Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report

2015-2016

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. 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 who and what our organization does and we also explain how the initiation process works. Also during the smoker the initiate coordinators set up an initiate meeting, this meeting happens two times a week and is for the initiates to have two chances to take a weekly quiz that has basic Pi Tau Sigma history questions. For the quizzes we require our initiates to gradually memorize the preamble to the Pi Tau Sigma constitution. This is achieved by requiring the initiates to memorize a new part of the preamble every week. Other questions include what is the flower of Pi Tau Sigma, or what is the name of our chapter. After the smoker the initiation process begins.

First they have to pay dues, 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 shinny and has to be approved by the president of the chapter. 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 6 PM for the initiates. They first are taken into a room where they take two exams. The first exam is the final Pi Tau Sigma exam they have to pass. On this test they are required to make a 100 on to be accepted into the organization. The second test is a mock engineering test we use to mess around with the initiates, this test includes questions from classes that most of the initiates haven't taken yet. After we mess around with the initiates a little more and make sure they 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 Spring 2016

The two initiation that happened this year included a large amount of new members. On December 12th, 2015 we had our Fall 2015 initiation, which included an induction of a total of 18 new members. On May 10th, 2016 we had our Spring 2016 initiation, which included and induction of 13 new members.

Figure 2: Fall 2015 Initiates

B. Chapter Activities

Our chapter had multiple activities for both the initiates and the members to attend during this past academic year. One of our major goals, as an organization is to have as many service events available to our members and initiates. One of our major service events is volunteering at the local arboretum. At the arboretum we help the grounds keeper clean the place up, clean out old flower beds, clear out old stumps, dispose of dead plants and even help at their fundraisers. 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. For the Spring 2016 semesters we got the opportunity to attend twice.

Figure 3: Fall 2015 Arboretum

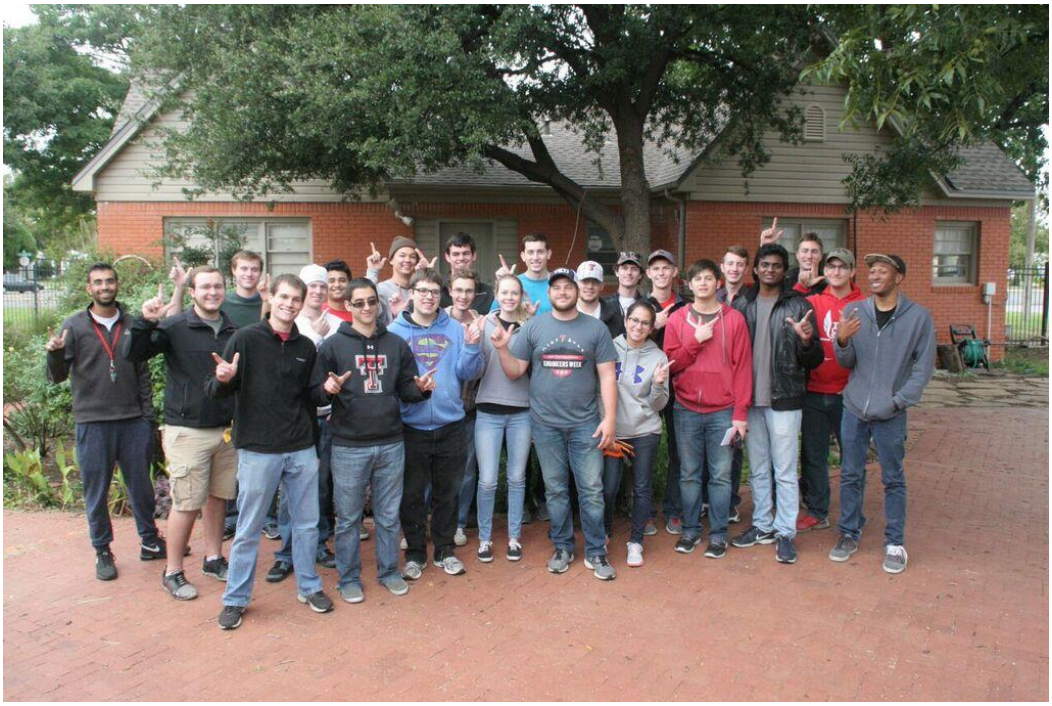

Figure 4: Fall 2015 Arboretum Group Picture

Figure 5: Spring 2016 Arboretum Group Picture

Our next big service event is Meet ME. This is where we bring in middle school students from local schools and show them around the ME building. We give them lab tours, let faculty give speeches, feed them lunch, and even get them to participate in a design competition at the end of the day. We do this to help inspire these middle schoolers to become engineers. At the beginning of the day we have a well know professor give a little spiel about what engineering is all about. Then we take them around to all the engineering labs we have like 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. Many different designs include 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. We do Meet ME at the end of every semester to hopefully get as many schools and students involved in engineering.

Figure 6: Spring 2016 Meet ME Lab Tour

Figure 7: Spring 2016 Meet ME Design Competition

Our other service events include volunteering at a local animal shelter, where we help clean out the living areas for the animals. Texas Tech Arbor Day celebration where we plant plants all around campus. We also participate at the local Lubbock Lion's Club Pancake Festival, where we help cook and serve food. Another little side service we did was during all the officer's office hours they would tutor people in any classes they felt comfortable tutoring fellow students in. This service was offered every semester all semester long. This helped strengthen our officer's in both personal skills and knowledge of the subject they were tutoring.

Figure 8: Arbor Day Celebration Spring 2016

We do many fundraising events as well. We have done a FIFA video game tournament, where participants pay to enter and the winner gets a prize. A photo op, where we get a photographer to take professional head shots for only five dollars. We have done a meat tasting event where this local restaurant pays you to taste the different kinds of meat they cook. We have also gotten the chance to do a Pi Tau give back night on of the 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 also had a fundraising/service event this last spring semester called Pi Tau Study Night, where we had a study session for all ME students to come to. They would pay a little cover fee, of about $2, and we would provide snacks as well as helping anyone who needed help in a specific class.

Our second main goal is to help our members and initiates to become friends and develop great relationships with each other. We helped achieve this by having multiple social events. Our social events include bowling, going to Adrenaline City, ultimate Frisbee games, volleyball games, and dodgeball games. 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 the Fall 2015 semester we participated in a dodgeball game and ASME won, but in the Spring 2016 semester we participated in a volleyball match and Pi Tau Won.

Figure 9: Adrenaline City Fall 2015

Figure 10: Pi Tau Sigma vs. ASME Dodgeball Game Fall 2015

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.