PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2009-2010

Kentucky Pi Lambda

A. Initiations

Selection is based upon meeting scholastic requirements as well as completing pledge requirements. Prior to initiation, pledges must shine and polish bents provided by the chapter as well as make a signature card (with very specific specifications) to be signed by current members, faculty, and fellow pledges. These activities provide insight on the student's work ethic, and facilitate the getting-to-know process between current and potential members.

The initiation ceremony is conducted by chapter officers and advisors, with the presence of current members. It is considered a serious occasion, so business formal attire is required. Afterward, a small reception is held for all new and current members with snacks and drink for the first social as a unified chapter. Fall and Spring initiations for this year occurred on November 9th, 2009 and April 12th, 2010, respectively.

B. Chapter Activities

For the past couple years, the officers of our organization have strived to restore our campus chapter to one that is active and in good standing, with the goal to build each year upon the activities set forth the previous year. As always, our foremost activity was fall initiation, in hopes to gain more active members to participate in the chapter activities. Last year, our chapter had representatives present at tutoring events on campus, and our attendance remained reliable this year. We also continued to participate in the college's E-Day (Engineer's Day) celebration by helping with setup and clean up, as well as again hosting a competition for middle school and high school students. The contest challenged the students to construct Ping Pong Ball Launchers. Materials were provided, and the device that had the longest distance shot won a prize. The competition was a great success, with many students who had participated last year returning to improve upon their methods of design.

We were fortunate enough to receive funding from the College of Engineering to attend the 2010 Pi Tau Sigma National Convention. While this experience was essential to our goal of keeping good standing, we also used the time to gain insight from other chapters around the country, as well as to network with these fellow members so as to improve our own chapter with new connections.

The activity initiated this year was writing up descriptions of Mechanical Engineering Course Electives by those of us who have already taken the courses. This proved to be helpful to younger students who had questions about the course content, since many electives are vague in their descriptions, as well as to advisors in the Mechanical Engineering Department, who may not have known how to answer students' questions about the courses offered.

Our final activity of the year was our spring initiation. While the numbers were low for initiation during the year, we were still fortunate enough to grow our organization and elect new officers.

This idea of chapter growth and improvement was facilitated by the ideal that the organization would begin to have some more continuity, as several graduating members would be staying in the area or attending graduate school the following year.

C. Other

Graduates

Mark Taylor—Pursuing M.S. in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Kentucky
Carl Mather— Pursuing M.S. in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Kentucky
Wesley Schal—Cummins Product Development Engineer in Columbus, IN
Amy Boatman—UK Health Security Officer in Lexington, KY
Kassy Lum— Pursuing M.S. in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Kentucky
Lisa Rogers—Sandia National Laboratories in Sandia, NM
Laura Mitchell—Walt Disney Imagineering Project Management Intern

Awards & Recognition

Brandon Witte—Pi Tau Sigma Outstanding Mechanical Engineering Sophomore

New Members

Fall 2009 Pledges

Kristen Davis
Leah Dieball

Spring 2010 Pledges

James Trimpe
Jeremy Glam
Luke Powell

Chapter Officers

President—Mark Taylor
Vice President—Amy Boatman
Treasurer—Carl Mather
Recording Secretary—Sara Thurston
Corresponding Secretary—Kassy Lum

Chapter Advisor

Dr. Tim Wu

Transfer of Responsibilities

Discussions were held between the current officers and the officers for next year to discuss their responsibilities and the focus for the group. The current officers have provided the new officers with contact information so questions can be answered throughout the year. Some of new officers served in officer positions in the previous year, and will help greatly with the transfer of responsibilities. All documents created for this school year were also forwarded along to the new officers.

Reporter—Kassy Lum