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## Tau Beta Pi Leaders Attend 110th Convention

Providence, RI, was the site of the 110<sup>th</sup> annual Convention of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. Leaders of the organization met at the Rhode Island Convention Center to conduct the Association's business. Volunteers from five chapters assisted in hosting the event from Rhode Island Alpha (Brown University), Rhode Island Beta (University of Rhode Island), Massachusetts Alpha (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), Massachusetts Delta (Tufts University), and Massachusetts Epsilon (Northeastern University). Three hundred and forty-four engineering students from 228 collegiate chapters received leadership and management training and practiced their skills in conducting the business of the Convention, held this year from October 29–31. A total of 503 members of Tau Beta Pi were on hand for this gathering of talented engineers.

One school was awarded a charter to establish a Tau Beta Pi collegiate chapter at East Carolina University to be known as North Carolina Zeta.

The R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award for 2014-15, the top honor to a collegiate chapter, went to Alabama Epsilon at the University of South Alabama. An honorable mention was given to Ohio Iota at Ohio Northern University.

The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award for 2014-15 was presented to Alabama Delta at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. An honorable mention was given to Indiana Beta at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

The J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership Award for 2014-15 was presented to Arizona Beta at Arizona State University. Honorable mentions were given to California Eta at San Jose State University and Texas Mu at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The award was presented by **James D. Froula, P.E. (ret.)**, *Tennessee Alpha '67*, Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus. The Matthews, Nagel, and Froula awards are named for former Secretary-Treasurers of the Association.

**Gilbert "Gil" F. Amelio, Ph.D.**, *Georgia Alpha '65*, senior partner at Sienna Ventures and past chairman and CEO of Apple; **Cheick M. Diarra, Ph.D.**, *District of Columbia Alpha '85*, chair-

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man of the board at the African Legal Network, and past chairman of Microsoft Africa; **Patrick T. Harker, Ph.D., Pennsylvania Delta '81**, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and past president of the University of Delaware; **Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, Colorado Zeta '81**, Superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy (CO) and past Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Intelligence; and **Ray A. Rothrock, P.E., Texas Delta '77**, partner emeritus of Venrock and past CEO of RedSeal Networks, were presented with the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus Awards. A \$2,000 scholarship in each alumnus member's name was awarded to a Tau Beta Pi student for the 2015-16 academic year.

**Elizabeth "Beth" Stephan, Ph.D., Ohio Kappa '93**, Chief Advisor to the South Carolina Alpha Chapter and senior lecturer in the general engineering program at Clemson University, was recognized as the 2015 Outstanding Advisor. Dr. Stephan 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 Clemson University for his discretionary fund.

The McDonald Mentor Award celebrates excellence in mentoring and advising among Tau Beta Pi educators and engineers. **Lt. Col. Orval "Rusty" A. Powell, Ph.D., P.E., Colorado Delta '97**, associate professor of mechanical engineering and deputy for curriculum and assessment at the United States Air Force Academy, was named the 2015 McDonald Mentor, receiving \$1,000 and an engraved medallion. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the Colorado Zeta Chapter of Tau Beta Pi.

The Laureate Program recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding expertise outside the field of engineering. The Tau Beta Pi 2015 Laureates were: **Ashley A. Armstrong, Indiana Gamma '15**, cited for achievements in athletics; **Michael E. Holloway, Tennessee Alpha '15**, cited for achievements in the arts; **Pedro P. Vallejo Ramirez, New York Kappa '16**, cited for service contributions; **Megan M. Waytashek, South Dakota Beta '15**, cited for achievements in athletics; and **David M. Zoltowski, Michigan Alpha '15**, cited for diverse achievements. Recipients received a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

Nineteen 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); District of Columbia Alpha (Howard University); Florida Alpha (University of Florida); Florida Epsilon (Florida Atlantic University); Florida Theta (Florida International 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 Theta (Oakland University); Michigan Kappa (Western Michigan University); New York Tau (Binghamton University); Ohio Iota (Ohio Northern University); Puerto Rico Alpha (University of Puerto Rico); South Carolina Alpha (Clemson University); and Texas Alpha (University of Texas at Austin).

Many of this year's non-voting delegates participated in a sumobot build and competition using Arduino software. The teams battled it out for supremacy in design and operation Saturday night before the Halloween social at the historic Providence Biltmore hotel.

The Convention opened with 33 different professional development sessions conducted by Tau Beta Pi alumni and guests. At the same time, representatives from 14 companies, non-profit agencies, and government entities and from 26 graduate engineering programs manned recruiting booths at the annual career fair, which was also financially supported by two additional companies.

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Tau Beta Pi is the Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 244 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 42 cities. It has initiated more than 565,000 members in its 130-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See [www.tbp.org](http://www.tbp.org))