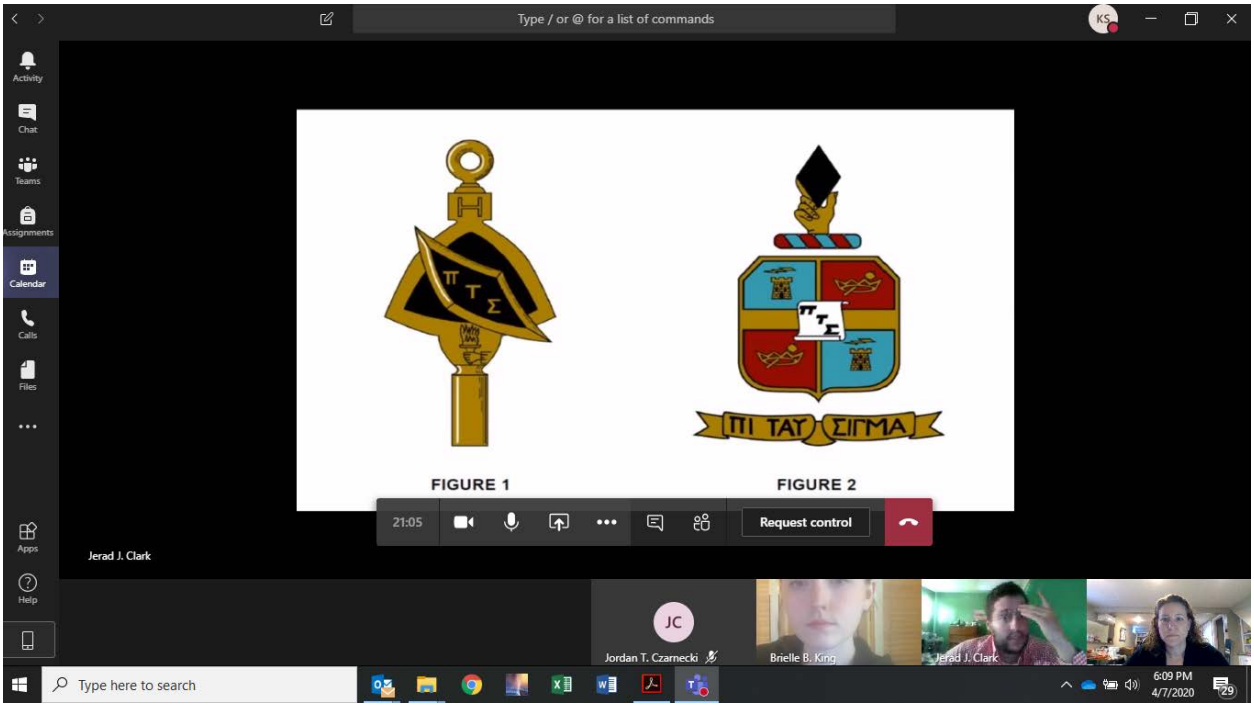
2019-2020

Norwich Beta Kappa

A. Initiations

Initiations began with the selection of the initiates from the junior class based on their cumulative GPA and academic standing. These are viewed as of current from the time of initiation. Initiates must have a GPA above a 3.25/4.0 and be in the top 25% of their academic class. Once the names were received form the Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department at Norwich University, the initiates were emailed a set location and time for a meeting. At this meeting the initiates were given a Pi Tau Sigma Initiate Exam and their bent. Initiates were given approximately a week to shine their bents and complete the exam. The exam serves the purpose of introducing the initiates to the society. The bents and the exams had to be turned into the secretary of the engineering department for review by the officers of the chapter. A completed exam can be seen in Section C of the report. Once this was completed and the initiates were approved by the officers, a date was set for the initiation. During the initiation, initiates are told to meet at a location and instructed to assemble in a single file line in alphabetical order. They are then led into a dimly lit room where the president, vice president, and treasurer are sitting at a table. They are instructed to sit facing the presidents table in alphabetical order, in the provided seats. Behind the presidents table is a projector with slides containing the Pi Tau Sigma emblem and bent that are described as the initiation proceedings go on. This is done for both visual and lighting purposes. The program is then read. Once the initiates are initiated, they line up to sign the book and receive their membership cards and certificates, as well as receive the Pi Tau Sigma handshake. The fall initiation was held in November. The spring induction was held virtually in April. Here is a picture from the spring induction ceremony:



B. Chapter Activities

The biggest outreach or activities week is usually during National Engineers Week, but due to COVID-19, the spring semester did not allow for these events to happen.

C. Norwich Beta Kappa Completed Exam ΠΤΣ Initiate Exam

1) In order to establish a closer bond of fellowship which will result in mutual benefit to those men and women in the study and in the profession of mechanical engineering, who by their academic or practical achievements, manifest a real interest and marked ability in their chosen work, this 3 constitution of the International Pi Tau Sigma Mechanical Engineering Honor Society was established.

2) Pi Tau Sigma was founded on March 16, 1915 at the University of Illinois.

3) 16 members are initiated into the Norwich Beta Kappa's official chapter.

4) The Greek characters are the initials of the words PAR-A-STA-TA TECH-NEE-KOO SCO-POO, which is literally translated to "Be Faithful, Skillful, and Strong".

5) The colors of the society are "Murray and azure".

6) The 2018 convention will be held at the University of Miami at Coral Gables, Florida.

7) In order to remain in good standing, each chapter must submit their annual report by the June 30th deadline, holding a fall initiation (August through December) and a spring initiation (January through June) and having both registered by the June 30th deadline, Attend the national convention, and participate in the voting of relevant matters like outstanding awards, new chapter applications, constitutional amendments, etc.

8) "The object of this organization shall be to encourage and recognize superior scholarship, to foster the high ideals of the engineering profession, to stimulate interest in coordinate departmental activities, to promote the mutual professional welfare of its members, and to develop in mechanical engineering students the attributes necessary for effective leadership civic responsibilities."

9) The colors of the society are "Murray and azure".

10) Professor Jeffrey Mountain.

11) The founder to Norwich Beta Kappa is Miss. Joana Athanasi.

12) The East Region has 64 chapters, the Central Region has 58 chapters, and the West Region has 53 chapters.

13) The criteria for membership are the students scholastic ranking must lie within the upper percentile of the table displayed in the Pi Tau Sigma Constitution. In addition students must have a GPA equal to or greater than 3.25/4.0. The maximum number of members from each class is also shown in the table.

14) In each emblem each symbol has its own meaning. Above the shield is a crest, consisting of a golden hand holding back a lozenge, representing the malignance of one's acts in accordance with honesty. In the middle of the shield is a scroll which represents learning. Across the scroll are the letters TAU PI SIGMA, translating to Be Faithful, Skillful, and Strong. A castle symbolizing reliability is situated on a background of azure, symbolizing loyalty and truth. The lightening represents the ability to conduct work fast and successfully. The crowned hammer on a background of Murray represents the respect of the engineering profession. Murray is the color of warm friendship. The figures appear in gold, signifying generosity and elevation of mind. Also in the emblem is also a flaming torch, signifying intelligence, a steel H-section, signifying dependability, and a Carnot Cycle, signifying efficiency.