Annual Report

2019-2020

Tennessee Sigma Nu

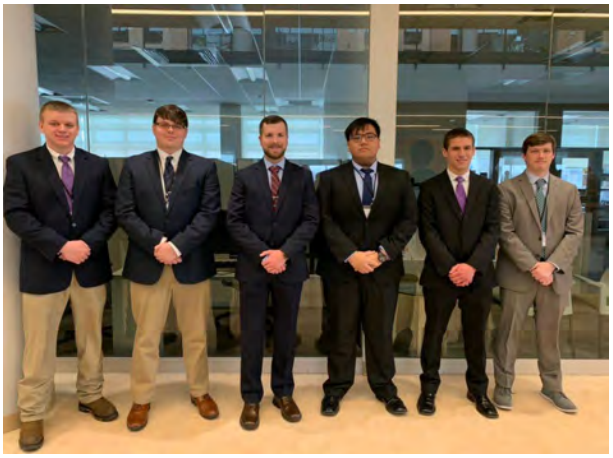
A. Initiations

This past fall, the Tennessee Sigma Nu chapter welcomed eight new members on December 3rd, 2019. The candidates for initiation were selected on the basis of outstanding academic achievement and upstanding character. The process began when our chapter advisor, Dr. Chris Wilson, obtained a list of the qualifying students from academic records. The top 35% of the senior class and top 25% of the junior class which have completed Thermodynamics I were considered. This list of names was reviewed first by the officers then by the current member body to ensure only candidates which have displayed upright character were invited. After review, letters were delivered to the candidates inviting them to the orientation meeting, where initiation requirements were explained in detail. This year's initiates were required to meet and acquire signatures from 50% of current members, 50% of ME faculty, all fellow initiates, and all officers. They were also required to participate in 2 service events, 2 social events, and the chapter group service event, as well as attend 80% of meetings and polish their keys prior to initiation. The initiation ceremonies were conducted according to the traditions of Pi Tau Sigma. After initiation, we provided donuts and refreshments while we held the final meeting of the semester in which new members were congratulated and a new Alumni Relations officer was elected. The initiation ceremony for Spring 2020 has been postponed until the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester.

B. Chapter Activities

During the Fall semester, our chapter built relationships with members and candidates at regular meetings and various social events including: a board game night, Halloween party (joint with Tau Beta Pi), dinner out, and a night at the Fitness Center where we played ping pong and indoor soccer. We served the campus and community through service events such as a campus cleanup,

tutoring in MATLAB and Engineering Graphics, and volunteering at Fab Friday and Safari Saturday, which are recurring events at Tennessee Tech where grade school children are introduced to STEM concepts and technology through fun activities. We served the global community through our chapter group service event which was assembling 15 Operation Christmas Child boxes to be given to children in less fortunate parts of the world.

The Spring semester was very much different in terms of activities due to the effects of COVID-19. Most of the events that were scheduled with the new candidates for the spring semester were cancelled due to COVID-19. On March 3rd, 2020, Cookeville and the surrounding Middle Tennessee area was hit hard by a devastating tornado that took many lives and destroyed hundreds of homes. The need for volunteers was overwhelming in our area. Many members of the Tennessee Sigma Nu chapter volunteered in various ways during the time of need by whatever means necessary, such as: search and rescue, debris cleanup, and comforting families through their losses. Candidates for the spring semester were asked to perform individual service activities over the summer before their initiation in order to make up for the required group service events that were cancelled.

Six of our officers attended the 2020 national convention held at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY. These officers thoroughly enjoyed the chance to network with fellow members of PTS from around the country and enjoyed socializing through games and bowling.