Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report

2018-2019

Texas Tech Sigma Epsilon Chapter

A. Initiations

Our initiation process starts with getting our initiation coordinators to contact the college of engineering's associate director to send out the applications for the qualifying students. We send emails to the top 25% of juniors and seniors with a minimum GPA requirement of 3.25. Those eligible must have taken or currently be taking a junior level mechanical engineering class. In the email is an application they have to fill out and attach their resume and an unofficial transcript. We require them to get this application to us in about 2 weeks after the email is sent. Once we get all the applications we go through one last time and check that they meet all the requirements to join Pi Tau Sigma. Once we have sorted through the applications, the initiate coordinators personally call all the accepted initiates and invite them to a smoker. At the smoker, we inform them about what our organization does and why they should consider joining Pi Tau. We also explain how the initiation process works. Also during the smoker, the initiate coordinators set up the times for the initiate meetings. These meetings happen twice a week and are for the initiates to have two chances to take a weekly quiz that has basic Pi Tau Sigma history questions. These meetings are mandatory for the initiates to attend the entirety of the semester. For the quizzes, we require our initiates to gradually memorize the preamble to the Pi Tau Sigma constitution, along with other basic history and current happenings within our chapter. Besides the quizzes, these meetings are meant to keep the initiates engaged in the society to ensure that they will be active members after initiation.

First, the new initiates have to pay dues. This is a onetime fee of $75 which includes a shirt at the end of the initiation process. After they pay dues, they receive a key and a signature sheet; with the key they have to file and polish until it is shiny and has to be approved by the president of the chapter. The key must show progress throughout the semester, and must be done to be initiated. For the signature sheet, the initiate is required to get 80% of the active members and 100% of the officers, graduate students, and faculty signatures. Along with the signature sheet and the key, we require the initiates to attend 3 service events. These service events will help the initiates fill out their signature sheets as well as see how Pi Tau Sigma helps the community.

The initiation ceremony starts around 5 PM for the initiates. All actives are invited to come, as well as our faculty advisor Dr. Darryl James. They first are taken into a room where they take two exams. On the first test, they are required to make a 100 on to be accepted into the organization. The test has basic Pi Tau questions that they have been quizzed on all semester, so they are well prepared. The second test is a mock FE engineering test we use to have some fun with the initiates. This test includes questions from engineering classes that most of the initiates will not know how to do. After the initiates all passed the first exam, initiation begins. This is where the president and vice president recite the RITUALS OF PI TAU SIGMA to the initiates making them full-fledged members. At the end of initiation, we select the new officers for the upcoming semester.

Figure 1: Initiation New Officers for Spring 2019

Figure 2: Graduating Seniors at Initiation for Fall 2018

The two initiation that happened this academic year included a large amount of new members. On December 5th, 2018 we had our Fall 2018 initiation, which included an induction of a total of 8 new members. On May 12th, 2019 we had our Spring 2019 initiation, which included and induction of 18 new members.

The initiates here at Texas Tech are an important function of our organization. This is the largest event of the semester and the largest expense that we have. Almost everyone in the organization comes and initiates finally see all of their hard work come to fruition. It is a formal event that bookmarks the end of that semester and the begging of a new chapter for Pi Tau. Officer elections are held, and the new guard replaces the old guard. Initiation is always held on the last day of

classes, so the day after is Individual Study Day for school. After initiation, all of the members are invited to a social at one of the officer's houses to let of steam and socialize with the rest of the organization. At this end of the year party, people have the chance to say goodbye to the graduating seniors and congratulate the new members.

Figure 3: Spring 2019 Graduating Seniors with Initiates

B. Chapter Activities

Each semester, our members participate in several service events. One of our largest events is the Lubbock Arboretum. The Arboretum is a beautiful park here in Lubbock that many locals go to explore, discover, and connect with nature through a variety of plants, trees, flowers, and various animals. During our event we help the grounds keeper clean the place up, clean out old flower beds, clear out old stumps, dispose of dead plants. This helps our members and initiates become friends, while helping the community at the same time. We go to the Arboretum at least once every semester.

