Michael H. Holland, world champion skier, whose greater joy was the challenge of the pursuit, is a 1992 Laureate for contributions to fostering liberal culture through athletics. A student at the University of Vermont since 1980 and a member of the Vermont Alpha Chapter of Tau Beta Pi, he graduated in May with a B.S. degree in engineering management.

He has traveled to Europe more than 40 times, competing in skiing events. He has been a member of three world championship ski-jumping teams during his eight years on the U.S. team, including events in non-Olympic years, and he has been a member of four world championship ski-flying teams. Mike participated in two Olympic competitions — Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, in 1984; and Calgary, Canada, in 1988, where he was the top American finisher. In 1985 in Planica, Yugoslavia, he set a world ski-flying record with a distance of 610 feet, and from 1985-89, he was national champion five times in both the 70- and 90-meter events. He is the only American to have won a World Cup event in Europe, and is one of only three Americans to win a ski-jumping World Cup — which he earned in Bischofshofen, Austria.

Building his skiing career has been a long process. In his early development, Mike placed in the bottom third of the competitors at ski meets. Realizing he was competing against many fine athletes, he dedicated himself to hard work and thoughtful training. Practicing became a year-round pursuit after he created and produced a porcelain summer-time ski-jumping track. Eventually he became team leader, able to provide positive support to the younger members.

No longer a competitor, Mike shares his enthusiasm for the sport with participants in the Vermont Special Olympics and speaks to youth groups, encouraging children to pursue their goals. He has begun commentating at ski meets for television networks. Fluent in German, with interpretive ability in French and Norwegian, he may be entertaining us at future Olympic events.

Robert J. Stevens, president of the Pennsylvania Kappa Chapter of Tau Beta Pi at Swarthmore College, was selected as a Laureate for his service to society. A June graduate whose academic pursuits involved civil, environmental, and materials engineering, he has focused his abilities on improving available technologies for the disadvantaged. Not simply a visionary, he has participated in the world around him since he was a third-grader who dreamed of working as an architect in Haiti, designing better housing for its citizens.

A resident of Asheville, Rob attended the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham where he organized the school's first world concerns group — involving the students in the local ministry and major world issues. Rob had already lived a year and four summers in Germany and the Netherlands and traveled to more than a dozen European nations.

Before beginning college, Rob began a year of service. In the fall of 1987, he lived in Durham, volunteering at the Carolinas Church world service office, at a shelter for the homeless, and the Lennox-Baker Children's Hospital. In the spring, he worked in South Africa for both Vision Care and the Transkei Appropriate Technology Unit, adapting a 250-liter water jug from Asia to fit Transkeian needs, working briefly on the design and construction of ferricement water storage tanks, and learning about anaerobic and aerobic composting systems. This interest has continued through two college internships and a junior project. His study of both passive and active solar-energy systems led to his senior project—an attempt to develop a solar system for low-income, urban residents.

Exploring ways to help others near the college, Rob co-founded CREATE (Community Recreation, Education, Adventure, and Teamwork for Empowerment) a grass-roots project offering resources and a summer program to children in Chester, PA. Now seeking a job in community development and appropriate technology, Rob's future will certainly be an outgrowth of his past.