2018-2019
Notre Dame Sigma Beta

A. Initiations

Pi Tau Sigma members are chosen on a basis of sound engineering ability, scholarship, personality, and probable future success in their chosen field of Mechanical Engineering. Juniors and Seniors in the top 25% of their class are invited to join. Returning members vote on the eligibility of each new member to affirm their strong character. 30 new members initiated during the November 6th initiation were treated to a presentation on the history of Pi Tau Sigma at Notre Dame, including engineering development and volunteer events that date back to 2007. The initiation included the recitation of the Fundamental Principles and the Fundamental Canons of the ASME Code of Ethics as well as the explanation of the significance of the colors on the emblem. A second initiation was held on November 19th for 5 new members who could not attend the first initiation ceremony. Initiates were asked to dress suitably in business casual attire. New members were then welcomed during an active meet and greet to connect new and existing members by identifying where PTS members study or relax, what they do during down time, and what co-op, research, or internship experiences they could share about.

B. Chapter Activities

The Sigma Beta Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma at Notre Dame hosted several events this academic year. For our service to the community, Pi Tau Sigma served as volunteer graders for a local middle school mathematics contest called MathCounts on February 2nd. The members graded 5 different rounds of mathematics problems challenging the young people of South Bend as the local grade schools competed against each other. In our efforts to help the professional development of our members, the Notre Dame Sigma Beta chapter hosted a guest speaker event featuring Professor Michael Stanisic. He shared about his experience in undergraduate education, his doctoral work, his experiences applying for various jobs as a professor. For an element of fun, he also spoke about his fascination of automobiles from the 50's and 60's, which got him interested in the field of Mechanical Engineering. This was a great chance for Pi Tau Sigma members considering further education to learn about their options and post-grad work entails as well as allowing the professor to give a lecture on a subject he finds fascinating, all while enjoying dinner catered from a local favorite restaurant. Another meeting was held in the first week of April for the junior members to speak with the seniors about advice on which classes to take and mentor one another. The last event of the year was the election of new officers, facilitated by online self-nomination and speech submission before a formal chapter meeting. A follow-up meeting of incoming and outgoing officers was held to ensure continuity in Pi Tau Sigma chapter leadership.

C. Other

Graduating members received Pi Tau Sigma cords to wear at graduation.