PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2011-2012

Texas Tech Sigma Epsilon

A. Initiations

The initiation process starts with the selection of candidates. The candidates are selected 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 the Fall 2011 semester there were 21 candidates selected but only 18 initiated, and in the Spring 2012 semester of the 18 candidates there were only 14 that initiated. The reason some of these candidates are cut is because they do not fulfill the additional requirements we have for the initiation process. As part of the process the initiates are required to attend at least 3 service events during the initiation process. They must also attend weekly meetings for a minimum of 10 weeks. At these meetings the initiates 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. 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 to ensure quality because the key is given to the graduating Seniors as a symbol of their pride in the organization.

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 2011 initiation ceremony was held on Wednesday December 7th, 2011 and the Spring 2012 initiation ceremony was held on Monday May 7th, 2012. For this ceremony officers are required 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 lead 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 for our chapter begins with a smoker. At this event 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. Then the prospective initiates and officers go around and introduce themselves. The goal of the smoker is for us to meet the initiates and for the initiates to meet us.

Fall 2011 initiates getting food at the smoker

Each 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 while eating food. This semester we were very fortunate to have companies such as BP to come in and present to our members as well as talk about job opportunities. 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 various business for the chapter such as chapter meetings, fundraisers, and service events.

One of the biggest parts of the Texas Tech chapter 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 do more than the required, because, while we pride ourselves on doing a good job, we have a good time doing it.

During the 2011-12 year these are the events Pi Tau Sigma hosted or was involved in:

- Arboretum Cleanup (Fall 2011 and Spring 2012)
    - Working with the Lubbock Arboretum has become a tradition with the Sigma Epsilon Chapter, and we were able to have the event for both the Fall 2011 semester as well as the Spring 2012 Semester. The Lubbock Arboretum is a volunteer ran Public Park which has many exhibits displaying various wild

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. We help with various tasks in the parks such as trimming trees, raking leaves, or clearing weeds.

Fall 2011 initiates and members clearing weeds and paths at the Lubbock Arboretum

Spring 2012 Arboretum group photo

- Meet ME (Fall 2011 and Spring 2012)
  - Like the Arboretum Meet ME is a 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 guest speaker (usually our Pi Tau Sigma Advisor) who discusses what Mechanical

Engineering is and answers any questions they have. The kids then split into groups and participate in a design competition. This year's design requirements were to build a tower to support the most weight, and build a boat to support the heaviest payload from various supplies. 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.

Initiate Courtney Billingsley and Initiate Coordinator Haley Fowler help test boats in Spring 2012 Meet ME design competition

Dr. Anderson and Pantoya give a speech about Mechanical Engineering at Fall 2011 Meet ME

Pi Tau initiates and members interacting with kids at the Spring 2012 Meet ME event

- Salvation Army Women's Shelter (Fall 2011)
  - At this event we were able to work with the Salvation Army to help improve the living conditions of the Lubbock shelter. Our members and initiates helped paint, build furniture, and install security cameras.

Fall 2011 Salvation Army group photo

- Relay for Life (Spring 2012)
  - Our Chapter was able to help out with the Relay for Life put on by various organizations at Texas Tech. Our booth was setup for the duration of the

event that went through the night. Our members and initiates worked in shifts to provide refreshments to those who participated in walking in the relay.

Spring 2012 Relay for Life setup

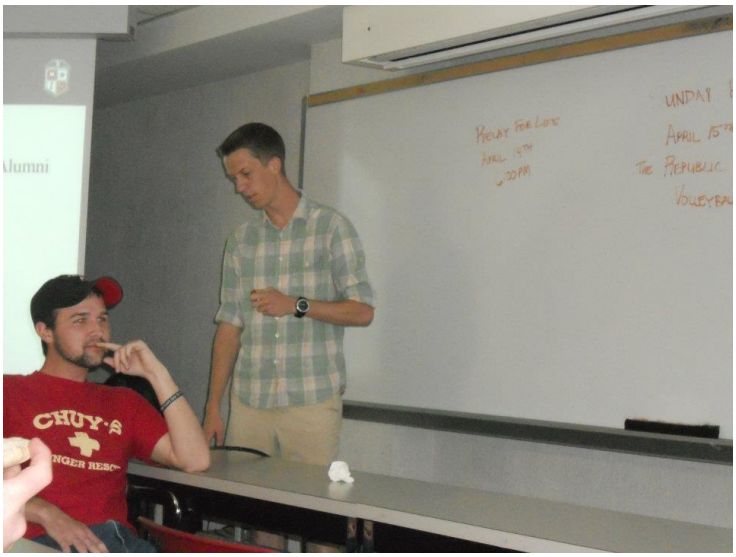
Social actives are also a part of our chapter as well. These events are a great way for our members to really get to know each other which is beneficial in many ways. If our members know each other they are more inclined to be active and it is a really helpful way to get to know people that will be in 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. Some of the activities this past year included having a volleyball tournament and playing pool.

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 department chair about our department. Some of our topics include the quality of the classes being taught to problems with the computer lab. During the year we also host a hamburger cookout with ASME that allows engineering students to know that we are active organizations and would like them to become members in our societies. We also team up with ASME to offer tutoring. We have signups for office hours which are posted outside of our office. 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 San Jose, CA. 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 and it is great to be able to share the knowledge between chapters to improve our organization as a whole.



President Kyle Kenny gives a presentation of the National Convention at a chapter meeting

Our organization works to provide a lot to our members and we would not be able to without doing some fundraising. One of the fundraisers we had during the year was a donut sale on Wednesdays. We sold donuts in the morning between classes to students and faculty that walked through the Mechanical Engineering building between classes. We also sale finals care packages to parents of ME students. Each semester we mail letters to the parents describing the care packages and deliver them for finals.

This spring we created a Facebook page for all of our members to join. On this page we post several pictures from our service events and meetings. We are hoping to use this page more often this next year as another way to let our members know about events we have planned.