PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2014 - 2015
Tennessee Technological University Sigma Nu

During the 2014-2015 school year, the Tennessee Sigma Nu chapter of Pi Tau Sigma strived to keep a strong presence on campus as well as in the community. This was accomplished by initiating 20 new qualified students into the chapter, leading the way in service to others by planning and attending a multitude of volunteer events, and hosting various professionals to speak to students on campus. Many of these events were planned to offer the students the opportunity to build a stronger academic and professional network as well as gain a greater appreciation of the Pi Tau Sigma core values: Integrity, Service, and Leadership.

A. Initiation

Students who meet the national standards and have presented themselves during their time at Tennessee Tech as a person of exceptional merit and integrity are given the chance to be inducted into Pi Tau Sigma. This invitation is given in a public manner (such as a before a lecture) to celebrate the students' accomplishments and bring attention to Pi Tau Sigma. Once these invited individuals decide to join, the initiates are to meet these requirements to become a full member:

1. Attendance of meetings: Initiates 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 the Pi Tau Sigma key.
3. Signature list: Initiate must attain all signatures of their fellow initiates, 50% of the active member signatures, and 50% of the mechanical engineering faculty's signatures.
4. Service hours: Initiate must perform at least eight hours of tutoring and one major Pi Tau Sigma service event (to be discussed in further detail under Service Events).
5. Dues: Initiates must pay national dues and chapter dues totaling $60.00.
6. Attendance of initiation: Initiates must attend and perform the rituals associated with the legacy of Pi Tau Sigma at Tennessee Tech.

Spring 2015 Initiation

All of these requirements are reviewed and discussed by the officers and advisor of the chapter to decide if the initiate should be inducted, or if they should be given the chance to finish the requirements the following semester.

B. Chapter Activities

The Tennessee Sigma Nu chapter organized a very wide array of service activities for its members and initiates to take part in to better Tennessee Tech and the community. These events include: tutoring students in math and science at a local middle school, multiple campus clean-up projects, working at a food drive, cleaning the large Pi Tau Sigma key on campus, and many other individual events.

- Our chapter advisor, Dr. Chris Wilson, coordinated a new service project with a local middle school in the spring of 2013. Tennessee Sigma Nu has continued its involvement in this project since its creation. Tutors are Pi Tau Sigma members and initiates only. Involving the initiates allows for them to obtain hands-on experience in working with children, as well as allowing them to give back a portion of the knowledge they have gained in their educational careers thus far. The feedback from the students and faculty at the middle was exceptional, and all parties involved are looking forward to continuing this project in the future.
- Members and initiates of Tennessee Sigma Nu attended a local food drive in order to aid in packing and distributing food to those who were in need. Members and initiates alike were very eager for the opportunity to give back to the community and to provide an example of hope to those who may be without it.
- The campus clean-ups were events performed in tandem with the Tennessee Gamma chapter of Tau Beta Pi in order to show pride, appreciation, and service toward Tennessee Tech and all the people who utilize the campus on a daily basis.
- Members and initiates took it upon themselves to volunteer in various community efforts on their own, demonstrating each one's own value in service.

The Tennessee Sigma Nu chapter also organized a wide variety of social activities for its members and initiates to take part in. These events include: a ping pong tournament and a Wallyball tournament, both held at the on-campus fitness center. These social events encourage initiates to get to know the members and to build their teamwork skills, which are vital to success in both professional and personal relationships.

The Tennessee Sigma Nu chapter also co-sponsored a professional development event along with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in order to provide members, initiates, and students of all engineering concentrations with insight into furthering their education through graduate school. The guest speaker for this event was Dr. Amy Elliot, a researcher at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, as well as a Tennessee Tech alumnus. Dr. Elliot spoke of her graduate work at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, her experience competing on the Discovery Channel's Big Brain Theory, and her current work at Oak Ridge. Her presentation encouraged students to pursue higher education and careers in research.

C. Conclusion

The Tennessee Sigma Nu Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma has strived to maintain exceptional activity at Tennessee Technological University and in the community and uphold the values which Pi Tau Sigma represents. This has been assured by the efforts of not only the officers and faculty advisor here on campus, but by the members and their willingness to assist when possible. Hopefully this trend of activity can continue in years to come.