Pi Tau Sigma

National Convention Report

2017

Drexel University

February 24-26
Convention Summary

Day 1: Friday, February 24, 2017

Pi Tau Sigma students from across the country arrived at the Sonesta Hotel in Philadelphia for the start of the 2017 Convention. Drexel Xi students were set up at the hotel to check in students beginning around 1pm and lasting throughout dinner. The weekend had unusually nice weather for winter in Philadelphia, allowing the students to explore the city.

Dinner began Friday night in the Sonesta Ballroom and marked the start of the 96th annual National Convention of Pi Tau Sigma. The buffet style dinner allowed for students to mingle and meet one another. The night began with National Board Member Dr. Darryl James welcoming everyone followed by Student President and Convention coordinator, Caitlin Bubel. Drexel Xi advisor, Dr. Lamberson, followed with a quick welcome and introduced Drexel's Dean of the College of Engineering, Dr. Palmese, showing Drexel's support for Pi Tau Sigma and the Convention. The evening concluded with a short business meeting followed by a social event at a few local bars.
Day 2: Saturday, February 25, 2017

Day 2 of the convention began early at Drexel University. Students were provided with subway tokens to commute to Drexel for the day, but the weather was nice enough that most students walked (less than a mile) to campus. The day began with breakfast at 8am and the first speaker starting at 8:45am. Dr. Wilson gave a history of Pi Tau Sigma talk followed by Dr. Hughes, from Drexel, who gave a talk on Peace Engineering.
After the two morning talks, students had the opportunity to be involved in an interacted tutorial and competition from Autodesk. The students were challenged with a real-world Peace Engineering design problem and were given under two hours to complete the task of providing clean water to low-income families. The event was extremely collaborative and combined many different disciplines.
After the competition, we took a group photo on the front steps of Drexel's main building. The students had the option of attending various lunch locations around campus.

![Group photo in Drexel's Main Building](image)

After lunch, a panel discussion included three different mechanical engineers: two professors from Drexel, Dr. Abdel-Aal and Dr. Clyne and an industry representative from Exponent, Dr. Rodowicz. Each had different backgrounds, speaking about the many different careers and paths in mechanical engineering. The students led the discussion surrounding challenges with diversity and engineering.
Panel on Diversity and Engineering

The rest of the afternoon was comprised of an engineering social and tours of Drexel’s mechanical engineering labs. This allowed students to interact with companies and get their resumes reviewed as well as learn about graduate school opportunities.
The students returned to the Sonesta ballroom for the evening events. Students from Drexel University and Norwich University were officially inducted into Pi Tau Sigma. Chapters had the opportunity to see how inductions should be conducted. Dinner was served buffet style. After dinner, an award ceremony began. The winners of the Autodesk competition were announced, followed by the Pi Tau Sigma awards for Outstanding Performance and Outstanding Service.
Outstanding Performance Award

After the awards, the keynote speaker, Christina Barker, from PECO gave an interactive talk about what we need as engineers as we enter the workforce. She paralleled this with how we can strengthen our chapters as Pi Tau Sigma members.

Drexel Xi Members with Keynote Speaker Christina Barker

After the keynote speaker, students went to a social event at Xfinity Live. This bar is right near all of the Philadelphia stadiums and had the capacity to hold all PTS members.

Day 3: Sunday, February 26, 2017

On Sunday, the attendees were back at the Sonesta for breakfast. This light, informal meal allowed students to socialize and get contact info from other students. Final words were said by Pi Tau Sigma National Board Member Altaf Khan. This included suggestions for further conferences and a thank you to all who attended.