PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2012-2013

Texas Tech Sigma Epsilon

A. Initiations

Candidates are selected to start the initiation process by meeting the following requirements. They must be in the top 25% of their class for first semester Juniors, top 33% of their class for second semester Juniors, or top 35% of their class for Seniors with special consideration taken by the officers for graduating Seniors. On top of this requirement all candidates must have a grade point average that exceeds 3.25. For Graduate students this grade point average is 3.5.

For the Fall 2012 semester there were 19 candidates selected but only 15 initiated, and in the Spring 2013 semester of the 27 candidates there were only 23 that initiated along with a faculty member who was initiated as an honorary member. Some of these candidates were cut because they did not fulfill the additional requirements we have for the initiation process. During the initiation process the initiates must attend weekly meetings for a minimum of 10 weeks. At the meetings the initiates are required to take weekly quizzes that will test their knowledge on Pi Tau Sigma history (both National and Sigma Epsilon specific), officer names, and the preamble to our constitution. Along with the weekly meeting they are required to attend at least 3 service events and are encouraged to attend more, and many of the initiates do attend all of the service events. During the initiation process we want our initiates to get to know the officers and current members. To do this we require the initiates to get signatures from 80% of current active members and 100% of the officers. Finally each initiate is required to polish a key that is inspected by the officers. The reason for this is to ensure the quality before they are given to the graduating Seniors as a symbol of pride in the organization.

Spring 2013 initiates taking a test at one of the weekly meetings

After the initiates meet the requirements of the initiation process they are required to attend the initiation ceremony. Typically this ceremony is held in the evening of the last day of class. The Fall 2012 initiation ceremony was held on Wednesday December 5th, 2012 and the Spring 2013 initiation ceremony was held on Tuesday May 7th, 2013. For this ceremony officers are required to attend and actives are encouraged to attend, and everyone in attendance must be in formal dress. Before the initiates are allowed to attend the ceremony they must take a test to demonstrate they know the preamble. After completing this they are led into a dimly lit room where the officers and active members are waiting and the rituals of Pi Tau Sigma are read to them. They are then asked if they accept the responsibility of being a member of the society. Upon their verbal agreement they are congratulated by the active members and officers and attend a formal meal. During the meal elections are held for officers. The celebration concludes with an activity near campus where the new initiates can gather with other members as fellow members for the first time.

B. Chapter Activities

The semester begins with a smoker. The goal of the smoker is for us to meet the initiates and for the initiates to meet us. To accomplish this goal we invite students who meet the academic requirements to join the officers at a formal dinner. During the dinner the President speaks to the students about Pi Tau Sigma and answers any questions they have. After this the prospective initiates and officers go around and introduce themselves. Finally they meet the initiate coordinators who explain what is expected for the semester.

Fall 2012 initiates waiting to start the smoker and the semester

Throughout the semester we have at least 3 to 4 chapter meetings. At these meetings we have guest speakers, discuss chapter information, have presentations from members, and socialize with the food. This semester we were honored to have companies

such as Kimberly-Clark, Conoco Phillips, Koch, and Lyondell Basell come in and present to our members as well as talk about job opportunities. Companies are always very excited to work with us because it's easy to find the best students in one place. We also make use of the meeting to work with other organizations like ASME or Tau Beta Pi. Each semester we require members to attend two chapter meetings to stay in good standing. Each week we also have a meeting just for officers. At these meetings we plan things for the chapter such as chapter meetings, fundraisers, and service events.

Members getting food at the Conoco Phillips info session

One of the best parts of the Texas Tech chapter of Pi Tau Sigma is the service events that are held each semester. As a chapter we have at least three events a semester dedicated to service. Initiates are required to attend all of the events, officers are encouraged to attend all of them, and current members are required to attend at least one. Many of the members really enjoy the service events and do more than the required amount.

During the 2012-13 year these are the events Pi Tau Sigma hosted or was involved in:

- Arboretum Cleanup ○ Working with the Lubbock Arboretum is a tradition with the Sigma Epsilon Chapter, and we were able to have the event for both the Fall 2012 semester as well as the Spring 2013 Semester. The Lubbock Arboretum is a volunteer ran Public Park which has many exhibits displaying various plant life from trees to flowers. Throughout the year they have several community events, and we help the volunteers keep the park in good condition for the community. During the Fall we helped get the park ready for the big Pumpkin Festival they have each year for Halloween. We cleaned up washed

  out walking paths and the main drainage ditch. In the spring we were able to help with cleaning up overgrown vines and trimmin up to get ready for new growth.

Fall 2012 initiates and members helping plant trees.

