

Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society Holds 116th Convention

Knoxville, TN, home to the International Headquarters of The Tau Beta Pi Association, located on the University of Tennessee campus since 1907, was the setting for the Association's 116th Annual Convention, held September 29 - October 1. This is only the second time Knoxville has held the annual event—the first being in 1971. Covid-19 prevented holding in-person Conventions in 2020 & 2021. Hosted by Tennessee Alpha and the Great Smoky Mountains Alumni Chapters at the Knoxville Convention Center, The Association welcomed over 350 guests to our city.



Over the three-day event, 333 members representing 197 collegiate chapters and 23 alumni chapters attended professional development sessions and practiced their skills in conducting the business of the Association. With a total of 396 attendees, 271 were students, 27 alumni, and an additional 95 non-member guests.

Opening day events included Professional Development Sessions, a tour of the Tau Beta Pi Headquarters, and the Graduate School & Corporate Recruiting Fair with 49 booths and 92 representatives from companies, government entities, and graduate engineering programs. The day concluded with a banquet celebrating the Laureate award recipients from [2020](#), **Kevin Ptak**, *SD A '19*; **Natalie J. Turco**, *NYS '20*, and [2021](#), **Kara L. Combs**, *OH M '21*; **Carissa G. Dopman**, *NYS '21*; **Tyler A. Kleinsasser**, *SD A '19*; **Michael Ustes**, *MII '22*. No Laureates were selected in 2022.

Four petitioning universities were granted charters to establish a TBP Collegiate Chapter: Georgia Delta at the University of Georgia, Massachusetts Kappa at Merrimack College, North Carolina Eta at Western Carolina University, and Tennessee Eta at Lipscomb University. The new chapters will be installed in February and March of 2023.

The R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award for **2021-2022**, the highest honor for a collegiate chapter in Tau Beta Pi, went to **Florida Alpha** at the University of Florida. Two honorable mentions were presented: Ohio Kappa at the University of Akron and Texas Alpha at the University of Texas at Austin. The **2020-21** awardee was also recognized: Michigan Gamma at the University of Michigan and the honorable mention to California Psi at the University of California, San Diego.

The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter and the J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership Award for **2021-22** were presented to **Massachusetts Theta** at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. An honorable mention for Most Improved Chapter went to Texas Alpha at the University of Texas at Austin, and honorable mentions for Most Improved Membership went to California Alpha Alpha at Cal State University, Chico; Florida Beta at the University of Miami; and Ohio Iota at Ohio Northern University. The **2020-21** winner of the R.H. Nagel award was presented to California Alpha Beta at the University of California, Riverside with honorable mention going to California Eta at San Jose State University. The **2020-21** recipient of the J.D. Froula award was given to Delaware Alpha at the University of Delaware with the honorable mentions awarded to Missouri Beta at the Missouri University of Science and Technology and Texas Gamma at Rice University.

Tau Beta Pi's 251 collegiate chapters host events and study sessions and give back to their communities throughout the school year, making them eligible to receive chapter awards. Chapter Project Awards were given to 40 collegiate chapters for excellence in project work during 2021-22 to AL Alpha, AL Delta, **AL Epsilon**, AZ Alpha, **CA Gamma**, CA Eta, CA Alpha Delta, CO Beta, DC Alpha, **FL Alpha**, FL Gamma, FL Delta, **IL Alpha**,

IN Alpha, IA Alpha, MA Theta, MI Eta, MI Epsilon, MN Alpha, MS Beta, NV Beta, NJ Alpha, NY Omicron, OH Beta, OH Gamma, OH Delta, OH Eta, OH Iota, OH Kappa, OH Lambda, OH Nu, OH Xi, OK Gamma, OR Alpha, PA Beta, PA Zeta, TX Alpha, VA Delta, TX Zeta, and WI Alpha. Chapters with distinction, scoring 100 percent or more, are in bold.

The Friday Awards Banquet recognized the 2022 Outstanding Advisor [Monica M. Burdick, Ph.D., NY K '98](#), who was presented with \$1,000 and \$1,000 for the college's discretionary fund. The attendees enjoyed viewing videos of the 2020 and 2021 Outstanding Advisors and 2020, 2021, and 2022 McDonald Mentors. The 2022 McDonald Mentor Award was presented (in absentia) to [Asad M. Madni, Ph.D., C.Eng., CA E '69](#), who received \$1,000, a bronze engraved medallion, and a replica lapel pin.

The Saturday Awards Banquet recognized the Distinguished Alumni awardees in attendance: 2020 recipient [Paul D. Plotkowski, Ph.D., MI O '80](#); and 2021 recipients [James A. Momoh, Ph.D., DC A, '75](#), and [Richard J. Spontak, Ph.D., PA B, '83](#). The 2022 Distinguished Alumnus Awards were presented in absentia to [Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D., DC A '90](#), and [Katherine L. Bouman, Ph.D., MI G '11](#). Each Distinguished Alumnus received an engraved plaque and a \$2,000 scholarship in each Distinguished Alumnus' name was awarded to Tau Beta Pi students for the 2022-23 academic year.

The Model Initiation on Saturday, at the UTK Student Union, brought 44 new members into the Association. Six Tennessee Alpha presidents were on hand.

Tau Beta Pi will hold the 117th Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, October 12-14.