

# THE Bulletin

OF Tau Beta Pi

December 2006

A Publication  
for the Collegiate  
Chapters

## 101st Convention Reports

**T**HE 101st Convention of Tau Beta Pi was held October 5-7, 2006, in Denver. The Colorado Beta Chapter at the University of Colorado at Boulder was official host of the second national meeting held in the state. The hundreds of out-of-town attendees were housed in the Renaissance Denver Hotel, where three business meetings were held and four meals were served.

A total of 463 members of Tau Beta Pi participated in the business of the Convention, the seventh-highest total ever. Of these, 326 were student voting and non-voting delegates and host-chapter members; 49 were chapter advisors; 65 were national officials, Convention leaders, and Engineering Futures Facilitators; four were alumnus chapter delegates; and 19 were alumnus visitors and petitioners. The

attendees represented 223 collegiate and five alumnus chapters. Most of the chapter advisors attended at the special invitation and partial expense of the national organization. In addition, at least 50 non-member petitioners, consultants, and guests attended some events.

Arrangements Chair Stacey D. Bagg, CO B '08, guided preparations for the Convention and its extensive logistics. She and chapter President Eric G. Wilson, CO B '08, managed such duties as technology, hospitality, publicity, transportation, souvenirs, and campus tours.

The three days were filled with business, committee, District and Engineering Futures meetings, Interactive Chapter Exchanges (ICE), and the model initiation.

Early on Thursday, a successful  
*(continued on next page)*



*Proud and loud—Executive Director Jim Froula, TN A '67, and Al Crisi, NY E '41, lead the 2006 Convention audience in the Tau Beta Pi Yell.*



## 101st National Convention “Passing the Gavel”

*Outgoing President Matthew W. Ohland, FL A '96, (right), formally passes the Tau Beta Pi gavel to Dr. Larry A. Simonson, SD A '69, in a mockup of an X-wing fighter from the movie Star Wars, located at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum in Denver.*

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Recruiting Fair was held with representatives from sponsoring companies and the graduate schools of engineering of universities listed on page 3. The Convention formally opened Thursday afternoon when President Matthew W. Ohland presented his annual report.

The Chapter Development Program of the Convention, including the District and Engineering Futures meetings and ICE seminars, is reported on page 7 in this issue. These informal sessions are extremely valuable benefits of the Convention, providing delegates the opportunity to exchange good ideas with other Tau Bates from all regions of the country. On Saturday afternoon during the homecoming football game on campus, a model initiation was conducted by a team of national officers and Rituals Committee members.

In all, four Convention business meetings were held; Ronald M. Hickling, *CA E '80*, the Executive Council-appointed permanent chair, presided and was assisted by James W. Johnson Jr., *NC A '77*, the Executive Council-appointed parliamentarian.

The Saturday initiation and awards banquet at the Wings Over the Rockies Museum brought the Convention to a festive conclusion, and the Resolutions Committee made its final report. The program included the presentation of Tau Beta Pi's 2006 national awards. Biographical sketches of Outstanding Advisor Robert E. Barnes, Ph.D., *NY N '84*; Distinguished Alumnus William A. Anders, *OH H '62*; McDonald Mentor Carter J. Kerk, Ph.D., P.E., *SD A '81*, and Laureate Devin T. Wiley, *AZ A '07*, appeared in the Fall 2006 BENT.

In Tau Beta Pi's usual method, Convention business is handled by committees, except for those few

items that emerge during the meetings as new business. Seven standing committees are called for by the Constitution, and two *ad hoc* groups were also appointed.

Every collegiate-chapter voting delegate served on a committee, and a national officer advisor opened each group's initial meeting on Thursday afternoon and then stood with other national officials for consultation. Each standing committee selected fellow students as chair, vice chair, and secretary to present reports, recommendations, and proposals to the entire Convention. The following reports summarize formal business.

