PI TAU SIGMA CHAPTER REPORT 2012- 2013

Tennessee Technological University Sigma Nu

Report prepared by Jacob Stubbs, Sigma Nu president 2012-2013

During the 2012-2013 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 17 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.

Initiation

Keys at 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: 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 the Pi Tau Sigma key.
3. Signature list: Initiate must attain all signatures of their fellow initiates, 65% of the active member 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. Dues: Initiates must pay national dues and chapter dues totaling $60.00.
6. Attendance of initiation: Initiate must attend and perform the rituals associated with the legacy of Pi Tau Sigma at Tennessee Tech.

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.

Service Events

The Tennessee Sigma Nu chapter organized a very wide array of activities for its members and initiates to take part in to better Tennessee Tech and the community. These events include: Tutoring students in math at a local middle school, feeding children at local schools, a faculty appreciation car wash, multiple campus clean-ups, Operation Christmas Child, working concession stands, restoring a large Pi Tau Sigma key on TTU grounds, volunteering for the International Baja competition hosted by TTU, and many other individual events.

- Our chapter advisor, Dr. Chris Wilson, coordinated a new service project with a local middle school for the spring of 2013. Tutors were only Pi Tau Sigma members initially but the opportunity was quickly offered to students in other honors organizations and student groups across campus. In the end, students from Tau Beta Pi, the Society of Women Engineers, Engineers Without Borders, and the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity became involved in this endeavor. The feedback from the students and faculty at the middle was exceptional and all parties involved are looking forward to continuing and expanding this project next fall.
- To feed children in local schools, Pi Tau Sigma assisted/donated to the local Backpack Program in which the organization sends bags of food home with children over the weekend to assure they have food to eat when they could not get the school lunches. This was the first opportunity the chapter had assisted this organization, but it is planned to continue in this endeavor because it is such a wonderful organization to support.
- The faculty and staff appreciation car wash is done every semester and is a wonderful way to show how thankful Pi Tau Sigma is of our faculty and staff. This is the chapter's chance to recognize all of the efforts put forth every day by these individuals.
- The campus clean-ups were events in congruence with TTU's chapter of Tau Beta Pi in order to show pride, appreciation, and service toward Tennessee Tech.
- For Operation Christmas Child, Pi Tau Sigma donated fifteen boxes of gifts to children across the world.
- Pi Tau Sigma stepped up to fill the need during the state-wide high school football tournament. Over the four day event, chapter members worked varying shifts to make sure all stands were covered.

The Great Moving Day : Before Key Repair

- As a personal chapter project to show pride in Pi Tau Sigma, members sanded, shined, and painted a large Pi Tau Sigma key located in front of the Mechanical Engineering building on campus. Now since the key is repaired, a tradition will be started in May 2013 in which graduating seniors who are members of Pi Tau Sigma and current officers of the chapter will have their picture taken next to the key. This will add value to the current history of the chapter as time progresses.
- In the spring semester, TTU hosted an international Baja competition. There was a great need for volunteers for this event and many Pi Tau Sigma members took the initiative to help. The volunteer aspects included in this event were assisting with registration, coordinating recovery teams, and maintaining track safety.
- Members and initiates took it upon themselves to volunteer in various community efforts on their own. Some of these activities included: volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America, painting a church, assisting with a half marathon, and donating to Feeding the Multitudes. It is exceptional for members to volunteer with such events and demonstrates exemplary value in service.

Social Event : After Key Repair

Professional Speakers

The Tennessee Sigma Nu chapter hosted four professional events in the 2012-2013 school year. These were a graduate's study presentation, Engineering Futures, a guest speaker from NASA, and a guest speaker from Tutco.

- Jeff McGehee, a graduate student at Tennessee Tech, presented his studies and findings to Pi Tau Sigma members here on campus. The information presented was thought provoking and possibly encouraged the students to continue their education.
- Engineering Futures was another event in congruence with Tau Beta Pi. The event was a given by a professional training organization who visits campuses to train students to better prepare them for the professional world. This semester, the training consisted of "Advanced People Skills" which gave instruction on how to interact with others on campus as well as in a professional business environment.

- The chapter also hosted Mallory Johnston, a speaker from NASA. In order to make the presentation available to as many people as possible, Pi Tau Sigma took the lead in involving multiple campus offices and department heads to be certain all engineering students could attend the event. The guest spoke about their experiences at NASA ranging from internship to full-time engineer, what missions she had been part of, and the importance of striving for your absolute best effort in all you do.

Flyer for Mallory Johnston's Guest Speaking Event

- The last guest speaker to present to Pi Tau Sigma members was Brandon Pruett of Tutco Inc. He spoke about all of the various operations for Tutco and the various engineering fields used to analyze the products. This included giving examples of how heat transfer and noise control were applied to the design of the various parts manufactured by Tutco. After the event, Mr. Pruett agreed to give a special presentation to the noise control course offered here at TTU.

Conclusion

The Tennessee Sigma Nu Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma has strived to maintain exceptional activity at TTU 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.