PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012 MARYLAND TAU MU

A. Initiations

Recruitment and Requirements

The Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 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 the students voted for Dr. Bigio, the 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 the inductees for the 2011-2012 academic school year.

Fall 2011 Inductees

Spring 2012 Inductees

B. Activities

Meetings

Description of Meetings

Meetings are held twice a month for inductees, members, and officers on Tuesday nights 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 ot ask questions of current employees and leave resumes, increasing our members chances on receiving internships and employment.

Marlin Steel Wire Information Session

Our chapter also 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, I joined Drew and several members of the faculty for dinner to further discuss his experiences.

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 University of Maryland engineering students 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 purchased from IKEA and built by the students. This was done to reduce costs and increase the amount of furniture that we would be able to donate. We had found from last year that we were unable to produce as much as we had hoped because the building process required a significant amount of time and effort for only one piece.

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

Maryland Day

The university holds an annual fair that enables the community to explore what we have to offer. This year we had a table under the main tent outside the Kim Engineering Building. Our goal was to increase awareness of the mechanical engineering honor society and ask any questions people may have. We had many mechanical engineer alum of the university and Pi Tau Sigma national who were happy to see us represented in the campus-wide event.

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 heavily involved in bi-weekly meetings with leaders of the Mechanical Engineering faculty and leaders from other engineering societies. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the future of the ME Dept here at the university. The department has become increasingly stressed and strained by the ever-growing number of students enrolling as mechanical engineering majors. This is beginning to create problems associated with class sizes and student to teacher ratios. The meetings will be ongoing for the foreseeable future. This semester a strategy was developed to efficiently and accurately process student feedback on the current state of the department. Using this feedback and the opinions of the faculty, a solution will be proposed that will lead to a more effective and efficient teaching atmosphere that will accommodate the increasing enrollment without compromising the quality of the student's education.

Convention

Our senior vice president, James Wissman, and our treasurer, Alex Edgerton, represented University of Maryland at the 2012 PTS National Convention in San Jose. In addition to enjoying the warm, California weather, they took part in the business session, enjoyed a panel on innovation, and took advantage of a career fair. At the convention our chapter was awarded for the 2010-2011 annual report written by our previous president Anne Lederer. They found the trip particularly informative and brought back a slide show with a presentation. It was exciting to see how the various chapters operate together on a local and national level. We believe that the convention is an event, which would be beneficial to all Pi Tau Sigma members, but we will especially encourage current and aspiring officers. Our chapter looks forward to the next convention at Ohio State University.

Fundraising Events

Food Sales

Again this year we provided donuts and coffee inside the entrance to Glenn Martin Hall, the main engineering building on campus. The food sales are a great opportunity to provide a service to the students and faculty of the engineering school, as well as raise funds. Our food sales dates were generally Tuesday morning, twice a month, as scheduled during the ESC meetings. The fundraising and food sales officers and new inductees looking to reach their involvement requirements worked the table. Prices remained unchanged from previous semesters.

Pi Tau Sigma

Coffee & Doughnuts

Coffee……$0.50

Doughnuts……$1.00

Awards

PTS Outstanding Service Award – Edwin Lillie
PTS Outstanding Sophomore Award – Judith Beaudoin, Corey Bloom, Luke Catherine, Maximilian Frantz, Joseph Fustero, Scott Hemley, Eric Kazyak, Kevin Li, Marissa Monardo, Spencer Sokoloski, Alek Williams
PTS Faculty Award – Dr. David Bigio

Graduating Seniors for the 2011-2012 Academic Year

Scott Denion
Molly Donovan
Alex Edgerton
Lauren Finkenaurer
Andrew Foo
Nicholas Hesser
Richard Landa
Edwin Lillie
Bracha Mandel
Mark Mifsud
Mike Moraniec
Shichao Ou
Michelle Rosen
Benjamin Warner
Teresa Wierbicki
James Wissman
Nathan Wright

New Executive Board

Position	Name
President	Greg Barr
VP (Senior)	Greg Yu
VP (Junior)	Grace Murphy
Treasurer	Vighnesh Sachidananda
Secretary	Erica Sanker
Fundraising Chair	Rebecca Yep
Food Chair	Megan Frey
Service Chair	Jacob Butcher
Tutoring Chair	Vighnesh Sachidananda
Webmaster	GregYu
Social Chair	David Rosen
ESC Rep	Kevin Howie