#### Petitions

*Crystal L. VanMeveren, MI I, Chair.*  
After studying the petitions, catalogs,



CRYSTAL L. VANMEVEREN

and inspection reports and interviewing the petitioner's representatives, the group recommended that new chapters be established at two institutions. The schools and leaders are: San Francisco State University: Matthew T. Willman and Dr. A.S. Ed Cheng, *CA E '91*, advisor; and the United States Military Academy: William M. Meier and Dr. Peter D. Hanlon, *FL A '85*, advisor.

The Convention granted the petitions by overwhelming votes. New York Upsilon will be officially installed in February and California Alpha Gamma on March 10, 2007, which will raise the number of active collegiate chapters to 232.

#### Constitution and Bylaws

*Mehrdad Hosni, KS A, Chair.*

Two topics had been referred to the committee prior to the meeting for study and recommendations. The Convention adopted, by the required three-fourths vote, changes to Bylaw I, Sec. 1.05, to require Convention assessments to be payable within two weeks instead of 10 days and to Bylaw V, Sec. 5.01 (d), to allow chapters to suspend an elected officer for cause; these changes were effective immediately.

#### Curriculum Review (ad hoc)

*Stephen H. Finley, SC A, Chair.*

The committee diligently reviewed 34 appeals by 25 chapters to include non-ABET/EAC curricula as eligible. The Convention approved 28 programs and denied six.



STEPHEN H. FINLEY

#### Chapter/Association Financial Affairs

*David J. Schmidt, CA N, Chair.*

The group had been given the 2005-06 reports of the Association's auditor and Executive Director and the Society's budget for 2006-07. The committee reviewed the documents and concluded that Tau Beta Pi's financial health is excellent.

The committee recommended, and the Convention adopted, specific allowable Convention expenses beyond those specified in the Bylaws for delegates to the 2007 meeting and approved the payment of Convention expenses for non-voting delegates to be chosen by District Directors through the 2009 Convention, which will review cost effectiveness.

#### Awards

*Matthew J. Solomita, NJ A, Chair.*

The committee spent long hours evaluating the chapters and selecting the 2005-06 R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter and R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter and honorable mentions. The winners are reported elsewhere in this issue, and special plaques for the awardees were delivered to them after the Convention.

#### Rituals

*Nicholas G. Cooper, TX Z, Chair.*



Handshakes and opportunities abounded as Tau Bates and professional recruiters networked.

The Convention approved a simpler procedure to allow the Director of Rituals to modify the initiation kit design. On Saturday, delegates were favorably impressed by the model initiation for seven students of Colorado Beta, which the committee helped to organize.

#### Convention Site

*W. Blair Walden, TN A, Chair.*

This group reviewed invitations from



W. BLAIR WALDEN

California Lambda and Upsilon to co-host the 2008 Convention and bids from New Jersey Beta and from Massachusetts Beta to host the 2009

Convention. Invitations were accepted from the California chapters for 2008 and New Jersey Beta to host the 2009 event. These recommendations were reviewed and upheld later by the Executive Council.

#### Chapter Advisors (ad hoc)

*Dr. Robert E. Efumba, District of Columbia Alpha Chapter, Chair.*

The team studied ways to improve the development of advisors and made recommendations on various materials, seminars, and communications to

improve the skills, effectiveness, and knowledge of Chapter Advisors.

#### Resolutions

*Ranjith N. Raghunath, TX M, Chair.*

This group prepared the appropriate resolutions for Convention adoption. At the final banquet, Mr. Raghunath presented resolutions of thanks to the host chapter, officials, sponsors, alumni, and others, whose support had been gratefully received by Tau Beta Pi.



RANJITH N. RAGHUNATH

#### 2006-10 Council Installed

A highlight of the Convention was the formal installation of the Foundation Executive Council during the final banquet program. President Matthew W. Ohland and his Four Corners co-horts, who had faithfully served the 2002-06 term, turned over to incoming President Larry A. Simonson and his board the responsibility for leadership of the Association during the next four years. Elected by the 2005 Convention and attending Council meetings during the year, the Foundation team presented mementos to the retiring board.

## NEWEST BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS:

### TBPi/SunTrust Bank Student Loan Consolidation Program

As a result of a new partnership, SunTrust Bank is offering student loan consolidation interest rate reductions to Tau Beta Pi members and families.

