

# THE Bulletin

OF Tau Beta Pi

December 2007

A Publication  
for the Collegiate  
Chapters

## 102nd Convention Reports

**T**HE 102nd Convention of Tau Beta Pi was held October 11-13, 2007, in Dearborn. The Michigan Iota Chapter at the University of Michigan-Dearborn was official host of the eighth national meeting held in the state. The hundreds of out-of-town attendees were housed in the Hyatt Regency Dearborn Hotel, where four business meetings were held and four meals were served.

A total of 530 members of Tau Beta Pi participated in the business of the Convention, the highest total ever. Of these, 376 were student voting and

non-voting delegates and host-chapter members; 59 were chapter advisors; 59 were national officials, Convention leaders, and Engineering Futures Facilitators; seven were alumnus chapter delegates; and 27 were alumnus visitors and petitioners. The attendees represented 226 collegiate and seven alumnus chapters. Chapter advisors attended at the special invitation and partial expense of the national organization. In addition, at least 70 non-member petitioners, consultants, and guests attended some events.

Arrangements Chair Michael R.

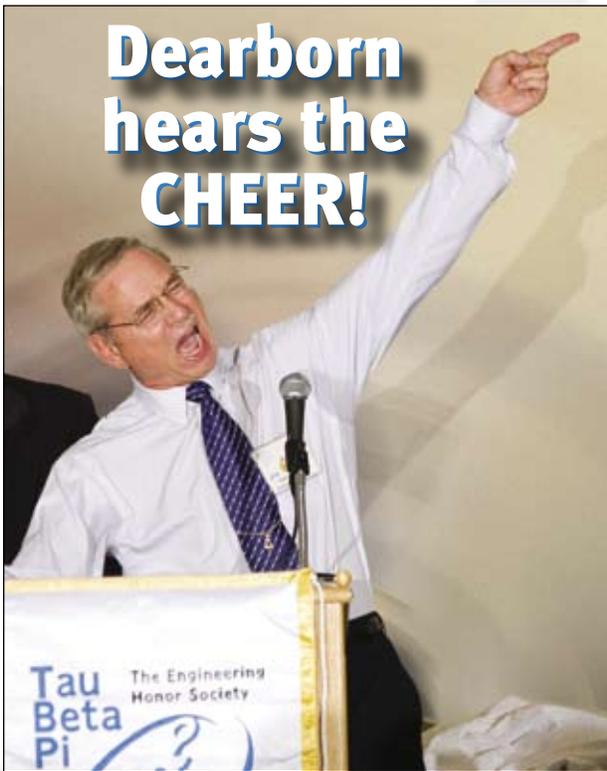
Velasco, *MI I'08*, guided preparations for the Convention and its extensive logistics. He and chapter President Christopher J. Semanson, *MI I'08*, managed such duties as technology, hospitality, publicity, transportation, souvenirs, and campus tours.

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 Recruiting Fair was held with representatives from sponsoring companies and the graduate



Executive Councillor **Dr. Jonathan F.K. Earle, P.E., FLA '65**, (center) leads a planning meeting for the Tau Beta Pi National K-12 Math & Science Initiative



Dearborn  
hears the  
**CHEER!**

Executive Director **Jim Froula**, *TN A '67*, leads the 2007 Convention audience in the traditionally boisterous Tau Beta Pi cheer, as seen on [Youtube.com](http://Youtube.com)

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schools of engineering of universities listed on page 3. The Convention formally opened Thursday afternoon when President Larry A. Simonson 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, 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 Dr. John R. Luchini, *MI I '71*, the Executive Council-appointed parliamentarian.

The Saturday Initiation and Awards Banquet in the Grand Ballroom of the hotel 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 2007 national awards. Biographical sketches of Outstanding Advisor Thomas E. Wade, Ph.D., *FL A '67*; Distinguished Alumnus Robert H. Foglesong, Ph.D., *WV A '68*; McDonald Mentor Thomas C. Sheahan, Ph.D., P.E., *NY M '81*, and Laureate Robert A. Shelley, *MO B '07*, appeared in the Fall 2007 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. Alumnus chapter delegates also met informally.

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

*Danaca S. Jordan, TX E, Chair.*

After studying the petitions, catalogs, 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: University of California, Santa Cruz: Erik Pasternak and Dr. Richard P. Hughey, *PA K '85*, advisor; and Miami University: Neal S. Birchfield and Dr. Douglas W. Coffin, *DE A '87*, advisor.

