2019-2020

Pi Tau Sigma - Colorado State Tau Psi

A. Initiations

A.1. Fall Initiation

The Fall 2019 initiation took place early in the fall semester, on the 27th of September, continuing previous year's institution of a business-formal event. The initiation was held in a private classroom with 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. We also held a make-up initiation on the 30th of September. 3 members were inducted in total.

A.2. Spring Initiation

Omitted - Postponed to Fall 2020 due to Covid-19 outbreak

B1. National Convention

The National Convention at RIT was a great escape for the President and one other active member of the Tau Psi chapter. January 31st and February 1st were spent at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. 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. We were there for a catered dinner at the RIT campus. Following the dinner was a game night in the student center where an assortment of board games were available to play. The next morning, most of the days networking happened. At the dinner and awards night, the Colorado State Tau Psi Chapter was awarded with the 2019 Oustandin Chapter Award.

B2. 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. Unfortunately due to Covid-19, CSUnity was not held in the spring, but Fall Clean-Up was a huge success. Fall Clean-Up and CSUnity is an assistance program for local elderly residents to help clean their yard after the winter and summers to prepare for the

next season. This is a very rewarding program and helps to reflect CSU in a great light to residents.

C3. Events

In addition to monthly member meetings, induction, and seminars, the Tau Psi chapter held one social event in the fall 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 third annual Pi Tau Sigma Jingle and Mingle holiday party for members and their friends and family. Festivities included an ugly sweater contest, a Christmas Chili-cookoff 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. 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.