Executive Director’s Report

by James D. Froula, P.E., Tennessee Alpha ’67

SECRETARY’S REPORT

OVERALL, THE YEAR 2008-09 was quite good in most respects, although the investments in trust fell by a record amount. Excellent support by alumni through their volunteer efforts and generous contributions was impressive, while corporate and university financial support of the Convention and THE BENT remained high. TBPCONNECT, a popular online member-only community of 7,300 Tau Bates, tripled in size. The Fellowship Program won the American Society of Engineering Education Corporate Member Council’s 2009 Excellence in Engineering Education Collaboration Award. Record stipend totals were given to Scholars. The Financial Development Committee hosted receptions for alumni in eight cities. MindSET, the TBPI National K-12 Math & Science Program, received a major capital gift.

CHAPTERS
Inspection committees visited Western Kentucky University and Boise State University last fall, and petitions from the schools will be considered by the 2009 Convention. One petition for a new chapter was received, and an inspection team will visit the local engineering honor society at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in September. Tau Beta Pi has chartered 59 alumnus chapters; 17 are active.

Utah Alpha celebrated its 75th anniversary, Maryland Beta its 80th, and Minnesota Alpha its 100th. A total of 219 chapters (same as 2008) completed annual surveys that listed approximately 1,430 projects. A report on the contents of the survey has been published in the September 2009 issue of THE BULLETIN, available online.

MEMBERSHIP
The chapters initiated 8,087 members in 2008-09, up 3% and the highest total in five years. This included 7,708 undergraduates, 282 graduate students, 49 alumni, and 48 eminent engineers. Tau Beta Pi’s initiated membership on July 31, 2009, was 508,962, and an estimated 54,000 are deceased.

During the year, about 31,300 engineering students in the 234 Tau Beta Pi chapter schools were scholastically eligible for membership in the top one-fifth of their senior or the top eighth of their junior classes. About 41.6% of these were members of Tau Beta Pi at the close of the year, up from the previous year’s 39.3%. About 2.2% were not initiated, chiefly because of their chapters’ failure to hold spring ceremonies. The remaining 56% indicated a lack of interest in membership, down from 58% last year.

Tau Beta Pi chapter schools graduate about 91% of all B.S. engineers at 379 schools with ABET/EAC-accredited programs and the other five schools without an EAC-accredited program.

Thirty-three chapters held only one election and initiation of new members, and all others held two or more. Two chapters held initiation without approval. One member resigned during the year, and none was expelled.

CONVENTION
The 103rd Convention of Tau Beta Pi was held in October 2008 in Sacramento with California Lambda and Upsilon as hosts. The meeting was fully reported in THE BENT and THE BULLETIN. The 2009 Convention will be hosted by New Jersey Beta in East Brunswick. Pennsylvania Alpha will host the 2010 Convention in King of Prussia. The 2011 Convention will be hosted by the Indiana chapters in Indianapolis.

The 2008 Convention: made no change to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association; decided to use the standard reimbursement schedule for the 2009 Convention; accepted two appealed programs not accredited by ABET/EAC; extended the deadline until November 21, 2008, for invitations to host the 2011 Convention and delegated the Executive Council to choose; heard a status update on the K-12 MindSET Program; and developed documents to explain wording in the Ritual.

OFFICIALS

“Engineering is actually art.” The Kentucky Beta Chapter and the University of Louisville dedicated on April 24 the world’s most impressive monument to any honor society—named Integrity, made of polished black Indian granite. The words on the obverse facing the J.B. Speed School of Engineering quote the meaning of true integrity in the TBPI Eligibility Code. Uofl architect Geoffrey Atherton designed the 6.5-ton piece.
were held on Aug. 9, Oct. 22, and Dec. 6, 2008, and March 21 and June 12, 2009.

Tau Beta Pi has three appointed Directors with responsibilities in major areas of its interest: D.S. Pierre Jr., P.E., serves as Director of Fellowships, E.J. D’Avignon as Director of Rituals, and R.W. Pierce as Director of Engineering Futures (Dr. A.M. Bremer resigned in January). Members of the Fellowship Board include L.J. Holland*, P.E., Dr. S.L.R. Holl, and J.L. Jamieson (Dr. V.A. Marsocci, P.E., resigned in January). The Trust Advisory Committee, which directs investment activities of the corporate trustee, includes R.F. Smith (chair), H.W. Lange, and J.W. Johnson Jr.

