
Alumni Notes

Winter Book Swap

by Jason Lee

At the beginning of every semester, our chapter of Tau Beta Pi hosts a Book Swap where College of Engineering students can sell and purchase books, often at prices significantly lower than those at campus bookstores and Amazon. The planning committee, comprised of two new actives and two returning actives, implemented a few changes for this semester. We enhanced communication with fellow engineers by sending out e-mails as early as three weeks prior to the event, allowing students ample time to plan ahead, and posted entertaining flyers featuring comic memes to draw attention.

We also advanced Book Swap on the technological front. We redesigned our website and database to utilize Google's cloud services, and we implemented a take-a-number system

(hosted by Google App Engine) to benefit the students who had to wait in extraordinarily long lines. This allowed us to effectively communicate inventory to prospective buyers, though we encountered unanticipated heavy loads that caused our website to crash for four hours.

Nevertheless, we were able to collect 25% more books than the previous semester (breaking a book swap record with 1006 books received) and the event allowed TBP to earn \$600 in profit. These earnings will be reinvested into Book Swap to improve on our infrastructure to allow us to be more accurate and fast for many more successful Book Swaps to come.



Bylaw Changes and New Resolutions

by Yvan A. Boucher, Graduate Student Advisor

At First Actives this past month, there were several changes made to the Mi-Gamma Bylaws, as well as two resolutions passed for the winter semester. The bylaw changes consisted primarily of updating the current bylaws to more closely follow current chapter practice, including election procedures and the make-up of the executive committee. However, there was one major change related to the meeting schedules and electing process. Starting this semester, there will be a third actives. This meeting will become the voting meeting on whether or not to initiate the electees. Second actives will be used to vote on the electees character as a referendum to Third Actives. These changes should help to not let electees get too far along the path before being rejected for character.

The first of the two resolutions that were passed create a third tier of achievement for members of the society. Members can now become active, distinguished active, or prestigious active through their involvement in the chapter. Prestigious active status is defined as attending all three voting meetings, two other meetings, completing a minimum of one electee interview, earning a leadership credit, and completing a total of 30 hours of combined social and service hours. The hours are capped at a total of 8 from social events, and 15 from any single service event. The achievement of 30 hours may be helped through the implementation of the second resolution, which creates a tiered leadership structure. This will allow the leaders of positions which require a larger amount of effort to earn service hours in addition to their leadership credit. There will be 4 tiers of leaders which will carry 0, 3, 8 and 15 service hours, respectively. The lowest tier will be filled with most of the service project chair positions. The second tier will hold the officers and the electee group leaders. The third tier will hold the service project leaders for large events such as cub scout day. The highest tier will be for the larger events, such as career fair committee chair and book swap chair. Members of the society will be able to appeal to the advisory board in order to be bumped to a higher leadership tier based on their effort in organizing an event.

MindSET Teacher Professional Development Workshop

by Sarang Supekar, Graduate Student Advisor

On December 9 last year, the chapter hosted its first MindSET Teacher Professional Development (TPD) workshop. Fifteen Ann Arbor Public Schools system elementary school teachers and education facilitators were present at the event, which was designed to demonstrate hands-on learning of mathematics and science concepts using inexpensive day-to-day items. The TPD modules have been developed by K-12 education academics working in conjunction with TBP at the University of Florida, and form a key instrument in achieving MindSET's vision of bridging the STEM achievement gap in an all-round manner by working with the students, teachers as well as parents. Carol Goehring, a high school mathematics teacher and MindSET TPD facilitator from Orlando, lead the TPD workshop with great zeal, and the event was very well received by its attendees. The workshop was hosted at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District premises in Ann Arbor with assistance from CoE's Office of Engineering Outreach and Engagement.

