PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2014-2015
Carnegie Iota

A. Initiations

On December 8th, 2014, 19 new initiates joined the Carnegie Iota Chapter, including 4 executive board members. A second initiation was held on March 6th, 2015 for 7 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.

B. Chapter Activities

Besides initiations, multiple general body meetings were taken place each semester. Updates on current and upcoming events were given to the chapter members during the meeting. These chapter meetings were also used as a place to get feedback and suggestions from members on future events and plans. A good example would be that the majority part of the last GBM of spring semester were discussing and voting on superlative ideas for the Mechanical Engineering department end-of year senior dinner. During spring 2015, two of the Carnegie Iota chapter's execute members, Shannon Horgan and Yichu Jin, attended the Pi Tau Sigma national conference at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The overall experience was shared with other chapter members in one of the GBM.

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 city, our school, and our chapter.

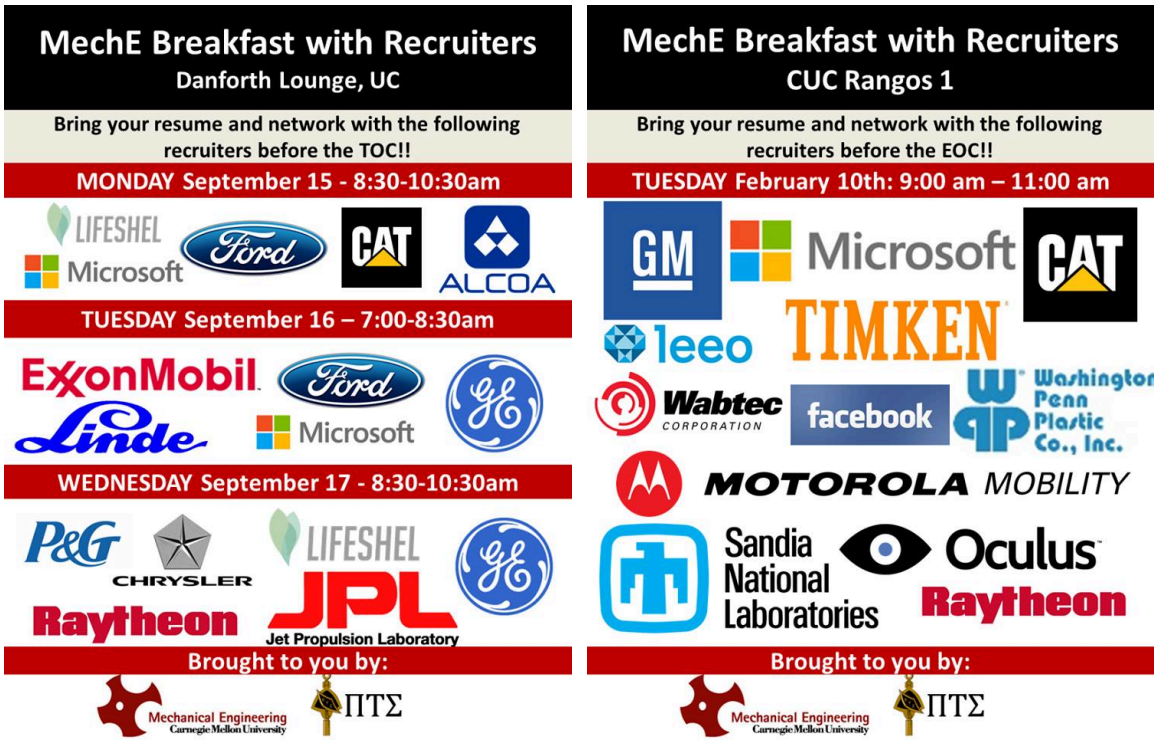
Each semester, the Carnegie Iota chapter hosts volunteering events for the community. This year, our chapter held a booth at an elementary science fair, the South Fayette Science Fair, to demonstrate basic science facts to local students. At the science fair, Carnegie Iota members demonstrated how temperature influences molecules' moving speed and how shape influences buoyancy by dropping color die into hot and cold water and assisting kids to make aluminum foil boat. After, the kids could visualize color dye's different spreading speed and could see how many coins can the boat they built support. Therefore, in an interesting way, they learnt that molecules move faster in higher temperature and buoyancy is proportional to the volume immersed under the water.

Chapter members attended the South Fayette Science Fair

Demonstrating temperature's affect on molecule's moving speed

Each semester, the Carnegie Iota chapter is also responsible for organizing and hosting a recruitment breakfast for the entire mechanical engineering community at Carnegie Mellon University. This breakfast always happens in the morning before the 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 12 companies such as ExonMobil and Ford. This event lasts three mornings, which is the longest one we ever had. Spring tends to be a lighter recruitment season but 10 companies and over 50 students still participated which doubled the number from last year. Breakfast with Recruiters is the biggest event Carnegie Iota chapter hosts each semester and is a great opportunity to give back to the department and build long-term relationship with companies.



Poster for Breakfast with Recruiters in fall and spring semesters

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 and share experiences.

C. Others

At the end of the fall semester, an entirely new executive board was elected. This board includes one member who will be master student in the fall of 2015, and can provide perspective on graduate student interests throughout the year. She was also on the execute board last year; therefore she would also be able to provide valuable insights and information on the operation of a chapter. The other four executive members are incoming seniors and will still be available to guide the leadership that gets elected at the end of the fall of 2015. One biggest change to the executive board this year is that we increase the e-board size from 4 people to 5 people adding a position specially for organizing service events due to our chapter's increasing emphasis on social service.