

## **PI TAU SIGMA OUTSTANDING AWARDS**

### **Illinois Alpha**

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Throughout the years, the Illinois Alpha chapter of Pi Tau Sigma has maintained a constant presence on the UIUC campus through our various service, social, and personal advancement activities. This year we welcomed a total of 39 initiates, 30 initiating in the spring and 9 in the fall.

#### **SERVICE**

Illinois Alpha holds a 6 day long barbecue each semester to raise money for charity. This year, we raised about \$1000 for Grow in Illinois, an organization which supports those struggling with mental illness in their daily lives. Additionally, our chapter, jointly with our local chapter of ASME, spearheads an initiative to educate elementary schoolers about engineering principles called Booker T. Washington Engineering and Technology Club. Two days a week over 6 weeks of a semester, members visit Booker T. Washington elementary school to lead children in creative and informative afterschool activities.

Similarly, we hold Family Engineering Nights/Picnics which are science fairs in which families can participate in demonstrations designed to instruct young students in STEM principles.

Illinois Alpha exhibits at MechSE Open House and Engineering Open House every year as well, and this year was no different. These events are open to the public, and designed to showcase to younger students what engineers can do! This past year, Illinois Alpha showcased sandcasting at MechSE Open House, and a trebuchet project, scissor lift, and Lego Mindstorms project at EOH which are described later.

#### **SOCIAL**

Every year our chapter hosts biweekly happy hours and holds two barcrawls per semester, one with other departmental organizations and the other on our own. Additionally, we hold numerous social events, such as game nights and potlucks. One of the biggest events we held this year was a pig roast, inspired by another chapter's report from last year. We bought a pig from our university's meat salesroom and roasted it in an oven of our design.

We additionally hold some seasonal social events, such as a white elephant gift exchange, and hold joint social events our local chapters of ASME and SEM.

#### **NETWORKING AND PERSONAL ADVANCEMENT**

Illinois Alpha organizes meetings with various companies throughout the year in order to provide our members with access to representatives so that they may make connections and receive career advice and opportunities. Companies that visited us this year include Ford, Rolls Royce, Cummins, Cornelius, and Whirlpool among others.

Additionally, this year our chapter introduced a class help list so that members would always know others taking the same classes in order to better facilitate the creation of study groups and class project teams.

Our chapter also fields four project teams every year. This year we created a bike-powered scissor lift to demonstrate the principle of mechanical advantage, a trebuchet to kick off the first in a series of siege weapons exhibits, a Lego Mindstorms project which allowed children to create "spin art", and a robot for the Midwest Robotics Design Competition.

We're excited to see what next year brings!