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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tau Beta Pi Leaders Attend 112th Convention

Ann Arbor and Dearborn, MI, served as the locations of the 112th annual Convention of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. Leaders of the organization met at the Edward Hotel & Convention Center to conduct the Association's business. Volunteers from the Michigan Gamma (University of Michigan) collegiate chapter assisted by the Ann Arbor Area Alumni Chapter hosted the event. Three hundred and forty-three engineering students from 231 collegiate chapters received leadership and management training and practiced their skills in conducting the business of the Convention, held this year from October 12–14. A total of 507 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 the Oregon Institute of Technology to be known as Oregon Delta.

The R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award for 2016-17, the top honor to a collegiate chapter, went to Alabama Epsilon at the University of South Alabama. Honorable mentions were given to Florida Alpha at the University of Florida and Iowa Alpha at Iowa State University.

The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award for 2016-17 was presented to Wisconsin Delta at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. An honorable mention was given to Illinois Alpha at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership Award for 2016-17 was presented to California Upsilon at California State University, Sacramento. An honorable mention was given to Texas Gamma at Rice University. 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.

Lilia A. Abron, Ph.D., P.E., *District of Columbia Alpha '68*, CEO and founder of PEER Consultants and former assistant professor at Howard University; **Terry D. Olberding**, *Tennessee Alpha '78*, management consulting contractor with Eagle Research Group and past nuclear safety specialist for the DOE National Security Administration; **Tom Scholz**, *Massachusetts Beta '69*, co-founder of the band Boston and previous senior product design engineer at Polaroid Corporation; and **Charles E. Sukup, P.E.**, *Iowa Alpha '76*, president of Sukup Manufacturing Company were

presented with the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Awards. A \$2,000 scholarship in each alumnus member's name will be awarded to a Tau Beta Pi student for the 2017-18 academic year.

LeVern W. Faidley, Ph.D., Iowa Alpha '67, Chief Advisor to the Iowa Alpha Chapter and retired program planning and resource management consultant, was recognized as the 2017 Outstanding Advisor. Dr. Faidley 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 Iowa State University for his discretionary fund.

The McDonald Mentor Award celebrates excellence in mentoring and advising among Tau Beta Pi educators and engineers. **Daniel F. Dolan, Ph.D., Minnesota Alpha '70**, is CAMP director at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, was named the 2017 McDonald Mentor, receiving \$1,000 and an engraved medallion. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the South Dakota Alpha Chapter of Tau Beta Pi.

The Laureate Program recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding expertise outside the field of engineering. The Tau Beta Pi 2017 Laureates were: **Kasey M. Cooper, ALA '18**, cited for achievements in athletics; **Kevin Fraser, NCG '17**, cited for diverse achievements; and **Simone M. M. Stanley, DCA '17**, cited for achievements in the arts. Recipients received a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

Twenty scholarships of \$500 each were presented for sustained excellent performance in project activities to the following chapters: Alabama Epsilon (University of South Alabama); Alaska Alpha (University of Alaska Fairbanks); California Alpha (University of California, Berkeley); California Epsilon (University of California, Los Angeles); California Psi (University of California, San Diego); District of Columbia Alpha (Howard University); Florida Alpha (University of Florida); Florida Theta (Florida International University); Indiana Delta (Valparaiso University); Iowa Alpha (Iowa State University); Maryland Delta (University of Maryland Baltimore County); Michigan Gamma (University of Michigan); Michigan Epsilon (Wayne State University); Michigan Kappa (Western Michigan University); New Mexico Gamma (New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology); Ohio Iota (Ohio Northern University); Puerto Rico Alpha (University of Puerto Rico); Tennessee Alpha (University of Tennessee); Texas Alpha (University of Texas at Austin); and Wisconsin Alpha (University of Wisconsin-Madison).

The Friday evening Advisor & Mentor Banquet was sponsored by the University of Virginia School of Engineering & Applied Science. Director of Graduate Education at UVA SEAS Shannon Barker, Ph.D., addressed the banquet attendees and encouraged them to consider graduate school. In addition, the keynote speaker was **Jim Anderson, MI Epsilon '66**, Urban Science CEO & MI Epsilon Chapter Endowment Initiative supporter, who gave a motivational talk.

This year, Thursday morning and all-day Friday were dedicated to professional development and the Recruiting Fair. There were 23 different professional development sessions conducted by Tau Beta Pi alumni and guests. At the same time, representatives from 12 companies, non-profit agencies, government entities, and 32 graduate engineering programs manned recruiting booths.

Tau Beta Pi is the Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 246 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 44 cities. It has initiated more than 584,000 members in its 132-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See <https://www.tbp.org/>)