



Upsilon Pi Epsilon
International Honor Society for the Computing and Information Disciplines



Connecticut Delta Chapter at the University of Bridgeport

2019 – 2020 Annual Report

1. The following served as the elected officers for the academic year 2019-2020

President:	Alaa Elsaka (<i>Fall 2019</i>), Patricio Flores (<i>Spring 2020</i>)
Vice President:	Patricio Flores (<i>Fall 2019</i>)
Secretary:	Shreyash Sharma
Treasurer:	Alexander Pagan
Historian:	Jasmine Alejo

2. Fall 2019 Activities of the Chapter

- a. Meetings: Oct28 & Nov19 (Exec Body) and Dec 2 (General Body)

We began the year with an executive body meeting on October 28, 2019 to set up the agenda for the year. Activities that were short-listed included continuation of "... Basics in an Hour" and career preparedness events (we had our first event as a panel discussion on 'Computer Programmer's Career' last year). Furthermore, there was strong support for continued participation in the Annual UPE Convention in the spring semester. Topics of discussion also included reviving 'Honor Society Coffee Hour', ongoing involvement in Engineering events like 'Engineers Day', 'Faculty Research Day' and 'ASEE Regional Conference' (these events were postponed in due course in light of the COVID-19 crisis); introducing a 'Resume Workshop' and other opportunities that were to come by. Collaboration with the IEEE, Computer Programming Club, and Robotics Club were also discussed. A chapter calendar of meetings and events was proposed and put together in the November meeting.

The December General Membership Meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather conditions.

b. SOE Student Organization Leadership Meeting, October 2019

The SOE Student Organization Leadership group was put together with the focus to discuss collaboration, joint promotion of activities and common concerns among the different SOE student organizations. Prof. Tibrewal represented our chapter.

c. ACM Inroads article and UPE home page, December 2019

Our cake from the 30th induction ceremony was featured in the Dec 2019 issue of ACM Inroads as well as on the UPE home page (<http://upe.acm.org/index.html>).

3. Spring 2020 Activities of the Chapter

a. Meetings: Jan 27, Feb 24 & Apr Fridays (Exec Body) and Feb 10 and Mar 6 (General Body)

The beginning of the spring semester brought a change in the chapter leadership. The Chapter President had to apply for a 'Leave of Absence' and according to the Chapter Constitution, the Vice-President took over the responsibilities. The Executive meetings were primarily used for preparing for the upcoming chapter events while the General Body meetings took form of the chapter events in the first half of the semester. In the second half we found ourselves in the midst of unprecedented times with the COVID-19 crisis. However, it didn't take the officers long to commit to host a virtual initiation ceremony and all Friday evenings in April and early May were devoted to preparing for our first virtual initiation ceremony the details of which follow later in the report.

b. Resume Workshop, February 2020

'How to Get Hired - A Resume Workshop' was hosted by the UB UPE chapter on Feb 6, 2020. This event was planned to help the students get ready for the upcoming 'Career and Internship Fair' for the School of Engineering and School of Business. David Bouton, Assistant Director of Internship & Experiential Learning from Career Development conducted the workshop.

The session was a hands-on session and the students were strongly encouraged to bring their resumes. The event was limited to 25 attendees on a first-come-first-serve basis for a quality experience and one-on-one time with the speaker. The event included a free raffle. We ended up running the session with 28 students. The group consisted of both undergraduate and graduate students from the School of Engineering and the School of Business. The majors represented were those of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering and Marketing. Mr. Bretton Marks from Electrical Engineering won the raffle. Special thanks to Career Development for lending their expertise as well as space and Prof. Elleithy to help spread the word about the event.

c. “... Basics in an Hour” Event, February 2020

Hosted by the UB UPE chapter, the “... Basics in an Hour” Events are now in the fifth year of existence. We feel this nicely aligns with UPE’s goal of disseminating knowledge to the community.

The first event “Database Basics in an Hour” was hosted in Spring 2016. Since then the chapter has added “Cloud Computing Basics in an Hour”, “OPNET Basics in an Hour” and “Machine Learning and Data Mining Basics in an Hour” to its repertoire. These are hour long tutorial sessions conducted by UPE members. The sessions are typically limited to 25 students.

This year’s event of the series was held on Feb 19, 2020. Alexander Pagán, our chapter treasurer, facilitated this event. The session covered ‘Cybersecurity Basics’. This session was limited to 25 students to ensure quality hands-on experience. Light refreshments were served. The session ran at full capacity. We had 12 undergraduate and 13 graduate students (these included two PhD students). These were all School of Engineering students with different majors viz. Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Technology Management. Like the previous events, this session was also very well received. While the chapter executives were the ones who carried the heavier load of organization, faculty members of the chapter pitched in the organization. Special thanks to Prof. Elleithy to help spread the word about the event.

d. Participation in the 2020 Annual Convention of UPE held in Cyberspace, March 2020

The 2020 UPE Annual Convention was held in Cyberspace on March 6, 2020. Our chapter had submitted an application towards the Outstanding Chapter Award and was shortlisted to be among the chapters that were invited to present their chapter report during the convention. Furthermore, the UB UPE chapter was awarded the ‘Honorable Chapter Award’ for the third consecutive year. The award includes a cash prize of \$250 to the chapter. The chapter president, Mr. Patricio Flores was our official delegate and presented the chapter report during the convention. Other UPE members that attended the conference were Mr. Shreyash Sharma (Chapter Secretary), Mr. Alexander Pagán (Chapter Treasurer) and Prof. Abhilasha Tibrewal (Chapter Faculty Advisor). The event was open for all members to participate.

4. 31st Initiation Ceremony on May 15, 2020

The following thirteen candidates were inducted as part of the 31st initiation ceremonies:

Undergraduate

Mr. Neerbhaya S. J B Rana

Mr. Arsha Kardani

Mr. Ervin Lara

Mr. Tanyaradzwa Shammah Matasva

Ms. Genesis P Paz

Ms. Nikitha Nimeshika Ramisetty

Ms. Saara Vohra

Graduates

Ms. Zainab Altaweel

Mr. Amr Mohamed Elhady Attia

Ms. Janea Dixon

Mr. Edward J. Eisenberger Jr.

Mr. Goncalo Mendes

Mr. Scott Jameson

The induction to the UPE also entitles them to a year-long membership with ACM.

The 31st initiation ceremony was also our first virtual ceremony as a Zoom session given the unprecedented times with the COVID-19 pandemic. This involved adapting the induction script, layout as well as the conducting of the ceremony to tailor it to the new modality. What did not change was the warm collegiality that we so treasure!

Special thanks to Prof. Lee for capturing the ceremony through well timed screenshots.

We continued with our new tradition adopted last year where in the chapter pays the new member fees for one of the initiates. The name drawn this year was that of Ms. Zainab Altaweel!

5. 2019 UPE Scholarship Recipient:

Mr. Patricio X. Flores (GR)

UPE Scholarship Award (\$1,000)

Patricio was the recipient of the UPE Special Recognition Award in 2016 as an undergraduate student. Heartiest congratulations to Patricio!

With the new inductees, the UB chapter is 324 members strong!