Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2013-2014
Boston University Alpha Mu

A. Initiations

Our chapter holds two primary initiations per academic year, one in the fall and one in the spring. For each initiation, the eligibility criteria are the same. We obtain a list of eligible students, based on their class rank, from the undergraduate office. A few weeks before our planned initiation, the top 25% of juniors and the top 35% of seniors are notified by email of their eligibility to join. The only other requirement is paying the associated dues. The invitation contains information about Pi Tau Sigma, about the benefits of joining, and about the associated dues.

At the start of the initiation, the doors are locked and the lights in the room are dimmed to make the experience memorable and ceremonious. The eligible initiates are instructed to stand silently behind their seats. The chapter officers recite the rituals, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation showing the insignia and the code of ethics. After each initiate has pledged the oath, the lights are brightened and the officers introduce themselves and explain more about Pi Tau Sigma. Dues are collected at this point, and each initiate signs a roll book for recordkeeping. The initiation ceremony is also a social occasion. Dinner is served after the ceremony and students are encouraged to stay and socialize with each other and the officers for as long as they like.
The fall initiation was held on 11/15/2013, and 12 students were initiated. The new officers for the following academic year were also elected at this point. The roles were explained in an email sent out prior to the event. Those wanting to run for office were instructed to prepare a short speech describing their qualifications. The elected officers for 2014-2015 are as follows:

President:	Samuel Nichols
Vice-President:	Kam Tabattanon
Treasurer:	Luis Luque
Secretary:	Carolina Munoz

Since there were several eligible students who were unable to attend, a small, personal initiation was held for those students at a later date. We reserved a study room on campus and followed the same basic procedure, initiating 8 students on 12/04/2013.

The spring initiation was held on 4/4/2014, and 1 student was initiated. At this ceremony, current members were invited to attend in support of their peers, and a grand time was had by all. Again, we made a special effort to reach out to eligible students who were unable to attend and initiated 3 more student on 4/12/2014.

B. Chapter Activities

In early fall, we held our first event that was aimed at junior and senior mechanical engineering students. This event was a social breakfast designed to help juniors and seniors decide between pursuing a career in industry or going to graduate school. By providing an open discussion with both senior mechanical engineering students and two professors, our social aimed to help students with making their post-graduation plans. Furthermore, this event also gave students the opportunity to ask their fellow classmates questions about other aspects of mechanical engineering at Boston University, such as class recommendations. Pi Tau Sigma had successfully hosted similar events in previous years and this year's members wanted to continue this tradition.

In February, we sent the Pi Tau Sigma Presidents of both the 2014 and 2015 graduation class to the national convention. Unlike previous years, it was decided to send a junior and senior member so that the more experienced senior member could better guide the newly elected junior member. The trip was arranged by a travel agency that is partnered with the university. All went smoothly, and they found it an enriching experience.

Our next event was the annual egg drop competition, held during Engineering Week in February. This is an event that our chapter traditionally does every year. All engineers were welcome to participate in this event. The goal was to construct an enclosure to house a raw egg, which would then be dropped from increasingly larger heights onto the pavement below. In the first round, all participants dropped their egg and enclosure from a second floor window. In the next round, the surviving eggs were dropped from a third floor window. Finally, the surviving eggs were dropped from the tallest accessible window on the fourth floor of the building. It was necessary to drop many egg protection contraptions more than once to determine the three winners. The materials provided for construction were paper, straws, plastic cups, cotton, twine, and other readily available craft materials. The competition was intense among the ten or so people who attended. Everyone had a lot of fun building the contraptions and dropping them out the window. Several of the entries were successful in protecting the egg, and Amazon gift cards were given to the top three contestants.

In April, Pi Tau Sigma members participated in Boston University's Days of Global Service. As members of the Boston University community, all members of Pi Tau Sigma are encouraged to support the University's commitment to giving back to the community. Specifically, some Pi Tau Sigma members volunteered with the Lowell Wish Project on 4/19/2014. At this event, volunteers helped to sort, fold, label, shelve, stuff, clean, and assemble donated goods to prepare them for clients. Pi Tau Sigma members, along with other volunteers, can be seen here: http://www.flickr.com/photos/bualumni/13984488176/in/pool-2505709@N20/

At the end of the semester, the current officers had a social meeting at a local restaurant with the soon to be officers. The old officers further elaborated on their duties to the new officers, on expectations for the new year, and on how to solve problems they might encounter.