

PI TAU SIGMA OUTSTANDING AWARDS
Georgia Southern Beta Iota
Prepared By: Jennifer Shaffer

This past year, our chapter experienced markedly increased involvement in chapter activities. We initiated 19 and 15 new members into our chapter at our fall and spring induction ceremonies at The Clubhouse bowling alley, respectively. All new and existing members were invited to come and participate in the ceremony and two hours of free bowling afterwards to encourage networking amongst members. Meetings were held twice per month, and early semester meetings dealt primarily with recruitment and professional development (industry guest speakers, resume workshops/critique and mock interviews). One popular fall meeting included a SolidWorks/Autodesk Fusion 360 design competition to design the “robot of the future”. Our PTS chapter also funded two members-only plant tours to Daniel Defense and Textron Specialized Vehicles in fall 2016, with more tours planned in the coming school year.

The most successful fall event was the mechanical engineering departmental BBQ that our chapter co-hosted. At least 80 students and 5 faculty attended to watch the inaugural bestowing of the three departmental awards that our PTS chapter created to boost departmental morale (the “Golden Wrench” professor award, the “Departmental MVP” faculty/staff/student award, and the “Blue Shaft” professor gag award). Requests have been made for our chapter to host this event annually. Other meetings were designed to help members de-stress and prepare for finals, including a pre-finals week pizza party featuring a GSU-themed Jeopardy game with mystery prizes. This end-of-spring semester meeting experienced the highest attendance of all our events, with 49 members participating. We were also thrilled to send two student representatives to the PTS National Convention in Philadelphia in February.

Our chapter was excited to win the “New Student Organization of the Year” award a second time at the 20th Annual Leadership Awards Banquet at our university. Our members completed a total of over 250 service hours for the 2016-2017 academic year, with an average of approximately thirty-five active undergraduate members each semester. Each member was required to complete at least four service hours and four chapter “involvement” hours each semester to maintain good standing, and many members exceeded that expectation. While many members volunteered on an individual basis, we also had positive attendance for chapter-wide opportunities. Our chapter hosted tables at local elementary schools’ STEM outreach nights in February, where we organized “candy catapults”, which turned out a little wilder than intended, once we taught the younger children how to aim their catapults. In April, our chapter hosted a canned food drive to benefit the local Statesboro food bank, and we raised over 250 cans from our chapter.

Our members were also heavily involved within the department, with many participating in research with professors as well as volunteering at department outreach events, such as the 4th and 8th grade College of Engineering and Information Technology (CEIT) visit days. Members also participated during the university’s CEIT visit day for prospective students and parents by leading laboratory tours and participating in a student-faculty Q&A panel.