer from the event.



NCEES flyer with PTS sponsorship

2nd Annual Mechanical Engineering Golf Tournament

Finally, the most commitment and effort for PTS this past year went towards the 2nd Annual Mechanical Engineering Golf Tournament. This golf tournament was created last year to have proceeds go towards mechanical engineering scholarships. The Department of Mechanical Engineering works with the chapter to get golfers, organize the event, and promote it through different forms of communication. The President of the Tau Mu Chapter took on a majority of this organizing but relied on the members to also spread the word and get golfers to sign up. Organization started at the beginning of the school year and did not end up until the event on Friday, April 15. The Mechanical Department also aided in getting golfers and sponsors for the event. On April 15, 27 golfers teed off in support of an excellent cause. PTS Executive Officers provided assistance with the luncheon, setup, and logistics during the day at the University of Maryland Golf Course. Final money amounts have not been summed yet but compared to last year, the golfer numbers were doubled and sponsorship numbers remained nearly the same. This great effort showed the school and Department that this tournament will continue for the coming years. Below are some pictures from the event.

Table and banners ready to sign in golfers!

Mechanical Visiting Committee Team along with Dr. Kiger, Director of Undergraduate Studies in Mechanical Department

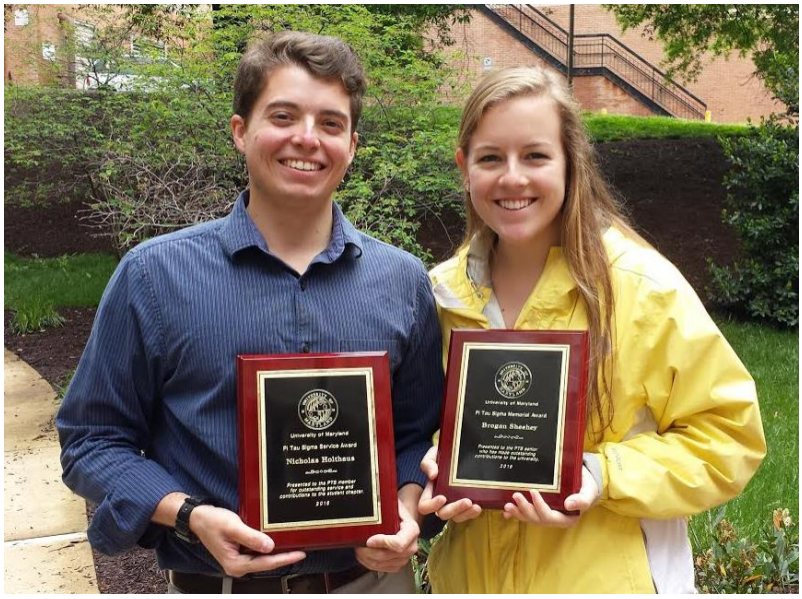
Luncheon after round

Student golfers playing from a bunker (students won spots in tournament from raffle performed by PTS)

Top prizes and trophies

End of the Year Barbecue

Following all of these events, the Tau Mu Chapter held an end of the year barbecue to relax and enjoy the end of the semester. Awards were given by the Department of Mechanical Engineering for service and outstanding contributions to both PTS and the Department.



Award recipients

2015-2016 Executive Officers and Officers along with Officers for next year

National Convention

For this year's convention, the Tau Mu Chapter sent Sam Massa, next year's President to represent the University of Maryland and the Tau Mu Chapter. At the convention, the chapter received awards for service and performance within Pi Tau Sigma. Sam brought back the information pertaining to the new changes coming to PTS and talked them over with the Executive Officers during an Executive meeting. Having Sam present during this year occurred because he was most likely to be President of the Tau Mu Chapter next year, and which makes sense for us so that the next President is always up to date on the national level.

Awards presented to Tau Mu from Nationals including the Outstanding Performance Award and Outstanding Service Award

C. Other

Communication between the Executive Officers occurred through GoupMe periodically throughout the week. This reduced the need for frequent meetings between the Officers, yet when needed, Officers did meet in person to set up dates and plan out the upcoming events.

In addition, PTS sent two representatives for the Engineering Student Council meetings which were held a couple of times each semester. The council keeps all of the leadership within the Clark School up to date and allows leadership to make decisions on school-wide events.