Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report

2009-2010

Michigan Tech Sigma Iota

A. Initiations

The Corresponding Secretary receives a list of eligible junior and senior mechanical engineering undergraduates from the Office of Student Affairs on campus. An invitation is then sent to the each initiate inviting them to an informational Smoker. The smoker is held two weeks prior to the scheduled initiation ceremony. At the smoker, the initiates are informed of the organization, its purpose, its possibilities, and the importance of the potential opportunities from joining.

We currently require all initiates to volunteer their time at the Engineering Learning Center or other community service program for at least 2 hours in the time between the smoker and the initiation ceremony. If the initiate completes the required community service, they are allowed to attend the ceremony.

The ceremony is prepared by the current President and Vice President. All active members and mentors are invited and encouraged to attend. The initiates are arranged in alphabetical order outside the room and then led in once the room is dark and the candles lit. The President and Vice President read from the Pi Tau Sigma initiation booklet and recite the Engineering Code of Ethics. The initiates individually pledge their commitment and then sign the initiation booklet. The ceremony is then concluded by a communal dinner.

To increase membership and participation, we would like to add initiation events, such as bowling or walking dogs at the local humane society, in conjunction with our current requirements. We would require attendance of initiates and officers, but voluntary to members. These events would hopefully increase the amount of initiates and make them feel more part of the society.

B. Chapter Activities

Goals for 2009-2010

The chapter goals for 2009-2010 were to expand our membership, reaffirm our affiliation with the national chapter of Pi Tau Sigma, expand the helpME service, promote student-faculty interaction, and improve the transition between incoming and outgoing officers.

Fundraising will continue to be a goal, with the long-term goal of raising enough funding to again send delegates to the national conference.

2009-2010 Chapter Activities

As a means of increasing our presence on campus, our chapter continued our email-based mentoring system entitled “helpME” to aid underclass mechanical engineering majors navigate their course selection and other program choices in the fall of 2009 and the spring of 2010. We expanded the program by creating a new website from scratch, featuring a section for students to submit questions.

Students from the chapter participated in a table tennis challenge with Mechanical Engineering faculty and staff during the spring semester. It was an activity that was part of the Standathon event on campus. It provided the group with a great opportunity to interact with the ME department outside of school.

To build team dynamics, members of the team participated in the high-ropes course. We improved our communication skills with each other and built a sense of trust. We had a great time, and it will hopefully be an event that continues in the future. You can see a picture of the group below:

To make our name known on campus, we sponsored a paper tower engineering competition. Students were challenged to build the tallest tower possible using an 8.5” x 11” sheet of printer paper and one foot of transparent tape. Despite high winds and rain, the tallest tower was just over 30” tall. A few pictures from this event can be seen below:

TALLEST
TOWER

Plans for 2010-2011

The chapter goals for 2010-2011 are to continue the expansion, participation, and attendance of our membership, attend a national chapter of Pi Tau Sigma event, continue the helpME service, and promote student-faculty interaction through social events.

Fundraising and social events will be the main goal of the 2010 – 2011 academic year in order to raise awareness of the society and increase membership participation. There are many ideas that we will be working towards: selling grilled cheese sandwiches in the academic buildings during lunch hours, selling pasties during Winter Carnival, contribute in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program, participate in the high ropes course and Spring Fling as a social again.

We will be holding member meetings weekly, instead of every other week, during the 2010 – 2011 academic year to increase member participation and the amount of time planning each event to ensure its success.

C. Other

2009-2010 Graduates

Chris Lucier

Tim Cook

Cassie Strojny

Tom Venturino

Names of New Members

Fall 2009 Pledges

David Arnold

Timothy Cook

Shaun Rauge

Erik Riutta

Spring 2010 Pledges

Stefanie Bass

Zach Hussong

Andrew Ramsey

Lance Taylor

Darrin Traczyk

David Woodford

Zhi Zhang

Transfer of Responsibilities

Outgoing officers passed information on to the new officers by word of mouth and through documentation established years ago. Electronic copies of old documents were passed along by use of a flash drive and also backed up on a network computer file.

Chapter Officers

President .....Kevin Poppe

Vice President.....Erik Riutta

Treasurer.....David Arnold

Secretary .....Joshua Howell

Corresponding Secretary .....Lance Taylor

Chapter Advisor

Dr. Jeffery Naber

Contact Information

mtupitausigma@gmail.com

Reporter

Kevin Poppe