Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report

2011-2012

Michigan Tech Sigma Iota

I. Initiations

Eligible junior and senior mechanical engineering undergraduates are initially invited to a meeting to learn more about the history, events, people, and opportunities of Pi Tau Sigma. Initiates are then required to participate in a community service event with the other members of the chapter in order to meet other members and prove their commitment to joining Pi Tau Sigma. The fall initiation saw six new members, with the ceremony being held on November 15. The spring initiation added eight new members and was held on February 28.

The initiation ceremonies are planned and carried out by the President and Vice President. The ceremony includes readings from the Pi Tau Sigma initiation booklet and a presentation of the Engineering Code of Ethics. The initiates are asked to pledge their commitment to Pi Tai Sigma and to uphold the integrity of the engineering field. Once initiates pledge their commitment, they are asked to sign the initiation booklet, a tradition continued from the chapter's original initiation in 1967. Initiation ceremonies are followed by a chapter dinner.

II. Chapter Activities

2011-2012 Activities

As an initiation community service event, new and existing members chopped wood for an organization called "Friends of the Elderly" who assists the local elderly population. The wood that was chopped is delivered across the community to help heat homes through the winter.

Several members took a trip to a local biomass power plant. Members received a tour and an education of the unique process of converting biomass into usable electricity. The chapter also took a trip to the Keweenaw Research Center, a part of Michigan Technological University where both the private and public sector carry out research with help from the university. The chapter also had a cookout as an activity to help strengthen the relationships between all its members.

Figure 1: Biomass Plant Tour

Chapter Goals for 2012-2013

The goals for the upcoming year is to continue to expand membership, increase member involvement, increase visibility on campus, and attend a national Pi Tau Sigma event.

Plans for 2012-2013

The chapter will continue its initiation ceremonies, wood-cutting, and chapter dinners. In an effort to achieve chapter goals, the chapter has several new plans for the upcoming year.

Through research of past chapter activities, it was discovered that the chapter used to organize a graduate luncheon, where graduate students can share their experiences and advice with undergraduates who may be considering graduate school. The chapter will also organize tours of the various labs on campus to expose members to opportunities that are available to them and raise awareness of research and work being done on campus.

Many of the different major groups on campus have offer jackets with their major group name on it. These jackets are popular, but the mechanical engineering school does not currently offer one. Thus, Pi Tau Sigma will organize to sell these jackets with the goal of raising money and increasing visibility on campus. With the extra money, the chapter will plan to take advantage of the on-campus high ropes course as a personal development activity.

The chapter will also be involved with at least two on campus events like Homecoming, Winter Carnival, or Spring Fling.

Chapter Officers
President……..Peter Denney
Vice President……..Brian Dvorak
Treasurer……..Carl Drache
Corresponding Secretary….....Ben Kalis
Recording Secretary……Paul Sleik

Chapter Advisor
Dr. Jeffery Naber