

FOR RELEASE  
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## **Tau Beta Pi Announces 2011 Laureates**

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named five Laureates in the Association's annual program to recognize gifted engineering students who have excelled in areas beyond their technical majors.

The 2011 Tau Beta Pi Laureates are Rosary C.T. Abot, a 2011 chemical engineering graduate of the University of Notre Dame, cited for her diverse achievements; Zachary W. Carr, a 2011 graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology with a degree in biomedical engineering, cited for his achievements in athletics; Ann M. Gleason, a chemical engineering graduate of Iowa State University, cited for her achievements in athletics; Jonathan A. Gross, a computer engineering graduate of The University of Arizona, cited for his achievements in the arts; and Jennifer A. Johnson, a 2011 civil engineering graduate of Clemson University, cited for her diverse achievements. They join 74 other remarkable Tau Bates who have been named Laureates since 1982.

The Laureate Program exists to further Tau Beta Pi's second fundamental purpose as stated in the Association's Constitution: “. . . to foster a spirit of liberal culture in engineering colleges.” The primary concern of the Society is to recognize students of superior scholarship and exemplary character and to honor eminent practicing engineers. The Society also encourages excellence in engineering education and in the ethical practice of engineering.

The Laureates will be honored with other 2011 national award winners on October 29, 2011, at the 106th annual Convention to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Tau Beta Pi President Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., will present each with a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque. Their biographies follow:

(more)

ROSARY C. TORRALBA ABOT, *Indiana Gamma '11*, is a dual major in chemical engineering and philosophy at the University of Notre Dame.

Rosary has shown a broad range of interests as a volunteer in her community as well as her own academic career. She spent the 2008-09 school year at the University of Cambridge, where she participated as a coxswain on two college rowing teams.

She has also been a successful teacher and mentor. Rosary was a substitute teacher for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in San Francisco, a mentor to exchange students at Notre Dame, and a teacher's aide for eight weeks. Most recently, she spent the summer traveling in Mongolia, on a grant from Cambridge, teaching English.

On campus, she served as captain of the Mock Trial Association and led the team to awards at regional and invitational events. In May, Rosary was named a Lilly graduate fellow and received a stipend for three years of graduate study as well as summer conferences and mentorship.

ZACHARY W. CARR, *New Jersey Alpha '11*, is a biomedical engineering bachelor's and engineering management master's graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology.

Zach has been the starting goalkeeper for the varsity soccer team all four years of his college career. During that time he has led his team to four conference championships, four NCAA tournament appearances, and a trip to the NCAA finals in 2008.

His leadership off the field is as impressive as his school record of 55 career shutouts on the field. He has been recognized with back-to-back Academic All-American first team honors and male athlete of the year at Stevens. He was featured in *Sports Illustrated* for having the second longest streak in NCAA soccer history of consecutive shutouts (with 1,333 minutes).

While dedicated to soccer, Zach also made time to give back to the school through approximately 100 hours of tutoring per semester and involvement in other outreach activities in the community, such as serving dinners at the Hoboken Homeless Shelter.

ANN M. GLEASON, *Iowa Alpha '11*, is a chemical engineering graduate of Iowa State University.

Ann was the varsity goalie on the women's soccer team for three years (2006-09). She finished her career as ISU's all-time leader in career wins, shutouts, and saves. She also led the Big 12 Conference in saves for two years, and was named to the Academic All-Big 12 first team her sophomore through senior years.

Ann has contributed to the local community as a volunteer with local youth girls' soccer teams and with the Special Olympics of Iowa. In the classroom, she has been a supplemental instruction leader for an upper level chemical engineering course in the department of chemical and biological engineering.

In 2009, she was recognized as an *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America second team; the first time any ISU Cyclone had received such an honor. In June, Ann began working with 3M as a process research engineer.

JONATHAN A. GROSS, *Arizona Alpha '11*, is a graduate of The University of Arizona with degrees in computer engineering and piano performance.

Since his first piano lesson at the age of seven, Jonathan has demonstrated an aptitude for the performing arts and a dedication to promoting classical music to everyone he encounters.

He uses his piano skills to bring together his two educational worlds and has been able to attract a large number of his engineering peers to his piano recitals. He has volunteered many hours preparing for and performing at numerous events within the college of engineering.

In addition, he also serves as a university engineering ambassador and is well recognized in the engineering community for his embodiment of this role. Jonathan has done undergraduate research at the reconfigurable computing laboratory, including methods for solving partial differential equations using graphics processing unit.

He served as the Cataloger for Arizona Alpha during his junior year.

JENNIFER A. JOHNSON, *South Carolina Alpha '11*, is a civil engineering graduate of Clemson University.

Jennifer has a well-established history of service that began in high school and has continued to grow and diversify through college.

She served as an officer in many campus organizations, including Chi Epsilon (the Civil Engineering Honor Society), the Society of Women Engineers, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and Tau Beta Pi.

Jennifer also volunteered as a member of the advisory board for the Clemson Transportation Continuity Council to address campus and community transportation needs. She was head counselor for the Women in Science and Engineering's summer camp and its project leader for middle-school outreach events.

In addition to engineering and science related activities, she is a volunteer basketball coach for Daniel High School's varsity team and a volunteer for the Mason Dixon basketball tournament at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind.

She is a TBPi Fellow and Scholar who served as the President of South Carolina Alpha during 2010-11.

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**Tau Beta Pi, the world's largest engineering society, has initiated 525,000 members since it was founded in 1885. Headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, the Association has 237 active collegiate chapters and 20 active alumnus chapters throughout the country.**