2018-2019

Pi Tau Sigma - Colorado State Tau Psi

A. Initiations

A.1. Fall Initiation

The Fall 2018 initiation took place later in the fall semester, on the 7th of November, continuing last year's new institution of a truly formal event. The initiation was held in a private banquet room at the university's student center with catered refreshments. Our members and officers attended in formal attire and new members were ritually inducted by the President and Vice President. The officers felt that the professionalism of the event was more representative of the prestige of our organization and we plan to continue these traditions in the future. 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.

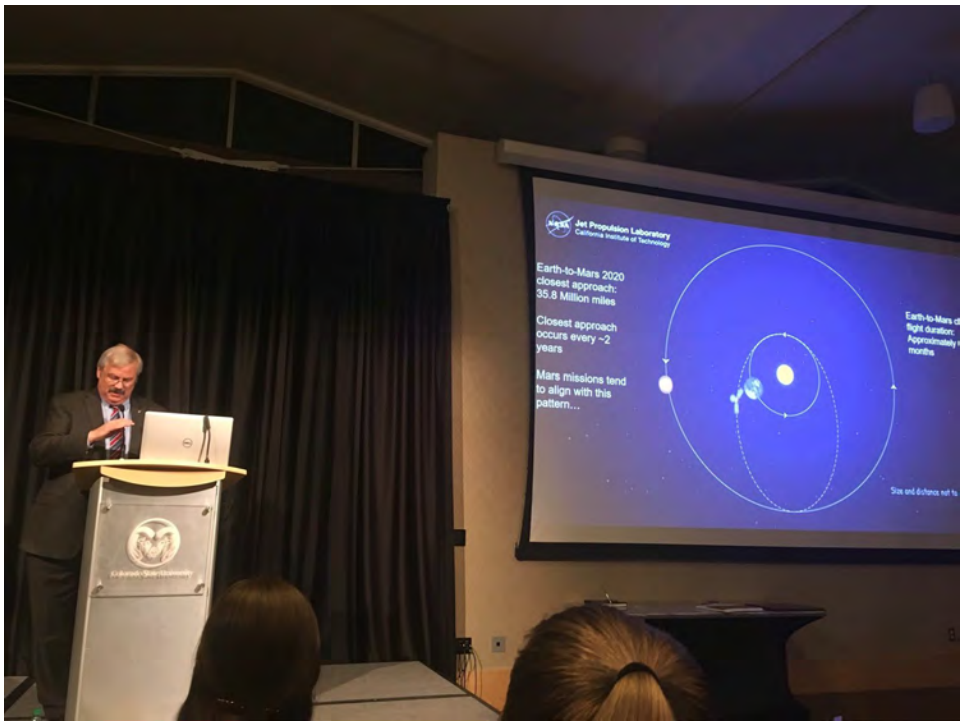
A.2. Spring Initiation

Our chapter's Spring 2019 initiation took place at the national convention, which was hosted by our chapter this year. The ceremony was conducted by members of the national board. Our undergraduate invitation criteria and ceremony were identical to that of the Fall 2018 initiation, including inviting graduate students with GPAs above a 3.5 and in the top 25%. The newly inducted members were eager to join the organization, and two of the members are already elected officers for the next year.

B. National Convention

The National Convention at CSU took up the majority of our PTS involvement. The convention was held the third weekend of February and had 179 attendees. The 2 days of activities kept everyone busy, but gave all a fun break from school work and stress with new friends and contacts. Friday night dinner was the first event of the convention. About 70% of the attendees were able to make it for a catered

dinner at the Lory Student Center on the CSU campus. Following the dinner was a game night where a smash brothers tournament and an assortment of board games were available to play. The next morning, late arrivals were able to register at breakfast before the Autodesk design competition. Group pictures were taken Saturday on our way to lunch. After lunch was the panel discussion where industry leaders from Fort Collins answered questions for students focussed on the benefits of continuing education to a masters or doctorate degree in engineering. Dinner Saturday followed the small career fair held exclusively for PTS members. The dinner had many items of business including national business items, the Tau Psi chapter initiation, announcements of awards, and a keynote speech from Jim Turner from Nasa. No events were held Sunday. The convention had great feedback and was a fantastic opportunity for the Tau Psi chapter at CSU to gain contacts in industries in Fort Collins and beyond.



C. 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. Our yearly volunteering opportunities included Fall and Spring Cleanup activities and STEM outreach programs in and around Fort Collins. The chapter has hosted seminar speakers for all mechanical engineering students in the past but all resources this year were put into preparations for hosting the national convention. The chapter plans to host speakers in the following year when the

students have more time for additional outreach. Pi Tau Sigma is also partnered with the Engineering College Council at Colorado State University, which helps fund various chapter pursuits in exchange for membership involvement and guidance. With the council, our chapter participated in Ram Welcome, welcoming new students to the university, and E-Days, the senior design showcase week.

C.1. Volunteering

The Tau Psi chapter continued to offer members volunteer opportunities that keep the organization connected with the local community. The chapter volunteered in local STEM nights at elementary schools to inspire young students to pursue careers in mechanical engineering. The chapter brought in interactive machines such as a Stirling engine, a cutaway lawn mower engine, and a four-bar linkage system. The volunteers talked to the students to explain in simple terms what exactly is going on/how the machines work, introducing engineering to students in a fun way. The chapter participated in a twice yearly volunteering event set up by the university, CSUnity and Fall Clean-Up. CSUnity is an opportunity for CSU students to help local elderly residents clean their yard after the winter and prepare for the next season. 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 but takes place in the fall.

C.2. Engineering College Council

Colorado State University's Pi Tau Sigma - Tau Psi Chapter is a long time member of the Engineering College Council at CSU. 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. This year, a new position was created to represent our org within the council, Engineering College Council Representative. This officer attended weekly meetings with the council, voting on events and ensuring 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. For the second year in a row, the chapter has been in charge of the big prize event at E-Days, the Golden Calculator treasure hunt, hiding the calculator and providing clever clues for the search. This is another great way to get advertisement for our organization and participate in events held by the college. The week ended with a carnival where each student organization hosts a booth. Pi Tau Sigma hosted a boat race event where attendees created a boat from a piece of paper and navigated it through an obstacle course with a handheld fan. It was a very windy day which made for some fun races and good participation. We had leftover t-shirts from the convention that we were able to give out as prizes, promoting our organization at the same time. The chapter's participation with these events allows us to apply for funding through the council. This funding was used in previous years to help students attend the national convention and has been the primary resource of funds for our chapter.

C.3. 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 second 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 bent night where

members could get together and finish their PTS vents for display. 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 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.