Two Laureates have been selected in the Association’s program to recognize gifted engineering students who have exhibited their talents in areas outside their academic major.

Paul R. Koch of George Washington University received the Laureate Award for “Diverse Achievements,” and David N. Pier, a Columbia University graduate, was commended for his contributions to the “Arts.” They join five other outstanding Tau Bates who have received recognition from the Association since the Laureate Program was founded in 1981.

The goal of the program is to help implement Tau Beta Pi’s second basic purpose: “to foster a spirit of liberal culture in engineering colleges.”

The Laureates, nominated by their local chapters and selected by a committee of District Directors, were honored during ceremonies on October 13 at the Association’s annual Convention held in Tempe, AZ. President Paul H. Robbins presented the winners with a $2,500 cash award and a plaque.

The selection committee, composed of District Directors Alan R. Hirsch, Charles S. Hanskat, and Nancy J. Hilman, considered 22 nominations from 20 chapters before making their decisions.

Since the Laureate Program was inaugurated, awards have been presented in athletics, campus leadership, campus service, the performing arts, and diverse achievements. Not more than five awards can be presented each year.

sity, he enhanced his production skills by working as audio-visual technician at the student center and by helping organize a new theater group. He continued as an ensemble player in the wind group and managed the jazz band which took part in the Ivy League Jazz Festival for the first time.

In Southern California during the summers, between performances of Stardust, he has organized and conducted a 20-piece pit orchestra for the “Teen Summer Musical Workshop.” For the past three summers, he has worked six to eight hours a day with student actors, dancers and singers, preparing them for their performances. Like his own mentor, Eddie Allen, Dave has spent most of his time assisting the youth of his area.

A member of Eta Kappa Nu and the IEEE, Dave has begun full-time studies this fall at Stanford University working toward a master’s degree in materials science.

Chapter officer, church leader, thespian, and vocalist, Paul R. Koch, District of Columbia Gamma ’84, was nominated for the Laureate Award by his chapter for his diverse achievements. As a civil engineering major at George Washington University, Paul focused his studies on environmental issues, particularly energy development.

While excelling in the classroom, he also applied himself to campus club activities. As vice president of his Tau Beta Pi chapter, he developed a community service project to repair and weatherize the homes of needy families in the University area. As secretary for Omicron Delta Kappa, Paul initiated a full revision of the chapter’s bylaws and amendments and tightened the organization’s operating procedures. And, as president of the GWU chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers, he obtained office space, organized the files, and supervised the club’s programs. Paul is also a member of Phi Eta Sigma freshman honor society.

He extended his leadership capabilities off-campus, too. Paul initiated and oversaw the publication of his church congregation’s first pictorial directory, taught a high school class on Sundays, and was a circuit delegate to the 1983 triannual convention of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.

While his studies were highlighted by his administrative skills, his personal achievements were being spotlighted on the stage. A performer of several dimensions, Paul’s overall musicianship and acting talents enabled him to assume many roles.

Early training in his father’s parish choir, and a year studying music at Concordia College in Nebraska, prepared him for solo stage performances. A baritone, he played the bus driver in Express, and sang the role of Betto in Puccini’s Gianni Schicchi, and of Mordcha in Fiddler on the Roof.

Taking a more subordinate role, he sang as a member of Concordia’s Celebrate Singers, and he was the youngest musician to perform in the 125-voice Paul Hill Chorale in Washington, DC.

His eagerness to share the spotlight led him to create an arts support group on the GWU campus called A.P.P.L.A.U.S.E. (The Association for the Promotion of Performing Local Artists and University Student Ensembles).

Paul is employed at the environmental research division of Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois.