

Pennsylvania Alpha hosts 2010 gathering Tau Beta Pi's 105th Convention

THE FOURTH-LARGEST gathering of Tau Bates ever participated in the 105th Convention in King of Prussia, PA, October 7-9, 2010. These 506 members represented 227 collegiate chapters, six alumnus chapters, and the national organization. Of the total, 343 were students and 163 were alumni. Chapter advisors totaled 66, all invited and most partially reimbursed by Tau Beta Pi; more than 60 guests, recruiters, and consultants participated, enjoying Valley Forge, other nearby attractions, and banquets.

The Pennsylvania Alpha Chapter at Lehigh University was official host of the meeting. The Arrangements Chair was **K. "Dennis" Tung**, PA A '11, who, with President **Robert E. Asselin**, PA A '11, led the host committees in such duties as the campus visit, transportation, publicity, souvenirs, and hospitality.

Headquarters for the national meeting were at the Radisson Valley Forge. Four meals were enjoyed and all meetings were held in the Valley Forge Convention Center. Comprised of 37 booths hosted by recruiters from graduate engineering programs and corporations, a popular Recruiting Fair enhanced Thursday's activities.

The Convention formally opened in the Lehigh Ballroom on Thursday afternoon. It closed on Saturday night with the Initiation and Award Banquet in the Bucks Ballroom—followed by a casino party. Four business meetings were held, beginning with Thursday's session when the President's Report for the Executive Council was presented and end-



ing with the business actions on the final banquet program, when the 2010 Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumnus, Laureates, National Outstanding Advisor, McDonald Mentor, and national chapter award winners were honored.

Special Quasiquincentennial events included banquet presentations by **Dr. Lyle D. Feisel**, P.E., IA A '61, **Terry J. Hart**, PA A '68, NASA astronaut, and **Dr. Alton D. Romig**, PA A '75, Sandia Labs executive, and a one-man play, *Einstein the Man*, by Bill Landry.

Almost all business at Tau Beta Pi Conventions is handled by committees. Seven standing committees are called for in the Constitution, three *ad hoc* committees were appointed, and every collegiate chapter voting delegate served on a group.

Full details of the business meetings are recorded in the official minutes and in detail in the December 2010 BULLETIN (www.tbp.org). Major actions of the Convention are reported in this article.

One New Chapter Granted

In response to a petition received during 2009, a new collegiate chapter of Tau Beta Pi was granted by the Convention. The successful petitioner was the local engineering honor society at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL, which was represented at the Convention by a student officer and one advisor. Installation ceremonies are planned for Florida Iota on March 12, 2011. This will raise the number of active collegiate chapters to 237.

Chapter Programs & Practices

Understanding the complexity of Tau Beta Pi's financial status presents challenges to students, but the Chapter and



TOP: Bent rededicated: Lehigh engineering dean **Dr. S. David Wu**, PA A '81, with support from university president **Dr. Alice P. Gast**, CA A '80, unveils the Bent monument at its new site outside Asa Packard Hall.

ABOVE: Actor Bill Landry presents *Einstein the Man*.

2010 • NATIONAL • CONVENTION



Association Financial Affairs Committee democratically reviewed all financial matters—including the Executive Director's, Financial Review Committee, and auditor's reports—and concluded that the Association's financial health is in proper order.

The committee recommended, and the Convention adopted, specific allowable Convention expenses beyond those specified in the Bylaws for delegates to the 2011 meeting. The group worked with chapters to resolve debts and reviewed and accepted the Council's formal Trust Investment Policy without recommending any change.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee spent time dealing with a proposal to fine a chapter \$5 for failure to file the appropriate IRS 990 form and \$50 for failure to file the form for two consecutive years, and the Convention amended the Bylaws to do so, by the required three-fourths vote; these changes became effective immediately.

The Convention also adopted, by the required vote, an amendment to Constitution Art. III, Sec. 2(b) and (d), to allow multiple Officers and Directors appointed to a Convention committee to serve as advisors to that committee and to correct an error in the actual procedure of selecting, rather than electing, the Convention Chair; final approval of this change is subject to chapter ratification.

Finally, the Convention directed each chapter to specify in its chapter bylaws its method of determining junior and senior standing and to report compliance to Headquarters by April 1, 2011.

The Rituals Committee organized an impressive model initiation ceremony for the nine students, one alumnus, and one eminent engineer of Pennsylvania Alpha and one initiate for Indiana Alpha. The Convention approved one minor change in the Ritual.

The Award Committee worked long hours in reviewing the 2009-10 records of the chapters and in selecting the recipients of the R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter and the R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Awards. Announcement of these awards and the 16 honorees in the Chapter Performance Scholarship Program are reported in detail on pages 28-29.