Federal Student Loan Consolidation

- Obtain an APR as low as 7.25%
- Reduce interest rate by an additional 1.5% for on-time payments and automatic debit payments on loans greater than \$10,000.



Private student-loan consolidation interest rate reductions also available. For more information, visit [www.tbp.org/pages/ForMembers](http://www.tbp.org/pages/ForMembers) or call SunTrust at 877/855-9842.

#### OTHER DISCOUNTS OF INTEREST TO STUDENT MEMBERS AND FAMILIES:

**Kaplan AEC Education**—discounts for FE/PE exam preparation materials.

**My Home Benefits**—moving services and real estate.

**Princeton Review**—discounts for SAT, ACT, GRE, GMAT, LSAT, or MCAT.

## Take a Bow, Convention Donors!

Tau Beta Pi gratefully acknowledges the following contributors to the 2006 Convention:

#### Platinum Sponsors

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#### Major Sponsors

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## Convention

# \$7,500 in Scholarships

Fifteen chapters, each of which had won Chapter Project Awards for three consecutive years, won \$500 scholarships.

CHAPTER	INSTITUTION	DELEGATE
Alabama Epsilon	University of South Alabama	Roy V. Blanco
California Alpha	University of California, Berkeley	Eric S. Lew
California Psi	University of California, San Diego	Nadia G.S. Cheng
District of Col. Alpha	Howard University	Andrew C. Pierre
Florida Alpha	University of Florida	Alan J. Passman
Maryland Beta	University of Maryland	Timothy E. Lee
Michigan Gamma	University of Michigan	Elson Y. Liu
Michigan Epsilon	Wayne State University	Jason C. Mantey
Michigan Theta	Oakland University	Monica R. Glowski
Michigan Iota	University of Michigan-Dearborn	Crystal L. VanMeveren
New Mexico Gamma	New Mexico Inst. of Mining & Tech.	Darla J. Le Blanc
Ohio Beta	University of Cincinnati	Emily R. Schoettmer
Ohio Iota	Ohio Northern University	Jeremy L. Schroeder
Vermont Beta	Norwich University	Kyle E. Schoelz
Wyoming Alpha	University of Wyoming	Kari R. Fuller

## 2007 Spring Conference Schedule

The District Program provides a vital link between the national organization and individual chapters. Each year the Directors gather students for regional conferences to provide both retiring and new officers opportunities to discuss chapter operations and to socialize. All chapters are urged to elect new officers before their District conference. New and outgoing officers are encouraged to attend.

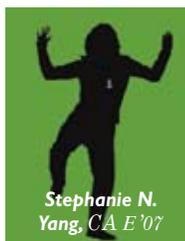
DISTRICT	LOCATION	DATE
1	Durham, NH	Feb. 16-17
2	Rochester, NY	Feb. 17-18
3	Philadelphia, PA	Feb. 9-10
4	College Park, MD	March 31
5	Miami, FL	April 14
6	Nashville, TN	Feb. 23-24
7	Dearborn, MI	April 14
8	Milwaukee, WI	April 14
9	Wichita, KS	March 2-3
10	Austin, TX	Feb. 9-10
11	Minneapolis, MN	March 30-31
12E	Colorado Springs, CO	Feb. 24
12W	Pocatello, ID	March 3
13	Tucson, AZ	Feb. 24
14	Spokane, WA	April 14
15	San Francisco, CA	April 14
16	San Diego, CA	April 14

### TBP "MONEY DANCE"

In a memorable Convention moment, Tau Bates poked good-natured fun at Headquarters staff, who reportedly break into dance when a sizeable donor check arrives. A large portion of those funds are given back as scholarships and fellowships to deserving Tau Bates.



