2019-2020

Louisiana Tech Tau Xi Annual Report

A. Initiations

The Louisiana Tech Tau Xi Chapter held two initiations this school year. The fall initiation was on October 9th, 2019, and 13 new members were initiated. The spring initiation was on April 23rd, 2020, and 3 new members were initiated.

Figure 1. Fall 2019 initiation of new members

Figure 2. Spring 2020 initiation of new members

B. Chapter Activities

The Tau Xi chapter continued our great tradition of awarding the sophomore of the year award to a student nominated by a faculty member and selected after an interview process. This was held at the annual hog roast hosted by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. This event is a well attended event for mechanical engineering faculty and students to network with alumni and connect with them.

Figure 3. The Mechanical Engineering Sophomore of the Year winner Carli Raupp, 2019

The chapter provided great opportunities for volunteering, through tutoring different mechanical engineering classes. These included Statics and mechanics of materials in addition to other general classes in the curriculum. This also served as a community bonding and connection with the College of Engineering and Science. New officer elections were held in the Winter Quarter 2019-2020 as well.

Figure 4. 2019 Officers
L to R : Eva Dickenson, Austin Crawford, Luke Hanson, Harlee Moss, Samantha Villarreal

Figure 5. 2020 Officers
L to R : Grant Mabile, Zachary Harper, Richard Fontenot, Jordan Serna, David McCauley

The onset of COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 has provided many difficulties and hardships for students at universities across the world.

The pandemic had a direct effect on the events the chapter was to host/attend in early 2020. The chapter had also planned to participate in the annual Engineering and Science Day (E&S) Day held through the college to help promote STEM and mechanical engineering to high school students in Louisiana. The chapter was also due to participate in the Big Event, an event run through the Louisiana Tech Student Government Association where students, staff, faculty all assist the greater Ruston community. The SolidWorks competition that was planned to happen was also canceled due to COVID-19.

The engineering faculty and student community at Louisiana Tech grew closer during these tough times. The Associate Dean of the College of Engineering hosted virtual karaoke nights that members of the chapter attended, raising the spirits of students to finish the Spring quarter strong.

Other miscellaneous activities include Rick Fontenot attending the annual national conference at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY. This was a great opportunity for connecting with other members of different Pi Tau Sigma chapters at Universities all over the world. Great ideas were shared and brainstormed at the conference for the future of the Tau Xi Chapter.

Figure 6. Tau Xi Chapter President Rick Fontenot attended the national conference at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY