



The Distinguished Alumnus Award was established to recognize alumni who have demonstrated outstanding adherence to the ideals of Tau Beta Pi (integrity, breadth of interest, adaptability, and unselfish activity) and to fostering a spirit of liberal culture in our society. Recipients provide examples of excellence in both leadership and character to members of collegiate chapters.

## 2007 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

# Dr. Robert H. Foglesong

**I**N RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING lifetime achievements, **Dr. Robert H. Foglesong**, West Virginia Alpha '68, is the Tau Beta Pi 2007 Distinguished Alumnus. He serves as president of Mississippi State University.

Dr. Foglesong has spent 33 years in public service and has demonstrated a clear understanding of the role that leadership plays in establishing a sense of integrity, encouraging service above self, and fostering an attitude of excellence. These are the qualities which exemplify the ideals of Tau Beta Pi.

In his role as president of MSU, he demands nothing less than excellence—from himself and others—while moving the faculty, staff, and students toward his vision of establishing MSU as the most respected land-grant institution in the region.

Those around him say that Dr. Foglesong leads with exemplary character, outstanding scholarship, and strong interpersonal and management skills. Some have described his leadership style as being charismatic.

Prior to assuming his post at Mississippi State, he served with distinction in the U.S. Air Force, where he was nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate to serve as a four-star general. In that position, he was in charge of planning for and support of 358,000 uniformed personnel and 158,000 civilian employees. He contributed to the strategic planning for an annual budget of \$90 billion (comparable with the ninth largest company on the Fortune 500 list).

He served as a national security advisor at cabinet and Presidential levels and as commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

He earned three degrees in chemical engineering from West Virginia University and is a proud member and former President of the West Virginia Alpha Chapter.



He is the founder, president, and executive director of the nonprofit Appalachian Leadership and Education Foundation, which seeks to identify the next generation of leaders in the Appalachian region and to mentor and provide financial support on their journeys toward excellence in academics, leadership, and character. He has also implemented leadership programs for high-school students and college freshmen.

He accumulated 30 military awards for leadership and technical skills and has 57 publications covering a range of related subjects. He has worked in 19 countries, dealt first-hand with world leaders, and routinely managed multi-million dollar budgets. He has mentored and counseled numerous young people and working professionals, always encouraging service above

self and fostering an attitude of excellence.

Dr. Foglesong is a director of Massey Energy, one of the largest producers of coal in the nation; a director of the Michael Baker Corporation, an international energy and engineering firm; and an advisory board member of Israel Aerospace Industries International.

For some, the title of "leader" is a honorary term or is merely a status symbol for the individual thus described. However, Dr. Foglesong's philosophy reflects a far different definition of leadership. He believes that leadership should extend "from the cradle to the chief's office." Rather than reserving leadership qualities for use late in life or after rising to top echelons, Dr. Foglesong fosters and supports its continual development within every organization and within every individual.

He sees the values of Tau Beta Pi as being extremely compatible with the demands of leadership: "More than anything else, the way you run your life determines your character, and, for good leaders, good character is paramount."