The Convention granted the petitions by overwhelming votes. California Alpha Delta will be officially



Miami University petitioners Neal S. Birchfield (R) and Dr. Douglas W. Coffin, *DE A '87*, were granted the Ohio Xi Chapter.



University of California, Santa Cruz, petitioners (from L to R) Andrew W. Hill, Andrew R. Parra, Erik Pasternak, Dr. Richard P. Hughey, *PA K '85*, and John B. Burr submitted successful documentation to establish a new chapter.

installed on February 9 and Ohio Xi on February 23, 2008, which will raise the number of active collegiate chapters to 234.

### Constitution and Bylaws

*Landon J. Berglee, MT B, 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 Constitution VIII, Sec. 3(e), to clarify the proof of eligibility of engineering graduate students; final approval of the change is subject to chapter ratification.



LANDON J. BERGLEE

### Curriculum Review (ad hoc)

*Katie Trieu, UT A, Chair.*

The committee diligently reviewed six appeals by six chapters to include non-ABET/EAC curricula as eligible. The Convention approved three programs and denied two; one was tabled.



KATIE TRIEU

### Chapter/Association Financial Affairs

*Jeffrey A. Simmons, MI I, Chair.*

The group had been given the 2006-07 reports of the Association's auditor and Executive Director and the Society's budget for 2007-08. The committee reviewed the documents and concluded that Tau Beta Pi's financial health is in good order.

The committee recommended, and the Convention adopted, specific allowable Convention expenses beyond those specified in the Bylaws for delegates to the 2008 meeting. The Convention approved an increase in the Convention assessment from \$5 to \$7 effective August 1, 2008.

### Awards

*Brendon J. Burley, PA B, Chair.*

The committee spent long hours evaluating the chapters and selecting the 2006-07 R.C. Matthews Out-



During the Recruiting Fair, which immediately preceded the opening of the 2007 National Convention, corporate recruiters were eager to discuss possible jobs and internships with Tau Bates.

standing Chapter and R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapters. The winners are reported on page 5 in this issue, and special plaques for the awardees were delivered to them after the Convention.

#### Rituals

*Karl A. Gast, IN E, Chair.*

After a lengthy discussion about



KARL A. GAST

the possible elimination of one word in the Ritual, the Convention eventually referred the issue to the 2008 Convention. On Saturday, delegates

were favorably impressed by the model initiation for eight students of Michigan Iota, which the committee helped to organize.

#### Convention Site

*Benjamin L. Langrill, MI E, Chair.*

This group reviewed the invitation from Pennsylvania Alpha to host the 2010 Convention during the 125th anniversary of Tau Beta Pi. The invitation was accepted. This recommendation was reviewed and upheld later by the Executive Council.



BENJAMIN L. LANGRILL

#### Chapter Advisors (ad hoc)

*Dr. Sally J. Steadman, Alabama Epsilon Chapter, Chair.*

The team reported that the Executive Council in June 2007 had chartered the Advisor Recruitment and Development Committee, which conducted workshops and feedback sessions Friday morning on the topics of online resources, FAQs—including the role of four advisors, and advisor recruitment. Her group recommended that the Council investigate having all new advisors (one per chapter maximum) attend the 2008 national Convention—with attention to financial implications—and develop an advisor program for spring conferences to be piloted in 2008.

#### Resolutions

*Michael A. Jonell, OH M, Chair.*

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

#### TBPi Member Discounts

Members of Tau Beta Pi may be eligible for an additional discount off their automobile insurance through a new partnership with GEICO.

This special member discount is eight percent in most states and is available to qualified members in 45 states and the District of Columbia. To take advantage of the discount, visit [www.tbp.org/pages/ForMembers](http://www.tbp.org/pages/ForMembers) and select the GEICO link under “Member Benefits.”

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## Convention

# \$8,500 in Scholarships

Seventeen 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	Harold Z. Eubanks
California Alpha	University of California, Berkeley	Kevin A. Davis
California Psi	University of California, San Diego	Madeline Chiu
District of Col. Alpha	Howard University	Lianna C. Samuel
Florida Alpha	University of Florida	Candice L. Daibes
Florida Gamma	University of South Florida	Peter J. Schrock
Indiana Delta	Valparaiso University	Peter T. Krenzke
Maryland Beta	University of Maryland	Carol K. Wong
Michigan Gamma	University of Michigan	Jeffrey A. Simmons
Michigan Epsilon	Wayne State University	Benjamin L. Langrill
Michigan Theta	Oakland University	Damien C. Sommer
Michigan Iota	University of Michigan-Dearborn	Christopher J. Semanson
New Mexico Gamma	New Mexico Inst. of Mining & Tech.	Katharine G. Dahm
Ohio Beta	University of Cincinnati	Colleen M. Pater
Ohio Iota	Ohio Northern University	Jonathan R. Salontay
Vermont Beta	Norwich University	Alexander G. Broulidakis
Wyoming Alpha	University of Wyoming	Nicholas R. Stuckert

## 2008 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	Boston, MA	Feb. 22-23
2	Hoboken, NJ	Feb. 16-17
3	Newark, DE	Feb. 8-9
4	Norfolk, VA	Mar. 29
5	Tampa, FL	Apr. 19
6	Birmingham, AL	Mar. 29
7	Dayton, OH	Apr. 5
8	Champaign, IL	Apr. 5
9	St. Louis, MO	Feb. 23
10	Baton Rouge, LA	Feb. 15-17
11	Minneapolis, MN	Apr. 4-5
12E	Golden, CO	Mar. 1
12W	Salt Lake City, UT	Mar. 1
13	Las Cruces, NM	Feb. 29-Mar. 1
14	Seattle, WA	Apr. 5
15	Fresno, CA	Apr. 26
16	Pasadena, CA	Apr. 5

## 50 Chapters Commended

Executive Director Jim Froula presented commendations to these chapters for punctual Headquarters reports in 2006-07:

Alabama Epsilon	Idaho Beta	Ohio Iota
Arkansas Alpha	Indiana Epsilon	Ohio Kappa
California Alpha	Kansas Alpha	Ohio Mu
California Epsilon	Kansas Gamma	Ohio Nu
California Iota	Massachusetts Delta	Oregon Gamma
California Lambda	Michigan Alpha	Texas Alpha
California Psi	Michigan Epsilon	Texas Iota
California Omega	Michigan Theta	Utah Alpha
Colorado Alpha	Michigan Kappa	Utah Gamma
Colorado Delta	Minnesota Beta	Vermont Alpha
Colorado Zeta	New Hampshire Alpha	Washington Beta
Connecticut Beta	New York Eta	Washington Gamma
Connecticut Gamma	New York Omicron	Wisconsin Alpha
Delaware Alpha	New York Tau	Wisconsin Delta
District of Columbia Beta	North Dakota Alpha	Wisconsin Epsilon
District of Columbia Gamma	North Dakota Beta	Wyoming Alpha
Florida Gamma	Ohio Eta	

## GIG Grant Dollars

Your chapter may receive up to \$750 to conduct a project involving civic affairs and public policy issues. The cash is available and waiting under Tau Beta Pi's Greater Interest in Government program, to involve students in their communities and the political process. California Alpha and Iowa Alpha were recognized at the 2007 Convention for their "Robotics Competition Mentorship" and "Building the Future" projects to be conducted this year.

Send your chapter's proposal to national Headquarters. Application guidelines are in Section C-IV of the President's Book on the website. The deadline is June 1. [See *Chapter Projects* at [www.tbp.org](http://www.tbp.org).]

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

## Convention

# Outstanding Chapter: California Psi

**C**alifornia Psi at the University of California, San Diego, was named the R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter for 2006-07.

The chapter distinguished itself as an active participant in and planner of events on the campus of UCSD and the surrounding community.

Members' community work included participating in a Multiple Sclerosis walk, donating food during Thanksgiving, cleaning a local beach, and volunteering during a public television fundraising drive. Members helped remove invasive plants from local natural areas and also helped raise money for Habitat for Humanity in Bolivia.

Particularly impressive was their outreach to younger students. They designed and presented modules that teach the fundamental principles of engineering to elementary and middle-school children. Their Sally Ride Festival is an annual event that informs 5th-8th grade girls about careers in science and engineering and foster support for

those girls among teachers and parents. The chapter participated in a national toy design competition for middle-school children.

California Psi members who presided during the award-winning period were President Nadia Gen San Cheng, Vice President Michael T. Lau, Secretary Bryan Lin, and Treasurer Madeline Chiu. Chief Advisor is Dr. Keiko K. Nomura.



