PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2012 – 2013

Colorado State Tau Psi

A. Initiations

The Colorado State University Tau Psi Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma held formal initiation meetings during the fall and spring academic semesters. The selection process for the potential members is limited to the top 25% of juniors and the top 35% of seniors. In the fall semester, this included 127 eligible students with a cutoff GPA of 3.357 for juniors and 3.272 for seniors. In the spring semester, this included 155 eligible students with a cutoff GPA of 3.444 for juniors and 3.234 for seniors. Eligible students were sent formal invitations to join the honor society via email. Fall initiation was held on November 28, 2012 at which 17 new members were inducted and welcomed by current members into the society with an informal social. Spring initiation was held on May 9, 2013 at which 11 new members were inducted and welcomed into the society as outgoing seniors were wished farewell. As part of the formal initiations, new members were required to recite sections of the *Pi Tau Sigma Rituals* document per national guidelines set forth by Pi Tau Sigma. With completion of these vows, new members were officially welcomed into the CSU Pi Tau Sigma organization in the presence of the officers and current members.

B. Chapter Activities

The beginning of the 2012 – 2013 academic year was launched with the College of Engineering Ram Welcome Student Organization Fair. At this showcase welcoming new, incoming students to the college, officers of the Tau Psi Chapter hosted a Pi Tau Sigma information booth with an interactive Greek Letters Guessing Game and offered semester organizational calendars to the new freshman. This event not only introduced Pi Tau Sigma to new students, but also encouraged freshmen to take advantage of Pi Tau Sigma's service of free tutoring in engineering academic subjects throughout the year.

In accordance with Colorado State's chapter traditions, members with three or less semesters of membership were required to dedicate one to two hours per week for tutoring in core undergraduate engineering classes. Unlike most general courses, the university does not dedicate tutors to engineering courses, and the Tau Psi Chapter fills in this gap with service from its members. While tutors were generally assigned based on academic skill in specific courses and availability, some members had the opportunity to serve as private tutors for the first time this year. At the beginning of the year, a survey was made available to all mechanical engineering students in which a private tutor for specific courses could be requested. 7 students were able to take advantage of this new program. In total, tutoring was provided for 11 different courses in both the fall and spring semesters, including mechanical engineering problem solving, machine design, thermodynamics, and heat transfer.

As preparation for tutoring throughout the year, Pi Tau Sigma partnered with the The Institute for Learning and Teaching (TILT), a university-wide program, to offer tutor training sessions to its members. TILT organized sessions on academic integrity, campus resources, cultural differences, leadership and role modeling that all members of the Tau Psi Chapter were encouraged to attend.

Outside of tutoring, a meeting was held early in the semester to gauge interest of members in a variety of service and organization activities. Interactive feedback was received by having members write ideas on chalkboards around the meeting room and supporting others ideas by adding tally marks next to the idea. Some of the feedback included hosting employer informational sessions, guest lectures, seminars for engineering freshmen, review sessions, and STEM outreach events.

Figure 1 - Brainstorming Meeting with Chalkboard Ideas

From the brainstorming meeting, the officer team led the participation of Pi Tau Sigma in a STEM outreach event at a local elementary school on November 8, 2012. Through a partnership with the CSU chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Pi Tau Sigma planned a rocket launch to help kick off the evening's events and then hosted a booth with three demonstration projects including a sophomore design student-built machine, a small cutaway engine and a clean cook stove display. Several officers and members were available at the booth to teach the students about each of the projects and the rocket in an effort to get elementary school-age children excited about science, technology, engineering, and math.

At the end of the year, Pi Tau Sigma planned a new event to welcome incoming members and present graduation cords to outgoing seniors. The event was planned to include a "Hike to the A," a Colorado State tradition. Due to weather, the event had to be cancelled, but the chapter hopes to plan the event again next year and start a new chapter tradition. In lieu of the "Hike to the A," members met on the Colorado State Oval to pick up their cords, play Frisbee, and take a final organization photo. As seen below, some of our graduating seniors are photographed with the university president, Tony Frank, in front of the Administration building.

Figure 2 - 2013 Graduating Seniors with University President Tony Frank

C. Other

Because only one member of the 2012-2013 officer team was a graduating senior, most of the officers are carrying over to the 2013-2014 year. This simplifies the organization's leadership transition and continuance of organization procedures. The leadership team has left room for the election of one new member from the Fall 2013 inductees to allow for fresh input into the organization and the implementation of novel ideas. The new officer team for the 2013-2014 academic year will include:

President: Kevin Westhoff
Vice President: John Whitmore
Treasurer: Darryl Beemer

Advisor –
Dr. John D. Williams

Reporting Officers –
President: Allison Kotewicz
Vice President: Kevin Westhoff
Treasurer: Darryl Beemer
Secretary: Yijun Wang
Community Activities: John Whitmore