

Tau Beta Pi Announces the 2021 Distinguished Alumni

Knoxville, TN — Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honor Society, has named the 2021 recipients of the 25th annual *Distinguished Alumnus Award*. This award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated adherence to the ideals of Tau Beta Pi and foster a spirit of liberal culture on local, national, and international scales.

Neal A. McCaleb, P.E., *Oklahoma Gamma '57*; **James A. Momoh, Ph.D.**, *District of Columbia Alpha '75*; **Richard J. Spontak, Ph.D.**, *Pennsylvania Beta '83*; **Martin C. Jischke, Ph.D.**, *Iowa Alpha '63*; and **Edward Kaplan, Illinois Beta '65**, are the 2021 Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumni honorees. Each 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 TBII.



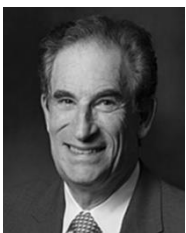
Neal A. McCaleb, P.E., recognized for service to his country and success as a business leader. Mr. McCaleb earned a B.S. in civil engineering from Oklahoma State University (OSU). He is a professional engineer and political leader with proud Native American Heritage.

Dr. McCaleb was initiated into Tau Beta Pi in 1976 as an alumnus. His career in politics began in 1974 after being elected to the House of Representatives and he served as House Minority Leader until his retirement from Legislature. He was also appointed as the state's first Secretary of Transportation in 1986 by the Governor of Oklahoma and served as Director of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

He was appointed to key positions by three U.S. presidents and four Oklahoma governors, including President George W. Bush, who in 2001 appointed him as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs.

After leaving government service, Mr. McCaleb was appointed the chairman of the board of Chickasaw Nation Industries and now serves as an Ambassador at Large for the Chickasaw Nation.

"Few individuals have served their country, tribe, and state as ably as Neal. He has been a mentor and an example for many," stated his nominator.



Edward Kaplan, recognized for his entrepreneurship, societal contributions, and support of future leaders. He received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

Mr. Kaplan is co-founder (1969) of Zebra Technologies, a leader in barcode printing technology, where he served as CEO, director, and president. Zebra quickly became a leader in their field through a revolutionized printing technology based on thermal transfer for on-demand barcode printing- able to print on virtually any surface. He led new product development and expansion for 37 years, until his retirement in 2007. Zebra, a multi-billion-dollar business continues to be an industry leader, having acquired Motorola Solutions-Enterprise Business in 2014. He has enjoyed great professional success and a broad impact on society through innovation, but he has also given significant time and dedicated his talents through philanthropy. Examples include, being a member of the Board of Directors of Hyde Park Angels (investors) and founding the Kaplan Leadership Initiative, with his wife in 2017.

He was described in a letter of recommendation as "industrious, with an extraordinary work ethic," whose decades of hard work and acclaimed engineering career have enabled him to prioritize giving back. He is an exemplary role model.



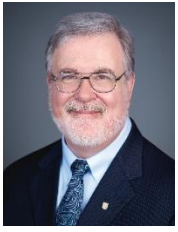
James A. Momoh, Ph.D., recognized for his role in the development of future engineers and his commitment to faith and diversity inclusion. Dr. Momoh was born in Nigeria, obtained B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from Howard University, and M.S. degrees in electrical & systems engineering from Carnegie

Mellon and UPenn. He also earned an M.A. in theology from the Howard University School of Divinity and is an ordained minister.

Dr. Momoh strongly believes in the importance of religious freedom and racial and gender harmony. He founded the NSF-funded Center for Energy Systems and Controls that grew to become one of the top three research centers at Howard, while serving as electrical engineering department chair from 1990-2000.

A former student wrote; "Dr. Momoh is equally committed to education and service. He challenges his students to be innovative thinkers and inspires them to complete degrees in engineering." Outside of Howard, he has served as program director for the National Science Foundation and most recently as CEO of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (since 2018).

Dr. Momoh has been honored with many awards, including the IEEE Life Fellow and NAE Member. These remarkable achievements demonstrate his spirit of liberal culture.



Richard J. Spontak, Ph.D., recognized for his passionate research and numerous, insightful publications, as well as for his teaching and innovation. Dr. Spontak earned his B.S. degree in chemical engineering from Pennsylvania State University and a Ph.D. in ChemE from the University of

California, Berkeley. He also completed two post-grad research fellowships at the University of Cambridge and the Institute for Energy Technology.

Dr. Spontak's career began as a soft materials engineer at Procter & Gamble. He accepted a faculty position at North Carolina State University in 1992 because of his love of teaching and mentoring students. He now serves as a Distinguished Professor of chemical & biomolecular engineering and has established the Macromolecular Materials & Morphology Group.

His research in the field of condensed matter has led to 300+ publications in peer-reviewed journals and has been featured on 30+ journal covers, including *Advanced Materials* and *Macromolecular Rapid Communications*.

Dr. Spontak's striking publication record and substantial contributions across a breadth of topics was lauded in his nomination: "His ability to design and work effortlessly with novel materials...is a joy to witness, and I have always been impressed by his creative approach to scholarly research."

He has traveled around the globe to deliver seminars and teach courses in an effort to forge new collaborations, serve as a goodwill ambassador, and benefit the lives of others through dissemination of knowledge and ideas.

The Research Triangle Alumni Chapter (NC) recognized and nominated him for being a leading advocate of interdisciplinary undergraduate research and leading teams to national awards. Not only has Spontak received three national awards, but four awards at the international level, as well as being elected a member of the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences.

Dr. Spontak is widely loved by his chapter and colleagues, who claim, "With Spontak's boundless optimism and resourcefulness, he helps guide many through a wide range of challenges."



Martin C. Jischke, Ph.D., recognized for his leadership capabilities and lasting impact on academia. Dr. Jischke obtained a B.S. degree in physics from the Illinois Institute of Technology and S.M. and Ph.D. degrees in aeronautics & astronautics from the MIT.

Dr. Jischke is President Emeritus of Purdue University, began his career as an engineer with RAND Corp., and then as a research fellow at NASA. He joined the University of Oklahoma (OU) in 1968 as an assistant professor. In 1975, he spent a year as a White House Fellow and assistant to the Secretary of Transportation at the U.S. DOT.

He is a prominent administrator and advocate of higher education. He previously served as dean of the OU College of Engineering (1981-86), chancellor of the University of Missouri-Rolla (1986-91), president of Iowa State University (1991-2000), and president of Purdue University (2000-07).

Dr. Jischke has made many civic, educational, and professional contributions, which include service to nonprofit organizations, leadership to intercollegiate athletics, and community service.

He founded/served as president of the Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture, won the Indiana International Citizen of the Year (2007), served as founding chair of the Big 12 Conference Board of Directors, and is author/co-author of 52 journal publications and major technical reports.

At each of the universities where he was president, together with his wife Patty, initiated and led leadership classes with students to help broaden their horizons and develop their leadership skills. He fostered the idea of the "Engaged University" which emphasizes mutually beneficial partnerships with the broader community to both strengthen the community and broaden the educational experience of students.

Dr. Jischke was cited for being a dynamic leader, an inspiration, and talented educator with knowledge and expertise that embodies the spirit of liberal culture.

The Association congratulates the 2021 TBPI Distinguished Alumni

Find a longer version at www.tbp.org/?DistAlumni

Tau Beta Pi is The Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. With 250 collegiate chapters and 47 active alumni chapters, it has initiated nearly 618,000 members in its 136-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. See <https://www.tbp.org/> or contact Kailey Churchill (kchurchill@tbp.org) for more details.