In recognition of outstanding lifetime achievements, Richard H. Stanley, P.E., Iowa Alpha ’55, is the 2009 Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumnus. He is chair of the Stanley Foundation, chair emeritus of the Stanley Group of companies, and director of Stanley Consultants, Inc., which provides engineering, environmental, and construction services worldwide.

Mr. Stanley holds bachelor’s degrees in mechanical engineering and electrical engineering from Iowa State University and received a master’s in sanitary engineering from the University of Iowa in 1963. A registered engineer in more than 40 states, he has been described as the consummate engineer, business person, and world citizen.

He has served his profession in many capacities, including service as president of the Iowa Engineering Society and as chair of the Committee on Federal Procurement of Architectural and Engineering Services, the American Council of Engineering Companies, the National Construction Industry Council, and the Northeast-Midwest Institute.

A recipient of the Hoover medal, awarded annually to an outstanding American engineer for unselfish, non-technical humanitarian service, his other accolades include the distinguished award of merit and the community service award of the American Consulting Engineers Council.

Mr. Stanley has assisted Iowa State University in many ways. As a student, he was active in his Iowa Alpha Chapter and served as student body president. He was a member of the Memorial Union student board, which he continues to serve as an alumnus. He has served on the engineering college industrial advisory council for 25 years, including two years as chair. He is a past member of the institution’s center for industrial research and service advisory council. A recipient of the prestigious Order of the Knoll cardinal and gold award for his creative leadership, he has also received the Anson Marston [Iowa Alpha 1889] medal, the college of engineering’s highest award.

Mr. Stanley is internationally recognized for his leadership of the Stanley Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, private operating foundation established by his father in 1956 to research and analyze international relations—and directed toward achieving a secure sustainable world peace with freedom and justice.

The foundation began as an experiment to put global education into secondary schools in his hometown of Muscatine, IA, and has expanded to promote thought and dialogue about world affairs among multiple constituencies, including diplomats, scholars, and political and business leaders, as well as youth in rural Iowa.

He is also a frequent chair, presenter, and participant at conferences on world affairs and global issues. This has led to Mr. Stanley receiving the Harry S. Truman distinguished service award from the American Association of Community Colleges and the award for citizen diplomacy from the National Council for International Visitors.

Contributions to his hometown of Muscatine, IA, include service as director and founding chair of Unity HealthCare—the community’s medical provider, as first president of the board of Eastern Iowa Community College, and as past president of the chamber of commerce.

Supporting Iowa Alpha’s nomination, Dr. Gregory L. Geoffroy, ISU president, wrote: “Dick has devoted a lifetime to building a better world, utilizing both his incredible knowledge and skills as an engineer and his deep commitment to peace, justice, and equality. I recommend him most highly.”