PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2018-2019
Carnegie Iota

A. Initiations

This year, the Carnegie Iota chapter held two initiations. Our primary initiation was held in the fall semester on October 7, 2018. Emails were sent out to individuals with a GPA greater than 3.25 and within the upper twenty-fifth percentile of their junior or senior classes. These emails described our organization and the honor it is to be invited to join. In return, those candidates were asked to send in a copy of their resume to be reviewed. These emails also invited those students to join the executive board for an information session on August 29, at which ice cream was provided. There was also a slide show which outlined what Pi Tau Sigma is, what the organization does, the benefits of joining, and how they can join.

During our fall initiation, we inducted 13 new members into our chapter. Their initiation was performed using the rituals of Pi Tau Sigma document that was last updated on November 8, 2017. Directly following the ritual, each member was taught the organization handshake, asked to sign their name in our role book, and given their membership card and key. A dinner was provided in the same room following initiation after which we held elections for the 2019 executive board.

Our spring initiation was run a bit differently. Early in the semester, the executive board was contacted by a senior that wanted to join through fall initiation. Unfortunately, for monetary reasons, they could not pay dues the previous semester but still wanted to join before graduating. For that reason, we verified that this student still met our membership requirements, and, on April 23, 2019, we held a secondary initiation for that senior which exactly followed the practices from the fall semester. However, instead of hosting an additional dinner, we hosted our senior send off right after their initiation.

B. Chapter Activities

September 24, 2018: Fall TOC Career Fair Breakfast with Recruiters

Before the Fall Technical Opportunities Conference, PTS hosted the annual event to help students network with employers in attendance. 70 mechanical engineering students attended the event and met with different companies recruiting students for mechanical engineering roles.

February 6, 2019: Spring Encompass Career Fair Breakfast with Recruiters

In the beginning of the Spring semester, we hosted an event on the morning of the Encompass Career Fair for mechanical engineering students from all years to network and meet with recruiters in a more relaxed setting. Recruiters from Microsoft, Honeywell, Daimler, MC Dean, General Dynamics, and more were in attendance recruiting students. We were able to connect 37 students with potential employers and created an environment that was more calm with shorter lines and a great breakfast.

February 15-16, 2019: National Convention

Alex, our chapter's president, and Andrew, our treasurer, went to the National Convention at Colorado State University in February. They enjoyed meeting top mechanical engineering students from across the country and learning about the topics they were interested in. The keynote speech from Mr. James Turner of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center was of particular interest since Andrew and Alex are working on spacecrafts this summer. The tours of the New Belgium brewery and the Powerhouse Energy Institute were both enjoyable and informative. The meals provided an excellent opportunity to talk with other chapters and learn what events they run that would be a good fit for our chapter. Some events that we plan to implement include trivia nights and networking dinners with mechanical engineering faculty.

March 2, 2019: Everyday Engineering Event

This chapter participated in an event called Everyday Engineering on Carnegie Mellon's campus. It was an event scheduled by Carnegie Mellon's College of Engineering to showcase engineering to middle school students.

Given that many middle schoolers ride on skateboards, as they cannot drive or bike on the roads at those ages, we felt that skateboards would be interesting and engaging to students of that age group. We could use skateboards to teach about why a person can propel themselves forward on a skateboard. This would involve teaching force balancing and friction, which are concepts they could find interesting that they probably have not learned about in depth by that age. We could also describe how skateboards are made, the industrial engineering used when making skateboards in a factory or the techniques used by a person when a skateboard is made by hand, and how engineers use force balances and friction calculations to make sure the skateboard will work properly.

April 26, 2019: MechE Day Event

We hosted a booth at the first ever Carnegie Mellon University Mechanical Engineering Day. We provided supplies for mechanical engineering students, faculty, and staff to participate in a spirited paper airplane competition. The winner of each round of the competition was given a ticket for a raffle with exciting prizes. During this event, we were able to spread interest in Pi Tau Sigma with the broader mechanical engineering community.

April 23, 2019: Senior Send Off

Following our spring initiation, we hosted a senior send off as a final social event before commencement. The entire chapter was polled on which date and time would work best, and chapter attendance was strong. Ice cream was provided with a variety of flavors and toppings for every member while cords and stoles were distributed to seniors that filled out our form to request them.

C. Other

Public Relations Chair

This year our organization added the Public Relations Chair as a new position to our executive board to further our participation in campus activities, to boost relations with other organizations, and to create promotional material for events hosted by Pi Tau Sigma. We entertained interest from the organization and approved Alana Toy as our first ever Public Relations Chair. She has produced fantastic marketing materials for different events, including our semesterly Breakfast with Recruiters event, and has managed our new Facebook page, which can be found at https://www.facebook.com/CMUPiTauSigma/.

Shirt Distribution

To further spread the word about to Pi Tau Sigma to the Carnegie Mellon community, we ordered shirts! We were able to distribute them to 26 of our members.