2017-2018

Colorado State Tau Psi

A. Initiations

A.1. Fall Initiation

The Fall 2017 initiation took place on the 13th of October, and was the first formal initiation the Tau Psi chapter has hosted in recent history. The chapter decided to shift from an informal event at our local bowling alley, to a formal event in the student center. This transition greatly benefitted our organization as a whole through imparting a sense of purpose to the new members who were eager to contribute towards the growth of our chapter. We invited junior or senior mechanical engineering students in the top 25% of their class, with a GPA of 3.25 or higher to become a member. The top 10% of sophomore mechanical engineers were invited to become honorary affiliates who are able to access most membership privileges except holding officer positions or voting on national matters. We also created a member ledger where each new member, as well as the current officers, could sign their name as they are initiated. We are confident that this tradition will continue into the future and further our image as a professional chapter of Pi Tau Sigma.

A.2. Spring Initiation

The Spring 2018 initiation took place on the 3rd of April continuing our new tradition of formal initiations for new members. Our undergraduate invitation criteria, location, and ceremony was identical to that of the Fall 2017 initiation and was even more successful. This also marked the first semester that the Tau Psi chapter has invited graduate students to join. Graduate students with GPAs above a 3.5 and in the top 25% were invited to the Tau Psi chapter. This was enabled through recent changes to the national constitution. The newly inducted members were eager to join the existing committees we had recently established and work to further the chapters goals.

B. Chapter Activities

The Tau Psi chapter is involved with various extracurricular and community activities aimed to develop members and give back to the Fort Collins community. Volunteering pursuits include Fall and Spring Cleanup activities and STEM outreach programs in and around Fort Collins. The chapter hosts seminars for all mechanical engineering students enhancing leadership abilities, teaching engineering ethics, and promoting innovative thinking. Pi Tau Sigma is partnered with the Engineering College Council at Colorado State University which helps fund various chapter pursuits in exchange for membership involvement and guidance. The chapter also organizes several non academic events for members to network and escape the stresses of their studies.

B.1. Volunteering

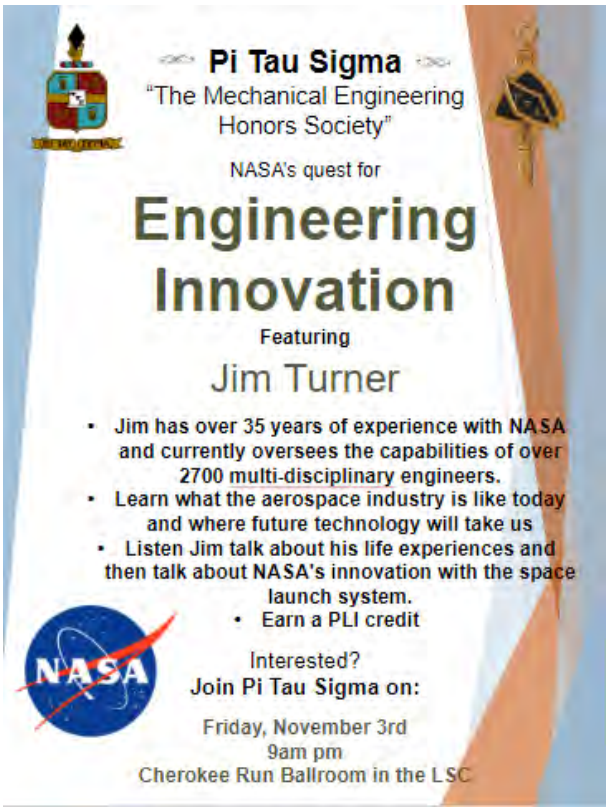
The Tau Psi chapter was continually and actively involved in the Fort Collins community. The chapter volunteered in two local STEM nights at elementary schools to inspire young students to

pursue careers in mechanical engineering. The chapter brought in fun, interactive machines such as a Stirling engine, a cutaway lawn mower engine, a four-bar linkage system, and much more. The volunteers also talked to the students to explain in simple terms what exactly is going on/how the machines work. The chapter also volunteered in a program called CSUnity and Fall Clean-Up. CSUnity is a opportunity for CSU students to help local elderly residents clean their yards during the spring. These residents would not be able to stay in their homes if students did not come and perform some yard work. This is a very rewarding program and helps to reflect CSU in a great light to residents. Fall Clean-Up is the same idea as CSUnity however it takes place in the fall.

B.2. Seminars

The Tau Psi chapter hosted two major seminars this academic year. The first was a seminar by Jim Turner, the Associate Director for Technical Management at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. This seminar focused on NASA's quest for innovation regarding their new Space Launch System. The event was an incredible success with a turnout of over 200 engineering students. The remainder of the day was spent touring Jim across CSU's various facilities and ended with a member's exclusive dinner event where officers and general members were able to meet Jim and ask questions about his career and what work life was like at NASA.