Spring 2013 Arboretum and initiates and members are working on cleaning up paths

- Meet ME
  - Like the Arboretum, Meet ME is a big tradition with the Sigma Epsilon Chapter, and it was held both semesters. At this event we invite Junior High students from economically disadvantaged areas in Lubbock to visit the Mechanical Engineering department at Texas Tech. This event starts with a speech from our Pi Tau Sigma Advisor who discusses what Mechanical Engineering is and answers any questions they have. Sometimes we are honored by having other faculty step in and talk with the kids. We then split the kids into groups and participate in a design competition. This year's design required the kids to build a tower out of various popsicle sticks and marshmallows. The winner was decided on the tallest tower that could remain standing. We were able to award the winners with a candy bar, and mini candies to all the kids who participated. The groups receive support in the design and construction of their projects by the current members and

initiates. After the competition the students are taken on a tour of the ME labs by Pi Tau Sigma members and initiates. The labs this year consisted of Materials and Mechanics, Thermal Fluids, Combustion, Robotics, and Human Sciences. After the tours the students have lunch with us before they leave. While they are with us we hope to encourage the kids to complete High School and pursue a career in Engineering.

Spring 2013 Meet ME Dr. James and Andrew Mosdale talking with the kids about Engineering to spark some interest

Fall 2012 Students watching an impact test while receiving a tour of the materials and mechanics lab

Pi Tau initiates and members helping kids at the Spring 2013 Meet ME event build a tower for the design competition

- Lubbock Food Bank
  - At this event we were able to work with the local food bank to help stuff fruits and vegetables into packages to give out to people who really need it. We were able to help out the food bank in the Fall of 2012.

Fall 2012 Lubbock Food Bank group photo

- South Plains Math and Science Competition
  - Our Chapter was able to work with ASME with the South Plain Math and Science Competition during the Spring of 2013, and we look forward to joining them in the years to come. This was a great opportunity to work with kids in local schools. Our members helped proctor tests that these students took as part of the competition as well as helped different groups with design competitions.

Spring 2013 Dean Al Sacco talking with the kids during the Math and Science Competition

Social actives are also a part of our chapter as well, and provide a great opportunity for our members to really get to know each other, which is beneficial many ways. If our members know each other they are more inclined to be active and it is a really helpful way to get to know people that will be in your classes and group projects. We encourage our members as well as initiates to come to the social events we plan throughout the semester. These social events are usually at an off campus location and we provide food such as hamburgers. This year we were very fortunate to have a Koch sponsor a tailgate with us. They were so thrilled to work with us for an information session that they wanted another opportunity to recruit students. We also invited ASME, Tau Beta Pi, IEEE, and ASChE to join us in the event.

Throughout the year our chapter participates with other organizations on campus. The organization we do a lot of our co-work with is ASME. We work with the ASME to create the Industrial Advisory Board for our department. This advisory board allows the students to give input to the industry so that they can talk to the department about how to better prepare the students for the industry. We also work with ASME for the Student Advisory Board. This allows us to give direct feedback to the department chair about our department. Some of our topics include the quality of the classes being taught to problems with equipment in the department. We also team up with ASME to offer tutoring. We have office hours posted outside of our office, and students are welcome to come by at any time to ask for help. We also work with other organizations in the college to form the Student Engineering Council. This allows organizations in the college to give feedback to the dean about the entire college. We have started working a lot with other organizations in the college this past year. We have teamed up with them for social events as well as information sessions. Working with the other organizations has allowed us to have bigger events than we could have had alone. Our organization is also a registered student organization so we send representatives to meetings for student government. This allows our organization to have a voice in what is going on in our school.

C. Other

This year our chapter was able to send two representatives to the national convention in Columbus, Ohio. This was a great convention for us because we were able to network with the other chapters and discuss what works for them and what works for us. We were able to get a few fundraising ideas from some of the other chapters as well as ideas for social events. It is such a great opportunity to be able to share the knowledge between chapters to improve our organizations as a whole. We are hoping to send more representatives to the next convention at Texas A&M, so we can have a better presence at the convention as well as have more opportunities to learn.

Our organization works to provide a lot to our members and we would not be able to do so without fundraising. We are looking to implement new fundraising ideas for the next year that include selling portfolios. We will also continue with the current sales of care packages for the freshmen students during finals.

This was the first full year with a new Facebook page for all of our members to join. On this page we posted several pictures from our service events and meetings. We were able to create events to help give an extra reminder to the members about when meetings and service events would be held. We are hoping to use this page more often and get a greater following to better coordinate events.

During the semester we want to keep our members involved. One of the ways we are doing this is by keeping an eye on members that might be in bad standing. We try to get in contact with these individuals before they miss too many events and meetings.