Austin J. Bratton,  
TX Γ'07



Stephanie N.  
Yang, CA E'07



Sherry Jennings-  
King, TN A'93



Gabriel Trejo,  
TX Θ'07

## 69 Chapters Commended

Executive Director Jim Froula presented commendations to these chapters for punctual Headquarters reports in 2005-06:

Alabama Epsilon	Maryland Beta	Ohio Iota
Arizona Alpha	Michigan Alpha	Ohio Kappa
Arkansas Alpha	Michigan Beta	Ohio Lambda
California Alpha	Michigan Gamma	Ohio Mu
California Gamma	Michigan Eta	Ohio Nu
California Epsilon	Michigan Theta	Oregon Gamma
California Mu	Michigan Iota	Pennsylvania Delta
California Tau	Michigan Kappa	Pennsylvania Epsilon
District of Columbia Alpha	Mississippi Alpha	Pennsylvania Theta
Florida Beta	Nevada Alpha	South Carolina Alpha
Florida Gamma	Nevada Beta	South Carolina Beta
Georgia Alpha	New Hampshire Alpha	South Dakota Alpha
Idaho Beta	New Mexico Alpha	Tennessee Alpha
Illinois Alpha	New Mexico Gamma	Tennessee Gamma
Illinois Beta	New York Gamma	Tennessee Zeta
Illinois Delta	New York Eta	Texas Theta
Illinois Zeta	New York Kappa	Virginia Beta
Indiana Gamma	New York Sigma	Washington Gamma
Indiana Delta	New York Tau	Washington Delta
Indiana Epsilon	North Dakota Beta	West Virginia Beta
Iowa Beta	Ohio Beta	Wisconsin Beta
Kansas Gamma	Ohio Delta	Wisconsin Epsilon
Kentucky Beta	Ohio Eta	Wyoming Alpha

## Convention

# Outstanding Chapter: Maryland Beta

**M**aryland Beta at the University of Maryland was named the R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter for 2005-06 in a unanimous vote. Members have received a Secretary's Commendation eight of the last nine years and a Chapter Project Award for many, many, many years in a row.

This year they organized 35 projects including a blood drive, Earth Day activities, and EIT review sessions. One outstanding feature is the fact that they have spent more than 2,000 man-hours on projects in the past year alone. They have worked hard to achieve member participation with 90% of the members taking part in projects. The most notable project this chapter has completed was participation in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. This chapter organized two separate week-long trips to different areas that were severely affected by the hurricane. More impressive is the fact that students traveled hundreds of miles to provide this support.



Holly M. Schurte (left) and Timothy E. Lee (center) accept the R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award from Award Committee Chairman Matthew J. Solomita, New Jersey Alpha.

Maryland Beta officers who presided during the award-winning period were President Ashley M. Korzun, Vice President Jeffrey K. Marquart, Secretaries Deborah M. Sweet and Jennifer L. Wiley, and Treasurer Jeffrey Lee.

Honorable mentions were awarded to **Alabama Epsilon** at the University of Southern Alabama and **Michigan Gamma** at the University of Michigan.

# Most Improved Chapter: Arizona Alpha

**T**he R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award was established in 1971 to recognize major improvement in chapter development, including project work and reports to Headquarters.

The 2005-06 recipient is **Arizona Alpha** at the University of Arizona, which showed marked improvement in its Headquarters report grades. The number of projects completed by the chapter increased from 10 to 26 in a single year. Membership grew from 52 to 67 members.

Arizona Alpha officers who presided during the award-winning period were President Brianna M. Muhlenkamp, Vice President Jill S. Craven, Secretaries Jeffrey W. Goodhue and Asher D. Kells, and Treasurer Aaron M. Ireland.

Honorable Mention went to **Florida Gamma** at the University of South Florida, which improved in every area, including the successful completion of 40 projects.



Arizona Alpha President Jill S. Craven is congratulated by Award Committee Vice Chairman Ronald W. Davis III, Michigan Alpha.