(* service anniversary of 6 years)

District Directors on July 31, were:

District 1  Lynn B. Farrington, E.I., Selden J. Houghton, Matthew V. Paragano, Lauren J. Swett
District 2  Thomas A. Pinkham IV, Andrea J. Pinkus, Jason Ragan
District 3  Dr. Edward P. Gorkowski III, Alexander J. Rovnan
District 4  J.P. Blackford, Lisa C. Gascoigne, Russell L. Werneth
District 5  Curt G. Campbell, Rebecca A. Holcomb, Dr. Elizabeth A. Stephan
District 6  Christy M. Gearheart, Dee Anne Stirn, Ellen S. Styles***
District 8  Stacey L. Forkenr, Dr. Matthew W. Oland
District 9  Dr. Charles W. Caldwell, Robert C. Huck, Brenda A. Kramer
District 10  Jeremy N. Comardelle*, Daniel A. Kamat, Brandon M. Page
District 11  Dr. James C. Hill, Sherry D. Jennings-King
District 12  Wade A. Hull, Lindy M. Johnson, P.E., Tricia E. Schwaller
District 13  Jeffrey G. Dabling, Dr. Richard W. Mead****
District 14  Jeffrey A. Hester
District 15  Joseph R. Burnett, Scott E. Fable, Patrick D. Homen
District 16  Jason A. Corl, Scott V. Eckersall, Stacey H. Ross

(* service anniversary of 6 years)

Mission
To mark in a fitting manner those who have conferred honor upon their Alma Mater by distinguished scholarship and exemplary character as students in engineering, or by their attainments as alumni in the field of engineering.

Vision
Tau Beta Pi will be universally recognized as the premier honor society.

The International Headquarters staff, which is located on the Knoxville campus of the University of Tennessee, includes Executive Director J.D. Froula, P.E., Assistant Secretary-Treasurer R.E. Hawks, Director of Development P.B. McDaniel, and eight additional employees (see tbpi.org).

DISTRICT PROGRAM
Each District held at least one conference last year and conducted meetings during the 2008 Convention, and Directors visited many chapters. The Directors and the Council met in Portland, OR, in June 2009 and discussed means for improving regional activities and communications and for helping the collegiate chapters.

ENGINEERING FUTURES
The Tau Beta Pi Engineering Futures Program presented a total of 204 training sessions by 40 volunteer facilitators to develop the leadership skills of student members during 2008-09. This program helps to prepare engineering students for their careers by enhancing their overall personal effectiveness through interpersonal-skills and teamwork-development seminars.

FELLOWSHIPS
The website carries reports by Tau Beta Pi’s 75th fellowship group of 35 students, 26 with stipend, who were selected in the spring of 2008. The 76th group, comprising 30 students—17 with stipend, will do graduate work in 2009-10 and was announced in the Summer 2009 BENT. Fellows with stipends are paid cash grants of $10,000 each. Thirteen James Fife Fellowships, sponsored by an irrevocable trust bequeathed by William Fife, CA A ’21, were given.

AWARDS
Tau Beta Pi’s top chapter prize, the R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award, was given to Florida Gamma for the excellence of its total program in 2007-08. Honorable mentions were awarded to California Alpha and Texas Alpha.

The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award went to Pennsylvania Iota, and the honorable mention went to Texas Alpha.

The Council made three Chapter Project Grants under the Greater Interest in Government Program. The Headquarters staff gave 78 Secretary’s Commendations to chapters for the perfection of their reports to the Headquarters office in 2007-08 and 33 Chapter Project Awards for ingenuity and creativity in activities.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award, established in 1993 and renamed in 1999, was presented at the 2008 Convention to Stephen D. Bechtel Jr., P.E., IN A ’76, and to Dr. Warren G. Schlinger, CA B ’46. The 2009 awardee is Richard H. Stanley, P.E., IA A ’55.

The 2009 National Outstanding Advisor was selected in May by a national committee of engineering deans: Drs. J.J. Hellbe (chair), P.M. Gerhart, P.E., and C.B. Schradar. The sixteenth recipient of a $1,000 cash award and an equal sum to be presented to his dean’s discretionary fund is Patrick D. Homen, CA Y ’55, California Upsilon Advisor.

