



Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society Hosts “Unvention”

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tau Beta Pi hosted its 115th annual Convention virtually. [Unvention 2020](#), the Association’s inaugural online event, provided much-needed opportunities for connection and networking to the over 1,200 Tau Bates who registered to attend. Held between October 10 and November 7, Unvention’s program included many workshops and professional development sessions that can be found on the [Tau Beta Pi Unvention YouTube channel](#).

Highlights included the [Resume Review Workshop](#) hosted by Rachel K. Alexander, *CA Upsilon '15*, and Joseph W. Alexander, *CA Upsilon '06*, as well as a [talk](#) from Unvention’s featured speaker, [Jenna R. Jambeck](#), Ph.D., *FL Alpha '96*. Jambeck, a University of Georgia professor, became recognized internationally for her research on oceanic plastic waste after co-creating the [Marine Debris Tracker](#) app.

A Virtual Recruiting Fair was held October 22-23 as a part of Unvention with 505 candidates who met by video chat with 124 recruiters representing 37 graduate engineering programs and corporations in a total of 1,078 interviews.

A series of Executive Council Meetings was organized to present reports of Association officials, facilitate committee reports, and to provide a framework for voting in Executive Council elections. Unvention business was handled by five committees: Awards, Financial Affairs, Petitions, Program Review, and Rituals. Actions recommended by the committees were submitted to voting delegates for approval by ballot in November. At the third Executive Council Meeting on November 7, MingDe Lin, Ph.D., *NY Gamma '01*, Scott E. Fable, *CA Tau '96*, and Joan M. Sciacca, *CA Mu '87*, were all elected as [Executive Councillors](#) for the 2021-23 term.

[Chapter Excellence Awards](#) were presented by Executive Director Curt Gomulinski after a review of the 2019-20 records of chapter activities by the Awards Committee. [The R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award](#) for 2019-20, the highest honor for a collegiate chapter in Tau Beta Pi, went to Alabama Epsilon at the University of South Alabama for the second year in a row. An honorable mention was presented to Iowa Alpha at the University of Iowa for the second year in a row. [The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award](#) for 2019-20 was presented to Texas Beta at Texas Tech University and New Mexico Alpha at New Mexico University received an honorable mention. [The J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership Award](#) was given to Texas Kappa at Prairie A&M University. The District of Columbia Alpha Chapter at Howard University received an honorable mention.

Tau Beta Pi’s collegiate chapters compete throughout the school year for honors and awards. Chapter Project Awards were given to 23 collegiate chapters for excellence in project work during 2019-20. The following fourteen chapters have received Chapter Project Awards for at least three consecutive years and will each receive a \$500 scholarship: Alabama Epsilon, Arkansas Alpha, California Epsilon, California Psi, Florida Alpha, Iowa Alpha, Maryland Beta, Michigan Gamma, Michigan Epsilon, New Mexico Beta, New Mexico Gamma, Ohio Kappa, Tennessee Alpha, and Texas Alpha.



Tau Beta Pi also recognized its [2020 Laureates](#), students who have demonstrated outstanding expertise outside of the field of engineering: [Kevin Ptak](#), *SD Alpha '19*, for Athletics and [Natalie J. Turco](#), *NY Sigma '20*, for Diverse Achievements. Each received a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

The [Tau Beta Pi 2020 Outstanding Advisor](#) was Amy L. Kaleita, *PA Beta '97*. She received \$1,000 with an additional \$1,000 grant being credited to a chapter of her choice. Dean S. Papajohn, *IL Alpha '85*, was recognized as the [Tau Beta Pi 2020 McDonald Mentor](#). He received \$1,000, an engraved medallion, and \$1,000 for his college's discretionary fund.

Four individuals received [Distinguished Alumnus Awards](#): Jerry Holmes, *OK Alpha '58*; Paul Plotkowski, *MI Theta '80*; Ronald Rousseau, *LA Alpha '66*; and Dale Zimmerman, *FL Alpha '65*. Each received an engraved plaque and a \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded in each alumnus member's name to a Tau Beta Pi student for the 2020-21 academic year.

Founded at Lehigh University in 1885, the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society has collegiate chapters in 250 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 46 cities. It has initiated more than 610,000 members in its 135-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. Contact Media and Communications (media@tbp.org) for more details.

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