



FOR RELEASE
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Tau Beta Pi Names Dr. Jan Davis, Dr. Eugene DeLoatch, & Dr. Michael Griffin, as 2016 Distinguished Alumni

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named the 2016 recipients of its Distinguished Alumnus Award. Now in its 20th year, the award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated adherence to the ideals of Tau Beta Pi (integrity, breadth of interest, adaptability, and unselfish activity) and to fostering a spirit of liberal culture on local, national, and international scales.

Nancy (Jan) Davis, Ph.D., P.E., *Alabama Alpha '77*; **Eugene M. DeLoatch**, Ph.D., *District of Columbia Alpha '59*; and **Michael D. Griffin**, Ph.D., *Maryland Beta '77*, are the 2016 Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumni and will be honored on October 8, 2016, at the 111th annual Convention to be held in San Diego, CA. Tau Beta Pi President J.P. Blackford will present a commemorative plaque, and a \$2,000 scholarship will be given in the name of each alumnus to a deserving student member of Tau Beta Pi.

Dr. Davis is vice president and deputy general manager of Jacobs Engineering and a former NASA astronaut. **Dr. DeLoatch** is founding dean of the Morgan State University School of Engineering and past chairman of the department of electrical engineering at Howard University. **Dr. Griffin** is chairman and CEO of the Schafer Corporation and previously served as Administrator of NASA.

The selection of these three eminent engineers as 2016 Distinguished Alumni recognizes their lifetime achievements and commitment to engineering education. Each has played a role

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in developing young minds, inspiring the next generation of engineers, and contributing to the advancement of the engineering profession. A short summary including biographical details, achievements, and work follows.

Dr. Davis earned bachelor's degrees in applied biology and mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and Auburn University, respectively. Her master's degree and Ph.D. are in mechanical engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She is vice president and deputy general manager of Jacobs Engineering and Science Services and Skills Augmentation Group at the Marshall Space Flight Center.

Dr. Davis' career has included other roles such as team leader responsible for the structural analysis and verification of the Hubble Space Telescope, NASA astronaut (a veteran of three space flights), and director of the human exploration and development of Space at NASA headquarters. She initially worked in the oil industry, then joined NASA as an aerospace engineer. While at NASA, she showcased her engineering and leadership skills contributing to some of NASA's most important projects.

Dr. Davis was then selected to join the NASA astronaut corps. During that time, she spent over 670 hours in space as a mission specialist, orbiting the Earth 325 times, and ultimately serving as payload commander of her last mission. Before retiring from NASA in 2005, Dr. Davis served as director of the flight projects directorate and director of safety and mission assurance, helping with the successful return to flight of the Space Shuttle.

Her other passions include volunteering for mission trips (Belize and Mississippi), supporting diversity and mentoring women, speaking on NASA related topics, and the Girl Scouts. Dr. Davis received the 2016 Christine Richard Girl Scouts Lifetime Achievement award, the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive, and NASA's Exceptional Service medal (twice). For establishing herself as one of the most respected individuals in the space flight community, she was elected to both the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame and the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame.

In recognition of her incredible career, devotion to the space community, and work as a role model promoting STEM, Dr. Davis is the ideal example of a well-rounded engineering professional.

Dr. DeLoatch holds B.S. degrees in mathematics and electrical engineering from Tougaloo College and Lafayette College, respectively. His master's and Ph.D. degrees in bioengineering were completed at the New York Polytechnic University, and he was initiated into Tau Beta Pi as an eminent engineer in 1977. He is founding dean of the School of Engineering at Morgan State University (MSU) in Baltimore, and will soon retire after more than 32 years in this role.

Prior to joining MSU, he spent nearly ten years as a faculty member at Howard University, where he rose to chairman of the department of electrical engineering. Soon after joining MSU, he sought the assistance of Howard's TBP Chapter (DC Alpha) in establishing the Maryland Epsilon Chapter of Tau Beta Pi in 1998.

A few of his outstanding contributions to engineering education and in promoting liberal culture include serving as president of the American Society for Engineering Education (2002-03). He remains the only African American to ever hold this position in ASEE. Dr. DeLoatch also co-founded the Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) Program, which started out providing opportunities to showcase and honor the achievements of minority engineers and

scientists. It has grown into an annual technical conference and de facto cultural event, with ample opportunities for networking for students and faculty from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and their colleagues.

In his career, Dr. DeLoatch has been a tireless educator, cultural icon, and leader in engineering. He was responsible for bringing the first doctoral program in the School of Engineering at Howard University. He has been awarded honorary doctorates from Lafayette College (PA) and Binghamton University (NY). A committed alumnus, he is a life member of the Tougaloo College Alumni Association, has served as National Alumni President, was named Alumnus of the Year (1981), and inducted into the first class of Alumni Hall of Fame (1992).

His dedication to engineering education and graduating African American engineers is unmatched. Dr. DeLoatch truly exemplifies what it means to be a role model through his efforts to nurture and encourage liberal culture. He is a deserving recipient of this honor for his impact on the engineering community.

Dr. Griffin, a true technical expert, holds seven academic degrees, including: a B.A. in physics (Johns Hopkins); four master's of science degrees in aerospace science, electrical engineering, applied physics, and civil engineering; a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering (Univ. of Maryland); and an MBA. He serves as chairman and CEO of the Schafer Corp.

His career includes academic, technical, and leadership positions culminating in his service as NASA Administrator (2005-09) as appointed by President George W. Bush. He always thirsts for knowledge and has proven his loyal dedication to his country through many years of service.

As the 11th Administrator of NASA, Dr. Griffin directed shuttle return-to-flight activities and developed a plan for completion of the International Space Station. He established the architecture for space shuttle replacement and human return to the Moon, and initiated the first development of commercial cargo and crew service to Earth's orbit. Some of his other projects include: acoustic propagation models for anti-submarine warfare programs, work on early Mars rovers, and as Deputy for Technology leading the nation's missile defense efforts.

Dr. Griffin is a lifelong proponent of professional societies and has been heavily involved at all levels with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). He was recognized with an Outstanding Young Engineer of the year award, became a Director at Large, and eventually led the institute as AIAA president (2012-14).

His depth and breadth of knowledge make him an asset at NASA and everywhere that he has worked. This has also made him a valuable teacher, having taught courses at Johns Hopkins Univ., Univ. of Maryland, George Washington Univ., and Univ. of Alabama at Huntsville. Dr. Griffin has published 26 technical papers and two books.

In addition, Dr. Griffin is an accomplished pilot who enjoys providing lessons to young people. He also works to support veterans' groups like the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Air Force Association. He is truly a great technical mind, a leader in the field of aerospace, and a Renaissance man who excels across academic and professional disciplines in academia, government, and industry promoting a liberal culture of learning and innovation through his words and actions.

The Association hereby recognizes Dr. Davis, Dr. DeLoatch, and Dr. Griffin, as the 2016 Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumni.

Tau Beta Pi is the Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 245 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 40 cities. It has initiated more than 574,000 members in its 131-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See <https://www.tbp.org/>)