PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2015-2016

Colorado State University – Tau Psi

A. Initiations

During the 2015-2016 school year, the Tau Psi chapter performed two initiations. The students who are selected to join are determined by the top 25% of juniors and the top 35% of seniors. The first was the fall initiation held on October 9, 2015. To celebrate, after the ceremony, all chapter members as well as the advisor were invited to free bowling. The spring initiation was held on March 24, 2016. Bowling was provided again after the rituals to celebrate the new members. The new initiates are required to complete 40 hours of community service as well as go to the initiations throughout the school year. The minimum academic GPA of our new initiates cannot be given to our organization due to a school policy.

B. Chapter Activities

The 2015-2016 school year allowed the Tau Psi chapter to interact together and bond during meetings as members, to get involved in the community, to promote our name to the student body at Colorado State University, and to attend the national convention.

During chapter meetings, an officer comes with a design competition for the rest of the members, who break into teams. These competitions range from bottle rockets to design a bridge to withstand a specific weight. The competitions help strengthen member's team and problem solving skills, our organization's community between members, and to the lucky winners a prize is give.

Moreover, this past school year brought many volunteer opportunities to the Tau Psi chapter. The Tau Psi chapter was grateful to be able to participate in CSUnity and Fall Cleanup. Both events are thrown by Colorado State University. When the group arrives, the university coordinators gives directions to the home or area the group will help that day. Tau Psi travels together and volunteers our time doing what ever the person we are matched with needs. These tasks can include cleaning up elderly people's yards and gutters along with many other activities. CSUnity (in the spring) and Fall Cleanup (in the fall) allow our organization to interact with the community in Fort Collins, CO and help make the people in the community lives easier and volunteer our time for a great purpose. Figure 1 shows a photo of some of the members with the family they helped during Fall Clean Up.

Figure 1: Members at Fall Clean Up

The members, to fulfill their service requirement, volunteer their time every Wednesday and Thursday throughout the semester tutoring other engineers. The Tau Psi chapter has tutored fellow students for a few years now. Officers contact different teachers and go visit classes to spread the word of the free service. Furthermore, our group participated in Ram Welcome for freshman engineers to introduce our organization and explain the different opportunities we give to fellow students and members. As an organization, we also participate in STEM nights at local elementary schools. There are two STEM nights throughout the year and at each we bring multiple projects created by members and rockets to launch. During the night, families come to our setup, and we explain what we enjoy about engineering, what type of engineering went into our projects, and how they can become engineers as well. Figure 2 shows a member explaining a mechatronic project at a STEM night this year.

Figure 2: STEM Night

The experience is always uplifting to see so many young minds already excited about mathematics, science, and engineering. The STEM nights are something our organization looks forward to each year and works to create and bring new projects, 3D printers, and more each year. Volunteering for our school and community is something the members of the Tau Psi chapter look forward to every year.

Another way the Tau Psi chapter got involved with our fellow student body was setting up tours and a lecture. The tours took place at different engineering firms in the Fort Collins, CO area including Lulzbot and Wolf Robotics. Sign-ups for the tours are always first opened to Pi Tau Sigma members and then opened to the student body. These tours help get our name out to the student body and build relationships with different companies in our area. The lecture for the student body was conducted by Lockheed Martin and organized by the Tau Psi chapter and the Colorado State University Engineering Success Center. The lecture went over how to plan and execute a project, specifically the Lockheed Martin Orion project. The lecturers explained the setbacks they faced and how they proceeded in order to accomplish the requirements of their client. The lecture was open to all engineering students and gave our chapter another chance to explain to students who we are and what we do.

Furthermore, the 2015-2016 school year also brought the opportunity for some members to travel to the national convention with the help of the Engineering College Council at Colorado State University and the National office of Pi Tau Sigma. The members who were able to attend returned with new ideas of how to conduct different business. The convention goers also told us the new amendments past along with the great activities they were able to do. Overall, the convention helped the members learn new skills and interact with Pi Tau Sigma members from around the U.S.

Overall, the Tau Psi chapter is proud of the events we have held, participated in, and learned from. We feel our activities this past year have strengthened our organization and allowed us to introduce ourselves to future Pi Tau Sigma members.

C. Other

The Tau Psi chapter of Pi Tau Sigma is excited for the future. We hope to expand our reach and volunteer at more STEM nights across Colorado. We also look forward to participating in CSUnity and Fall Clean Up again. Our hope for next year is to start a new volunteering program for our members, so the members can choose between tutoring through out the year and a different volunteering platform. We also hope to get our new advisor Dr. Shantanu Jathar more involve next year. This year our meetings conflicted with his work, and he was unable to come. The Tau Psi chapter is proud of our accomplishments during the last year and is ready to accomplish more next year and for years to come.