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## **Tau Beta Pi Names Dr. Robert H. Foglesong as 2007 Distinguished Alumnus**

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named the 2007 winner of its Distinguished Alumnus Award. Now in its eleventh 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. Robert H. Foglesong**, *West Virginia Alpha '68*, president of Mississippi State University, is the *2007 Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumnus* and will be honored on October 13, 2007, at the 102nd annual national Convention to be held in Dearborn, Michigan. Tau Beta Pi President Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P. E., will present a commemorative plaque, and a \$2,000 scholarship will be given in Dr. Foglesong's name to a deserving student member of Tau Beta Pi.

Dr. Foglesong's selection as 2007 Distinguished Alumnus is a testament to his 33 years in public service during which he consistently demonstrated leadership with exceptional integrity, encouraging service above self, and fostering an attitude of excellence. These are the qualities that exemplify the ideals and capture the spirit of Tau Beta Pi. Dr. Foglesong was inducted into Tau Beta Pi by the University of West Virginia's West Virginia Alpha Chapter in 1966 and served as its President in 1967-68.

Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong is the current president of Mississippi State University, a nationally recognized land grant research university. There, he demands nothing short of excellence from both himself and others as he moves the faculty, staff, and students toward his vision of establishing the school as the most respected land-grant institution in the Southeast. Dr. Foglesong's reputation as a successful leader is maintained by his exemplary character, outstanding scholarship, and strong interpersonal and management skills.

A native of Williamson, West Virginia, Dr. Foglesong earned a B.S. (1968), M.S. (1969), and Ph.D. (1971) in chemical engineering from West Virginia University. Prior to becoming M.S.U.'s president in 2006, he served 34 years in the U.S. Air Force, earning his wings in 1973 at Columbus Air Force Base, MS, and attaining the rank of four-star General in 2001. In that position, he was in charge of planning for and support of 358,000 uniformed personnel and 158,000 civilian employees. He contributed to the strategic planning for an annual budget of \$90 billion.

Over the course of his distinguished military career, Dr. Foglesong worked in 19 countries, holding a number of leadership positions, including national security advisor at Cabinet and Presidential levels and a six-time commander, most recently of U.S. Air Forces in Europe. He accumulated 30 military awards for leadership and technical skills, including the Legion of Merit, and has 58 publications covering scientific, leadership, and military subjects. He holds an honorary doctorate of strategic intelligence. As a command pilot, he has more than 4,400 flying hours in fighter and training assignments. Dr. Foglesong retired from military service in 2006.

Dr. Foglesong has received a Presidential appointment to co-chair the United States-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs. He also serves as a director of Massey Energy, one of the largest producers of coal in the nation; a director of the Michael Baker Corp., an international energy and engineering firm; and an advisory board member of Israel Aerospace Industries International.

Dr. Foglesong has mentored and counseled numerous young people and working professionals, always encouraging service above self and fostering an attitude of excellence. He is the founder, president, and executive director of the nonprofit Appalachian Leadership and Education Foundation, which seeks to identify the future generation of leaders in the Appalachian region and to mentor and financially support their endeavors toward excellence in academics, leadership, and character. Believing that leadership development should extend “from the cradle to the chief’s office,” Dr. Foglesong has implemented leadership programs for high-school students and college freshmen, also creating a minor in leadership studies.

Tau Beta Pi recognizes not only outstanding scholarship, but also those who exhibit exemplary character. It is highly fitting that Tau Beta Pi honor Dr. Foglesong who observes that “More than anything else, the way you run your life determines your character, and for good leaders, good character is paramount.”

For his outstanding leadership accomplishments and demonstration of exceptional character in both his military and civilian careers, The Association hereby recognizes Dr. Robert H. Foglesong as the 2007 Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumnus.

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**Tau Beta Pi, the world’s largest engineering society, has initiated 492,000 members since it was founded in 1885. Headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, the Association has 232 active collegiate chapters and 16 active alumnus chapters throughout the country.**