



Press Release
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Tau Beta Pi Names 2018 Distinguished Alumni William Collins Jr., Aprille Ericsson, James Halligan, & Gary Hoover

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named the 2018 recipients of its Distinguished Alumnus Award. Now in its 22nd year, the award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated adherence to the ideals of Tau Beta Pi and to fostering a spirit of liberal culture on local, national, and international scales.

William L. Collins Jr., *Florida Gamma '75*; **Aprille J. Ericsson**, Ph.D., *DC Alpha '86*; **James E. Halligan**, Ph.D., P.E., *Iowa Alpha '62*; & **Gary D. Hoover**, *Iowa Alpha '61*, are the 2018 Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumni and will be honored on October 13, 2018, at the 113th annual Convention in Denver. Tau Beta Pi President Sue Holl, Ph.D., will present a commemorative plaque, and a \$2,000 scholarship will be given in the name of each alumnus to a deserving student member of Tau Beta Pi.

Mr. Collins is an inventor and dedicated leader of the FL Gamma Chapter. **Dr. Ericsson** sits on technical academic boards at the National Academies and MIT and spent 25+ years with NASA. **Dr. Halligan** is a two-term Oklahoma State Senator (2008-16) and past president of two universities. **Mr. Hoover** is a philanthropist and involved with both Iowa State University and Wartburg College boards.

A short summary including biographical details, achievements, and work follows:



Mr. Collins has demonstrated a commitment to service to TBPI and acumen as an inventor.

After serving in the U.S. Air Force for seven years, Bill attended the University of South Florida where he completed B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering.

He was integral in the chapter's Foundation (1974) and served as its second president. His leadership led to FL Gamma receiving the 1975 Outstanding Chapter Award.

Highlights of his professional work include discovering a design error in a Critikon Infusion Pump, working with Dr. Peter Lewin on showing shockwave energy to have lower radiation, and implementing a small electronics assembly operation.

Bill served as a FL Gamma Chapter Advisor from 2013-17 and remains closely involved at his alma mater. He has guided multiple officers in their leadership roles and made time to advise each individual chapter member on their academic and professional endeavors.

Bill is also active with the TBPI Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter and was responsible for establishing a connection between the alumni and collegiate chapters in which students can network with those employed at local engineering companies. He has also promoted participation in local K-12 robotics and STEM activities for both alumni and collegiate chapters.

He is being recognized for giving his all to ensure the success of the Association and its members.



Dr. Ericsson spent 25+ years at NASA and balances her career with activities that demonstrate her passion for outreach and advocacy.

She attended MIT with plans for a career as an astronaut. With her dream of entering the space program diverted, she chose to enter graduate school where she became the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in mechanical

engineering from Howard University. During her Ph.D. study, she landed an internship at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center leading to a full-time position.

Dr. Ericsson has held numerous roles, including as new business lead for the NASA GSFC instrument systems & technology division and most recently serving as the capture manager for a proposed astrophysics mid-sized class explorer, called STAR-X.

Formerly, she served as the deputy to the chief technologist for the applied engineering and technology directorate. As an altitude control systems analyst, she developed practical control methods, and analyzed structural dynamics for several space science missions. She also served as a NASA HQ program executive for earth science and a business executive for space science.

She sits on technical academic boards at the National Academies, MIT, and previously at Howard as a trustee. As a motivational speaker and part of NASA's speaker's bureau, Dr. Ericsson champions the virtues of STEM courses in schools and is concerned with growing the number of women and minorities in related fields.



Dr. Halligan has devoted his career to serving others. He has been president of two universities and an Oklahoma State Senator.

Jim earned his bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering from Iowa State University. Before that, he spent four years in the U.S. Air Force as a Bulgarian interpreter.

After working with Exxon, he joined the faculty at Texas Tech and then became the dean of engineering at the Univ. of Missouri-Rolla. In 1984, Dr. Halligan was chosen as president of New Mexico State Univ.

He spent ten years at NMSU before joining Oklahoma State University as its 16th president in 1994.

After retiring as OSU president, he spent time teaching at Prince of Songkhla Univ. in Southern Thailand, completed a Fulbright in Germany where he visited numerous institutions emphasizing the fundraising responsibilities and techniques of a university leader, as well as a brief academic assignment at the Univ. of Plovdiv in Bulgaria.

In 2008, Dr. Halligan became Senator Halligan being overwhelmingly elected the State Senator from OU's 21st District. Halligan served as chairman of the subcommittee on appropriations for higher education, public schools, and the career technology system.

In 2015, Jim released a statement announcing that he would not seek reelection to a third term in office. Dr. Halligan's contributions led to a joint nomination from the alumni and collegiate chapters in OK.



Mr. Hoover has made many civic, educational, religious, and philanthropic contributions from the local to the international level.

He and his wife Donna have been active in support of higher education both at Iowa State University (ISU) and Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.

His leadership and commitment in service to Iowa State is a reflection of his lifetime membership in the ISU Alumni Association. Involvement with Wartburg College is based upon family ties with Marv Walston, his uncle and Waverly businessman, and his own experience in attending a faith-based school where he received his master's degree in business administration.

At ISU, Mr. Hoover is on the Foundation's Board of Governors since 2004, the ISU Order of the Knoll since 1992, ISU Alumni Association board of directors from 1998-2003, and the ISU Alumni Association Leadership Guide since 2009.

At Wartburg College, Mr. Hoover is on the College Board of Regents since 1998, Commission Wartburg from 1999 to 2006, Commission on mission from 2007-10, the Wartburg Engineering Science National Advisory Board since 2010, and the Focus on the Future 2017 planning committee.

His awards include the 2006 Iowa State University Alumni Medal while his extensive philanthropy include \$1.5 million for Gary and Donna Hoover Chair in mechanical engineering, \$3 million for the Gary & Donna Hoover Hall, Jacobson Athletic Building, Gary and Donna Hoover Endowed Scholarship fund, \$50,000 to Jim Miller Championship Wrestling mat, \$1 million for the Gary and Donna Hoover Distinguished Professorship in engineering science, the Hoover Field House and Track, and the Walston-Hoover Stadium.

Tau Beta Pi is The Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters in 247 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 44 cities. It has initiated more than 593,000 members in its 132-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See <https://www.tbp.org/>)

Contact Dylan Lane (dylan@tbp.org) for more details.