PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2017-2018

Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter at CSU, Fresno

A. Initiations

Candidates for membership are considered on the basis of class standing. The top 25% of the Mechanical Engineering (ME) junior class and the top 35% of the senior ME class are eligible to become members. The PTS faculty advisor creates the eligibility list and gives the final list to the Fresno State (FS) Beta Gamma chapter president. Requirements for potential initiates include the following: i) complete eight hours of community service, four of which must be volunteering for MESA Saturday Academies, ii) attend two social events, iii) complete the signature sheet (ME faculty, chapter officers, active non-officer members of PTS), iv) polish and mount the PTS brass key, v) submit an up-to-date resume, vi) pay initiation fees, and vii) attend initiation ceremony.

Initiation starts with a gathering of all initiates followed by collection of the polished and mounted PTS brass keys, completed signature sheets, and membership fees from the initiates. The initiates are then blindfolded and instructed to stay in a line guided by a PTS member, while being led through the engineering complex until the initiation room is prepared. When the initiates arrive at the darkened, initiation room they are guided to their seats. The ceremony is conducted by the current chapter president and vice president who read from the initiation booklet and recite the ASME code of ethics and canons of PTS. Initiates are asked to respond accordingly. The only light in the darkened room is from the reading lamps for the president and vice president and the projection monitor that displays the PTS crest and key. Initiation is complete after all initiates agree to become members, and sign the membership roll book. After signatures are complete, the lights are turned on and the initiates are welcomed by members and faculty with the PTS secret handshake. Afterwards, everyone is asked to be seated. The most creative plaque is presented and the initiate who fashioned it does not have to pay initiation fees. Following, the next semester's officers are elected. An all-college honors banquet organized by California Rho chapter of Tau Beta Pi is held the evening of the initiation and includes members of Pi Tau Sigma (PTS), Tau Beta Pi (TBP), Eta Kappa Nu (HKN), and Chi Epsilon (CE).

The Fall 2017 initiation was held on Thursday, December 7, 2017 and welcomed 15 members to PTS. The Spring 2018 initiation was held on Thursday, May 10, 2018 and welcomed 7 members of PTS.

B. Chapter Activity

Since 2017, the chapter started using a system called "Dog Bones." In order for members to maintain membership in the chapter, they are required to earn 50 Dog Bones every semester. This points system is defined as the following:

Social events are worth 20 dog bones.

MESA volunteer events count as 30 points for a 4-hour shift, and 50 for a 7-8-hour shift.

During the Fall 2017 semester a resume and LinkedIn workshop was hosted by PTS FS Beta Gamma chapter. Before resumes were submitted, this workshop provided insight on everything from resume presentation to Linkedin formatting. MESA Saturday Academies are held one to two times during each semester and are available to be worked in 4 or 8 hour shifts. Volunteers in the program, who are all members of campus engineering honor societies, help lead competitive science and engineering activities for middle school and high school students. In spring 2018, we co-hosted a meet-and greet banquet with industry professionals (hosted with the

Society of Women Engineers). We co-hosted a campus-wide pie-eating event for Pi Day in conjunction with Tau Beta Pi. In April, Broomball was hosted as a social event. Tau Beta Pi was invited to attend to compete with Pi Tau Sigma at an ice rink that was rented out for an entire evening. Every semester, PTS hosts a scavenger hunt social event to give potential initiates a chance to get to know members, officers, and other initiates as they compete to solve riddles and find various objects around a 300 acre park. After socializing, they are given an hour to find as many pieces as possible. The as-cast PTS keys and plaques are distributed to potential initiates at the conclusion of the scavenger hunt. This event is mandatory for all potential initiates. The finished plaques are turned in on the day of initiation. Toward the end of the semester, a key-polishing event is held in an effort to give tips on how initiates can produce the shiniest key.

Top: Broomball held April 2018
Bottom Left: National PTS 2018 Convention held in Miami - February 2018
Bottom Right: Spring 2018 scavenger hunt at Woodward Park in Fresno