Figure 4: Spring 2019 Arboretum Group Picture

Our other large event is Meet ME, where we host middle school kids at the mechanical engineering department at Texas Tech University. Middle school students got to interact, connect, and learn

from advisors, graduate students, and current mechanical engineering students. At the beginning of the day we have a well-known professor give a speech about what engineering is all about. Then we take them around to all the engineering labs we have, such as the robotics lab or the combustion lab. After the tour we feed them some food and then the design competition begins. For the design competition we have them design something in a given amount of time with only the materials we provide to them and then we test it. Each semester we try to change the competition. This past two semesters we have done an egg drop contest where they try to prevent the eggs from breaking and building a boat to see how many pennies can fit in it until it sinks. Hosting these students gave Pi Tau Sigma members an opportunity to inspire young students with their interest in mechanical engineering while also providing them a fun learning experience for the day.

Figure 5: Spring 2019 Meet ME Egg Drop Competition

Another event we participate in is working with the South Plains Food Bank and host a food drive. The South Plains Food Bank mission is to provide food for area hungry people while preserving dignity and offering self-sustaining opportunities. By participating in providing canned foods through the food drive, Pi Tau Sigma members have given assistance to those in the community that may not have the means to provide meals for themselves or their families.

We also participate in events hosted by Texas Tech University hosts including, Arbor Day, Tech to Town, and Tech-or-Treat. Arbor day is hosted each spring semester and Pi Tau Sigma signed up to have a plot of land on campus to plant flowers to bring vegetation and beauty to the campus. Tech to Town is a community wide event where Texas Tech buses members out to varies locations to help the community for a day. In October Tech invites families to campus to enjoy a little trick-or-treating. Pi Tau Sigma host a booth where kids will play a game to get candy, this year we made marshmallow catapults out of popsicle sticks and kids had to try and hit a target. A side service we

did this semester was offer tutoring during all the officer's office hours. This service was offered every semester all semester long.

Figure 6: Arbor Day Planting Spring 2019

We do many fundraising events as well. In the fall we participated in a meat tasting event that both gives us money and a full stomach. Most of our fundraisers consist of a Pi Tau give back night at local restaurants, where if we go eat at the restaurant and tell them we're there for Pi Tau give back night they would donate a portion of our ticket to our organization. We have also started to do a bake sale each semester. We camp out in one the engineering buildings all day and sell cheap sweets to students and faculty.

Figure 7: Pi Tau Sigma Giveback Night Hangout

Our second main goal is to help our members and initiates to become friends and develop great relationships with each other. This has become a larger focus of our org the past few semesters. The more we get initiates involved, the more active they will be when they are members. With active members we can have more people at social events and also better alumni retention. This is why we have almost weekly social events. Our social events include bowling, going to the golf range, ultimate Frisbee games, basketball games, board game nights, watch parties all types of intramural sports, and hosting tailgates. Having these social events helps our members and initiates to become better friends. This also helps them wind down from the stressful life of being an engineering student. At the end of each semester we have a tradition where we have a friendly competition with our local ASME chapter where we compete against each other in some game and see who wins. In both semesters Pi Tau has lost but we have fun doing it.

Figure 8: Pi Tau Sigma vs. ASME Volleyball Game Spring 2017

In the Spring, a few delegates from the Sigma Epsilon chapter went to Fort Collins, Colorado for the Pi Tau National Convention. The goal for us was to show other schools how great our chapter is. I believe we succeeded in this by showing how involved our initiation process is and always being personable and ready to hang out with anybody. We made some great friends and found ourselves learning from even the smallest chapters.

Figure 9: National Convention Spring 2019

For the next academic year, we are planning to have an even more successful year by serving our community as well as having many more opportunities for our members to develop lasting friendships. This semester we have had a lot of seniors graduate causing our size to decrease drastically but we are looking forward to what comes next.

C. Other

The Sigma Epsilon chapter has been working hard to get a Pi Tau Sigma monument in front of the ME department. This past couple of semesters, we have been able to manufacture the 2 foot key and are planning on holding an unveiling ceremony in the Fall 2019 semester during Homecoming weekend. We plan on inviting our two largest donors so we can properly thank them for their contribution. We have agreements with the school and the grounds staff to help us install the key.

Figure 10: Pi Tau Sigma Key