2018-2019 Pi Tau Sigma Annual Report
Villanova Tau Pi

A. Initiations

In late March 2019, the Villanova Tau Pi adviser obtained current academic records for all current second and third-year Mechanical Engineering undergraduate students. These students will be third and fourth-year students in the 2019-2020 school year. The top 25% of each class were then invited to join Pi Tau Sigma via an email from the adviser. Third-year students that were already a member of the honor society were included in the evaluation of the top 25%, meaning more second-year students were invited than third-year students.

15 students expressed interest in joining the organization, and any questions about the honor society's activities or requirements were answered by the president and vice-president. The initiation proceeding was held on April 27th, 2019 by the president and vice-president, with catered food. The official rituals of Pi Tau Sigma posted on the honor society's website were read verbatim, and each initiate was required to pledge they would uphold the ASME code of ethics and state their sincerity in membership to the society. The secret handshake was also introduced to the initiates and they were required to greet their fellow initiates with the handshake. A brief summary of the Villanova chapter was also communicated by the president. It is restated here for future leadership reference:

On behalf of our 25 current Pi Tau Sigma Members, our adviser, and the entire National Society, congratulations! Your academic successes have awarded you a seat at this table, but it is your hard work, dedication, and commitment you've displayed that will bring you future success, I am sure of it. Before we get to the food, we require that each member sign the Pi Tau Sigma membership book. The book began with Villanova's Pi Tau Sigma founding in 1958, and is therefore 61 years old this year.

Before signing the book, the vice-president and I would like to demonstrate the secret Pi Tau Sigma handshake, which you can share with no one outside of Pi Tau Sigma.

Please turn to your nearest neighbors, and greet your fellow members with the secret handshake.

We would now like each member to sign the membership book, and afterwards, John and I will welcome you into the organization with the secret handshake to seal the deal.

The primary goal of Pi Tau Sigma is to bring together the most talented mechanical engineers at Villanova and make concerted efforts to give back to the community. The main way we do this is through one-on-one peer tutoring on a request basis. This means that students reach out to us and we try to match them with a Pi Tau Sigma member based on which class the student needs help with, timing etc.

In the past two years, we've also began to branch out to other events. We've offered group study sessions for junior-level heat transfer and sophomore-level statics, and have coordinated with ASME to offer study-hall style tutoring environments. We also participate in different volunteer

opportunities, like the sophomore "BeetleBot Competition" and the department's "Engineering is for Girls!" STEM day.

Finally, we have made efforts in hosting community builder events and have had particular success with a spring Barbecue for engineering students of all disciplines.

Being a member of Pi Tau Sigma is as much of a commitment as you want it to be. We hope that by being identified as one of the top mechanical engineering students you'll volunteer to help your peers and participate in some of the other opportunities we have to offer, but there are no requirements to do so. We normally hold only one meeting a semester and otherwise communicate via email.

In the past few years, the reach of Pi Tau Sigma at Villanova has grown considerably. As we graduate, we're really excited to see it continue growing under new leadership. We're especially excited about alumni staying involved with the organization.

However, due to a miscommunication between the president and the adviser, the membership book was not available at the initiation ceremony. New initiates were asked to sign the book in the weeks following the initiation ceremony. 15 new members were inducted.

B. Chapter Activities

1. September 9th 2018 – May 12th 2019: Peer Tutoring
PTS members tutored fellow engineers in a wide range of classes, from intro courses to fluid mechanics and heat transfer. We had requests from 15 unique students this year, with many students requesting multiple sessions. Sessions were often over 1 hour, and in one case even resulted in a PTS member being hired onto the athletic departments tutoring staff.

2. September 17th, 2018: All-member meeting
New members from spring 2018 induction introduced to existing members in an evening meeting with Pizza. Demonstrated secret handshake and coordinated classroom visits.

3. September 18-27th, 2018: Classroom Visits
Members visited mechanical engineering core classes to inform students about PTS tutoring.

4. December 5th, 2018: Beetlebot Competition Volunteering
Pi Tau Sigma assisted the department of Mechanical Engineering and the ASME student group in running a yearly competition where second-year students build and battle small RC robots. PTS members created tournament brackets, supported prizes, including the construction of the first-ever tournament trophy, and helped during the day of the competition. 5 students volunteered during the 5 hour event, and an additional 2 students were involved in planning and organizational help.

Image from Fall 2018 Beetlebot Competition, courtesy of Griffin Davis

5. May 3rd, 2019: Spring Barbecue
Following the Spring 2019 induction ceremony, students gathered for a small barbecue during reading day. Approximately 10 students in attendance. Flyer attached.

C. Other

1. New Leadership
The adviser, president, and vice-president discussed future leadership of the Villanova Chapter in early May, 2019. After initial attempts to find new leadership with an emailed application, the adviser, president, and vice-president agreed to appoint Jonathan Nikolaidis as the new president. Jonathan will be staying at Villanova next year as a graduate student to pursue his master's degree and has agreed t oversee the chapter's activities.

2. Graduates
15 members graduated this year, pursuing opportunities in a wide variety of fields, including industry and graduate school.

Come relax and refuel before the start of finals with a free barbeque open to all!

what: **Pi Tau Sigma's Spring BBQ**

when: **Friday, May 3rd (reading day)**
1:00 PM

where: **West Campus Lawn**

(Vegetarian options available)