

July 22, 2005

FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 1, 2005

CONTACT: Patricia McDaniel
865/546-4578

Tau Beta Pi Names Dr. H. Vincent Poor as 2005 Distinguished Alumnus

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named the 2005 winner of its Distinguished Alumnus Award. Now in its ninth year, the award was established to recognize 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.

Dr. H. Vincent Poor, *Alabama Alpha '72*, is the 2005 *Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumnus* and will be honored on October 6, 2005, at the 100th annual national Convention to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Tau Beta Pi President Matthew W. Ohland, Ph.D., will present a commemorative plaque, and a \$2,000 scholarship will be given in Dr. Poor's name to a deserving student member of Tau Beta Pi.

Dr. Poor's selection as 2005 Distinguished Alumnus is a testament to his outstanding achievements in teaching and his advancement of professional engineering. He is currently the George Van Ness Lothrop Professor in engineering at Princeton University and is the founding director of the Princeton center for innovation in engineering education. He received his B.E.E. and M.S. in electrical engineering at Auburn University and earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in electrical engineering and computer science from Princeton. He taught for 13 years at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign before returning to Princeton in 1992.

(more)

He has excelled at teaching engineering subject matter to students in the liberal arts. Specifically, he used the dramatically expanding field of wireless communications to teach students from both engineering and the liberal arts about the technical, social, economic, and political aspects of technology.

Dr. Poor's popular undergraduate survey course titled "The Wireless Revolution" dealt with the social, economic, and political 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 Princeton 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.

An accomplished researcher, he is recognized worldwide for his landmark contributions in the fields of robust statistical signal processing, multi-user detection, and non-Gaussian signal processing, which have 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 constrain 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 dozens of conferences and symposia throughout the world. He is currently the editor of "IEEE Transactions on Information Theory."

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

Tau Beta Pi, the world's largest engineering society, has initiated 477,000 members since it was founded in 1885. Headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, the Association has 229 active collegiate chapters and 16 active alumnus chapters throughout the country.