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CONTACT: Dylan Lane  
865/546-4578

## Tau Beta Pi Leaders Attend 109th Convention

Spokane, Washington, was the site of the 109<sup>th</sup> annual Convention of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. Leaders of the organization met at the Spokane Convention Center to conduct the Association's business. Members from Washington Delta (Gonzaga University) hosted the event. Three hundred and sixty-two engineering students from 233 collegiate chapters received leadership and management training and practiced their skills in conducting the business of the Convention, held this year from October 2–4. A total of 521 members of Tau Beta Pi were on hand for this gathering of talented engineers.

Two schools were awarded charters to establish Tau Beta Pi collegiate chapters: Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis to be known as Indiana Zeta and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott to be known as Arizona Delta.

The R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award for 2013-14, the top honor to a collegiate chapter, went to Michigan Gamma at the University of Michigan. Honorable mentions were given to Alabama Epsilon at the University of South Alabama and California Alpha at the University of California, Berkeley.

The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award for 2013-14 was presented to Florida Theta at Florida International University. Honorable mention was given to New York Tau at Binghamton University. Both the Matthews and Nagel awards are named for former Secretary-Treasurers of the Association.

The J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership Award for 2013-14 was presented to Pennsylvania Delta at the University of Pennsylvania. The award was presented by **James D. Froula, P.E. (ret.)**, *Tennessee Alpha '67*, Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus.

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**Delon Hampton, Ph.D., P.E., District of Columbia Alpha '54**, president and CEO of Delon Hampton & Associates and a past president of ASCE; **Asad M. Madni, Ph.D., California Epsilon '69**, distinguished adjunct professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, and retired president of BEI Technologies, Inc.; and **Col. Gary E. Payton, USAF Ret., Colorado Zeta '71**, distinguished visiting professor at the United States Air Force Academy and former NASA astronaut, were presented with the 2014 Distinguished Alumnus Awards. A \$2,000 scholarship in each alumnus member's name was awarded to a Tau Beta Pi student for the 2014-15 academic year.

**Marvin E. Criswell, Ph.D., P.E., Nebraska Alpha '65**, Advisor to the Colorado Delta Chapter and professor emeritus at Colorado State University, was recognized as the 2014 Outstanding Advisor. Dr. Criswell received a cash award of \$1,000 and a grant in the same amount will be presented to the dean of the college of engineering at the Colorado State University for his discretionary fund.

The McDonald Mentor Award celebrates excellence in mentoring and advising among Tau Beta Pi educators and engineers. **Brendan J. O'Toole, Ph.D., Nevada Beta '86**, professor of mechanical engineering and director of both the Center for Materials & Structures and the Mendenhall Innovative Program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, was named the 2014 McDonald Mentor, receiving \$1,000 and an engraved medallion. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the Nevada Beta Chapter of Tau Beta Pi.

The Laureate Program recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding expertise outside the field of engineering. The Tau Beta Pi 2014 Laureates were: **B. Dennis Chua, New York Delta '14**, cited for achievements in the arts; **Christopher M. Douglas, Illinois Delta '14**, cited for diverse achievements; **Lisa N. Garrett, Iowa Alpha '14**, cited for diverse achievements; **Erika M. Pliner, Wisconsin Gamma '14**, cited for achievements in athletics; and **Tonya J. Whitehead, Michigan Epsilon '15**, cited for her service contributions. Recipients received a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

Fifteen scholarships of \$500 each were presented for sustained excellent performance in project activities to the following chapters: Alabama Epsilon (University of South Alabama); California Alpha (University of California, Berkeley); California Epsilon (University of California, Los Angeles); Florida Alpha (University of Florida); Florida Epsilon (Florida Atlantic University); Georgia Alpha (Georgia Institute of Technology); Iowa Alpha (Iowa State University); Kentucky Alpha (University of Kentucky); Michigan Gamma (University of Michigan); Michigan Epsilon (Wayne State University); Michigan Kappa (Western Michigan University); Minnesota Alpha (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities); Ohio Iota (Ohio Northern University); South Carolina Alpha (Clemson University); and Texas Alpha (University of Texas at Austin).

**Donald P. McMillan, Pennsylvania Alpha '81**, comedian at Technically Funny Inc., performed his Engineer@Heart show on Thursday night. **Harry W. Lange, Michigan Zeta '75**, member of the TBP Trust Advisory Committee, conducted three investment sessions.

The Convention opened with 32 different professional development sessions conducted by Tau Beta Pi alumni and guests. At the same time, representatives from 7 companies, non-profit agencies, and government entities and from 23 graduate engineering programs manned recruiting booths at the annual career fair, which was also financially supported by an additional four companies.

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Tau Beta Pi is the Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 242 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 39 cities. It has initiated more than 554,000 members in its 129-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See [www.tbp.org](http://www.tbp.org))