PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2014-2015

Fresno State Beta Gamma

A. Initiations

The Fresno State Beta Gamma chapter held two initiations this year, one during the Fall 2014 semester on 11 December 2014 and the other during the Spring 2015 semester on 07 May 2015. Six members were initiated in Fall 2014 and seven members were initiated in Spring 2015 using a three-step initiation process, as follows:

First, invitations were sent out at the beginning of each semester to eligible students meeting the minimum criteria for joining Pi Tau Sigma (i.e., top 25% of eligible ME juniors and top 35% of eligible ME seniors).

Second, eligible students who accepted invitations then began the next step of our initiation process; which requires potential initiates to attend two social events held by Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter as well as accumulate at least eight hours of community service. Initiates also had to collect the signatures of all Mechanical Engineering faculty, current officers of Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter, and seven non-officer members of the Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter. The final part of this step was for potential initiates to prepare a plaque on which is mounted a polished key of Pi Tau Sigma.

The third step of the initiation process was the actual initiation of eligible students. Potential initiates who had completed the first two steps were invited to our initiation ceremony, which was held the week prior to final examinations of each semester. The initiation ceremony began with the collection of the plaques with polished keys, the signed signature sheets, and the initiation fees. Initiates were then blindfolded and led around the Engineering buildings for about 10 minutes before being led into the initiation room. The purpose of this is to disorient the initiates and get them in the proper mindset for the ceremony. The initiates were then seated in the room in the presence of the current officers, members, and faculty. The initiation ceremony of the Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter follows the traditional initiation ceremony to preserve the Pi Tau Sigma tradition. Once the ceremony is completed, and the initiates are given full membership into Pi Tau Sigma, they are taught the handshake of Pi Tau Sigma which is immediately followed by the election of next year's officers.

An all-honors banquet for the Lyles College of Engineering is organized the Tau Beta Pi California Rho Chapter and is held at a local restaurant the night of each initiation to celebrate all the initiates from all the engineering honor societies of CSU, Fresno, including Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma.

B. Chapter Activities

In the previous year the Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter has participated and held multiple events that focused on building the foundation of our honor society.

The most frequent event held were study nights in the campus library (16 Oct 2014, 17 March 2015, and 30 April 2015). These study nights were open to all members and potential initiates of Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter and provided an opportunity to network with other dedicated engineering students attending CSU, Fresno.

Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter also volunteered at the various Saturday MESA days held on the Fresno State campus (18 Oct 2014, 15 Nov 2014, 06 Dec 2014, 07 March 2015). We volunteered for MESA to promote the study of math, engineering, and science to local junior high and high school students. Members who volunteered to lead activities for the students throughout the day and helped guide them towards success.

Scavenger hunts were held each semester to give potential initiates the opportunity to become acquainted with one another and build leadership skills while experiencing a fun night out at the mall (11 Nov 2014 and 14 March 2015).

Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter started a new event during the Spring 2015 semester where current members got together with potential initiates for a night with the purpose of preparing their plaques with polished PTS key for initiation. Members helped give initiates advice based upon their own experiences polishing their own keys and plaques (16 April 2015).

General chapter meetings were held frequently during the Spring 2015 semester and helped officers determine in which direction to guide the chapter in.

On 17 March 2015, various chapter officers from across the nation (including the president of Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter) who attended the 2015 100th Annual Pi Tau Sigma Convention at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign discussed the different topics that were brought up including what a chapter can implement to become more successful. For Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter , one of the most notable ideas from this meeting was to start the formation of a corporate packet to help bring Pi Tau Sigma members and local businesses closer. This packet would allow easy access of resumes to potential employers.

On 24 March 2015 the idea of amending the Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter constitution was discussed in order to make the chapter more efficient and allow it to grow quicker. Members opted to vote on what to add during the next meeting.

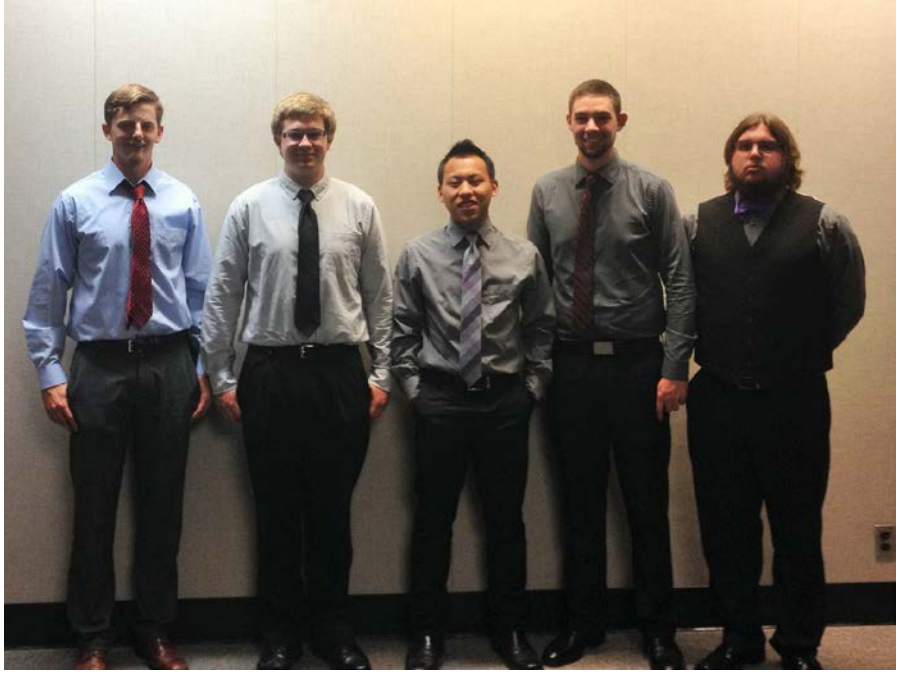
At the follow-up meeting on 30 April 2015, members voted to amend the constitution to add a few new policies and to create a new officer position, Alumni Chair. A notable policy change was the addition of a perquisite for the presidential position. In order to be elected as president, an individual must have already held another officer position for at least one semester. The new officer position of Alumni Chair handles communications between the chapter and alumni so as to create a network of PTS members outside of CSU, Fresno. The Alumni Chair is also in charge of Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter's Facebook and LinkedIn accounts as well as forming the corporate packet and sponsorship.

Members of Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter attending one of the many study nights held during the Spring 2015 semester.

Initiates and officers of Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter after the scavenger hunt on 11 Nov 2014

Initiates of Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter and Tau Beta Pi California Rho after the scavenger hunt on 14 March 2015

The newly initiated members of Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter for Fall 2014



The initiated members of Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter for Spring 2015

Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter President, Alex Suarez, at Centennial 2015 Annual Pi Tau Sigma Convention in March 2015 (Alex is far right, front row)