## Convention

# 23 Chapter Project Awards

At the Colorado Convention, Executive Director Jim Froula presented Chapter Project Awards for outstanding performance during 2005-06 to the following 23 chapters:

Ray Thompson, TBPI

CHAPTER / INSTITUTION	NO. PROJECTS	CHAPTER / INSTITUTION	NO. PROJECTS
AL E University of South Alabama • Held an Order of the Engineer ceremony • Judged at Mobile Regional Science Fair	19	MI E Wayne State University • Had electees make rubbing of 'Faith of the Engineer' • Collected nearly 200 cans of food	30
CA A University of California, Berkeley • Organized and presented a class 'Berkeley Engineering: The Survival Guide' for new students • Hiked to the 'Big C'	39	MI Θ Oakland University • Helped teach middle & high-school students as part of DAPCEP • Entertained and mentored at a local daycare	11
CA Ψ University of California, San Diego • Helped clean the beach • Reached out to elementary-school children	22	MI I University of Michigan-Dearborn • Organized and conducted regional Science Olympiad • Helped Habitat for Humanity	25
DC A Howard University • Celebrated the 50th anniversary • Held dinner program for homeless women	9	MI K Western Michigan University • Held car-wash benefit for Katrina victims • Assisted middle-school kids with activities with electronic circuits	13
FL A University of Florida • Provided Gator engineering mentors • Designed clocks for Weil Hall Tower	34	NM Γ New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology • Collected money for Katrina victims • Hosted the D13 Spring Conference	12
FL Γ University of South Florida • Helped the Hope Childrens Home • Went trick or treating to collect canned food	14	OH B University of Cincinnati • Tutored math at Hughes High School • Planted daffodils and daylilies as part of Keep Cincinnati Beautiful	12
FL Z Florida Institute of Technology • Created & dedicated memorial to Columbia orbiter • Cleaned Coconut Point Park beach	17	OH I Ohio Northern University • Were 'Helping Hands at Christmas' for families in need • Presented scholarships to outstanding freshman and sophomores	21
IL A University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • Presented a dinner-etiquette seminar • Volunteered at local soup kitchen	28	PA B Pennsylvania State University • Adopted a highway • Ran (literally), collected sponsorship money, and supported a benefit dance marathon	15
IN A Purdue University • Tutored freshmen • Cleaned cages (and played with the animals) at the humane society shelter	11	VT B Norwich University • Helped with Vermont State Mathematics & Science Fair • Held a barbeque for engineering students	22
IN Δ Valparaiso University • Visited a local high school • Adopted a family	13	WA Δ Gonzaga University • Assisted a St. Mary's family center • Helped Habitat for Humanity	9
MDB University of Maryland @ College Park • Helped Katrina victims in Biloxi & New Orleans • Cleaned the woods in Greenbelt, MD	35	WY A University of Wyoming • Sponsored and coordinated engineering honors banquet • Rang bells for the Salvation Army	19
MI Γ University of Michigan • Helped "Recycle Ann Arbor" • Spent many hours tutoring fellow students	51		

## Chapter Development at the 101st Convention

## ICE: 'Interactive' Chapter Exchange

Each chapter develops at a different pace, with its own distinctive style. Officers and members working together help create this style. Chapters with a long history of consistent excellent performance have an easier time keeping the tradition going. Ample opportunities exist for members and initiates alike to contribute.

Chapter development is the reason that ICE meetings occupy much of the Friday activities at the Convention. And the reason these meetings are so popular lies in the first word: Interactive.

This year, the team of National Officials responsible for conducting the ICE sessions decided to use the skills of our Engineering Futures Facilitators as co-leaders of ICE. Students shared problems facing all chapters and worked together to develop solutions. This interaction took different forms ranging from a humorous mock-brainstorming session to an ICE Dating Game skit.

One ICE group comprised returning delegates who had participated in previous Convention ICE sessions. These veterans joined in a pilot session focusing on how to motivate more members to participate in chapter activities.

Chapter development occurred at other times during the Convention as well. Convention Chairman Ron Hickling and Parliamentarian Jim Johnson instructed delegates in the dos and don'ts of parliamentary procedure. Delegates were presented some of *Robert's Rules of Order*, a classic method for conducting orderly meetings. Chapter presidents were encouraged to learn and apply this system at home, and then pass it along to others.

Committees met and selected chairs, vice chairs, and

secretaries. These leaders gained valuable experience guiding their teams and presenting reports.

Non-voting delegates gained interpersonal, team-building, and meeting-management skills at Engineering Futures sessions.

District meetings gathered delegates in each of the 16 geographical regions to renew friendships and begin new ones.