*Madeline Chiu, President of California Psi, accepts the R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award from Award Committee Chair Brendon J. Burley, Pennsylvania Beta.*

# Most Improved Chapter: New York Tau

**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 2006-07 recipient is **New York Tau** at Binghamton University, which showed substantial improvements in the quality and variety of chapter projects, particularly in the area of community service. Specific community-oriented projects included repairing homes damaged by flooding in Binghamton and Conklin, NY. Chapter members volunteered to serve food at the Salvation Army soup kitchen, helped construct housing for a local family with Habitat for Humanity, and formed a team to participate at Relay for Life in support of finding a cure for cancer.

Furthermore, members improved and increased their participation in events and initiated 97 percent of their eligible candidates.

New York Tau members who presided during the award-winning period are President Nathan R. Medrek, Vice President Edward Musarskiy, Corresponding Secretary Timothy R. DePuy, and Treasurer Saugata Ghose.



*New York Tau President Anthony M. Olenik is congratulated by Award Committee Chair Brendon J. Burley, Pennsylvania Beta.*

## Convention

# 31 Chapter Project Awards

At the Dearborn Convention, Executive Director Jim Froula presented Chapter Project Awards for outstanding performance during 2006-07 to the following 31 chapters:

Ray Thompson, TBPI

CHAPTER / INSTITUTION	NO. PROJECTS	CHAPTER / INSTITUTION	NO. PROJECTS
AL E University of South Alabama	27	MI Θ Oakland University	14
• Helped middle school girls 'expand their horizons'		• Sponsored sophomore recognition night	
• Assisted university to conduct Science Olympiad		• Assisted Salem Housing Project to provide shelter	
CA A University of California, Berkeley	68	MI I University of Michigan-Dearborn	19
• Helped restore Alameda Wildlife Refuge		• Organized and conducted regional Science Olympiad	
• Packed food at Alameda Food Bank		• Adopted a family at Christmas	
CA Ψ University of California, San Diego	39	NMI Γ New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology	8
• Adopted a family at Thanksgiving		• Conducted Order of the Engineer ceremony	
• Encouraged girls to engineering at Sally Ride Festival		• Baked cookies for Valentine's Day	
CO A Colorado School of Mines	11	NY K University of Rochester	14
• Held a trebuchet competition		• Helped host first Lego® tournament	
• Conducted an ice-cream bridge challenge		• Participated in Relay for Life	
DC A Howard University	13	NY T Binghamton University	17
• Participated in CEACS Fair		• Helped rebuild Conklin, NY, after a flood	
• Assisted Daner program for homeless women		• Collected 35 pints of blood	
FL A University of Florida	32	ND A North Dakota State University	14
• Participated in GatorTrax		• Rang bells for the Salvation Army	
• Cleaned cars & cooked food for McDonald's House		• Held a Pi Mile Run (some ran 2 pi)	
FL Γ University of South Florida	28	OH A Case Western Reserve University	18
• Assisted in horses for the handicapped		• Advised freshmen about engineering majors	
• Held balloon-toss fundraiser		• Created an award to honor engineering profession	
IL A University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	13	OH B University of Cincinnati	9
• Worked with disabled at Swann Center		• Tutored at Carryville Catholic Elementary School	
• Participated in an etiquette dinner		• Organized 'Flying Pig' marathon scream team	
IN B Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	16	OH I Ohio Northern University	24
• Helped middle schoolers explore engineering		• Participated in local senior high-school career day	
• Assembled and tested 'Bikes for Tykes'		• Recycled old (retired) university computers	
IN Δ Valparaiso University	19	PA B Pennsylvania State University	18
• Held annual "Tired Engineers Day" banquet		• Helped a dance marathon raise several million dollars	
• Helped college to recruit engineering students		• Volunteered at Shaver's Creek children's Halloween festival	
IA A Iowa State University	21	TX A University of Texas at Austin	30
• Adopted a highway		• Helped children have a longhorn Halloween	
• Organized roller-coaster contest for 7-12th graders		• Cleaned and set up for 'Race for the Cure'	
LA Γ Louisiana Tech University	10	VT B Norwich University	16
• Built playground at local elementary school		• Held a dinner during engineering week	
• Recognized outstanding freshmen		• Participated in a chat room for university admissions	
MDB University of Maryland @ College Park	22	WA B Washington State University	8
• Helped Katrina victims in Biloxi & New Orleans		• Sold daffodils to benefit American Cancer Society	
• Hosted the District 4 Spring Conference		• Collected three cartloads of food for community action center	
MI A Michigan State University	24	WI B Marquette University	12
• Volunteered at Lansing City Rescue Mission		• Assisted Engineering w/o Borders in Katrina relief efforts	
• Cleaned up after sporting events to raise money		• Participated in Jingle Bell run for the Arthritis Foundation	
MI Γ University of Michigan	33	WY A University of Wyoming	21
• Taught elementary children how to make 'slime'		• Personally delivered invitation to eligible students	
• Judged science fair & helped 'Who stole the cookies'		• Organized a major engineering honors banquet	
MI E Wayne State University	24		
• Introduced freshman to TBPI and engineering			

