

The Penn State Chapter of Material Advantage, currently comprised of 66 members, is dedicated to serving the local materials community, as well as society at large. Each year, programming is focused on five main areas: professional development, outreach, service, fundraising, and social events. This year an emphasis has been placed on increasing the amount of service and fundraising events sponsored by the Chapter.

Professional Development



Each year, the students in Material Advantage at Penn State travel to the MS&T Conference, where members present research, attend technical talks, and network with peers. This spring, Material Advantage is planning the first annual series of option exploration nights designed to help Materials Science and Engineering (MatSE) underclassmen choose an option from the four that are offered in the program: Metals, Ceramics, Polymers, and Electronic and Photonic Materials. Each night will have presentations by faculty members and industrial representatives as well as demonstrations

to help students get an idea of what each option encompasses.

Service

For the third year, The Penn State Chapter is sponsoring a team at Relay for Life with both undergraduate and graduate MatSE students. Trivia nights and a variety of other fundraisers are held throughout the year to raise money for worthy causes. In light of the recent tragedy in Haiti, the Chapter organized a drive for necessities. Over the course of a week, enough donations were gathered to fill a station wagon to the brim. A new service offered this year by the Penn State Chapter is peer tutoring, including exam cram sessions for major prerequisite classes as well as weekly office hours.



Outreach

The largest outreach event of the year is the Earth and Mineral Sciences Exposition, or EMEX. EMEX is an annual recruitment event sponsored by the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, which hosts the MatSE program. The Material Advantage chapter arranges a series of facility tours, demonstrations, and speakers designed to inform prospective students about the wonders of Materials Science and Engineering.

Fundraising



A variety of fundraising events are held each year to cover the cost of traveling to conferences, social events, and other expenses. A new event sponsored this year was a night out at a local restaurant where the chapter received a portion of the profits. There is also an ongoing soda sale, which has already raised over one hundred dollars with little time expended by the students. Finally, the Chapter is selling winning prints from a scientific image competition sponsored by the department.

Social Events

In addition to outreach and service events, the Chapter plans social activities to help the members of Material Advantage to become better acquainted. One event that was a hit this year was a bowling night, where twenty of the members competed for the highest score.

