Florida Sigma Omicron

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Chartered 05-25-68. 88.

Goals for 2007-2008

Our chapter had three main goals for this year. The first was to increase member and initiate involvement through increased communication and activities. The second was to raise awareness of our organization throughout campus and the department. The final goal was to increase our finances for our chapter through more fundraising.

Activities

This year the chapter has participated in many events and service projects.

For both the fall and spring semester, two meetings were held for all eligible initiates. During these meetings, the requirements to become a member and benefits of being a member were the main topics. A social followed the second meeting of the semester to encourage the initiates to meet current members and the officers.

One of the main requirements for initiates is for them to complete community service hours. Our chapter participates in many projects throughout the semester. One of our main projects is called GatorTrax and it consists of encouraging aspiring middle and high school students to continue in the math and science fields. During this time, professors speak to the student's parents and let them know about the need for engineers in our society.

The second largest service project we participate in is part of Engineer's Week and is the E-Fair. During E-Fair we have a booth which included a golfing robot this year. Students ranging from ages K-12 come out to E-Fair and are encouraged to ask questions so they will become interested in engineering.

To increase our interaction with the department and get our members and initiates involved in undergraduate research, we held a professor social each semester. During these socials the professors spoke about the research being conducted by themselves and their research group. This allowed for more face to face time for professors and students. In addition to this, the chapter organized and hosted the first annual Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Undergraduate Research Symposium, held in conjunction with the Department's spring Advisory Board meeting day and awards banquet activities.

One of our best improvements from last year was the lab tours we now hold. These lab tours are very educational and show certain parts of the department that students may never see.

A trip was also held that included traveling to Jacksonville, FL. The trip included exciting tours of Ameristeel and the JEA power plant.

Three companies came and spoke on behalf of our chapter this year. The companies, Air Products, Florida Turbine Technology and Harris, had a member as an intern the previous summer and gave very informational talks.

Several socials were held during the year as well. Besides the initial initiate social, a softball game, bowling night, and a barbecue were held. Participation was good during these events and everyone had a good time.

Nine members, mainly officers, were sent to the National Convention in Atlanta. Our faculty advisor joined us in this trip.

Graduates

Kenneth Rivard – General Electric in Greenville, South Carolina
Brian Bray – Nuclear Operations in Upstate New York
Michael Asgill – Graduate School at the University of Florida
Marcus Shen – Race Engineer for SpeedSource, Inc in Sunrise, FL
Kimberly Finger
Harris Corporation in Melbourne, FL
John Ross
TH Hill in Houston, TX
Larry Wishney – CDI in Jupiter, FL

Awards & Recognition

Anthony Licari and Andrew McDonald – First Place Undergraduate Research Symposium
Nic Fischer – Third Place Undergraduate Research Symposium
Citgo Petroleum Corporation Scholarship – Christina Mills
Outstanding Graduate Senior in Mechanical Engineering – Kenneth Rivard

Names of New Members

Fall 2007 Pledges

Kyle Allen
Andrew McDonald

Michael Asgill	Daniel Olivero
Shitarria Battle	Jonathan Pletsch
Mathieu Davis	Pedro Rivero
Katherine Faist	Philip Sherwood
Jin Yu Guan	Meryl Sines
John Hart	Sean Sullivan
Admir Hasanic	Anthony Van
Allen Jose	Eric Viale
Ivana Kennedy	Daniel Vu
Anthony Licari	Joseph Windle
Victor Martinez	Steven Zehnder

Spring 2008 Pledges

Ricardo Albuquerque	Chris Bishop
Ryan Bowen	Greg Edwards
Kimberley Finger	Nic Fischer
Matt Goff	Michelle Gross
Randy Gruby	Beau Guidry
Kenneth Habal	Trevor Hise
Paul Moore	Lisa Morin
David Sanabria	Robert Sweeney

Transfer of Responsibilities

Most of the non-graduating officers remained officers allowing for an easy transition for those positions. The treasurer will remain the same for the 2008-2009 year, so only the president will have to be updated on the bank account.

All new officers have been given descriptions of their jobs. A meeting was planned and all the new officers attended and had a chance to ask the previous officers about their jobs and responsibilities.

Plans for 2008-2009

Our chapter has several plans for the 2008-2009 year. The first is the reoccurring goal of increasing member participation. We feel that there are too many people who join the organization and forget about it afterwards. We increased the number of available chair and officer positions as a first step.

Another large goal for our chapter is to begin our own service initiative. Most of our service projects are run by other engineering organizations, and we are looking for possibilities to start our own.

The last goal for next year is to increase the amount of socials we hold. This was proposed by an initiate as a way to keep members involved. A couple ideas were potlucks and game nights.

Chapter Officers

President	Kenneth Rivard
Vice President of Members	Jimmy Roark
Vice President of Initiates	Ryan Cardillo
Treasurer	Christina Mills
Secretary	Garrett Pataky
Historian	Katherine Faist
Historian	Marshal Thomson
Programs	Jon Runyon
E-Fair Chair	Greg Parsard
Fundraising Chair	Tomas Garces
Webmaster	Travis Vitello

Chapter Advisor

Dr. Gloria Wiens

Contact Information

http://grove.ufl.edu/~pts/
pts@grove.ufl.edu

Reporter

Garrett Pataky