The 2009 Tau Beta Pi-McDonald Mentor was selected in June by a committee of three District Directors. The recipient of a $1,000 cash award with an equal sum to be presented to the Florida Gamma Chapter is Dr. Thomas E. Wade, FL A ’87.

During the year, the Executive Council gave 10 Resolutions of Appreciation, four Superior Service Awards, and four Distinguished Service Awards to collegiate chapter advisors and national officials for long and outstanding service.
LAUREATES
A selection committee of three District Directors chose four Laureates from 16 nominees. (See page 21.)

SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS
The 11th group of 234 Tau Beta Pi Scholars, who will complete their undergraduate engineering studies in 2009-10, was announced in the Summer BENT. Each Scholar receives a cash grant of $2,000. Since the program began in 1999, Tau Beta Pi has given and committed $1,716,000 to 588 seniors.

The one-time Stephen D. Bechtel Jr. and Warren G. Schlinger Distinguished Alumnus and the inaugural H.L.J. Kolf van Oosterwijk, CA A ’56; J.A. Liggett, MI A ’43; J.W. Shimp Jr., PA Z ’30; J.P. Stechmeyer, OH E ’48; and Spirit of Apollo Scholarship were awarded.

In the Tau Beta Pi Chapter Performance Scholarship Program, $9,500 was made available to students to be selected by 19 chapters.

Six $1,000 grants for the first year of college study in 2009-10 for incoming freshman engineering students were provided by the Society (for an 11-year total of 71) through the national program conducted by the Society of Automotive Engineers. No Special Assistance Grant was awarded.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ALUMNI
Tau Beta Pi’s 2008 Annual Giving Campaign brought gifts of $859,532 (down 2%) from 12,584 donors (down 7%), including 590 new donors (down 15%). Their names were published in the Winter and Spring 2009 issues of THE BENT. Included in the total is $25,698 allocated to the Fellowship and Scholarship Programs from 220 companies that match gifts from employees. Also included is $15,550 from four IRA charitable rollover gifts. The 2009 Giving Program began in February, and the response by July 31 reached $508,000 from 8,172 loyal members.

The Society uses minimal professional assistance in the conduct of this extremely efficient program; the national officers are deeply grateful to the generous alumni whose gifts fund important programs that help our chapters and student members.

President Simonson and others visited with alumni at receptions in Cupertino, CA; Novato, CA; Palo Alto, CA; Phoenix, AZ; Atlanta, GA; Naples, FL; Orlando, FL; and Cleveland, OH.

OTHER ACTIVITIES
Tau Beta Pi has maintained its affiliations with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Association of College Honor Societies and its association membership in the American Society for Engineering Education. The Executive Director is Tau Beta Pi’s official representative to these organizations, although other officers of the Association occasionally attend their meetings.

The Society was included as an eligible organization on the 2009 Combined Federal Campaign national list. Tau Beta Pi operates its own web-based job board—The Best People—and made extensive improvements in adding other valuable benefits to members. The AlumNet Program, an electronic mentoring service to foster student-alumnus interactions, has operated effectively since 2001 under Dr. Amy K. Forbes, Administrator. The Association was a contributing society to National Engineers Week 2009.

Tau Beta Pi has maintained its classification under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code as a tax-exempt, charitable and educational, non-private organization and is exempt from sales tax in 14 states. Collegiate chapters are separately classified under Section 501(c)(7) of the code, but this may change for a few chapters.

Treasurer’s Report

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION of Tau Beta Pi at the close of the fiscal year was weakened by the economy and bear market. Revenue was negative, because record trust market capital losses were charged. Excess of expense over revenue was a record $4,773,000. Assets declined in 2008-09 by a record $4,716,000 to a total of $16,919,000.

FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT
The several named trust funds are commingled and invested under the jurisdiction of the Tau Beta Pi Trust Advisory Committee. The trustee is the trust department of the National City Bank in Toledo, OH. The trustee performed satisfactorily during the year, but the status of the trust at the end of the year was hampered by record capital losses.

