PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2015-2016
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, a second term junior be in the top 33%, and a senior 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 because 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, and then the president will begin by 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.

Initiations were held January 12, 2016 and April 28, 2016.

Requirements

After the mixer, the candidates are then required to pass a candidacy exam testing their knowledge of Pi Tau Sigma and Mechanical Engineering. 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. The active members will vote on the candidates to determine which will become new members. The new members are required to attend the quarterly service project. This service project involves providing some sort of service to our college or community.

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. They are blindfolded and then required to walk to familiar locations within our engineering building without breaking the chain. After the group has travelled to a couple of places, they must travel to the fourth floor of the building and enter the attic. 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 facing a table displaying the Pi Tau Sigma Crest and Insignia with the president and vice president behind it. The president and vice president then recite the required ritual set by Pi Tau Sigma. At this point the initiation ceremony is completed.

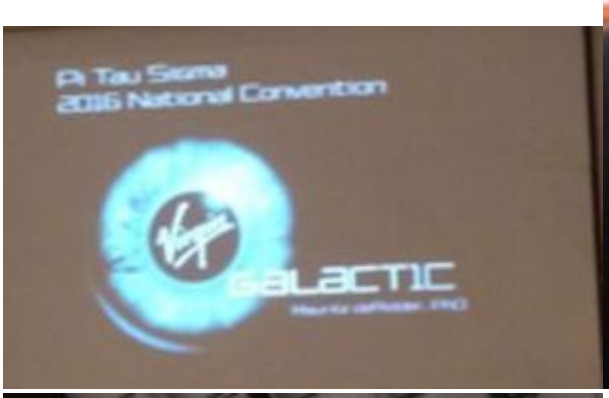
Initiations

We had two initiations this school year. The fall initiation was on January 12, 2016 and 10 people were initiated. The spring initiation was on April 28, 2016, and 2 were initiated.

B. Chapter Activities

National Convention

Our chapter's president, Hannah Clark, attended the 2016 National Convention at UCLA in Los Angeles, California. She participated in roll call, voting, the Fusion 360 modeling competition, tours, the career fair, UCA member initiation, and the closing ceremony featuring Virgin Galactic at the National Conference.



Take on Tech

Our chapter helped in an annual effort to clean up our engineering building. Numerous activities were performed such as sweeping, mopping, dusting, wiping down walls, taking out trash, cleaning out storage closets, fixing broken equipment, and much more.

The Big Event

The Big Event is the largest community service event in Ruston, during which multiple campus organizations come together to volunteer all over the town. Our chapter's officers attended and helped a neighboring family by cleaning windows, raking, and helping with other outdoor chores. Even though the tasks are relatively small, the residents we helped were extremely grateful for the time and work. We hope to have a larger collection of officers and active members participate in the future.

Mechanical Engineering Sophomore of the Year Award

Our 2016 group helped bring back the Sophomore of the Year Award to our annual Spring Release event. We asked for teacher recommendations and then performed an interview process to determine the most involved, personable, and achieving sophomore of the year. The chosen candidate was presented with a fifty dollar monetary reward, and his name was put on a plaque in the engineering building.

Pi Tau Sigma
Mechanical Engineering
Sophomore of the Year
ΣΠΙ ΤΑΥ ΣΙΓΜΑ
RYAN JONES
2016