The second seminar was with Lee Moore who is a professional engineering mentor. He assists commercial clients and startup companies set and reach realistic goals and helps personal clients reach their personal and professional goals. This seminar had fewer attendees which allowed the seminar to be tuned to each attendee's questions. At the end of the seminar, Lee had attendees fill out a feedback form where he randomly selected an attendee to provide them with free coaching services.



B.3. Engineering College Council

Colorado State University's Pi Tau Sigma - Tau Psi Chapter and the Engineering College Council have a long standing partnership. The purpose of the Council is to assist in the delegation of college funding, the sponsorship of engineering events, and the engineering

college's representation in student government. The chapter's involvement in the council ensures our members are informed on current happenings around the university. It also creates opportunities for our members such as volunteering positions at career fairs and assistance with the planning of Engineering Days. E-Days is a weeklong event where seniors display their capstone projects and introduce underclassmen to the opportunities they may have during their senior year. The week is ended with a carnival where each student organization hosts a booth. Pi Tau Sigma hosts a boat race event where attendees create a boat from a piece of paper and navigate it through an obstacle course with a handheld fan. Whoever has the shortest time won a coffee maker this year. The chapter's participation with these events allows us to apply for funding through the council. This is where the bulk of our chapter's funding stems from.

B.4. Events

In addition to monthly member meetings, induction, and seminars, the Tau Psi chapter held one social event each semester for members. This allowed members that were not able to attend normal meeting times additional opportunities for attendance points and getting to know members. These events also further all members connection to the chapter and the resources available, including connections with other members. For the fall semester event, the chapter hosted the first annual Pi Tau Sigma Jingle and Mingle holiday party for members and their friends and family. Festivities included an ugly sweater contest and a holiday themed design competition with prizes, pizza, candy and goodies. The event was one of the best attended this year and the chapter is considering opening the event to the entire college in the future, as a yearly fundraising event. For spring semester, the events committee planned a bowling event for members to socialize and relax before finals. Despite low attendance, the attendees enjoyed having an event that did not involve a meeting on campus. The Tau Psi chapter will continue to plan at least one social event each semester for members to have a variety of opportunities for participation and to get to know fellow members.

The chapter also participated in Ram Welcome, a yearly event put on by the the week before classes start. This event welcomes freshmen engineering students to the college and allows them to see what engineering specific student organizations are available. The chapter had a booth

with games and prizes for attraction, with officers talking to students about the organization, its requirements and benefits. This is a great first introduction to the organization for incoming engineering students and the Tau Psi chapter will continue to reach out to prospective members through this event.

C. Other

C.1. Committees

This year, Tau Psi established committees to give our members more opportunities to be involved. The three committees, their descriptions, and their accomplishments are as follows.

C.1.1. Outreach

The Outreach Committee is in charge of connecting with non-members. This includes the CSU Walter Scott Jr College of Engineering, Fort Collins community members, and alumni. The outreach committee gained many contacts for presenters of future seminars. It also and used Pi Tau Sigma and CSU records to begin contacting Tau Psi alumni to offer them a semesterly newsletter and gauge interest in future involvement.

C.1.2. Events

The Events Committee plans events for members as well as outreach. The outreach committee took responsibility for the annual "Golden Calculator" event that is part of CSU's Engineering days celebration. A calculator was hidden in a certain location on campus, then the team designed clues to be released every few hours until the calculator was found. This year's hunt was very successful with almost 300 people participating, the team received praise from the Engineering College Council, which organized the overall event. The Events Committee also planned a members bowling night. In the future the team plans to be heavily involved in nationals planning, as well as organizing fundraisers and building a large brass bent to be displayed on campus.

C.1.3. Fundraising

The chapter implemented a new system of financial checks and balances in preparation for hosting the convention next year and the increase in the amount of funds to manage. Going forward, the chapter president and treasurer are both active on all financial accounts, with treasurer being the primary and in charge of record keeping. The president and treasurer will communicate closely and the president will review accounts, monitoring funds to make sure they are being used appropriately. The Tau Psi chapter treasurer will send the advisor and president monthly statements along with the financial spreadsheet detailing all transactions and account balances.

C.2. Nationals Planning

The Tau Psi chapter has been diligently planning the 2019 Pi Tau Sigma National Convention. There are active members in the chapter that have collectively attended the last three conventions. These experiences, along with consistent communications with the Secretary-Treasurer, have enlightened the chapter on how to plan for and execute a successful convention. There is currently a drafted events schedule, donations tier list and budget. This summer will be dedicated to acquiring tiered sponsorships. The chapter has established relationships with the Colorado State University foundations office as well as various planning

services the university offers. The Tau Psi chapter is confident in its ability to host a successful and memorable convention and hopes to set a precedent for years to come.