PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2010 - 2011

North Carolina State Pi Alpha

A. Initiations

NC State Pi Alpha's selection process for Pi Tau Sigma initiates starts with identifying Mechanical Engineering juniors in the top 1/4 of their class and seniors in the top 1/3 of their class. After sending them personalized invitations congratulating them of their achievements, they are introduced to the requirements for becoming a member of Pi Tau Sigma. These requirements are completing the pledge packet, performing a service project, polishing a bent, and paying the lifetime dues. The pledge packet each initiate fills out consists of a pledge test with questions about Pi Tau Sigma, such as what are the current officers and official flower; professor interviews where they get to know four of their mechanical engineering professors better; and a scavenger hunt where initiates take pictures around the campus of significant mechanical engineering and Pi Tau Sigma items. The service project required usually consists of one roadside cleanup session we hold. If the initiate cannot attend one of these, than they can help with our tutoring program or another service project we approve.

One celebration event we hold each semester is a Bent Party. This is a chance for initiates to work on polishing their bents together and get advice and materials. We invite the current members to come as well to meet some of the new soon-to-be members. We call this a party because we provide food and drinks and play a few episodes of Top Gear for everyone to enjoy.

When all of the initiation requirements are completed, the initiates finally become new members. For the fall semester we had 17 new initiates and for the spring we had 9. We hold an initiation ceremony at the end of the spring semester for the new members from the fall and spring. This took place April 19th this year. This ceremony involves a nice dinner at a local restaurant where we pass out the membership cards and certificates, vote for the new officers and sing the beloved Thermo Song.

B. Chapter Activities

The first activity of the semester is a community service where we perform a roadside cleanup twice a semester. Our Pi Tau Sigma chapter has adopted a section of Avent Ferry Road and the members along with the new initiates spend part of a few Saturdays walking the road, picking up trash, and getting to know each other better. This particular section of the road runs right along Lake Johnson and the people enjoying the lake appreciate our efforts. Another service we perform is a tutoring program with ASME. Once a week an officer from each organization meet with students struggling in various mechanical engineering courses for a few hours to help with homework and questions they may have.

Another event we have each semester is a professor presentation. A professor in the MAE department talks about a project they are currently working on. This spring we had Dr. Ferguson present his research on System Design Optimization. It was very interesting and made me want to take his class in the future.

We also have a few social events throughout the year, other than the Bent Party. First, we had a bowling night in the fall where we rented out a few lanes in a nearby bowling alley and played a few games. In the spring, we had our 2nd Annual Howlin' Car and Bike Show. We had owners of some classic and modified cars and trucks come to show off their vehicles while spectators admired them and judges graded them. We provided lunch and sold t-shirts during the event. Finally, we awarded prizes for the winners in categories such as Best American and Shiniest Wheels. This was a great way to enjoy a Saturday and spread the word about mechanical engineering at NC State and PTS.

I attended the national convention this year in Chicago. I really enjoyed meeting other Pi Tau Sigma members from all over the nation and learning what traditions other chapters have. I really liked the idea of a having a PTS scholarship for current members and although we did not have the funds this year to do it, I hope it is something we can do in the future. At the convention, I participated in the Honors and Awards breakout session where we motioned for a revised award application and a new Best Chapter Advisor Award. I also voted on motions other groups came up with. I had a lot of fun touring the UIC labs and attending the career fair (where I scored an interview that led to my summer internship at Schlumberger!). Finally, I ended Sunday's breakfast by singing the Thermo Song and creating a new tradition at the national conventions!

C. Other

<u>Officers 2010 - 2011</u>
President: Luke Augspurger (Fall), Caitlin Winnike (Spring)
Vice President – Current Members: Eric Tester
Vice President – New Members: Yates Sikes
Treasurer: Chris Richardson
Secretary: Andy Camp
Webmaster: Brent Clay
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gregory D. Buckner