Investment earnings of the funds, less trustee fees and including capital gains, are used for the purposes indicated by the fund titles: paying fellowship and scholarship stipends, paying for BENT magazines delivered to life subscribers, paying project grants to winners in the Greater Interest in Government Program, helping to support the Convention, and financing many useful activities of the collegiate chapters. Overall net earnings of the trust funds, including security sales and market losses, were -17.7%; the previous year’s figure is -3.3%. Paid earnings were $427,000; net losses were a record $4,034,000.

Securities held by the trustee on July 31, 2009, are carried at market value of $15,804,000, a decrease of 22.5% below the previous year, and comprise holdings in 11 non-overlapping, no-load mutual funds. Equity securities constituted 90% of the total trust funds.

The current liability in fellowships and scholarships is for those stipends committed in 2008-09 for payment in 2009-10 to student winners. The 2009 Convention liability includes the assessments paid by new initiates during the year and $6,000 in gifts from corporate and university sponsors. The deferred BENT subscription liability is for both annual subscriptions and the four-year subscriptions for new members included in the national initiation fee. The liability for delivering future magazines under four-year subscriptions is entered on the books at the time of initiation.

The decrease in BENT life subscription liability was countered by the 446 new life subscribers. Life subscription fees are recorded as a liability because of the commitment against the annual earnings of those fees to pay for copies of THE BENT to be delivered. This liability represents the total value of all life subscriptions in force on July 31, 2009, at their enrollment-fee prices, less an actuarial proportion of $1,206,000 recognized as revenue since 2004. Upon the deaths of life subscribers, their paid fees are transferred on the books to the Fellowship Fund and are reported as revenue.

The net assets of the Association decreased by $4,773,000 because of record trust losses, despite strong contributions from alumni. Market losses of $4,033,000 on securities in the trust were recorded. A subsidiary report details the changes during the year in individual funds, most of which decreased because of the loss in market value.

The L.E. Record Scholarship Fund fell by $1,054,000, THE BENT Life Subscription Fund balance fell by $895,000, the Convention Fund dropped by $497,000, the Engineering Futures Fund fell by $190,000, the Fellowship Fund fell by $138,000, and the Program Development Fund declined by $112,000 to pay District Program expenses.
THE TAU BETA PI ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
On July 31, 2008 and 2009

ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Assets</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$226,652</td>
<td>$356,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapters</td>
<td>28,126</td>
<td>17,252</td>
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<td>Student loans</td>
<td>24,709</td>
<td>38,260</td>
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<tr>
<td>BENT life subscription installments</td>
<td>10,966</td>
<td>12,846</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust contributions</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7,680</td>
<td>19,378</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Receivables</strong></td>
<td>$72,481</td>
<td>$87,736</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>27,942</td>
<td>20,734</td>
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<tr>
<td>Split-interest agreements, current portion</td>
<td>68,393</td>
<td>64,274</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>15,138</td>
<td>17,393</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>$410,606</td>
<td>$546,669</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciable: Furniture and equipment</td>
<td>202,366</td>
<td>218,160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>-175,098</td>
<td>-181,611</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Depreciable</strong></td>
<td>$27,268</td>
<td>$36,549</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>15,804,215</td>
<td>20,415,386</td>
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<tr>
<td>Split-interest agreement net of cur. portion</td>
<td>676,874</td>
<td>636,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$16,918,963</td>
<td>$21,634,655</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial statements have been audited.

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Liabilities</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters</td>
<td>$6,131</td>
<td>$6,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laureate awards</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowships/Scholarships</td>
<td>638,000</td>
<td>550,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12,579</td>
<td>11,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>35,867</td>
<td>35,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amorty payable, current portion</td>
<td>13,137</td>
<td>13,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Convention revenue</td>
<td>62,581</td>
<td>62,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred BENT subscription revenue</strong></td>
<td>56,276</td>
<td>55,892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$834,571</td>
<td>$747,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>(312,948)</td>
<td>1,151,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated</td>
<td>5,435,333</td>
<td>7,416,530</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Temporary restricted</strong></td>
<td>4,555,171</td>
<td>5,727,508</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Permanently restricted</strong></td>
<td>5,198,237</td>
<td>5,153,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$16,918,963</td>
<td>$21,634,655</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENT LOANS

Only two new loans were made to members in 2008-09 for a total of $4,500. None was for the amount of Tau Beta Pi’s initiation fee. Five loans were repaid, and two were written off during the year, leaving 11 outstanding on July 31, 2009, with a principal balance of $24,700. Since inauguration in 1932 of the program, 1,774 loans have been made to student members for a total exceeding $842,000.

