PI TAU SIGMA FULL ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2019-2020
Carnegie Iota – Carnegie Mellon University

A. Initiations

The initiation procedure for the 2019-2020 school year was to select the top 25th percentile of the undergraduate junior and senior class that also held a GPA greater than 3.25, as dictated by national requirements. We sent emails to those eligible, and in return, asked for a resume as an application. Resumes were reviewed for alignment to Pi Tau Sigma values, including but not limited to service and integrity. Applicants approved through this process were invited to an Ice Cream informational meet and greet with the executive board, held on 11 September 2020.

Our primary initiation was held during the fall semester on 25 October, 2020. In this initiation, 20 new members were brought into the Carnegie Iota Chapter. After following the ceremony procedure as dictated on the Pi Tau Sigma website, new members were elected to a new executive board, of whom would serve from the beginning of the spring semester of 2020 to the end of the fall semester of 2020. A dinner was provided post-initiation to allow new members and the executive board to get to know each other and to network. A picture is displayed below.

Due to logistics restrictions, a Spring Initiation was not held this year. However, the executive board is excited to bring in new members come the fall semester. We are heavily considering letting graduate students into the organization for the first time in recent Carnegie Iota history.

B. Chapter Activities

16 September 2019 – Fall Technical Opportunities Conference (TOC) Breakfast with Recruiters
Preceding the TOC, held by CMU's chapter of SWE, Carnegie Iota held a breakfast with recruiters event in which Carnegie Mellon Students majoring in mechanical engineering could network individually with company recruiters in a more relaxed setting, while also being provided a wonderful spread of healthy breakfast options. Companies that participated this event were: Aptiv, ASML, Clark Construction Group, Ford, Hitatchi Rail, Intuitive Surgical, Lutron, MC Dean, Microsoft, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, the Navy, the NSA, and P&G. A total of 84 mechanical engineering students were in attendance to this event.

23 November 2019 – Tree Planting with TreeVitalize
Adriana Goodman and Mel Bryan attended a tree planting event organized by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy that took place in the Shadyside district of Pittsburgh. Together, with the help of another dedicated tree planter, a total of 3 trees were planted by our team, and over 30 trees total!

31 January – 2 February 2020 – Pi Tau Sigma National Convention
Mel Bryan, president, and Charlie Andreasen attended the Pi Tau Sigma National Conference held by the Rochester Delta Pi chapter of Rochester Institute of Technology. Activities included laboratory tours, a fantastic speech by Thomas Peeples from Goodyear Tire (remember those golden nuggets!), a wonderful tutorial on additive modeling by Autodesk in Fusion 360, and plenty of networking with extremely talented engineers. Also featured was a terrifying picture on a staircase that probably was not meant to hold 100+ people, but that can be excused because that photo was awesome!

4 February 2020 – Spring Encompass Breakfast with Recruiters
This event held a premise similar to the event that occurred before the TOC. Companies in attendance were Appina, Exyn Technologies, FPoliSolutions LLC, Holder Construction Company, Honeywell, MathWorks, the Navy, Nucor, SambaNova, and PwC. A total of 30 mechanical engineering students were in attendance.

29 February 2020 – CMU SPLASH
This event was organized by CMU SPLASH, a new student organization at Carnegie Mellon University dedicated towards teaching high school students niche topics such as rocketry, or how to excel at solving Rubix cubes, something that still baffles Mel to this day. Carnegie Iota participated in this event by holding a two part series on building large and model rockets. The first part was dedicated entirely to theory and simplifying aerodynamics and differential equations to a high school level, and the second part was dedicated towards launch safety and launching small toy rockets. A total of 30 participants were recorded in both of these events.

Summer 2020 – Summer Series
The Carnegie Iota chapter has partnered with Women in MechE to put on a summer series of some serious, some not so serious, events to allow students to network with professors across the Mechanical Engineering Department. Such events include a Lunch and Learn with Professor Sarah Bergbreiter about robotics, how to make the ultimate grilled cheese with Dr. Zeynep Temel, or pasta night with Professor Paul Steif. Many more are to come, and we are very excited to keep our members engaged over the summer!

C. Other

Welcoming New Advisors
In addition to all of the other exciting activities our chapter has participated in during this semester, we have welcomed two advisors: Rebecca Taylor, and Michelle Mahouski, who are taking the place of our long term advisor, Jonathan Malen.

Starting an Alumni Network
In order to forge a path for future exec boards to be able to network with our previous members, our chapter has downloaded the initiation documentation from the Pi Tau Sigma website, and has begun assembling a roster that can be sent to Carnegie Mellon's alumni association.

Cords and Stoles
As COVID-19 has delayed Carnegie Mellon's efforts to celebrate the graduating class of 2020, and delay an in person graduation to Fall 2020 at the earliest, we will be asking for cords and stoles over the summer, if at all possible.