PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2009-2010
Texas Tech University Sigma Epsilon

A. Initiations

Our selection and initiation process is one of the most intense, requiring that first semester Juniors be in the top 25% of their class, second semester Juniors be in the top 33% of their class, and seniors be in the top 35% of their class. In Fall 2009, of the 25 initiates we accepted applications for, only 19 of them met our requirements to be initiated. In Spring 2010, only 16 of 20 accepted were initiated. That means for both semesters, only 78% of the initiates were accepted.

The requirements for these initiates include mandatory attendance to at least 3 service events per semester, attend weekly meetings for at least 10 weeks with a minimum of 8 quizzes during those weeks (see first attachment), polish a Pi Tau Sigma key to the likings of all the officers, receive the signatures of 80% of our active/graduate members and 100% of our officers and faculty members, and lastly they must reproduce the exact preamble of the Constitution of Pi Tau Sigma at our initiation ceremony. After our initiation process we typically retain 95% of the students that made it through initiation ceremonies.

Our actual initiation ceremony typically takes place on the evening of the last day of classes. In Fall 2009, initiation was on Wednesday, December 9th. This Spring 2010 semester, initiation was on Monday, May 3rd. This event is mandatory for initiates, and dress is business formal. Active/graduate members are encouraged to attend, and we typically have at least 25 of those members in attendance. At our initiation ceremony, we reserve three rooms – one for the actual initiation ceremony and dinner, one for initiates to take quizzes in, and one room for the initiates that either did not meet initiation requirements or that must re-polish their key and obtain additional signatures.

We start the ceremony by having the initiates walk into a dimly lit room, they stand in a line against the wall, and we read them rituals of Pi Tau Sigma. Following their acceptance we congratulate each of them by having them shake the hands of current members and officers. We then have a formal meal, and hold our officer elections.

Celebration for the new members typically involves a social activity at a member's house, or an activity out on the town. This is an excellent opportunity for the initiates to meet active members and to feel like a welcome new part of the society.

B. Chapter Activities

Each of our semesters starts off with what we call a "smoker". This is another business formal event where we first meet and greet with all of the new initiates. We first explain to them the initiation procedure, requirements, etc. After the meeting, we feed the initiates BBQ from a local restaurant.

Throughout the semester, we hold at least four meetings for the active members and officers. For active members to remain in good standing within the society, we require them to attend at least 2 meetings, and at least one service event. These meetings typically involve a guest speaker, an active member presentation, or just chapter business.

For the initiates, we have at least three service events each semester. In Fall 2009, the events were as follows:

- Meet ME (see attached pictures)

- In this event, we invite junior high students from economically disadvantaged parts of our community to come learn about engineering. We start off by having a speaker describe what engineering is all about (typically our Pi Tau Sigma advisor). After the welcome and introduction, we have the students do a small engineering design project together. Past design projects include building an egg lander, in which they are given a limited budget for supplies and have to design the cheapest most effective lander that will keep the egg from cracking when dropped from a 2-story building. Another project is the penny boat, in which the students must use limited supplies to design and build a boat that will hold the most pennies while floating in a bucket of water. We then have tours set up of the Mechanical Engineering labs. Some of the past tours include robotics, materials and mechanics, combustion, wind tunnel, and many others. To wrap up the day, we take the students to eat at one of the residence hall cafeterias.

- Arboretum Cleanup (see attached pictures)
  - In the Arboretum Cleanup, we have the initiates go to the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum to assist the owners in cleaning up the arboretum. This typically involves raking leaves, trimming trees, picking up trash, pulling weeds, and whatever else the owners feel necessary.
- Lubbock Changers Project (see attached pictures)
  - In this project, we helped a local non-profit organization build a fence for a disabled veteran's house. We also helped clean up his backyard by knocking down an old tree house, removing two tree stumps, and picking up trash.
- Pi Tau Sigma Office Cleanup
  - This event served solely as a makeup event for the initiates if they could not attend one of the three required events. In this event, we have the initiates help clean the office by throwing away trash, sweeping/mopping the floor, etc.

In Spring 2010, the community service events were as follows:

- Arboretum Cleanup
  - See above description
- Meet ME
  - See above description
- Haven Animal Shelter Cleanup
  - In this event for the initiates, we helped a local Lubbock animal shelter with their cleanup efforts. Duties for the initiates included mowing, weed eating, cleaning animal pens, walking animals, and sanding decks for a fresh coat of paint.

Our organization participates in any engineering week activities that are offered, but since these activities are often short and insufficient, our organization also co-host activities with other engineering organizations. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) is also a very active organization within our department and school, and we fully anticipate on participating in multiple activities with them in the future as we have done in the past. One of these events is a department-wide cookout in which we grill hot dogs and hamburgers for the students out in our courtyard. This is an excellent opportunity to let the students know that these societies are active and we encourage them to pursue becoming members. Another event co-hosted with ASME is our department's undergraduate Industrial Advisory Committee. In this

meeting, we report to the department chair and other faculty members on the problems and successes in our classes. Each of our IAC representatives is a member of either Pi Tau Sigma or ASME, so if there is a student not involved in either of the organizations, they may still express their concerns about a professor or class in privacy. That representative will then express their concerns to the faculty members during the meeting.

We also hold several socials throughout the year to boost networking between our members/initiates and other members of the Texas Tech community. This kind of activity relieves stress before finals and encourages interdepartmental relationships.

Many of our members are also part of our Engineering Ambassadors program which serves to host students who are interested in joining the Mechanical Engineering Department.

C. Other

As hosts, our chapter has been busy planning and preparing for the 2010 Pi Tau Sigma National Convention. During the fall semester, our convention committee continued efforts in raising money for the event. Funding was requested from our university, college, and department, and we solicited many company contacts with sponsorship offers. We also signed contracts with the hotel and convention center. Based on research done during the previous semester, decisions were made regarding all aspects and details of the convention, and we submitted purchase orders, room reservations on campus, menu selections, etc.

Registration for the convention was made available to other chapters through our website in early January. During the spring semester, our committee worked with our vendors to ensure that the event would run smoothly. The schedule was confirmed and all last-minute decisions were made under budget restrictions. We remained in constant contact with registered attendees and company sponsors in order to make any accommodations necessary. Hosting the convention itself was stressful, exciting, and very rewarding, all at the same time. The remainder of the semester, pertaining to convention, involved following up with attendees and sponsors, compiling convention minutes, and wrapping up contractual obligations with vendors.

Example of Initiate Quiz:

Quiz #1

1. Name the initiate coordinators.(first & last name)

2. Who is the Department chair for Mechanical Engineering?

3. When is the first Service Project?

4. Who are the President and Vice President of Pi Tau Sigma?

5.

Dice

Below are three identical dice in three different positions.
Determine what number is on the opposite side of the four.

6. On the back, write the first line of the preamble.

Dr. James explaining duties of engineers.

Initiate Jake Baker helping students design penny boat.

Students receiving tour of Robotics Lab.

Testing buoyancy of penny boat.

Initiate Jackie Eveslage working hard.

Initiate Tommy Glicker helping out at the Arboretum.

Initiate Kenny Lange removing tree stumps.

President Aaron Clements building fence.

National Convention at Texas Tech University