PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2018-2019

Maryland Tau Mu Chapter

A. Initiations

At the beginning of each semester, a list of inductees is formed by the advisors for the Mechanical Engineering Department. The list is formed for the top 25% of the Junior Class and Senior Class, and the top 35% of the Graduate Class. These inductees are contacted to attend the first General Body Meeting and sent the inductee form. Before initiation into the Tau Mu Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma, each inductee must complete all of the following requirements:

1. Attend all general body meetings
2. Obtain 10 signatures of Pi Tau Sigma Members, 5 signatures of Pi Tau Sigma Faculty, 1 Signature of the Pi Tau Sigma Advisor (Dr. Sandborn), and 10 signatures (depending on induction class size) of Pi Tau Sigma Inductees.
3. Attend 3 professional events and 2 social events sponsored by Pi Tau Sigma or approved by the Pi Tau Sigma Executive Board. Examples of Professional events include:
    - Fall or Spring Engineering Career Fair
    - Pi Tau Sigma Faculty Talk
    - Engineering Firm Information Session

    Example of Social events include:

    - Game Night
    - Scheduling Night
4. Pass the Inductee Exam.
5. Payment of $65 in dues to treasurer at initiation
6. Attend initiation ceremony.

The first 3 requirements must be completed by the induction ceremony of the semester in order to be inducted. On the induction night, the inductees will take the inductee exam during the first hour. The second hour is the initiation ceremony. Following the initiation ceremony, the new members eat dinner and socialize with the old members. This year, two initiations were held on November 28, 2018, and May 2, 2019. Seventeen inductees were initiated in November, and two inductees were initiated in May.

B. Chapter Activities

This year, our chapter had a variety of events under 2 main categories: Social and Professional. Here is some information about the specific events.

1. Social
    a. Board Game Night (October 1st, 2018):
        i. Free food like pizza and ice cream alongside fun board games were brought together in a bonding experience for both members and initiates.
    b. Ice Cream Social (October 22nd, 2018):
        i. Members were invited to the Pi Tau Sigma study room to enjoy ice cream. The event was held early in the semester to serve as a first opportunity to meet other members.
    c. Movie Night (November 8th, 2018):
        i. Members and Initiates came together to watch a movie and have free popcorn and sodas together.
    d. First Look General Body Meetings (Fall and Spring):
        i. These events were held at the beginning of the semester to preview the upcoming semester and explain Pi Tau Sigma to potential inductees.
    e. Video Game Night (March 14th, 2019):
        i. Members and Initiates brought their video game consoles and controllers and hosted a small tournament. Pizza was served as well. This event was meant to bring members together for a fun time.
    f. Trivia Tournament (April 3rd, 2019):
        i. This was a combined professional-social event where the Mechanical Engineering Department spoke about graduate school opportunities. This was followed by a generic trivia contest.
    g. Ice Skating (April 19th, 2019):
        i. Members and Initiates went out to the skating rink for a fun way to cool off after midterms.
2. Professional
    a. NAVAIR Company Presentation (October 16th, 2018):
        i. NAVAIR recruiters and engineers presented prior to the fall career fair.
    b. Dr. McCluskey Presentation on Reliability Engineering (November 19th, 2018)
        i. Dr. McCluskey presented on his research in the field of reliability engineering and importance of understanding material science to mechanical engineers.
    c. Dr. Sandborn Presentation on (Spring):
        i. Faculty Advisor, Dr. Sandborn, gave a talk on Technology Obsolescence and its effect on engineering design.
    d. Dr. Sandborn Presentation on (Fall):

        i. Faculty Advisor, Dr. Sandborn, gave a talk on Engineering Decision Making and the importance of planning for part failure.
    e. Dr. Thamire's Presentation (March 4th, 2019)
        i. Dr. Thamire presented on his research for current members and initiates so they could learn about the type of work done by our mechanical engineering professors.
3. Specialty Events
    a. Initiation (Fall and Spring):
        i. Initiation was held twice this year and election of new board members occurred in the spring, as well as the presentation of 3 awards, 2 to outstanding students and 1 to an outstanding faculty member.
    b. Mechanical Engineering Department Scholarship Fundraising Golf Tournament (Spring):
        i. The chapter hosts a golf tournament each year to raise money for the Mechanical Engineering Department. We reach out to different companies to sponsor the event and attend with their own team. In addition, the department sponsors one student team.

C. Other Information

This semester the Tau Mu Chapter continued using the restructured active membership tracking system. The system helped combat struggles with attendance by lowering the cost of cords and stoles for graduating members that attended more events. Additionally, this year the Tau Mu Chapter began planning for a transfer student mentoring program that would help guide the approximately 50 transfer students that the UMD Mechanical Engineering department receives annually. This mentoring program will serve to help keep members engaged while also providing much needed assistance to an often overlooked portion of our class.