PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2016-2017

Colorado State University – Tau Psi

A. Initiations

During the 2016-2017 school year, the Tau Psi chapter held two initiations. The students selected to join were in the top 25% of juniors and the top 35% of seniors. The first initiation was for the fall semester held on November 16, 2016. This event was held on campus where there was a design competition and free food for all members following the ritual. The spring initiation was held on March 30, 2017. This event was hosted at a local bowling alley where food and laser tag were provided after the rituals. The new initiates are required to complete 40 hours of community service as well as participate in the meetings and events our chapter hosts throughout the school year. Students who were within the acceptable percentile to join PTS who did not have a GPA equal to or greater than 3.25 were not invited to join due to new requirement policies.

B. Chapter Activities

The 2016-2017 school year showed a clear transition in our chapter's focus. The Tau Psi chapter continued several traditions formed over the years and started some new traditions to further our chapter's connectedness to Colorado State University and the Fort Collins community.

During chapter meetings, members were informed of upcoming volunteering activities as well as updated on changing policies within our organization. Occasionally, officers planned design competitions for the members to participate in as teams or individuals. Some of the memorable competitions were designing a bridge to withstand an increasing load, designing towers to withstand wind from handheld fans, and designing and racing paper boats through an obstacle course. These competitions help encourage problem solving and strengthen member's connection to the Tau Psi chapter. Lucky winners are also given a prize for their efforts.

Volunteer opportunities the Tau Psi chapter participated in varied from years past. This academic year, the Tau Psi chapter participated in Fall Cleanup. Colorado State University hosts this event where student organizations volunteer throughout the community to clean and maintain homes where the owners are unable to do so themselves. This year the Tau Psi chapter assisted an elderly couple rake, trim trees, clean gutters, and landscape with mulch and rocks.

The Tau Psi chapter also participated in several STEM events at local elementary schools around Fort Collins. During these events, members travel to schools where many STEM related organizations gather to teach students what they could do with a STEM education. Our chapter brings projects for students to look at to understand what a mechanical engineering student does while in school and as a professional after graduation. These projects include linkage systems, cutaway transmissions and engines, gyroscopes, instrumentation, turbomachinery, and model

rockets. These events allow our chapter to connect to the Fort Collins community as well as the next generation of STEM students to show them the importance of our future profession all while fulfilling volunteering requirements.

Our chapter also participated in Ram Welcome. This event welcomes freshman engineers to CSU where our chapter is allowed to explain the different opportunities we give to fellow students and members and why maintaining a good transcript will allow them to join our organization and reap the benefits we provide.

Another way the Tau Psi chapter impacted our fellow student body was by implementing a seminar series that introduces members and students to ME professors and industry leaders in the Fort Collins community. These speakers discussed the opportunities obtaining a ME degree would bring about, how to find what industry to pursue from their interests, and offered opportunities to get involved. This series allowed students to gain insight to the thermal science, biomedical science, and environmental/atmospheric science industries and how students could fit into them with a ME degree. There was also a PTS alumni that presented on how student involvement and leadership experience affected his career. There were students that received interviews from this seminar which is a great accomplishment in our chapter's eyes.

Lastly, the 2016-2017 school year allowed our Vice President to the national convention with the help of Colorado State University and the National office of Pi Tau Sigma. This trip motivated our Vice President to pitch a bid to host the 2019 PTS national convention which was won through the vote held at the end of the 2017 spring semester. The new officer team was informed of the won bid and planning has already started for this event.

Overall, the Tau Psi chapter is proud of the outcome of this academic year and look forward to the upcoming events we have in store. We feel our activities have strengthened our organization and will continue to grow our chapter and expand our chapter's impact on the Fort Collins community.

C. Other

The Tau Psi chapter of Pi Tau Sigma is excited for the future. We hope to expand our reach to more CSU students and more Fort Collins community members. We also look forward to hosting the 2019 National Convention and hope to leave a lasting impact on all who attend and participate in the activities to be planned.