PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2016-2017
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 November 3, 2016 and April 27, 2017.

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 plaque. 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 are asked to place their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. They are then required to walk to familiar locations within our engineering building without breaking the chain. After the group has navigated their way 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 and sisters 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 the Pi Tau Sigma Crest and Insignia with the president and vice president between the two. 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 November 3, 2016 and 19 people were initiated. The spring initiation was on April 27, 2017, and 5 were initiated.

B. Chapter Activities

National Convention

Our chapter's president, Haley Dishman, attended the 2017 National Convention at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She participated in roll call, voting, the Fusion 360 modeling competition, tours, the career fair, Drexel University member initiation, and the closing ceremony featuring Autodesk. During the Fusion 360 modeling competition, Haley's group placed first overall and had the opportunity to compete in a larger competition hosted by Autodesk.

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. Many of our chapter's officers and members, and even a few non-members, participated with us in this event. Our chapter was assigned a two-mile section of highway to clear of litter and debris. Even though the tasks did not require much physical labor, many residents from the area thanked us for dedicating our time to the community. We hope to have a larger collection of officers and active members participate in the future.

Initiation Book Service Project

One of our ongoing projects is the digitizing of the Pi Tau Sigma Tau Xi member book. This book includes the names of the initiated members from the start of the Louisiana Tech Chapter until the most recent initiation. There is now a digital file that includes a portion of the names and dates written in the book, therefore saving the history of Pi Tau Sigma Tau Xi should anything happen to the original. This process is currently a service project for new initiates as well as any members who wish to contribute. The book will continue to collect initiates' signatures.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1				Pi Tau Sigma			
2				Louisiana Tech Tau Xi			
3			Date	Members	Title		
4			April 23 1957	Carter Barton Ackel			
5				William Earl Amis			
6				Randall Franklin Barron			
7				Howard Wayne Dennis			
8				Kenneth Paul Fountain			
9				Jerry Neil Garner	Recording Secretary		
10				Abe Troy Hendricks			
11				Victor Charles Gouaux	Vice President		
12				Robert Doyle Holstead			
13				Jerry Dale Hunter			
14				Curtis Ray James			
15				Thomas Layne Knight, Jr.	Corresponding Secretary		
16				Farrell J. Perdreauville	President		
17				Joe Davis Purris, Jr.			
18				Fonnie H. Reagan, Jr.	Treasurer		
19				Charles Warren Roberts			
20				Walter Stagg, Jr.			
21				Harry Arthur Webb			
22				Wilbur A. Whitaker			
23				Ben T. Bogard	Honorary Member		
24				Ellis M. Killgore	Honorary Member		
25				Joseph Jackson Thigpen	Honorary Member		
26				E. Leon Dunning	Faculty Advisor		
27			1957, Fall	Carter Barton Ackel			
28				Randall Franklin Barron			
29				Howard Wayne Dennis			
30				Jerry Neil Garner	Recording Secretary		
31				Abe Troy Hendricks			
32				Victor Charles Gouaux			
33				Robert Doyle Holstead			
34				Thomas Layne Knight, Jr.	Corresponding Secretary		
35				Farrell J. Perdreauville	President		
36				Joe Davis Purris, Jr.			
37				Fonnie H. Reagan, Jr.	Treasurer		
38				Wilbur A. Whitaker			
39				Ben T. Bogard	Honorary Member		

Disc Golf Tournament Fundraiser

During Engineering & Science Week, our Chapter held a Disc Golf Tournament where teams competed to win a prize. This event was a fun, energetic way to get people involved in an outdoors activity. The prize to the 1st-place team was gift cards to The Dawg House, a popular, local restaurant in Ruston, Louisiana. We had 3 teams – a total of 9 people – compete, and we hope to see more participation should we continue to host this event in the future.

Social Involvement

In the spring of this year, Pi Tau Sigma Tau Xi became a part of ESA, the Engineering and Science Association. Organizations can compete in the COES Cup which awards $1,000 to the group with the most points. Points are earned by participating in competitions and conventions, hosting industry meetings, participating in community service, and more. Over the course of just one quarter, Tau Xi accumulated enough points to earn 7th place out of over 20 organizations.

Through ESA, our Chapter will be more involved in Engineering & Science activities throughout the year, and we hope to make strides towards the 1st-place trophy.

In the spring quarter, Tau Xi made efforts to make its presence more known throughout the College of Engineering and Science and social media. In April, we held an ENGR 220 Statics I study session to help students prepare for one of their exams. Additionally, our Chapter created a Facebook page to help update students on our service events and meetings.

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 $50 monetary reward, and his name was put on a plaque in the engineering building.

The 2017 group has voted to give this award in the Fall of 2017 at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Annual Hog Roast, an event hosted for the whole College of Engineering and Science but is geared toward those studying mechanical engineering.

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