

PI TAU SIGMA OUTSTANDING AWARDS
2016-2017
West Virginia Delta Theta
Aaron Paynter, President

For the 2016-2017 academic year, the West Virginia Delta Theta chapter of Pi Tau Sigma was very active; we conducted initiations, held biweekly meetings, and attended the national convention. Over the school year we became the most active student organization in the Mechanical department. We kept strong working relationships with our advisor as well as other members of the department.

At the beginning of the fall semester we were given the opportunity to share with the freshmen class what Pi Tau Sigma is and why they should strive to be students with the character and grades to eventually be nominated for PTS membership. Nearly all students who are offered membership go on to join the chapter. We attribute this high membership rate to practices like this as well as the small school atmosphere where potential members usually already know our advisor and several current members. Four members were added in both the fall and spring semesters for a total of eight new members this academic year. A roll book was started for our chapter in the spring semester.

We held biweekly meetings that opened with an ice breaker. The ice breaker was often an interesting video from Destin Sandlin, a mechanical engineer from Alabama who creates videos on the Smarter Every Day YouTube channel. Sometimes one of our members shared something engineering related that they recently learned to their fellow members. The president then shared any new developments about upcoming events with the chapter. The floor was then opened for members to discuss any concerns or recommendations for future chapter activities. Every effort was made to keep the meetings short and productive.

We had six members attend the national convention in Philadelphia. The chapter submitted funding requests to the dean of engineering as well as the Student Government Association for assistance with the expenses. With the travel stipend as well as funding from these two sources we attended the convention using little of our own funds. This allowed us to use the funds from initiation fees to give back to our members in the form of polos, meals after initiations, and cords for our seniors. All the members who attended the convention enjoyed the experience and came back to campus prepared to make our chapter better.

Our members volunteered at our school's annual design expo. Students showcased their senior projects to nearly 200 people from industry, the community, and the university. Our members worked with ASME to help the event run smoothly. Our chapter was also able to secure SGA funding to help us hold a department luncheon. This year's luncheon honored Dr. Puttaiah, a former PTS advisor and beloved professor of mechanical engineering. He is retiring after nearly 50 years at WVU Tech. The chapter presented him a plaque commemorating the occasion. All the faculty and students from the department were invited, so the event also served as a social event where people could get to know one another in a less formal setting while enjoying the provided pizza, drinks, cake, and ice cream.

The following photo is of the current active members and newly initiated members, which was taken following the initiation ceremony.

