Florida Sigma Omicron

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

Goals for 2008-2009

Our chapter had a couple main goals for this year. The first was to build off our increasing awareness by the department and continue this growth. The second was to try to create new activities and opportunities to keep members active. Another goal was to increase our service involvement in the community.

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 was a Science Day collaborated with the education honor society Kappa Delta Pi for an elementary-aged afterschool program. Hands-on experiments focusing on the fundamentals of science and field games kept over 100 kids involved. The day was highly successful and the school urged us to plan follow-up events.

Another event participated in 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.

A college of engineering wide project we participate in is part of Engineer's Week and is the E-Fair. During E-Fair we had a booth which included a golfing robot and micro air vehicles 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.

Fundraising activities for the year included concessions and a Mechanical and Aerospace Department polo sale. The events were great successes and set up our chapter to be financially healthy for both this past year and the upcoming year.

To increase our interaction with the department and get our members and initiates involved in research, 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. During the spring semester we held a meeting with a couple professors to inform our members about graduate school possibilities and how to prepare for the application process. A separate meeting was also held for members so they knew about all planned activities throughout the semesters.

One of our most popular events is lab tours. These lab tours are very educational and show certain parts of the department that students may never see. A couple labs visited this past year included the Neuroprosthetic Lab and the Machine Tool Research Lab. This past year we also invited a P&G to come and speak to us about their company.

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

Six members, a mixture between graduating and returning members, were sent to the National Convention in Michigan. Our faculty advisor joined us in this trip.

Graduates

Garrett Pataky – Graduate School at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Ryan Cardillo – General Electric in Greenville, SC
Christina Mills – Air Products
Paul Moore – Graduate School at the University of Florida
Chris Bishop
Eric Shields
Nicholas Dunbar

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
Pi Tau Sigma Griggs and Weiner Scholarship – Katherine Faist

Names of New Members

Fall 2008 Pledges

Nicholas Dunbar	Sean Miller
Anthony Guess	Marcos Pinares
Eric Holshouser	Mauricio Rodrigo
Brody Huval	Jordan Sasscer
Jared Jones	Rochelle Willard

Spring 2009 Pledges

Richard Clark	Kellon Marchman
Gregory Haley	Kyle Rowe
Travis Heatwole	Eric Shields
Christopher Hughes	Jeremy Wilson
Leslie Maldonado	

Transfer of Responsibilities

Most of the officers were graduating. To create an easy transition for all positions, there was a meeting which focused on the transfer of responsibilities, information about all previously planned activities, and contact information for any questions in the future. All new officers have been given descriptions of their jobs and seemed ready to fill their roles.

Plans for 2008-2009

Our chapter has several plans for the 2009-2010 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 made the initial steps this past year including a member only meeting, and we plan to continue that direction.

Another large goal for our chapter is to continue our own service initiative. The Science Day was a huge success and we look forward to continuing to contribute to the community.

The last goal our chapter has for the upcoming year is to increase the number of socials so that there are more fun activities and member bonding.

Chapter Officers

President	Ryan Cardillo
Vice President of Members	Katherine Faist
Vice President of Initiates	Jon Runyon
Treasurer	Christina Mills
Secretary	Garrett Pataky
Historian	Ryan Bowen
Service	Lisa Morin
Programs	Matt Goff
E-Fair/Social Chair	Chris Bishop
Fundraising Chair	Rob Sweeney
Fundraising Chair	Paul Moore
Webmaster	Nic Fisher

Chapter Advisor

Dr. Gloria Wiens

Contact Information

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

Reporter

Garrett Pataky