



Tau Beta Pi
The Engineering Honor Society

For Immediate Release

August 24, 2020

Tau Beta Pi Names 2020 Distinguished Alumni Jerry D. Holmes, Paul D. Plotkowski, Ronald W. Rousseau, Dale W. Zimmerman

Knoxville, TN — Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honor Society, has named the 2020 recipients of its Distinguished Alumnus Award. Now in its 24th 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.

Jerry Holmes, Major General (Ret.), *Oklahoma Alpha '58*; **Paul Plotkowski, Ph.D.**, *Michigan Theta '80*; **Ronald Rousseau, Ph.D.**, *Louisiana Alpha '66*; and **Dale Zimmerman, P.E.**, *Florida Alpha '65*, are the 2020 Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumni honorees. They will receive a commemorative plaque and a \$2,000 scholarship will be given in the name of each alumnus to a deserving student member of TBP.

Maj. Gen. Holmes is recognized for his dedication to service and promotion of leadership education. **Dr. Plotkowski** is recognized for his commitment to the education of future engineers and the development of K-12 outreach programs. **Dr. Rousseau** is recognized for his commitment to educating future engineers and the development and growth of the chemical engineering field. **Mr. Zimmerman** is recognized for his outstanding career and history of service to professional societies.

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



Jerry D. Holmes, Major General (Ret.), in recognition of his dedication to service and promotion of leadership education, has been named a 2020 TBP Distinguished Alumnus.

He graduated from the University of Oklahoma (OU) with a B.S. in geological engineering and an M.S. in aerospace engineering.

His military career included serving on the Titan III space launch vehicle and the Manned Orbiting Laboratory program, flying RF-101 and PF-4 missions as a combat pilot during the Vietnam War, commanding the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing, and serving as the deputy chief of staff for logistics at Langley Air Force Base (VA). Promoted to Major General in 1984, he was assigned as chief of staff, 4th Allied Tactical Air Force (West Germany) and then commander of the NATO Airborne Early Warning Force.

After retiring from corporate work in 1996, Holmes focused on leadership education and developed a leadership program for engineers and scientists at OU. He retired again in 2016, after 19 years as an adjunct professor.

His many decorations and awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Bronze Star Medal. Holmes is an inductee of the Oklahoma Aviation & Space Hall of Fame (HOF) and the Oklahoma Military HOF. He received one of 25 teaching awards made in the U.S. by the Acton Foundation for Entrepreneurial Excellence (2008) and is a seven-time recipient of the OU "Alumni Teaching Award."



Paul D. Plotkowski, Ph.D., a graduate from Oakland University (MI) with B.S. and M.S. degrees in mechanical engineering and a Ph.D. in systems engineering, is honored as a 2020 TBP Distinguished Alumnus for his commitment to the education of future engineers and his dedication to the development of K-12 outreach programs.

Dr. Plotkowski began as an assistant professor at the GMU Engineering & Management Institute (now Kettering Univ.) in 1983. His field of expertise was optical methods of stress analysis and inspection. Next, he took on the role of director of the newly introduced Manufacturing Systems Engineering program. He led the development efforts of that program which became ABET accredited in 2.5 years. In 1991, he accepted the Grand Valley State University (GVSU) position of Director of the School of Engineering. During this time, the engineering curriculum was expanded from one general program to include five accredited undergraduate programs, a testament to his leadership and vision.

He serves as MI Lambda Chapter Advisor, is a founding officer of the TBP West Michigan Alumni Chapter, and in 2003, Dr. Plotkowski earned the ASME Dedicated Service Award for effective leadership and devotion. In 2004, he became the GVSU Dean of Engineering & Computing. Additionally, he developed K-12 outreach programs on campus such as STEPS, FIRST Robotics, and Math Counts. In 2005, he received the ASEE Alvah Borman Award.

--more--

Tau Beta Pi Names 2020 Distinguished Alumni...



Ronald W. Rousseau, Ph.D., in recognition of his commitment to educating future engineers and to the development and growth of the chemical engineering field, Rousseau has been named a 2020 TBP Distinguished Alumnus.

He received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D., degrees in chemical engineering from Louisiana State University. He also holds a Docteur Honoris Causa from L'Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse (France).

Dr. Rousseau began his academic career at North Carolina State University. By 1980, he received the title of professor of chemical engineering. From 1987 to 2013, Dr. Rousseau was the chair of the school of chemical & biomolecular engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is currently the C.J. Silas Endowed Chair Emeritus. Dr. Rousseau is co-author of *Elementary Principles of Chemical Processes*, originally published in 1978 and now in its 4th edition, and former editor of the *Handbook of Separation Process Technology*.

His research is related to separation processes, particularly emphasizing phenomena influencing characteristics of products from crystallization operations, has resulted in more than 220 journal articles and over 315 presentations at technical meetings and seminars for industry and universities. He has been influential in the manufacturing of commodity and specialty chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and biologically synthesized products.

Dr. Rousseau is known internationally as a visionary leader and spokesperson for the chemical industry and academic community. The American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and the Council for Chemical Research (CCR) Board have greatly benefited from his participation and leadership roles. Due to his tireless efforts, Dr. Rousseau has been recognized with numerous awards, most notably the AIChE's Warren Lewis and Founders Awards, the Malcom Pruitt Award by the CCR, and the ASEE Chemical Engineering Division Lifetime Achievement Award.



Dale W. Zimmerman, P.E., in recognition of his outstanding career and history of service to professional societies, Zimmerman has been named a 2020 TBP Distinguished Alumnus.

He earned a B.S. in agricultural & biological engineering from the University of Florida.

Mr. Zimmerman joined several professional societies in which he would stay active, such as the Palm Beach Chapter of Florida Engineering Society and the American Society of Agricultural & Biological Engineers (ASABE).

Before finishing his degree, Mr. Zimmerman expanded his engineering knowledge by working at Pratt Whitney Aircraft, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and S. Florida Water Management District. In these positions, his job responsibilities included plant layout, equipment R&D, and water quality & drainage projects. After college, he was a design & sales engineer for M & W Pump Works, Inc. In 1969, Mr. Zimmerman began working for Mock, Roos & Associates, Inc. as a design specialist for the firm's pump station, drainage, and irrigation projects. He held many positions throughout his time at Mock Roos and gained comprehensive knowledge in the design of irrigation systems, wastewater reuse, and stormwater facilities. In 1979, Mr. Zimmerman became the principal owner of Mock Roos and later its president. In 1988, he became the first agricultural engineer to serve as a member of the FL Board of Professional Engineers. He has been involved with the ASABE, where he was instrumental in restructuring the organization and as a trustee of the ASABE Foundation established a fund to support engineers taking the professional engineering exam.

Mr. Zimmerman received many awards from the ASABE FL Section, including a Distinguished Achievement Service Award and a P.E. Award. He also served his community in many key ways: supporting eng'g education, work with UF service on advisory boards, and to instruct a 12-week course on heavy construction for the National Association of Women in Construction.

Tau Beta Pi is The Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters in 250 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 46 cities. It has initiated more than 609,000 members in its 135-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. See <https://www.tbp.org/> or contact (tbp.media@tbp.org) for more details.