2019-2020
Notre Dame Sigma Beta
A. Initiations
The Notre Dame Sigma Beta chapter initiates new members in the fall semester of the academic year. Members are chosen based on the major principles of the organization: sound engineering ability, scholarship service, leadership, and integrity. Junior and senior mechanical engineering students who are in the top 25% of their class are invited to join our chapter given that they are willing and able to uphold the values of the organization. Two induction ceremonies were held this fall: a main induction ceremony on November 11th, 2019 in which 19 members were initiated, and a makeup ceremony on November 14th, 2019 in which 4 additional members were initiated. Below is a photo of the new members as well as a photo of this year's officers from the main induction ceremony. During the induction, officers gave a brief overview of the organization, its values, and some of the more specific details about the Sigma Beta chapter's events and activities. The officers introduced themselves and their advisor, then moved on to the induction of the new members, conducting the ceremony using the Rituals handbook to ensure it was in accordance with the requirements set forth by the organization. After, members were welcome to stay and mingle with returning members that attended the ceremony as well as with each other.

2019 Fall Induction: New Members

2019 Fall Induction: 2019-2020 Officers

B. Chapter Activities

The Notre Dame Sigma Beta chapter was involved with a variety of events over the course of the academic year. One of the core values of Pi Tau Sigma is service, and the Sigma Beta chapter volunteers every year with the MathCounts organization. MathCounts is a mathematics competition for local middle schools held every year at the University of Notre Dame. During this event, high achieving middle school students are given challenging math problems to solve either individually or in a team. Every year, the members of Pi Tau Sigma volunteer to grade the problems quickly and efficiently for each round, and act as runners to and from the competition space to provide the graders with the exams and give updates to the students. This is one of the most loved events by Sigma Beta chapter members. It gives our members the opportunity to give back to the community, and our members appreciate having the opportunity to inspire and encourage interest and excitement about mathematics among these young local students. Additionally, the president of the Notre Dame Sigma Beta chapter attended the national convention in Rochester this year. While she was there, she was able to meet other chapter officers and exchange ideas about activities and events and how to better engage members of the chapter. Below is a photo of her with a few of the other officers at the opening dinner.

2020 National Convention

The Notre Dame Sigma Beta chapter usually has other events towards the end of the academic year. One of the more popular events is the professor talk, in which a mechanical engineering professor is invited to come speak about their subject, their experiences in industry, or areas of research that they are involved in. This has always been a great way for members to understand what the future holds for them and what options are available with the degree they are pursuing. Unfortunately, due to the sudden end of in-person teaching, we were unable to hold this event. There is also normally an end of year celebration meeting when new officers are elected, but this again was not able to occur. Instead, new officers were elected remotely and a meeting was held with both new and old officers to ensure a smooth transition. We look forward to the continuation of academic excellence and service from the Notre Dame Sigma Beta chapter!