PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2011-2012

The University of Alabama Omicron Pi

A. Initiations

In this segment indicate your initiation procedure including selection process, requirements from initiates, initiation ceremony and rituals, and celebration. Include dates and numbers for all initiations held. No need to list names of initiates.

Our selection process consists of two steps. First, the names of the students in the top one-fourth of the junior class and top one-third of the senior class are obtained. Then our current members carefully consider each possible applicant and dismiss anyone with questionable character before invitations are extended.

Once invitations are extended, inductees are required to fill a signature sheet. Inductees must obtain signatures from all mechanical engineering faculty, 75% of current Pi Tau Sigma members, and 75% of other inductees. In addition, inductees are required to polish a Pi Tau Sigma medal and wear it along with business casual attire during the week preceding the induction ceremony.

At the induction ceremony, inductees must pass a written test on Pi Tau Sigma's history and requirements and an oral test on scientific and engineering knowledge. Then inductees must line up in alphabetical order without gesturing with hands or speaking. Next, inductees march in line around Hardaway Hall while reciting "Pi" "Tau" "Sigma" in order down the line of inductees. Finally, the induction ceremony is completed with the actual induction proceeding and the signing of our record book.

Since our last annual chapter report, two initiations were held. On November 17th, 2011, 23 new members were inducted. On April 11th, 2012, 9 new members were inducted.

B. Chapter Activities

Include all chapter activities for the academic year. This will involve fundraisers, community services, university projects, etc. Please give sufficient details if the project involved other societies and if so what was your level of participation. To support your statements you may include photos, local paper articles, etc. Discuss your chapter meetings, banquets, convention participation and anything else that your chapter is involved with.

Our chapter hosted several activities this past year. First and foremost, we participated in a Habitat for Humanity project. Many of our members pulled together to support local disaster relief. We also hosted a Science Olympiad competition for high school students, which had a great turnout.

Social events included a free dinner at Olive Garden for all new initiates, several social/mixer meetings at which Chick-Fil-A was served, and hosting of speakers from local industries. Our most recent speaker was Sarah Sandridge from NASA in Huntsville.

Finally, we raised money for our service projects through the Purple Shaft and Blue Screw competitions. These awards go to the professors who "shafted" and "screwed" the most students during the semester. Students vote for the winners by contributing money to mason jars with the professors' names on them, which are displayed in the main hallway of the mechanical engineering building when classes are scheduled to let out. The professor with the most money in his or her jar wins the purple shaft, while the runner-up wins the blue screw.

C. Other

Include anything else here that does not fit the above two categories that will strengthen your report.

Two of our members travelled to the Pi Tau Sigma national convention this past spring. Robert McCullough and Dan Mitchell participated in a "new initiatives" think tank session Friday evening at the conference. In this session they discussed possible programs that Pi Tau Sigma could support to boost its impact and presence on engineering and the work force as a whole, on a local (college and city), regional (state or tri-state), and national level. Some of the ideas included peer-to-peer programs with national society funded resources (websites, regional meetings, social networking, etc.) and regional meetings. Robert and Dan were involved with both of these ideas. Robert also helped to present, alongside a senior mechanical engineering student for the University of Hawaii, a PowerPoint presentation outlining the balance of their team's work before the general assembly on Saturday. Robert and Dan enjoyed the panel discussion with industry leaders from companies such as Lockheed Martin and Electric Boat that was held after the general assembly on Saturday. The panel focused on the role of innovation in engineering. Robert and Dan report that the mixture of mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering lines of thought represented a perfect balance and the end result was panel discussions that were thought provoking and challenging, including on the state of engineering in the U.S. and ways to personally improve ability to produce, identify, and support potential avenues of innovation.