PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2011-2012
Louisiana Tech Tau Xi

A. Initiations

The selection process for our candidates begins by selecting the top percentages of the junior and senior classes in accordance with the standards set by Pi Tau Sigma. We require that a first term junior be in the top 25% of their class, and second term junior be in the top 33%, and seniors be in the top 35%. If the situation arises where candidates with relatively low GPAs are in the top percentages due to small class sizes, we may consider implementing a GPA cutoff. The cutoff may vary depending on the number of candidates, but typically the cutoff will lie around a 3.3. The Tau Xi chapter believes that Pi Tau Sigma should be comprised of the highest scholastically achieving students. Afterwards, we conduct a screening process where we consider the candidate's character and college involvement. If a candidate does not seem worthy to be a member of Pi Tau Sigma, then he or she will be removed from the invitation list. Upon completing the selection process, we issue formal invitations to each candidate inviting them to a mixer. The mixer includes the new candidates, as well as active and faculty members. The mixer begins with conversing with new candidates while enjoying dinner. After dinner, the president will begin with introducing the officers and advisor. He or she will then review the qualifications and requirements for acceptance in Pi Tau Sigma. The advisor will then share a few words. At the closing of the mixer, the candidates will be given a Pi Tau Sigma key and study information. After the candidates are dismissed, the active members will vote on the candidates.

Requirements

After the mixer, the candidates are then required to pass a candidacy exam, where their knowledge of Pi Tau Sigma and mechanical engineering is tested. They are also required to attend the quarterly service project. This service project will involve providing some sort of service to our college or community. In addition, the candidates are required to prepare their Pi Tau Sigma key and plaque. Each candidate is expected to get the signatures of each officer, faculty member, and current members on the back of their plague. As a bonus, there will be a competition between the candidates for the best plaque and key; this is voted on by active members on the day of initiation. The candidate with the best key and plaque will receive a gift certificate to the campus bookstore.

Initiation Ceremony and Rituals

On the night of initiation, all the initiates gather in the room and place their finished keys on a table in the front of the room. Afterwards, out of tradition here at Louisiana Tech, we have the initiates line up outside in the hall. Then they are blindfolded and given a penny to hold in their right hand. Then they must hold each person's hand next to them with the penny clasped between one another's hands. We then require them to walk to familiar locations within our engineering building without talking, dropping the penny, or breaking the chain. If anyone drops the penny, talks, or releases someone's hand, they must start all over again. After the group has travelled to a couple of places, they must travel to the fourth floor of the building and enter the attic. In the attic, the candidates must recite the preamble word for word, but there's a catch. The first person in the line begins with the first word, the second person then follows with the

second word, and soon. Once we get to the last person, it begins again at the front until the preamble is completed. If someone forgets their word, the candidates must start over from the beginning. Once the preamble is completed, the group must travel back to the room where they gathered earlier. We do this to make the candidates realize the value of teamwork, that things great and small can be accomplished when we work together, and that we must encourage our brothers of Pi Tau Sigma to stay on course, even when things get tough. At this point they may remove their blindfolds. The candidates enter the dark room and sit in a row in front of the table with the president and vice president. The president and vice president then recite the required ritual set by Pi Tau Sigma. After the ritual is recited, each member walks down the line of officers shaking hand with the secret Pi Tau Sigma handshake. The officers then vote on the best prepared bent and recognize that member. At this point the initiation ceremony is completed. The new initiates pay their dues and the officers, faculty members, new initiates, and active members hang out for a while and chat.

Initiations
We had two initiations this school year. The fall initiation was on October 29, 2012, and 14 people were initiated. The spring initiation was on April 22, 2013, and 4 people were initiated.

B. Chapter Activities
Steam Engine Restoration
The service projects for the fall, winter, and spring quarter all were focused on restoring the steam engine outside of Bogard Hall. This steam engine was purchased when our chapter of Pi Tau Sigma was establish and was in much need of a refurbish. During fall quarter, we cleaned the area and stripped the old paint on the steam engine. We finished stripping the paint and priming the engine during winter quarter. Finally during spring quarter, we repainted the steam engine. Several professors and students have personally acknowledged the improvement in the appearance of the steam engine and have personally thanked our organization.

National Convention
Our chapter's president, Rachel Delatte, attended the 2013 convention in Ohio.

C. Other
<u>2012-2013 Officers</u>
President – Rachel Delatte
Vice President – Sarah Paul
Treasurer – Nicole Roberts
Recording Secretary – Laurie Guidroz
Corresponding Secretary – Jacob Barstow

<u>2013-2014 Officers</u>
President – Seth Houston
Vice President – Matt Tarver
Treasurer – Gideon Ukpai
Recording Secretary – Kyle Johnson

Corresponding Secretary – Walter Miltenberger

Pi Tau Sigma Graduate Employment
Jordan Smith – International Paper, LA
Corey Stebbins – DrillCorp, TX
Blake Louque – GE Oil & Gas, LA
Sarah Paul – Wirpool, MI
James Kelly – Graduate school for Mechatronics at Georgia Tech
Jake Eppehimer – Chrysler, IL
Jason Reich – Hatch, Mott, McDonald, LA
Nicole Roberts – BP, TX
Sangeet Shrestha – Graduate school at La Tech
Prasanna Lamichhane – Graduate school at La Tech
Pratik KC – Graduate school at La Tech
Brandon Cloud – Graduate school at LA Tech
Jacob Barstow – Verilla, WA
Megan Ratcliff – Eastman, TX
Laurie Guidroz – Shell Oil & Gas, LA
Rachel Delatte – Waldemar S. Nelson, LA
Brandon Lienhop – Unknown employer
Colin Carver – Unknown employer