

Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society Holds 118th Convention



Rapid City, SD, was the setting for the Association's 118th annual Convention, held Thursday, October 24 - Saturday, October 26, 2024, at The Monument. Hosted by the South Dakota Alpha Chapter at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, the Association welcomed nearly 500 guests to the city, including Headquarters staff members and non-member guests. This is the first international Convention with the 2024 addition of the United Arab Emirates Alpha Chapter in Sharjah and the Qatar Alpha Chapter in Doha, Qatar. Over the three-day event, 442 members representing 206 collegiate chapters and 31 alumni chapters attended business meetings

incorporating Robert's Rules of Order, professional development sessions, committee & district meetings, National Interactive Chapter Exchange (NICE) sessions, a Recruiting Fair, and practiced new skills in conducting the business of the Association.

On Thursday, the First Business Meeting took place at 9:15 a.m., which facilitated the Convention orientation & welcome. The banquet that evening recognized four Laureate award recipients: **Charles "Derrick" Bailey IV**, *TN A '24*, **Muhammad "Raafay" Uqaily**, *WV A '23*, **Amanda E. Stone**, *AZ B '23*, **Matthew N. Yee**, *IN D '24*.

On Friday, attendees traveled to the Mount Rushmore National Memorial for lunch, a group picture, and a self-guided tour. The evening's **Alumni Recognition Banquet** recognized the **2024 McDonald Mentor Award** recipient, **Steve E. Watkins**, Ph.D., *MO B '83*, who received \$1,000, a bronze engraved medallion, and a replica lapel pin. **The 2024 Outstanding Advisor, Ramak Asgari**, *CA H '99*, was unable to attend, but she will receive \$1,000 and \$1,000 will be awarded to San Jose State University for the College of Engineering's discretionary fund. **The 2024 Distinguished Alumni** awardees were also honored: **Adedeji B. Badiru**, Ph.D., P.E., *TN G '79*; **William R. Goodin**, Ph.D., *CA E '75*; and the 2024 Asad M. Madni Distinguished Alumnus, **John W. Steadman**, Ph.D., P.E., *WY A '64*. 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 2024-25 academic year.

The Saturday Chapter Recognition Luncheon lauded the accomplishments of 20 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 2023-24 Chapter Excellence Award include: AL Alpha, **AL Epsilon**, AR Alpha, **CA Eta**, CO Beta, DC Alpha, FL Gamma, **GA Beta**, IN Alpha, **IA Alpha**, KS Gamma, **MI Gamma**, **MI Epsilon**, **MI Iota**, NM Beta, NY Tau, **OH Alpha**, OH Delta, **OH Iota**, TN Alpha. Chapters with distinction, scoring 100 percent or more, are in **bold**.

The Chapter Project Awards were presented to chapters that accomplished 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, CA Psi, **FL Alpha**, IL Alpha, IN Alpha, **IA Alpha**, KS Gamma, MI Epsilon, **MI Gamma**, MD Beta, **NY Omicron**, OH Alpha, **OK Alpha**, **TX Alpha**, **WI Alpha**.

Nineteen new members were initiated into the South Dakota Alpha Chapter and two charter members were initiated into the Connecticut Delta Chapter during Saturday's **Model Initiation**. All initiates were undergraduates.

Tau Beta Pi is The Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. With 257 collegiate chapters and 51 active alumni chapters, it has initiated more than 640,000 members in its 139-year history and is the world's largest engineering society (see www.tbp.org). Contact Renea Lewis (r.lewis@tbp.org) for more details.

Fairfield University was granted a charter to establish a TBP collegiate chapter. The new chapter, Connecticut Delta, will be installed on May 2, 2025.

At **Saturday's Chapter Awards Banquet** Tricia E. Gomulinski, *SD A '98*, Director of Alumni Affairs, presented the Alumni Chapter Awards. The **Collaboration with Collegiate Chapters** award was won by the Ohio's North Coast Alumni Chapter with honorable mentions going to the Great Smoky Mountains, Richmond, and San Francisco Bay Area Alumni Chapters. The **Participation by Members** award was granted to the Indianapolis Alumni Chapter. The **Most Improved Alumni Chapter** was the Chicago Alumni Chapter, with an honorable mention going to the Mid-South Alumni Chapter. Finally, the **Overall Outstanding Alumni Chapter** was won by the Ohio's North Coast Alumni Chapter, with an honorable mention presented to the Indianapolis Alumni Chapter.

The evening continued with the announcement of the **R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award** for **2023-24**, the highest honor for a collegiate chapter in Tau Beta Pi, which went to MI Gamma at the University of Michigan. Honorable mentions were presented to IN Alpha (Purdue University) and KS Gamma (Kansas State University).

The winner of the **R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter** for **2023-24** was OH Alpha at Case Western Reserve University, with an honorable mention for NM Beta (University of New Mexico). The **J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership Award** for **2023-24** was presented to DE Alpha at the University of Delaware. Honorable mentions were presented to CA Phi (University of the Pacific) and FL Zeta (Florida Institute of Technology).

Tau Beta Pi will hold the 119th Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on October 30 – November 1, 2025.