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Tau Beta Pi Announces Robert Andrew Shelley as 2007 Laureate

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

The 2007 Tau Beta Pi Laureate is Robert Andrew Shelley, a mechanical engineering student who graduated from the University of Missouri-Rolla in May 2007. In addition to his outstanding scholastic accomplishments, Shelley is lauded for excellence in athletics as a competitive swimmer. He joins 59 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.

Shelley will be honored with other 2007 national award winners on October 13, 2007, at the 102nd annual Convention to be held in Dearborn, Michigan. Tau Beta Pi President Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., will present him with a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque. His biography follows:

Robert Andrew Shelley (Andy) was nominated by the Missouri Beta Chapter of Tau Beta Pi at the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR) for his numerous collegiate achievements as a competitive swimmer, while also demonstrating excellence in academics and service to his campus community.

Andy began swimming competitively when he was seven years old and remained a life-long competitive swimmer, with a special talent for freestyle and backstroke events. He participated with various club teams throughout the country and received all-state recognition in Texas high school swimming, breaking his high school's record for the 100-yard backstroke. It was during high school that Andy recognized the value of being a team player, unselfishly setting

an example by working hard, staying positive, and putting the team first. As a collegiate athlete, he has continued to place the emphasis on the team's success, rather than on his performance in his individual race, becoming the best possible role model to other student athletes.

Blessed with natural talent and the discipline to train rigorously, Andy has accumulated numerous awards during his career and was a consistent scorer for the Miners at meets throughout the last four seasons. He is a five-time National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II All-American swimmer and was part of the 800-yard freestyle relay team that placed fourth at the 2007 national championships, setting a new school record. Andy finished fourth in the 200-freestyle and ninth in the 500 freestyle at the 2007 New South Conference Championships and was part of the 400 and 800 freestyle relay teams that posted sixth and fifth-place finishes at the 2006 conference meet. For the past three years he has been selected to the College Swimming Coaches Association of America's all-academic team, where his team was the top-ranked team in NCAA Division II throughout that span. Andy made the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America team in 2005 as a second-team selection.

Andy has met the demands of his sport, practicing every day from 5:45-7:15 a.m. and again from 3:15-5:15 p.m., while maintaining rigorous coursework. Through his hard work and discipline, Andy has excelled in both areas, maintaining a 3.84 grade point average in mechanical engineering. He was honored as a UMR scholar athlete for four consecutive years and was awarded an athletic scholarship and two trustees' scholarships. Andy was recently named as a recipient of a post-graduate scholarship awarded by the NCAA. To qualify, a student-athlete must have an overall grade point average of 3.2 (on a 4.0 scale) and must have performed with distinction as a member of a varsity team.

On campus, Andy's leadership capabilities both in and outside of the swimming arena have made him an outstanding role model for other students. He served on the student athlete advisory committee in 2003-07, acting as liaison between his team and the administration. He has gained the respect and admiration of the school's director of athletics who cites Andy's maturity and excellent communication skills as key components of being an exceptional representative for the school's entire student-athlete population. Andy supported the Make-A-Wish Foundation and worked to increase student attendance at other school sporting events.

Andy was inducted into Pi Tau Sigma national mechanical engineering honor society and Tau Beta Pi's Missouri Beta Chapter, serving in leadership positions of Publicist, Vice President, and President. As President, Andy volunteered the chapter to help organize and run the Missouri State World Youth in Science and Engineering competition. He also is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

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.