EDITOR’S REPORT

THE BENT

During 2008-09, the four issues contained a total of 224 pages, and 380,507 copies of the magazine were available for paid subscribers. This is a 1% decrease in paid copies below the previous year’s circulation total. Engineering and graduate-school recruitment advertising for the year totaled 206 pages, a 5% decrease from the previous year. Total production cost of the magazine per paid copy was $1.47, up from $1.42 the preceding year.

New BENT life subscribers added during the year numbered 446 (down 12%) bringing total life subscriptions to 78,484. Of all the life subscribers enrolled since 1929, when the plan was instituted, 9,179 are deceased, and their fees totaling $266,233 have been transferred to an operating loss. Convention expenses rose by $158,000 and include the cost of attendance by one student delegate from each collegiate chapter, alternate delegates, alumni delegates, chapter advisors, and visitors—but not by national officers.

Expenses for fellowships and scholarships rose by $104,000 because more students and members participated in the programs. The Fellowship Program was inaugurated in 1929, and since then 1,774 loans have been made to student members for a total exceeding $842,000.

INSTITUTION FEES

The 10 major chapter programs (the first 10 under Expenses) usually show

an operating loss. Convention expenses rose by $158,000 and include the cost of attendance by one student delegate from each collegiate chapter, alternate delegates, alumni delegates, chapter advisors, and visitors—but not by national officers.

Expenses for fellowships and scholarships rose by $104,000 because more students and members participated in the programs. The Fellowship Program was inaugurated in 1929, and since then 1,774 loans have been made to student members for a total exceeding $842,000.

INITIATION FEES

Tau Beta Pi's low national initiation fee covers the cost of the official badge, membership certificate, copies of the Constitution and Bylaws and Information booklets, and a four-year subscription to THE BENT. The national fee has been $32 since August 1, 2004. In addition, new members are charged an assessment of $7 for partial support of the annual Convention.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Chapter and initiation fees (shown less THE BENT subscription portion) were unchanged.

Convention revenue consists of assessments for the 2008 Convention, $65,150 in industrial gifts, and $58,743 from 87 alternate delegates and visitors. Overall contributions and bequests fell by $3,913,000. Total gifts from alumni, friends, and cooperating industrial firms.

Since the Fellowship Program was inaugurated in 1929, Tau Beta Pi has donated $32 since August 1, 2004. In addition, new members are charged an assessment of $7 for partial support of the annual Convention.
the Fellowship Fund in accord with the Constitutional requirement.

An average of 214 copies per issue in 2008-09 was delivered to annual renewal subscribers, 30,708 copies to original four-year subscribers, and 64,217 copies to life subscribers, for a total of 95,139 paid copies per issue. The total number of paid copies for the Summer 2009 magazine was 95,681.

The Bulletin carries articles on general professional topics in engineering, news about Tau Beta Pi and its members and chapters, and regular departments. The Association is indebted to the alumni who serve as judges and writers of the Brain Ticklers column: H.G. McIlvried III (chair), D.A. Dechman, J.L. Bradshaw, and F.J. Tydeman.

Publication of The BENT is a major activity of the Headquarters staff. By Bylaw provision, the Secretary-Treasurer serves as editor.

THE BULLETIN
During 2008-09, the three issues contained a total of 22 pages, and 18,000 copies were printed. Publication on paper ceased in December, and all issues are available on the website. Published chiefly for the information of the student members and the advisors of the collegiate chapters, the newsletter is a valuable means of exchanging project ideas and distributing information and instructions on chapter operations. The Executive Director serves as editor of THE BULLETIN.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITE
A new edition of the “Constitution and Bylaws and Eligibility Code” was published in February. The “Information Book 2009” was published in October.

Other descriptive brochures and promotional materials were updated and reprinted during the year for chapter use.

The website received improvements throughout the year and nearly 2,000,000 visits. It contains much interesting operational, member, and historical information at tbp.org.

—James D. Froula, P.E.
Executive Director
Secretary-Treasurer and Editor