Carnegie Iota Annual Report

2013-2014

On October 24th, 2013, 20 new initiates joined the Carnegie Iota Chapter, including all 4 executive board members. A second initiation was held on February 28th, 2014 for 3 students. These initiates add to the diversity of the chapter with their on-campus involvement in technical clubs, Greek life, research, athletics and a variety of other activities. Each was identified based on their academic achievement and then reviewed based on submitted essays.

For both fall and spring initiation, initiates dressed in business casual were led into a dark room where executive members led the initiation ceremony. The history and symbols of Pi Tau Sigma were explained through the ritual script and all initiates pledged to uphold the ideals of the organization. In addition, the separate requirements of Carnegie Iota membership were explained which include attendance of at least one community service and one social event each semester.

At the end of the fall semester, an entirely new executive board was elected. This board includes two members who will be masters students in the fall of 2014, and can provide perspective on graduate student interests throughout the year. The other two executive members are incoming seniors and will still be available to guide the leadership that gets elected at the end of the fall of 2014.

In addition to regular general body meetings and attending the Pi Tau Sigma national conference, the Carnegie Iota chapter holds several

events that cater specifically to our chapter, our school, and our city.

Each semester, the Iota chapter hosts volunteering opportunities for the community. This year, our chapter held a booth at an elementary science fair, and led activities at a local science museum on several occasions. At the science fair, Iota members taught kids about drag force by assisting them in making parachutes. After, the kids could try moving objects with different profiles through a small tank of water to see how the objects' profiles affected how difficult motion was. Activities at the museum catered to an older group of kids and included activities that explored different materials such as a polymer used to create fake snow.

The Iota chapter is also responsible each semester for organizing and hosting a recruitment breakfast for the entire mechanical engineering community at Carnegie Mellon. This breakfast always falls the morning(s) before larger recruitment fairs organized by the Society of Women Engineers. The more intimate environment of the breakfasts allows for more memorable connections between students and recruiters by facilitating shorter lines. The smaller venue is particularly advantageous for connecting with companies that hire multiple majors. Pi Tau Sigma members get an additional benefit of being included in a resume book to be distributed to companies afterwards. Our fall breakfast had more than 80 students at its height and drew companies such as Spacex and Boeing. This event was so successful that we plan on changing venues next year to accommodate even more companies. Spring tends to be a lighter recruitment season but 5 companies and over 30 students still participated.

In addition to these breakfasts, we also held a technical talk for the entire Carnegie Mellon Engineering Community. This year, a representative from Caterpillar came to discuss the process of developing and filing for patents.

Throughout the year, we also held several social events for our chapter solely. Every few weeks, our chapter goes out for dinner. This is a great way for the juniors and seniors who have not necessarily been in classes together to meet each other.

In the next year we plan to continue and expand on these events. Future projects include visiting local high schools to promote engineering, expanding the recruitment breakfast, and hosting more technical talks for the benefit of our fellow mechanical engineers.