Pi Tau Sigma Annual Report

2012-2013

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 2012-2013 academic year.

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Initiations

Central Florida Delta Sigma experienced quite the growth in active membership in the past twelve months. What started in the fall with an active membership of ten grew to an active membership of twenty-two. The fall initiation ceremony was held on Thursday, October 25th 2012 and we welcomed a total of four new members. The following spring initiations were held on Monday April 1st, 2013 when we welcomed 10 new members and said goodbye to the graduating senior class members.

These new inductees were invited to join 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 email, inviting them to join an initial information session about the organization, its goals and activities. These informational meetings were conducted both in the Fall and the Spring semesters to encourage growth and visibility for the club and make the qualified student body aware of the benefits of joining Pi Tau Sigma. These meetings included officer introductions and leadership profile presentations that introduced the leadership and organization of the club to the initiates. Articles II and IV of the chapter manual were also read to introduce the organization's function and objectives to the potential membership 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. Multiple absences upon approval from leadership
2. Two hours of volunteer service for fundraising events
3. Learn all active members' names

Upon completing these activities to the satisfaction of the leadership, the initiates were formally invited to join an 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 head table was occupied by the President and Vice President who guided the new initiates through the induction ceremony and extended to them congratulations and the honor of

becoming members of the organization. The ceremony was guided by the rituals of Pi Tau Sigma as outlined in the organization's documentation. 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

Central Florida Delta Sigma participated and organized several events during the year. This was another significant area of growth for the chapter when compared to last year's activities. In particular, Delta Sigma organized a chapter fundraising event, which was held in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. By doing so, the chapter was able to raise funds and awareness for the organization while building its credibility in the eyes of fellow engineering organizations. An even more ambitious joint event was being planned with the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). However, timing proved to be an issue and the event was put on hold until next semester. This still proved beneficial as it allowed Delta Sigma to liaison with other engineering groups and prepare for next year.

Another area of key interest was the internal growth of the organization. To foster a stronger sense of friendship and camaraderie, Delta Sigma participated in a team building activity. 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 semesters end, there was a palpable sense of friendship and community, which had successfully been transferred to the new officers for the 2013-2014 academic year. Under the mentorship of the previous year's officers, the 2013-2014 officers have displayed energy, enthusiasm, and a desire to see Delta Sigma grow.

Delta Sigma has taken the experience of 2012-2013 and has already begun developing activities for 2013-2014. In the fall, social activities with the other engineering organizations are in the works as well as outings at school sporting events. Last, but certainly not least, Delta Sigma has been in the process of acquiring a center where tutoring can be provided for their fellow engineering students. This is a high priority for Delta Sigma for the fall.

Chapter Growth

As discussed in the previous sections, Delta Sigma has experienced growth in multiple areas of the chapter. From enrollment, to activities, to planning for the fall, the members of UCF's Pi Tau Sigma chapter are laying the foundation for something more than just an honor society. They are laying the groundwork for an organization that is dedicated to academic excellence, sharing their knowledge and skill with their fellow students, developing a tight knit community that fosters friendship, and creating a drive to uphold all that Pi Tau Sigma represents.

Delta Sigma will continue to seek fellow engineering organizations to work with in the college of engineering. It 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 and friendship within the organization.

Chapter Goals

It is the goal of the chapter to establish an alumni chapter this next calendar year and encourage alumni to stay active in club events. A database of alumni has been created and, with guidance from senior members, will continue to grow. The intent of this project is 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.