## Chapter Development at the 102nd Convention

# Who wants to learn how to run a chapter?

This question set the tone for a special presentation at lunch on Friday. Chapter members were quizzed in a “Who Wants To Be A Millionaire” format by none other than “Millionaire” winner **Kevin P. Olmstead, P.E., Ph.D. Ohio Alpha '81**. Tau Bates were asked a series of membership-process questions in the style of the popular game show. Delegates enjoyed some of the humorous alternate answers, but always locked in the correct “final answer.”

Chapter development is the reason for the Interactive Chapter Exchange sessions that preceded Kevin’s presentation—and the reason these meetings are so popular lies in the first word: Interactive.

Teams of National Officials conducted these ICE sessions using the presentation skills of our Engineering Futures Facilitators. 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 Chair Ron Hickling and Parliamentarian John Luchini 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—as opposed to Bob’s re-



In 2001, Kevin Olmstead, (L) OH A '81, won \$2.18 million on the TV game show “Who Wants To Be a Millionaire.”

re-re-double revised 1887 Laws that the Resolutions Committee demonstrated perfectly. Chapter presidents were encouraged to learn and apply the original Robert’s version 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.

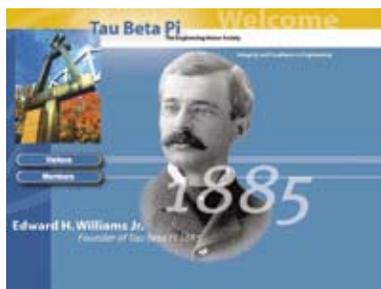
Committees met Thursday evening and Friday morning before the second business meeting. This meeting provided ample opportunity to practice the original *Robert’s Rules of Order* as Tau Bates debated the many motions and amendments. An “occasional” point of order could be heard echoing from time to time.

Chapter advisors are priceless assets to all chapters. These mentors 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 member. 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

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[www.tbp.org/pages/about/programs/district/DDdirectory.cfm](http://www.tbp.org/pages/about/programs/district/DDdirectory.cfm)

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The best place to order electee invitations, posters, honor cords, stoles, castings, and other necessary supplies.  
[www.tbp.org/Chapters/Resources/materials/MaterialsOrder.cfm](http://www.tbp.org/Chapters/Resources/materials/MaterialsOrder.cfm)

**Chapter Website**  
Find everything your Chapter could need. Also, this page is indispensable for filing your reports.  
[www.tbp.org/Chapters](http://www.tbp.org/Chapters)

**Tau Beta Pi Collegiate Chapters**  
Find links to chapters by their associated schools and find their contact information.  
[www.tbp.org/pages/chapters/CollegiateChapters.cfm](http://www.tbp.org/pages/chapters/CollegiateChapters.cfm)

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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 2011

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#### National Headquarters

508 Dougherty Engineering Building, UT  
P.O. Box 2697  
Knoxville, TN 37901-2697  
Telephone: 865/ 546-4578  
FAX: 865/ 546-4579  
Email: [tbp@tbp.org](mailto:tbp@tbp.org)  
[www.tbp.org](http://www.tbp.org)

Executive Director and Editor: James D. Froula, P.E., Tennessee Alpha '67  
Asst. Secretary-Treasurer: Roger E. Hawks, New York Lambda '75

#### Executive Council

President: Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., South Dakota Alpha '69, Rapid City, SD  
Vice President: Solange C. Dao, P.E., Florida Alpha '95, Maitland, FL  
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Councillor: Norman Pih, Tennessee Alpha '82, Flagstaff, AZ

## The Laureate Program



2007 Laureate **Robert A. Shelley** is congratulated by Vice President Solange C. Dao at Tau Beta Pi's National Convention in Dearborn, MI.

**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, **Robert A. Shelley, MO B '07**, was recognized for his outstanding accomplishments in intercollegiate swimming. He received a \$2,500 cash prize, a plaque, and national 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.