2013 Convention

The 2010 Convention reviewed proposals from Iowa Alpha and Washington Delta and accepted the bid from Iowa Alpha to host the 2013 Convention in Ames. This recommen-

ation was reviewed by the Executive Council in December, and the decision by the Convention was upheld.

2010 Tau Beta Pi Laureates

The attendees enjoyed both meeting and hearing about the diverse achievements of Laureates **Christina L. Bonnington**, *Mississippi Beta '10*, **Jaclyn R. Kondratko**, *Indiana Delta '10*, **Elisabeth Linton**, *Utah Gamma '08*, **Travis W. Walker**, *South Dakota Alpha '08*, and **Stephanie N. Zastrow**, *Minnesota Alpha '11*. Vice President Solange C. Dao presented commemorative plaques and \$2,500 checks to each.

Tau Beta Pi-McDonald Mentor

The delegation met and learned about 2010 McDonald Mentor **Dr. Donna S. Reese**, *Mississippi Alpha '79*, associate dean for academics and administration at Mississippi State University's college of engineering, where she is an Advisor to Mississippi Alpha. Councillor Norman Pih presented her commemorative medallion, \$1,000 check, and another \$1,000 for her chapter.

National Outstanding Advisor

All were pleased to meet 2010 TBPI National Outstanding Advisor **Dr. Robert E. Efimba, P.E.**, *Massachusetts Beta '63*, an associate professor of civil engineering at Howard University. He has served as Chief Advisor to District of Columbia Alpha for 20 years and as an Advisor for nearly 33 years. Councillor Jonathan F.K. Earle presented \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque to Dr. Efimba and another \$1,000 for Howard University's engineering-school discretionary fund.

Distinguished Alumnus

The attendees enjoyed hearing the career accomplishments of 2010 Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumnus **Dr. Merl Baker, P.E.**, *Kentucky Alpha '45*. President Simonson presented a commemorative plaque to his son, and a TBPI scholarship of \$2,000 will be presented in his honor to a student this spring.

ABOVE: Delegates to the 2010 Convention.

RIGHT: Lawrence A. Jacobson, executive director of the National Society of Professional Engineers, shares some career advice for a Tau Beta Pi at the Recruiting Fair before the Convention opening. Corporate recruiters were eager to discuss possible jobs and internships with Tau Beta Pi.

2010-14 Executive Council Installed

The Executive Council of the Association for the 2010-14 term was informally installed during the final banquet program and will continue its responsibility for leadership of the Association.

Re-elected by the 2009 Convention, its members comprise the preceding 2006-10 Executive Council: President **Larry A. Simonson**, Ph.D., P.E., *SD A '69*, Vice President **Solange C. Dao**, P.E., *FL A '95*, and Councillors **Jonathan F.K. Earle**, Ph.D., P.E., *FL A '65*, **Jason A. Huggins**, P.E., *FL A '96*, and **Norman Pih**, *TN A '82*.

Other Business

The 105th Convention carefully handled all of the routine chores of the Society. The Chapter Development Program, including excellent Interactive Chapter Exchanges and Engineering Futures and District meetings, is reported in a separate article in THE BULLETIN. Many delegates expressed appreciation for the usefulness of the exchanges and the EF sessions.

The *ad hoc* Curriculum Review Committee examined appeals by two chapters to include three non-ABET/EAC curricula in their bylaws as eligible curricula for new members. The Convention granted two appeals for computer-science programs after extensive debate.

The *ad hoc* Chapter Website Committee made recommendations to improve collective chapter websites and also the official "Chapter Website" at *tbp.org*.

The *ad hoc* Chapter Advisor Committee reported progress being made through the Advisor Recruitment and Development Committee on the topics of advisor-training materials and the advisor selection process.

Alumnus chapter delegates met and discussed a pilot program in District 4 to increase alumnus interest and loyalty to the Society by welcoming graduates and providing opportunities to network with other Tau Bates and to continue activity in the Association.

The TBEI K-12 MindSET Program encouraged members to help and support math and science intervention programs. On Thursday night a dual-presentation was given by teacher and MindSET trainer Carol Goehring on the teacher-training aspect of the program and by Ashish

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Myles, *FL A '02*, on the development of MindSET modules.

Preparations were also made for participation in the USA Science & Engineering Festival. Ten more chapters expressed interest in starting MindSET projects, and the circuit-board module was taught to members of Maryland Beta and Maryland Delta.

Finally, the Resolutions Committee was responsible in thanking the host chapter members, officials, generous alumni and sponsors, award winners, Headquarters staff, volunteers, and others for all the good things that happened to Tau Beta Pi during the year and closing the Convention with an inspirational message to the delegates. The committee delivered a succinct inspirational thank-you to all, concluding as follows:

Finally, we appreciate all of you, the collegiate and alumnus chapter leaders, for your dedication and service to Tau Beta Pi throughout this year, especially for maintaining and improving the visibility and public image of the Association and its members.