



DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNUS

Prof. Chang-Lin Tien

TAU BETA PI is proud to honor Professor Chang-Lin Tien, *California Alpha '55*, as the 2000 Distinguished Alumnus, nominated by the students of the California Alpha Chapter. His life and work exemplify Tau Beta Pi's ideals as one who fosters a spirit of liberal culture through his service to society, a service which has demonstrated great breadth, unselfishness, and high moral integrity. He is particularly pleased that the students themselves nominated him because much of the thrust of his life's work has been to bring to all students the ideals of his adopted country—making the essence of the American dream available to everyone by creating an environment of opportunity and freedom. Throughout his tenure as chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, during 1990-97 and as a professor of mechanical engineering since 1959, he has been committed to promoting cultural diversity and improving education.

While chancellor, he created the innovative Berkeley pledge program in 1995 as a response to the ban on affirmative action in the UC admissions process. Program goals are to improve K-12 education, to be more active in student recruitment, to keep university attendance affordable, and to create a supporting environment for students of all backgrounds to pursue advanced degrees. U.S. Education Secretary William Riley has identified this program as a model for the nation.

Escaping from Wuhan, China, to the French Concession in Shanghai, and then to Taiwan, his family became refugees three times by the time he was 15. An educated and at times prosperous family with eight children, they experienced their final descent into poverty after the 1949 Civil War in China. In Taiwan in the 1950s, they lived in one room. Prof. Tien earned his B.S. at the National Taiwan University and in 1956 emigrated to the United States; he was awarded a full scholarship to attend the University of Kentucky. He continued at Princeton University, where he earned both an M.A. and a Ph.D. in 1959. That year, he joined the faculty at Berkeley. In 1962 at age 26, he became the youngest faculty member ever to win the prestigious distinguished teaching award. He is now the NEC distinguished professor of engineering in the mechanical engineering department, specializing in heat transfer and thermal radiation. He has written a benchmark book on the subject and has published more than 300 research articles. He has worked on the shield for the Space Shuttle and was a consultant to the Three-Mile-Island meltdown. The recipient of nine honorary doctorates, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering and



the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Energetic and outgoing, Prof. Tien is driven by a strong moral imperative to advance the great ideals of the United States. A policy-maker and public servant, he is broadly influential, particularly in three major areas: economic planning, governmental service, and Asian/American relations. He is a trustee on the U.S. Committee for Economic Development, a member since 1996 of the Council on Foreign Relations, a member of the National Science Board, a member of the National Commission on Mathematics & Science Teaching, chair of the Asia Foundation, and a member of the steering committee of the Pacific Council on International Policy. He co-chairs the Asia Society National Commission on Asia in the Schools, is on the advisory board of the Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc., on the roster of experts on Asian Development Bank, and a member of the board of directors of the Shanghai Commercial Bank in Hong Kong. He chairs the international steering board of the Chiang Industrial Charity Foundation in Hong Kong, is on the board of Huaqiao University in Fujian, China, and is an honorary research professor of the Chinese Academy of Science's institute of thermophysics and an honorary professor to 15 leading universities in China.

A citizen of the world, Prof. Tien is a man of great intellect, moral courage, and ideals who has embraced the American dream and helped to create a template for making that dream available to all—with opportunities for education, advancement, independence, and dignity.