PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2011-2012

Louisiana Tech Tau Xi

A. Initiations

Selection

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.

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 lets go of 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 so on. 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 November 1, 2011, and 14 people were initiated. The spring initiation was on May 1, 2012, and 4 people were initiated.

B. Chapter Activities

DART Poker Tournament

On October 21, 2012, PTS Tau Xi helped the Society of Honors Scholars host a poker tournament for the DART (Domestic Abuse Resistance Team) program. Some of our PTS members served as dealers, while others helped set up and clean up the area. The buy-in for the poker tournament was canned goods and rolls of paper towels, all of which were donated to help support the DART program. Below is a picture of some of our PTS members who volunteered in the poker tournament. A total of 20 PTS members volunteered for the event.

Regional Science Fair

In the winter quarter, PTS Tau Xi helped Louisiana Tech's College of Engineering and Science judge the Regional Science Fairs, which were held on Louisiana Tech's campus. There were three science fairs held in January 26, February 2, and February 16 for the elementary, junior high, and high school students, respectively. Various PTS members helped judge all three science fairs, contributing 5 to 10 volunteers at each science fair. There was a total of 20 PTS volunteers, some of whom judged more than one of the science fairs. As mechanical engineering students, the PTS volunteers really enjoyed this service project because it took them back to a time when they all participated in these similar events.

Future Engineers Day

On April 21, 2012, PTS Tau Xi helped the Society of Women Engineers host Future Engineers Day. Future Engineers Day is a day filled with fun science activities to encourage 2nd to 6th graders to pursue the field of engineering and science in the future. Some of the activities included a potato-powered clock, oobleck, silly putties, and many more. Volunteers at each

activity's station helped the children learn how science makes all these activities possible. We also had engineering professors perform some engineering experiments with the students. A total of 24 PTS members volunteered for the event. Below are pictures of the event, with PTS volunteers circled in red.

National Convention

Our chapter's president, Dela Jakub-Wood, attended the 2012 convention in San Jose.

C. Other

2011-2012 Officers
President – Dela Jakub-Wood
Vice President – Chad Mitchell
Treasurer – Derek Newman
Recording Secretary – Lawrence Eboka
Corresponding Secretary – Josh Bostick

2011-2012 Officers
President – Rachel Delatte
Vice President – Sarah Paul
Treasurer – Nicole Roberts
Recording Secretary – Laurie Guidroz
Corresponding Secretary – Jacob Barstow

Pi Tau Sigma Graduate Employment
Sam Ashley – Self-employed farming, Calhoun, LA
Josh Bostick – Graphic Packaging, West Monroe, LA
Lawrence Eboka – Unknown
Matt Gauley – Valero, Houston, TX
Dela Jakub-Wood – ExxonMobil, Baytown, TX
Chad Mitchell – Marathon Oil, Laplace, LA
Derek Newman – Conagra Foods, Delhi, LA
Adam Sipes – Georgia Pacific, Crossett, AK