

## Tau Beta Pi Honor Society Holds 114th Convention

**Columbus, OH**, was the host city for The Tau Beta Pi Association's 114<sup>th</sup> annual Convention on October 10-12. The Engineering Honor Society's delegates and leaders met to conduct Association business, present honors and awards, and recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women being initiated as members to Tau Beta Pi.

Over the course of the three-day event, 462 members representing 222 collegiate chapters and 27 alumni chapters attended leadership and management training sessions and practiced their skills in conducting the business of the Convention. Of a total of 594 attendees, 304 were students, 158 alumni including 22 chapter advisors, and an additional 132 non-member guests, recruiters, and volunteers.

Thursday and Friday events included Professional Development Sessions conducted by Tau Beta Pi alumni and guests. Additionally, the 2019 Graduate School & Corporate Recruiting Fair, the largest to date, hosted 56 booths with 22 representatives from companies, non-profit agencies, and government entities, and 34 graduate engineering programs. This Convention marked the launch of the TBP Resume Portal with approximately 800 resumes uploaded and available for recruiters to review prior to the Recruiting Fair.

Two new collegiate chapters were granted: Arkansas Beta at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Texas Xi at the University of Texas at Dallas. The chapters will be installed on March 7 and February 15, 2020, respectively.

The R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award for 2018-19, the highest honor for a collegiate chapter in Tau Beta Pi, went to **Alabama Epsilon** at the University of South Alabama. Two honorable mentions were presented: Iowa Alpha at the University of Iowa and Tennessee Alpha at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award for 2018-19 was presented to **Texas Theta** at the University of Texas at El Paso. Honorable mentions were presented to Michigan Iota at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and Ohio Xi at Miami University.

The J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership Award was given to **Indiana Delta** at Valparaiso University, with a large increase in membership and an improved membership ratio in Spring 2018. Honorable mentions were presented to California Kappa at California State University, Northridge, and New York Sigma at Alfred University.

Tau Beta Pi's collegiate chapters compete throughout the school year for honors and awards. Chapter Project Awards were given to 29 collegiate chapters for excellence in project work during 2018-19 to: Alabama Gamma, **Alabama Epsilon**, Arizona Delta, Arkansas Alpha, **California Alpha**, **California Epsilon**, **California Psi**, California Alpha Gamma, Connecticut Alpha, **Florida Alpha**, **Florida Gamma**, Florida Delta, **Iowa Alpha**, **Maryland Beta**, Michigan Beta, **Michigan Gamma**, **Michigan Epsilon**, Michigan Theta, Michigan Iota, New Mexico Beta, **New Mexico Gamma**, New York Kappa, New York Tau, **Ohio Iota**, Ohio Kappa, Pennsylvania Zeta, Puerto Rico Alpha, **Tennessee Alpha**, and **Texas Alpha**. The 14 in bold are chapters that were awarded \$500 scholarships for three consecutive years of winning Chapter Project Awards. ([Click here for more information.](#))

The Thursday Laureate Banquet recognized students who have demonstrated outstanding expertise outside of the field of engineering. The Tau Beta Pi 2019 Laureates: **Casey Main**, *Indiana Delta '19*, Diverse Achievements; **Kendra K. Noneman**, *Idaho Gamma '20*, Athletics; **Rose C. Ridder**, *Pennsylvania Kappa '20*, Diverse Achievements; and **Kelli L. Swenson**, *Wisconsin Gamma '19*, Athletics. Recipients received a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque. ([Click here for more information.](#))

Friday's Outstanding Advisor and McDonald Mentor Banquet recognized the 2019 Tau Beta Pi- McDonald Mentor, **Martha C. Mitchell, Ph.D.**, *Wisconsin Alpha '89*, Professor CHME, New Mexico State University. She was presented with \$1,000 and an engraved medallion, with an additional \$1,000 grant being credited to a chapter of her choice. **Lt. Colonel Kurt P. Rouser, Ph.D.**, *Ohio Eta '11*, Chief Advisor, Oklahoma Gamma Chapter and Assistant Professor, MAE, Oklahoma State University was named the 2019 Outstanding Advisor. Dr. Rouser was presented with \$1,000 and \$1,000 for the college's discretionary fund. ([Click here for more information on Dr. Mitchell, the McDonald Mentor](#), and [here for the Outstanding Advisor, Dr. Rouser.](#))



1: Project Award recipients from Tau Beta Pi Honor Society's 114th Convention. Photos by Kiffer Creveling, Utah Alpha '13

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The Saturday Alumni and Chapter Awards Banquet celebrated distinguished alumni and 50 years of women being initiated into Tau Beta Pi. Short biographies of the ladies in attendance were read as each received a special certificate commemorating the event. ([Click here for more information.](#))

Four Distinguished Alumnus Awards were presented to: **Wayne T. Davis, Ph.D.**, *Tennessee Alpha '73*; **David L. Ford Jr., Ph.D.**, *Iowa Alpha '67*; **William E. (Bill) Jennings**, *Georgia Alpha '85*; and **Abdallah H. Yabroudi**, *New York Beta '78*. An engraved plaque and a \$2,000 scholarship was given in each alumnus member's name and will be awarded to a Tau Beta Pi student for the 2019-20 academic year. ([Click here for more information.](#))

Tau Beta Pi will hold the 115<sup>th</sup> Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, October 22-24.



2 Group photo of convention attendees on the campus of The Ohio State University

**Founded at Lehigh University in 1885, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society has collegiate chapters in 248 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 45 cities. It has initiated more than 603,000 members in its 134-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See <https://www.tbp.org/>)**

**Contact Media and Communications ([media@tbp.org](mailto:media@tbp.org)) for more details.**

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