PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2015-2016

California State University, Fresno Beta Gamma

A. Initiations

Pi Tau Sigma Fresno State Beta Gamma (PTS-FSBG) chapter, candidates for membership are selected on the basis of their ranking within their classes: top 25% of the junior class and top 35% of the senior class, respectively. Initiates are required to complete 8 hours of community service, attend two social events, submit their resume, complete a signature sheet (faculty, current members, officers), polish and mount the Pi Tau Sigma key, pay dues, and attend initiation. Four hours of the community service must come from MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) Saturday Academy or another engineering base outreach activity, while the other four hours are up to the initiate regarding type of service. Additionally, the scavenger hunt, which is a partnership between members of Tau Beta Pi California Rho chapter and our PTS-FSBG chapter, is a required event for all initiates and counts toward the requirement of two social events for the semester. Resume submission was added this year in preparation for our corporate packets, which we hope to launch in academic year 2016-17. The corporate packets are intended to help those still finishing degrees to obtain internships, with the potential of job opportunities upon graduation.

Initiation begins with a gathering of all the initiates in a designated area followed by the collection of i) plaques with adhered, polished keys, ii) chapter dues, and iii) signature sheets. Initiates are told to bring a tie, which is used to blindfold them as they are led around the engineering complex while the initiation room is being prepared by senior officers. Once the blindfolded initiates arrive at the darkened initiation room and have been seated, the president and vice president read the passages from initiation script aloud to the initiates seated on the opposite end of the room. The projected crest and seal are shown and explained to the initiates, the ASME code of ethics and fundamental canons of Pi Tau Sigma are recited to demonstrate the importance of fundamentals of the society. Membership is conferred to each initiate once they sign the membership book and are taught the Pi Tau Sigma handshake. Following the initiation, a joint banquet is held with the fellow engineering honor societies on campus: Tau Beta Pi, Eta Kappa Nu, and Chi Epsilon.

The Fall 2015 initiation, held on December 10, 2015, welcomed 12 members to Pi Tau Sigma while the spring 2016 initiation, held on May 12, 2016, ushered in 7 members.

B. Chapter Activities

In the Fall semester, various social events are organized for members and initiates alike. Members are encouraged to attend the annual co-hosted events with Tau Beta Pi California Rho chapter, which include the football tailgate and Skywalk trampoline center. Both events prove to have the largest turn out for both initiates and current members. Initiates are welcomed at these events but also encouraged to attend events designed specifically for them. Each semester a key-polishing event is held for initiates to come and work on their keys while receiving tips from officers regarding creativity and shine-ability. The key-polishing event is always held after the scavenger hunt, which is where initiates receive the Pi Tau Sigma key and mounting plaque. Each semester, a scavenger hunt is co-hosted with Tau Beta Pi California Rho chapter, to encourage interaction between the various engineering honors societies and increase participation due to the duplication of initiates between the societies; however, Pi Tau Sigma leads the event with location coordination as well as creating the list in which initiates must follow for the hunt.

The Spring semester brings about a few different events due to the season change. Each spring, Pi Tau Sigma participates in the Lyles College of Engineering basketball night. This year PTS-FSBG hosted BBQ followed by attendance of a Fresno State baseball game. Also, for the first time in our chapter's history we were able to fund 12 members to attend the PTS National Conference due to the proximity of our university to the conference location at USC. This gave us the largest non-local presence at the event!

Above left: Initiate Scavenger hunt at Fashion Fair Mall in Fresno. *Above right:* PTS-Fresno State Beta Gamma attendees at Universal Studios City Walk after the conclusion of the PTS National Conference at USC.

Above left: Conference attendees in front of USC's Viterbi School of Engineering. *Above right:* Conference attendees in front of fountain at USC. *Below:* Fresno State baseball tailgate BBQ