PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2010-2011

University of Alabama Pi Omicron

A. Initiations

Our initiation process begins when we obtain the list of juniors and seniors that have met the academic requirements each semester. The academic requirements are the top quarter for juniors and the top third for seniors. Once we have a list of eligible candidates for initiation, a meeting is held to affirm the character of each candidate. Affirmed candidates are given a formal invitation to join Pi Tau Sigma with instructions for initiation. Before the candidates are inducted, they must obtain a signature from each member of the mechanical engineering department staff and faculty, each current active member, and each fellow inductee. Candidates must also polish their personal Pi Tau Sigma bent. During the week before induction, candidates must wear business casual attire and their polished bent. Finally, an induction ceremony is held in the fall and spring semesters. Candidates must provide the required signatures, pass a written exam about Pi Tau Sigma, and pass an oral exam on engineering knowledge. Once complete, candidates participate in the induction ceremony following Pi Tau Sigma ritual dialog and pledges. Candidates are then asked to confirm their membership into Pi Tau Sigma. After the spring ceremony, a banquet is held for all new members of the academic year. Current members are encouraged to attend the ceremony and banquet as well.

B. Chapter Activities

The fall semester began with an officer meeting on September 9th, 2010. Both the old and new officers met to discuss the responsibilities of each officer, and the meeting schedule for the upcoming semester. Updating the membership plaques on the wall and distributing membership cards to recently inducted members was also discussed. The first general meeting was held on September 16th, 2010. In the meeting, opportunities for social events, fundraisers, and community service were discussed. The second general meeting was held on September 30th, 2010. More developments on possible community service opportunities were discussed. After the meeting, some members met at Innisfree Irish Pub for a social event. The third general meeting was held on October 14th, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to vote on potential candidates for initiation for the fall semester. The voting was based on the character of the potential candidate that met all other requirements for initiation into Pi Tau Sigma. A fall initiate mixer was held on October 21st, 2010 to introduce the fall initiation candidates. President Ben Austin gave an overview of the organization to initiates. Guest speaker Brian Middleton from Johnson Controls also gave a presentation about engineering in the professional world. The fall initiation was then held on November 11th, 2010. Following the initiation, new and old members celebrated the event at Mellow Mushroom.

Another officer meeting was held on January 20th, 2011 to discuss the meeting schedule for the upcoming semester. The fourth general meeting was held on February 10th, 2011 to discuss plans for the rest of the semester. The fifth general meeting was held on February 24th, 2011. The purpose of this meeting was to vote on the recipients of the annual Pi Tau Sigma awards. These awards included Outstanding Junior, Outstanding Senior, and Outstand Graduate Student. Additionally, the Herbert Kuenzel Award was given to one member of the Mechanical Engineering Department Staff for his or her accomplishments that aided in the advancement of the department this year. A community service opportunity with the American Red Cross was also discussed. After the meeting, some members met at Wilhagan's to eat dinner. On March 3rd, 2011, there was no formal meeting. Instead, members met at Mugshot's to eat dinner as part of a social event. The sixth general meeting was held on March 24th, 2011 to vote on potential candidates for spring initiation. A spring initiate mixer was held on March 31st, 2011 to introduce the potential members to the organization and its current members. Following the mixer, some members from Pi Tau Sigma participated in a fundraiser for the American Red Cross. The fundraiser was called the "Bar Crawl" where several participating bars allowed volunteers to accept charity donations to the American Red Cross at the entrance of the bar. On April 5th, 2011, a co-sponsored meeting was held with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Pi Tau Sigma. At the meeting, representatives from Southern Company spoke about their careers and the company itself. The spring initiation was held on April 14th, 2011. The annual Pi Tau Sigma Banquet was held after the spring initiation to welcome the new members from the fall and spring semesters. On April 21st and 22nd, faculty advisor Dr. Clark Midkiff and a representative member of Pi Tau Sigma attended a two-day seminar. The seminar on "developing a true sense of community in the College of Engineering" was given by Dr. David Goldberg. The annual Purple Shaft and Blue Screw Fundraiser was held from April 21st to April 26th. The fundraiser raises money for Pi Tau Sigma to be used for the activities and meetings of the following year. Each member of the faculty has a jar for which students, and others, can vote on faculty members by donating money to their respective jar. The faculty member with the most votes won the Purple Shaft Award. The runner-up won the Blue Screw Award. The awards were given at the mechanical engineering department picnic, which was held on April 26th, 2011.

C. Other

Our last meeting was scheduled for April 28th, 2011 to elect new officers for the following academic year. Unfortunately, the tornado disaster canceled all activities at the University of Alabama for several days. Students were encouraged to leave so that reconstruction could commence. Without members present, we have not been able to elect new officers. The current officers, along with the faculty advisor, are trying to decide the best solution for this dilemma.