Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report
2015-2016
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 2nd, 2015, and the second in the spring semester on May 4th, 2016. 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. Three new seniors and thirteen new juniors were approved for induction into the society in the fall, and an additional ten 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. For the spring semester, an updated method of tutoring services was established. The responsibility of the corresponding secretary e-board member is now includes answering e-mails inquiring about tutoring and matching those in need to the best available member. This method was put in place to allow for easier access to those who need tutoring and also allows to spread the amount of volunteer time to each member, so that not one is overwhelmed. The Manhattan College Pi Tau Sigma email address was posted in the Mechanical Engineering Department at Manhattan College for all students 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 had to participate in a 5-minute interview with an e-board member the week before initiation. This new tradition to this year confirms dedication to society. New pledges were also required to polish and paint their bents for initiation, memorize the Greek alphabet, and sing the Pi Tau Sigma Thermo Song.

Another new tradition that began this academic year was 'Café Thermo', a final review session that includes donuts and coffee where sophomores, juniors, and seniors can meet to help each other study for their respective finals. The laid back atmosphere is more comfortable and less intimidating than being in a formal review. This will be continued in the next year.

Per the chapter by-laws elections were held for the 2016-2017 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.