

Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society Holds 117th Convention



2023 Convention Attendees @ Centennial Olympic Park

Atlanta, GA, was the setting for the Association's 117th annual Convention, held October 12-14, at the Courtland Grand Hotel. Hosted by the Georgia Alpha Chapter at the Georgia Institute of Technology and the Atlanta Alumni Chapter, the Association welcomed over 450 guests to the city, including nine Headquarters staff members and 27 non-member guests. This is the first time TBP's Convention has been held in the state of Georgia. Over the three-day event, 424 members representing 207 collegiate chapters and 28 alumni chapters attended professional development sessions, committee & district meetings, National Interactive Chapter Exchanges (NICE), and practiced their skills in conducting the business of the Association.

On Thursday, the First Business Meeting kicked off the Convention at 9:00 a.m. with networking, Convention orientation & welcome, followed by committee, district, and NICE meetings. The evening banquet recognized the four Laureate award recipients: **Maxine M. Dupuis, NY N '23, Alexander J. Francisco, NY N '24, Gwyneth M. Schloer, VA B '22, and Mitchell Sueker, SD A '23.** The featured speaker for the evening was **Dennis D. Truax, Ph.D., P.E., MS A '78,** past President of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Friday's Chapter Recognition Lunch lauded the accomplishments of 40 chapters who were awarded a **Chapter Excellence Award.** This award goes beyond required reporting and utilizes chapter performance in 41 criteria in the areas of Initiation, Membership, Operations, Finances, Convention, Programs, and Advisors. The winners of the 2022-23 Chapter Excellence Award include: **AL Alpha, AL Delta, AL Epsilon, CA Epsilon, CA Lambda, CA Psi, FL Alpha, FL Delta, GA Beta, IL Alpha, IN Alpha, IA Alpha, LA Beta, MA Kappa, MI Epsilon, MI Iota, MS Beta, MO Gamma, NC Alpha, NY Alpha, NY Omicron, NY Tau, OH Alpha, OH Beta, OH Gamma, OH Iota, OH Kappa, OH Lambda, OH Nu, OK Alpha, OR Alpha, SD Alpha, TN Alpha, TX Alpha, TX Nu, and WI Alpha.** Chapters with distinction, scoring 100 percent or more, are in **bold.**

The Chapter Project Awards are given to chapters that accomplish outstanding project success. Chapters that have won three consecutive years (in bold) will receive a \$500 scholarship. This year's winners are: **AL Epsilon, CA Epsilon, FL Alpha, FL Delta, FL Eta, IA Alpha, MI Epsilon, MI Iota, NY Nu, NY Omicron, NY Tau, OH Iota, OH Kappa, OK Alpha, SC Alpha, TN Alpha, TX Alpha, TX Nu, and WI Alpha.**

The Friday Alumni Awards Banquet recognized the **2023 McDonald Mentor Award** recipient, **Richard J. Spontak, Ph.D., PA B '83,** who received \$1,000, a bronze engraved medallion, and a replica lapel pin. **The 2023 Outstanding Advisor, Andrew E. Toy, MI I '95,** was presented with \$1,000 and \$1,000 for the college's discretionary fund. TBP was honored to recognize the **2023 Distinguished Alumni** awardees: **Edward D. Basta, OH E '82, Brendan J. Chan, Ph.D., MI B '03,** and the 2023 Asad M. Madni Distinguished Alumnus, **H. Alan Mantooth, Ph.D., P.E., AR A '85.** Each received an engraved plaque and a \$2,000 scholarship in each Distinguished Alumnus' name was awarded to a Tau Beta Pi student for the 2023-24 academic year.

Twenty-nine new members were initiated into the Georgia Alpha Chapter during **Saturday's Model Initiation**. Of those initiates, 28 were undergraduates and one was a graduate student.

Two petitioning universities were granted charters to establish a TBP collegiate chapter: **American University of Sharjah and Texas A&M University at Qatar**. The new chapters will be installed in February and March of 2024.

The Saturday Awards Banquet included the presentation of the 2023 New Engineering Solutions for Tomorrow (NEST) Award to **Claudia E. Herman**, CA AA '24, and **Kirsten J. Welch**, CA AA '24. A new addition to the 2023 Convention were the **Alumni Chapter Awards**, presented by the Director of Alumni Affairs, Tricia E. Gomulinski, SD A '98. The **Collaboration with Collegiate Chapters** award was won by the Southeastern Michigan Alumni Chapter with honorable mentions going to the Great Smoky Mountains and Pittsburgh Alumni Chapters. The Central Florida Alumni Chapter won the **Engagement with the Community** award and **Participation by Members**, was awarded to the Indianapolis Alumni Chapter. The **Most Improved Alumni Chapter** was the Indianapolis Alumni Chapter, with an honorable mention going to the Baltimore Alumni Chapter. Finally, the **Overall Outstanding Alumni Chapter** was won by the Milwaukee Area Alumni Chapter. Honorable mentions were presented to the Front Range, Indianapolis, and Southeastern Michigan Alumni Chapters.

The **R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award** for **2022-23**, the highest honor for a collegiate chapter in Tau Beta Pi, went to OH Kappa at the University of Akron. An honorable mention was presented to WI Alpha.

The **R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter** for **2022-23** went to NY Tau at Binghamton University. The **J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership Award** for **2022-23** was presented to CA Nu at the California State Polytechnic University- Pomona, with honorable mentions going to FL Eta and LA Gamma.

Tau Beta Pi will hold the 118th Convention in Rapid City, South Dakota October 24-26.