A special presentation on leadership by Dr. Cameron H.G. Wright, LA Γ'83, followed dinner on Thursday. Developing effective leadership skills is vital to success in today's increasingly competitive world.

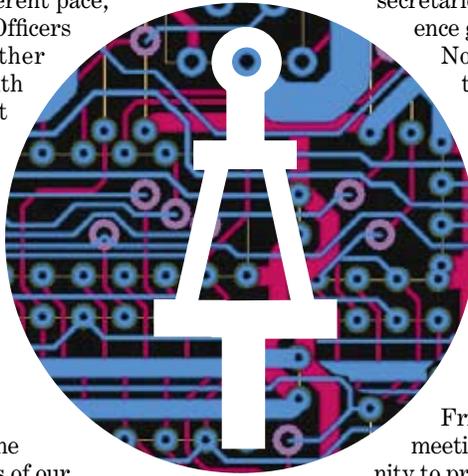
Committees met Thursday evening and Friday morning before the second business meeting. This meeting provided ample opportunity to practice *Robert's Rules of Order* as Tau Bates debated the many motions and amendments. An 'occasional' point of order could be heard from time to time.

After Friday's dinner, Sherry Jennings-King offered an instructive video presentation that asked and answered the question "what is philanthropy?" Delegates gained revealing insights into the inner workings of the Association as the Solid Brass Dancers entertained everyone with examples of how certain National Officers and staff do the 'money dance.'

Chapter advisors—priceless assets to all chapters—gathered in a committee of their own to decide how they might better serve the Society and their chapters.

The enduring strength of Tau Beta Pi is you, the members. You will carefully elect the new members who will then improve and strengthen the organization. Take time to interact with them. You never know what will happen.

—Roger E. Hawks  
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer



## POINT OF ORDER



ABOVE: When the point of order, "Does anybody have a napkin?", was raised, the interactions between Tau Bates and napkins became obvious



*The Bulletin of*  
**Tau Beta Pi**  
P.O. Box 2697  
Knoxville, TN 37901-2697

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## Important Deadlines

- **February 1** Fellowship Application
- **March 1** Scholarship Application
- **April 1** Outstanding Advisor, McDonald Mentor, Laureate, and Distinguished Alumnus Nominations
- **June 1** GIG Project Proposal
- **June 1** Convention Bid for 2009

### **THE Bulletin** **of Tau Beta Pi** (ISSN 8755-5670)

Vol. LXXX December 2006 No. 2

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Vice President: Solange C. Dao, P.E., Florida Alpha '95, Orlando, FL  
Councillor: Dr. Jonathan F.K. Earle, P.E., Florida Alpha '65, Gainesville, FL  
Councillor: Jason A. Huggins, P.E., Florida Alpha '96, Gulf Breeze, FL  
Councillor: Norman Pih, Tennessee Alpha '82, Flagstaff, AZ

## The Laureate Program



2006 Laureate **Devin T. Wiley (c)** is congratulated by 1986 Laureate and Vice President Ellen D. Styles (l) and 1996 Laureate and Councillor Alison L. Hu after the award banquet at the National Convention in Denver.

**E**xceptional Tau Bates are recognized annually at each Convention for their talents and contributions to society beyond the normal perimeters of engineering. This year, **Devin T. Wiley, AZ A '07**, was recognized for his outstanding musical accomplishments and diverse talents. He received a \$2,500 cash prize, a plaque, and publicity in THE BENT and on the web.

The Tau Beta Pi Laureate Program has been honoring collegiate members since 1982 and has recognized contributions of Tau Bates in the arts, athletics, diverse activities, and service. Chapters select nominees from their members; information on how to proceed is found in the President's Book (pp. C-29 & 30) and on the web at [tbp.org/chapters](http://tbp.org/chapters).

If an extraordinary member in your Chapter qualifies, submit a nomination package in triplicate to national Headquarters by April 1—to the attention of Secretary-Treasurer Froula.

*PHOTO CREDITS: All Convention photographs in this issue were taken by Raymond H. Thompson, TBPI Systems Administrator.*