University of Texas at Arlington Texas Sigma Rho Annual Report 2018-2019

2018-2019, Austin Smith - President

During the fall 2018 semester, Texas Sigma Rho participated in both the Engineering Welcome Bash and the Explore Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering activities, in September 2018. The College of Engineering welcome bash is an event geared toward new and returning engineering students, and is used as a way to begin the semester in an exciting manner. It is a way for the College of Engineering to greet engineering students upon returning or arriving to campus for the semester. Texas Sigma Rho was represented at the event, providing an info table to answer questions prospective initiates may have about the fraternity. The Explore Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering activity is an event held to welcome new undergraduates to the program. Students are encouraged to come so that they may interface with professors, visit Engineering research and teaching labs, and join student organizations. This event in particular is invite-only and restricted to new students. Texas Sigma Rho was again well represented at this event by providing an info table to answer questions and talk to students about the fraternity. An initiation was held on December 4, 2018, and Texas Sigma Rho inducted seven new initiates. All of the initiates met the requirement of being in the top 25% of their academic class, only juniors and seniors. At the induction ceremony, a former Pi Tau Sigma alumni came and talked to the new initiates about how Pi Tau Sigma has helped her in her career. A welcome dinner was held the night of the induction. A makeup induction ceremony was held on December 13, 2018, and one more initiate was inducted.

The spring 2019 semester kicked off with a general body meeting in order to determine the events that the members wanted to do for that semester. The members wanted to see a mix of professional development, social events, and community service. Texas Sigma Rho was able to send three officers to the Pi Tau Sigma 2019 National Convention at Colorado State University on February 15-16. From the national convention, our officers were able to network with other Pi Tau Sigma chapters and ask what they did to get members involved. The University of Texas at Arlington has a career development center. In February, the chapter held a lunch and learn for the members. An associate from the career development center, came and gave a presentation about interview skills, and how to prepare for an interview, perform in an interview, and what to do after an interview. There were seven members present. Texas Sigma Rho participated in the University of Texas at Arlington College of Engineering E-Week. On February 21, Texas Sigma Rho provided an info table, and talked with students from the university and to high school students from the local high schools. Two game nights, in partnership with UTA's ASME chapter, were held in March and April for the members. A movie night was held on April 5, 2019 for the members. Texas Sigma Rho planned on participating in the Big Event on April 6, 2019, however this event was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Big Event is a day of community service, where students can volunteer at local agencies in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. An initiation was held on April 26, 2019, and Texas Sigma Rho inducted eleven new initiates. All of the initiates met the requirement of being in the top 25% of their academic class, only juniors and seniors. A welcome dinner was held the night of the induction. An election was held to define leadership positions for the coming year, and we are proud to announce that James McQuade was selected to succeed Austin Smith as President of Pi Tau Sigma Texas Sigma Rho. James is heading into his senior year at UTA, and is readily anticipating his fulfillment of this honorable role.