Pi Tau Sigma Annual Report

2014-2015

Central Florida Delta Sigma

This document outlines the initiation activities, chapter activities, and other events performed by the Central Florida Delta Sigma Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma at the University of Central Florida for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Contents

Initiations 3
Chapter Activities 4
Chapter Growth 4
Chapter Goals 5

Initiations

The Central Florida Delta Sigma chapter has continued its growth in the past twelve months. The fall induction ceremony was held on Wednesday, November 12th, 2014 and the chapter welcomed a total of 10 new members. The following spring induction ceremony was held on Tuesday, April 14th, 2015 when the chapter welcomed 9 new members and said farewell to 5 graduating senior class members.

The new candidates were invited to join the chapter based on the requirements documented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Inductee requirements

	Eligible Group	Maximum Active Members
First term Juniors	Upper 25%	17%
Last term Juniors	Upper 33%	25%
First term Seniors	Upper 35%	33%
Last term Seniors	Upper 35% (upon approval process)	33%

Each qualified candidate was contacted through UCF's knight's email, inviting them to attend an initial information session about Pi Tau Sigma, its objectives, and activities for the current semester. Sessions were held in both the fall and the spring semesters to encourage development of the club and increase awareness in the qualified student body of the benefits of joining Pi Tau Sigma. The sessions included officer introductions and leadership profile presentations that familiarized organization of the club to the initiates. Sections II and IV of the chapter manual were also read to introduce the organization's ideals and functions to the potential candidates.

Upon showing an interest in joining, after attending the information session, the following requirements were placed upon the individuals to pursue membership:

1. Bi-weekly meeting attendance required for all initiates
    a. One excused absence accepted
    b. Additional excused absences upon approval from leadership
2. Attendance to at least one of the two social activities each semester
3. Two hours of volunteer service for fundraising events
4. Learn all active members' names

Upon completion of these activities to the satisfaction of the leadership, the initiates were formally invited to participate in the induction ceremony. The induction ceremony was a formal event requiring professional dress and etiquette. The ceremony was held in a meeting room with low lighting and the bent was prominently displayed via the projector, illuminating the room with gold and azure. The President and Vice President stood behind the podium as they guided the new initiates through the induction ceremony according to the rituals of Pi Tau Sigma as

outlined in the organization's documentation. The initiates were congratulated and were made aware of the honor of becoming members of Pi Tau Sigma. This was followed by the first handshake and bent ceremony where the officers passed on the secret handshake and distributed the bents to the new members.

Chapter Activities

The Central Florida Delta Sigma participated and organized several events throughout the year. Delta Sigma organized two chapter fundraising events, each held in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. The chapter was able to raise funds and awareness for the organization as well as build its credibility in the eyes of fellow engineering organizations. With participation from each member, the chapter displayed the values of Pi Tau Sigma in their involvement. The officers for the 2015-2016 year will be maintaining the policy of having office hours as well as providing a free tutoring service to fellow engineering students. Continuing the tradition from the previous year, Delta Sigma voted on the most effective professor and faculty advisor, and presented them with Professor and Advisor of the year awards respectively.

Following previous years of success, the Delta Sigma chapter continued with two team building events, the goal being continued growth of comradery and friendship between members and even alumni. By engaging in a daylong, voluntary team building activity, a definite sense of community was developed and strengthened over the course of the semester. At each semester's end, there was a noticeable communal bond between active members. Under the mentorship of the previous year's officers, the 2015-2016 officers have displayed enthusiasm for the chapter and an aspiration to see Delta Sigma grow.

Chapter Growth

As shown in the previous sections, Delta Sigma has continued its along its path to making its chapter more than just an honor society. The chapter has become an organization committed to Pi Tau Sigma's ideals and also acts as a community that is dedicated to academic excellence, shares their knowledge and skill with their fellow students, encourages friendship and fellowship between members, and pushes its members along their paths to success. Increased involvement among alumni has also helped with the mentorship of current members and an increased awareness of the engineering field among current members.

Delta Sigma will continue to seek other organizations to work and cooperate with to a more active involvement in the community. The chapter will also strive to develop more activities in the upcoming academic year. Finally, it will continue to create non-academic related events to promote community growth and friendship within the organization as well as with other organizations.

Delta Sigma has now used its office space granted in the previous year to allow for better organization among its officers and allow officers to be contacted by a member directly during the posted office hours instead of through the chapter's email. The office has also been used the chapter's free tutoring service for fellow engineering students.

Chapter Goals

Last year's goal was to establish an alumni chapter here to capture a picture of the continued successes of its alumni members and to provide resources and mentoring for the current members of Delta Sigma as well as to keep alumni involved in current Delta Sigma activities. Issues that became apparent later on were the current alumni either not having the available time or them no longer residing Central Florida. During this year's convention, the officers brainstormed with others on how to increase involvement of alumni in Delta Sigma. In the end, the officers reached out to alumni of the surrounding area and found much interest in involvement from the older alumni, instead of just the recent alumni. Next year's goal will be to reach out to all alumni that showed interest this year and establish their involvement with our chapter and then hopefully start on the alumni chapter for Central Florida.