PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2010-2011

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 annual service project we hold each year. 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 let's go of someone's hand, they must start all over again. After the group has travelled to a couple of places, they must travel of 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 completed, the officers vote on the best prepared bent and recognized 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 9, 2010, and 7 people were initiated. The spring initiation was on May 10, 2011, and 5 people were initiated.

B. Chapter Activities

The Louisiana Tech Tau Xi chapter has been active in the College of Engineering and Science, as well as in the community. Our chapter participated in Engineering and Science Day held here on Tech's campus. During this event, high school students from around the state come to Tech to learn about our engineering programs and what Tech has to offer. Many organizations within the College of Engineering and Science participate in this event; whether it's helping setup, doing a presentation, or other necessary tasks. Our chapter members volunteered as tour guides for the groups. As tour guides, members escorted the student groups around campus to the different presentations and activities the college has planned for them.

During the spring we had our annual service project. This year's project involved helping clear running trails in Lincoln Parish Park—a local camping, biking, and running park. We teamed up with ESA (Engineering and Science Association) and cleared the trails in preparation for a race that was to be held the following week.

Our chapter's president, Adam Jones, attended the 2011 convention in Chicago.

C. Other

<u>2010-2011 Officers</u>
President- Adam Jones
Vice President-Phil Russell
Treasurer-Chris Trypaluk
Recording Secretary-Mason Thomas
Corresponding Secretary-Chad Mitchell

<u>2011-2012 Officers</u>
President-Dela Jakub Wood
Vice President-Chad Mitchell
Treasurer-Derek Newman
Recording Secretary-TBA
Corresponding Secretary-Josh Bostick

<u>Pi Tau Sigma Graduate Employment</u>
Adam Jones-PPG Industries, Lake Charles, LA
Justin Bounds-Exxon Mobil, Baton Rouge, LA
Josh Gidlow-Exxon Mobil, Houston, TX
Mason Thomas-Lockheed Martin, Camden, AR
Joseph Dees-DOD Robins AFB, Warner Robins, GA
Ethan Bryan-DOD Edwards AFB, CA
Vincent Hamblin-Supreme Integrated Technologies, New Orleans, LA
Daniel McAfee-Johnson Controls, Baton Rouge, LA
Phil Russell-Cameron, Berwick, LA
Will Long-Grad School, Mississippi State
James Neal-John Deere, Thibodaux, LA