Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2013-2014
Tennessee Sigma Nu

A. Initiations

Procedure

Candidates are selected and invited then participate in various activities throughout the semester to fulfill the requirements for initiation. At the end of the semester, the initiation ceremony is held. This process is outlined in detail below.

Selection

Candidates for initiation are selected based on national standards. The list of candidates is reviewed by the current members so that any concerns about integrity can be addressed. Letters of invitation are handed out before lectures so that candidates may be recognized for their accomplishment.

Requirements

1. Attendance of meetings: Initiate must attend at least 80% of meetings held over the semester unless having prior consent to miss.
2. Shine Pi Tau Sigma key: Initiate must make sufficient effort shining their Pi Tau Sigma key.
3. Signature list: Initiate must attain all signatures of their fellow initiates, 50% of the active member's signatures, and 75% of the mechanical engineering faculty's signatures.
4. Service hours: Initiate must perform at least eight hours of tutoring and six hours of other Pi Tau Sigma service events to be discussed in further detail under Service Events.
5. Social Events: Initiate must attend two chapter social events.
6. Dues: Initiates must pay national dues and chapter dues totaling $60.00.
7. Attendance of initiation: Initiate must attend and perform the rituals associated with the legacy of Pi Tau Sigma at Tennessee Tech.

Ceremony/Rituals

The national ceremony is followed. The Fall initiation was private, but the Spring initiation was open to family.

Celebration

The Fall initiation was celebrated with light refreshments. The Spring banquet was held immediately after the Spring initiation and is discussed more in chapter activities.

Dates and numbers of initiates

The Fall Initiation took place on November 26, 2013 where 15 members were initiated. The Spring Initiation took place on April 22, 2014 where 16 members were initiated.

Fall Initiation

B. Chapter Activities
Fundraisers
A bake sale and a car wash were held to help raise funds for convention travel. The car wash was free to faculty and staff to show appreciation.

Service
There are several ongoing service activities that Pi Tau Sigma members participate in. There is a tutoring room where members help Mechanical Engineering students with ME classes as well as math. Members also volunteer weekly to help in math classrooms at a local middle school.

Several events are also held on and off campus to give members and initiates a chance to volunteer. The first event of the year was Great Move-in Day where members helped students and their parents with their move into the dorms. Pi Tau Sigma also performs a campus cleanup at least once a semester to help show pride in our campus. Another event is the back pack program, where members help pack backpacks with food for local school children who may not have sufficient food over the weekend.

Campus Cleanup

Through member donations, the chapter also supports Operation Christmas Child which sends boxes of toys to children around the world as well as the campus food pantry for students in need.

Several members/initiates volunteered at Fab Friday which is an event where children participate in STEM-related learning activities.

Social
The chapter tries to socialize when possible. Before the semester started a hike was held to Burgess Falls. During the year another hike was held to Cummins Falls, as well as a lunch at a local diner. Several social events were held at Tennessee Tech sporting events, and a ping pong tournament was held among members and initiates. A movie night with pizza and brownies was the last social event of the spring semester.

Hike

Meetings, Banquets, Convention
In addition to events, meetings are held for approval of candidates for initiation, orientation of new initiates, and voting.

C. Other
Enrichment Activities
Two introductory sessions on SolidWorks were given and were open to all engineering students. Presentations that were open to members only were on programming languages and Zotero, a research organization software.