Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2010-2011
Manhattan Sigma Tau

A. Initiations

The Manhattan College Sigma Tau chapter of Pi Tau Sigma held two initiations, one in the fall on October 20th, 2010, and another in the spring on March 2nd, 2011. To be selected for the Manhattan Sigma Tau chapter, one must 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. The initiation took place as a private ceremony. Both initiations were conducted by our president and vice president. They spoke on background of Pi Tau Sigma, the selection criteria for candidates, and that the initiates needed 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 were followed by about a half hour of sandwiches, potato salad, soda and chatting. About a week later the initiate's member cards and certificates were distributed to them.

B. Chapter Activities

Regular monthly meetings were held to discuss fundraising, plans and activities. Two bake sales were planned, each very shortly before an initiation to help balance out the cost of food. Many other options for fundraising were suggested throughout the semester, but the bake sales were settled on as the most appropriate because they entailed little initial cost, and our budget was very low. Both bake sales were very successful covering our initiation costs and adding to the budget. With the excess money, cords and pins were bought for graduating seniors and some was saved for next year.

In the fall, Pi Tau Sigma organized a trip to Hudson Scenic Studio in Yonkers, New York to tour their facilities. Hudson Scenic Studio builds set for broadway, and with the large amount of automation in shows these days, a lot of electrical, civil and mechanical engineering goes into them. The members were able to see the set of the Tony Award Wining play War Horse, (currently playing at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre) being built, and smaller pieces for Cirque du Soleil.

Tutoring is also important at the Manhattan Sigma Tau chapter. Every member was required to provide subjects they felt comfortable tutoring in, along with email, phone number and available times to be posted in the Mechanical Engineering Department at Manhattan College. More than one member was asked to tutor and did throughout the year. This tradition will be continued next year.

A lot of effort was given to preparing larger activities for next year. Currently a design competition is in the works, with the Manhattan College chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers happening in the fall of 2011. Also an annual sport competition (probably flag football or frisbee) involving other engineering honors societies at Manhattan College is being planned that will hopefully become an annual event in the spring, where a trophy is passed between engineering departments to hold for a year until the next competition.

C. Other

Nothing to report this year.