1992
LAUREATES

THREE LAUREATES have been selected in the 11th year of Tau Beta Pi’s annual program to recognize gifted engineering students who have excelled in areas beyond their technical majors.

The 1992 Laureates are: Gerald W. Brann, Maryland Alpha ’93, of Johns Hopkins University, honored for his musical accomplishments; Michael H. Holland, Vermont Alpha ’92, of the University of Vermont, feted for his athletic achievements; and Robert J. Stevens, Pennsylvania Kappa ’92, of Swarthmore College, chosen for his service to others. They join 25 other outstanding Tau Bates who have been recognized since the Laureates were first presented in 1982.

Nominated by their collegiate chapters and selected by a committee of District Directors, the Laureates were honored during ceremonies on October 10, 1992, at the 87th annual Convention in East Lansing, Michigan. President James W. Johnson Jr. presented each winner with a $2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

The Laureate Program was inaugurated to further Tau Beta Pi’s second basic purpose as stated in the preamble to the Constitution: “to foster a spirit of liberal culture in engineering colleges.”

District Directors John D. Reynolds, Bennett L. Basore, and Edward J. D’Avignon considered 22 nominees from 18 chapters. Past awards have been made for diverse achievements and campus leadership. No more than five Laureates may be named each year.

Gerald W. Brann was nominated for Laureate status by Tau Beta Pi’s Maryland Alpha Chapter at the Johns Hopkins University for his accomplishments in music while participating in the department of electrical and computer engineering’s combined B.S./M.S. program. During his freshman year, he auditioned as a cellist at the Peabody Institute and was accepted, presented a scholarship, and became only the second student ever admitted into a dual-degree program.

Jerry began studying the cello at the age of five, and by age six gave his first performance at the Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts. He has performed regularly in string ensembles at Wolf Trap and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, since then. For three years during high school in Virginia, he played cello in the all-state honors orchestra, serving as assistant principal cellist from his sophomore year. He also became an Eagle Scout in 1986.

He played in the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra during his freshman year, became a full-time Peabody student his sophomore year, and performed as principal cellist for the institute’s chamber orchestra during his junior year. As one of 14 cellists with the institute’s symphony orchestra, he was one of only four who were undergraduates. Jerry spent the summer of 1991 attending the prestigious Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, CA, where for two months, gifted young musicians study under award-winning professionals from the Moscow Tchaikovsky competitions and play together in festival and chamber orchestras. He has studied under Mihaly Virizlay, principal cellist of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. He presented a set of solo recitals this spring, performing Brahms’ “Sonata for Cello and Piano in E Minor,” Beethoven’s “Seven Variations on a Theme from Mozart’s Magic Flute,” and Tchaikovsky’s “Variations on a Rococo Theme.”

Having completed the fourth year in his five-year, triple-degree program, Jerry spent the summer of 1992 working for the IBM Corporation in his hometown of Manassas, VA.