Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2013-2014
Manhattan Sigma Tau

A. Initiations

The Manhattan College Sigma Tau chapter of Pi Tau Sigma held two initiations during this past academic year, one in the fall semester on December 4th, 2013, and the second in the spring semester on April 16th, 2014. To be selected for the Manhattan Sigma Tau chapter, candidates had to demonstrate sound engineering ability, scholarship, personality and future success in Mechanical Engineering. The top 25 percent of juniors and 35 percent of seniors in the Mechanical Engineering curriculum at Manhattan College were given this honor. They had shown integrity, service and leadership throughout their first two years in college. Five new seniors and seven new juniors were approved for induction into the society in the fall, and an additional six juniors were approved in the spring. A few weeks prior to the induction ceremony in the fall and spring semesters, informational meetings were held to give the candidates opportunities to demonstrate their commitment to the honor society. The initiations were led by the chapter's president and vice president. They spoke on the background of Pi Tau Sigma, the selection criteria for candidates, and the challenge and responsibility for the initiates to uphold Pi Tau Sigma's tradition of integrity and excellence in engineering. Every member responded by accepting these ideas and promising to uphold and contribute to Pi Tau Sigma as a fraternity and the Manhattan Sigma Tau as their chapter. Both initiations included a short, half-hour lunch after the ceremony which consisted of sandwiches, potato salad, soda and good conversation. On the same day, the initiates' member cards and certificates were distributed to them. During the spring semester initiation, cords and keys were also presented to the graduating seniors.

B. Chapter Activities

During the pledge period, candidates and members served as tour guides for the college's Engineering Awareness Day and Open House in the fall semester as well as the Accepted Students Days in the spring semester. At these events, PTS representatives served as tour guides for incoming and prospective students and their families and brought them through the labs and classrooms of the engineering building. The pledges were also available to answer any questions that students had concerning the college and engineering in general.

Tutoring is one of the main services that the Manhattan Sigma Tau chapter offers to students. All candidates and current members were required to be available for tutoring in the subjects of their choosing. The tutors' email addresses, phone numbers and available times to tutor were posted in the Mechanical Engineering Department at Manhattan College and a campus-wide email was sent out to enlighten students of this service. This service will continue to be offered by the society next year.

As part of the induction requirements, new pledges were required to polish and paint their bents for initiation. In addition, a new tradition, the singing of the Pi Tau Sigma Thermo Song, was added as part of this year's spring induction ceremony.

In the fall 2013 semester, a set of by-laws were approved by the chapter and throughout the semester slight changes were made by the officers. These by-laws outlined the selection process for pledges and how initiates would be selected from the pledge group, as well as the institution of the position of Parliamentarian in the chapter.

In the beginning of the spring 2014 semester, the chapter voted on the outstanding chapter performance and outstanding chapter service awards. Out of the eight reports eligible from Illinois Alpha, Purdue Beta, Drexel Xi, Auburn Chi, Michigan Pi Rho, Clarkson Tau Gamma, Texas Tech Sigma Epsilon and California Sigma Eta, the reports from Illinois, Clarkson and Drexel were chosen by unanimous vote.

Every year the chapter holds a bake sale to raise money for the society to help cover initiation costs and order cords and pins for graduating seniors. This year's bake sale was held for two consecutive days in February 2014.

Per the chapter by-laws elections were held for the 2014-2015 officer positions. These elections were held immediately following the spring induction ceremony in April to ensure a proper transition between the outgoing and incoming executive boards.

C. Other

Nothing else to report on this year.