



The Distinguished Alumnus Award was established to recognize alumni who have demonstrated outstanding adherence to the ideals of Tau Beta Pi (integrity, breadth of interest, adaptability, and unselfish activity) and to fostering a spirit of liberal culture in our society. Recipients provide examples of excellence in both leadership and character to members of collegiate chapters.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

H. Vincent Poor, Ph.D.

FOR HIS OUTSTANDING achievements in teaching and his advancement of professional engineering, **Dr. H. Vincent Poor**, *Alabama Alpha '72*, is Tau Beta Pi's 2005 Distinguished Alumnus.

He is currently the George Van Ness Lothrop professor in engineering at Princeton University and is the founding director of the school's center for innovation in engineering education. He received his B.E.E. at Auburn University and earned the M.A. and Ph.D. in E.E.C.S. from Princeton. He taught for a time at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

He has excelled at teaching engineering subject matter and the technical, social, economic, and political aspects of technology, specifically, the dramatically expanding field of wireless communications, to students in the liberal arts.

Dr. Poor's popular undergraduate survey course titled "The Wireless Revolution" explains implications of wireless technology. Other schools eventually developed similar courses, catering to students from diverse academic fields. His graduate-level textbook, "An Introduction to Signal Detection and Estimation," is considered the definitive reference in this field.

Colleagues have lauded him for his immense technical breadth and depth. His contributions as founder of the center for innovation in engineering education have been recognized by the IEEE education medal, the university's SEAS distinguished teacher award, and numerous other awards. He received the National Science Foundation's director's award for distinguished teaching scholars and was selected to be a Guggenheim fellow. The 26



doctoral students he has supervised comprise a who's who of authorities in corporate and academic communications research.

He is recognized worldwide for his landmark research in the fields of robust statistical signal processing, multiuser detection, and non-Gaussian signal processing. Such work has opened new horizons in wireless communications and related fields.

His current research involves developing novel signal-reception techniques for emerging wireless communication systems. Challenges include overcoming such impairments as dispersion, fading, impulsive noise, changing consumer demands, and numerous technical complications. User security concerns further complicate the search for solutions. Although methods for

dealing with these issues separately have been examined, procedures must be developed to jointly accomplish these tasks, which is the ultimate goal of Dr. Poor's current research efforts.

He is a leading activist in professional societies, having held high offices in both the IEEE and the NAE. He has edited more than a dozen scientific and technical journals, including a number of Asian and European journals. He has helped organize more than 30 conferences and symposia throughout the world. He is the editor of *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*.

Dr. Poor has exemplified the ideals of Tau Beta Pi throughout his career. He has fostered a spirit of liberal culture through his extraordinary accomplishments in research, in service to the profession, and in engineering education.