

Salamander Fire Protection Engineering Honor Society

Gamma Chapter

Department of Fire Protection Engineering

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Overview

- • Introduction to Salamander
- • History of Salamander
- • Pledge Requirements of Salamander
- • Ceremony dates

Features of the Key



- Outline – conventional sprinkler head
- • Deflector – seven notches, one for each founding member
- • Salamander – an animal that does not fear fire and tries to combat it as an enemy

Salamander Symbolism

Legendary figure symbolic of the belief that:

Services and duties are not
performed in terms of rigid
and lifeless formula.

Salamander Motto

Dignus Vindice Nodus

Worthy of us who approach it, is the problem that
we must solve

Work worthy of the person,
A person worthy of the work

Membership Criteria

Selection for membership is a high honor

- – Academic excellence
- – Original investigation
- – Leadership

Chapters and Dates

Alpha – Illinois Institute of Technology (1922)

Beta – University of Maryland (1967)

Gamma – Worcester Polytechnic Institute (1984)

Salamander Membership

- Society – ~700 members
- Gamma Chapter – ~200+ members
- Honorable Membership

Prof. Fitzgerald #001

Prof. Barnett #051

Prof. Zalosh #056

Prof. Dembsey #113

Prof. Clougherty #145

Prof. Lucht #164

Brian Meacham #169

Gamma Chapter Officers

- President Joel Sipe
- Acting Treasurer Linda Malone
- Faculty Advisor Prof. Dembsey

History of Salamander

Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)

“On the island of Cyprus , where copper ore is smelted and accumulates for many days, animals are developed in the fire, somewhat larger than the big flies with short wings that go hopping and running through the fire. They die when removed from the fire. The possibility, however, for this creature, as it is said will extinguish the fire while passing through it.”

History of Salamander

Theophrastus (372-287 B.C.)

“If the power of cold is added to such a fluid, this cooperates toward the extinction of fire, and this property is said to be found in the salamander; for this creature is cold by its nature, and the fluid flowing out of its body is sticky, and at the same time contains such a juice that it penetrates forward... the animal’s slowness of motion is also of assistance; for the longer it carries the fire, the more it will contribute to its extinction.”

History of Salamander

Aelian

The salamander is an animal that does not fear fire and tries to combat it as an adversary. The animal looks like a lizard with a star-like design. It never comes out except during heavy rains. Such intense cold inheres this animal that by mere contact fire will be extinguished.

History of Salamander

Arabian Society

- Connected the salamander with the phoenix
- Believed it is only found in places where perpetual fire exists and it lays eggs and produces its young in fire

Images of the Salamander

Various cultures the salamander takes the form of

- – Lizard
- – Bird
- – Rodent

Because of its incombustible property, asbestos was long believed to be the wool of the salamander

Images of the Salamander

- Renaissance revived the concept of the salamander as the elemental spirit of fire
- 13th Century German poetry added that the salamander subsists on fire.
- Since the middle ages when it was believed that the salamander was bred and nourished in fire, the creature has always been placed in the midst of flames.

Salamander Society

- Established in Cairo, Egypt in the 1940s
- “To provide a meeting place for literary expatriates and a source of encouragement and assistance for amateurs of the arts.”

Armour Institute of Technology

- First formal Fire Protection Engineering program initiated in 1903
- First Baccalaureate degrees in 1906
- Stock insurance companies began a scholarship program in 1920

Salamander Honorary Fraternity

- Organized in 1922 at Armour Institute of Technology
- Charter members

C.W. Hauth 1923

R.O. Matson 1923

G.G. Brown 1923

J.C. Worley 1923

R.M. Beckwith 1924

Prof. J.B. Finnegan

O.L. Cox 1923

University of Maryland

- Fire Protection curriculum began in 1956 based on the success of the Illinois Institute of Technology
- In 1958 a scholarship program was established by stock insurance companies
- In 1966 UMd was invited to establish a chapter of Salamander, which was approved by a vote of the student chapter of SFPE

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

- Established a graduate program in FPE in 1979
- In 1984 Prof. David Lucht (WPI) and Prof. John Mertens (IIT) drafted constitutional changes which would allow membership of graduate students. The changes were approved by the membership of the Alpha and Beta chapters.

First Salamander Members at WPI

- Chartering ceremony on May 4, 1984 with students and alumni from the Alpha and Beta chapters in attendance
- Charter members of Gamma chapter
 - Prof. Robert Fitzgerald (Honorary), Richard Bielen, Richard Chutoransky, Akhil Das, David Demers, Peter Matthews, Howard Monson, Ronald Salig, Edward Sawyer, Robert Schifiliti

Pledge Requirements

1. Original Investigation and Leadership
2. Service

Original Investigation and Leadership Requirement

One of two options

- Essay demonstrating evidence of originality in investigating issues in FPE and leadership abilities
- Advocacy statement that attests to your originality in investigating FPE issues and leadership abilities signed by an Alumnus or Honorary Member of Salamander (see list of members at www.wpi.edu/Academics/Depts/Fire/Resources/Salamander)

Service Requirement

- Community service project related to FPE
- Possible Ideas:
 - Give presentation to ASME, ASCE, AIChE student chapter
 - Give presentation to your local high school
 - Develop fire practice program for a local animal shelter
 - Consult local fire department for other ideas in your community

Service Requirement

- E-mail Joel Sipe (jsipe@wpi.edu) with your service activity by 14 October 2005.
- Have an independent party e-mail Joel when you are finished to verify that the service has been completed.

Arrange and Give a Presentation

- If you arrange to give a talk to a group
 - Should be about Fire Protection Engineering NOT specifically WPI
 - Can be high school (*strongly recommended*), professional, or student chapters of ASME, ASCE, AIChE at WPI or at other colleges/universities
- If you prepare your own talk or use own materials
 - We have presentation or talk, handouts
 - Check out kit in progress
 - Give talk and get feedback
- Provide info/feedback to Pledgemaster (Joel Sipe)

Mark Your Calendars!

- Induction Ceremony

- Tuesday 15 November 2005 @ 6pm
- Higgins House

- Salamander Website

www.wpi.edu/Academics/Depts/Fire/Resources/Salamander