FOUR LAUREATES have been selected in the 14th year of Tau Beta Pi’s annual program to recognize three, Beta ’96, honored for his service to others; Robin W. McCall, Ohio Gamma ’96, honored for her athletic achievement; and James M. T. Ewing, Ohio Gamma ’95, chosen for her concern for the welfare of others. They join 35 other outstanding Tau Bates who have been honored since 1982.

The new Laureates were honored during ceremonies on October 14, 1995, at the 100th anniversary convention of the society. The Program was inaugurated to further Tau Beta Pi’s second basic purpose as stated in the preamble to the society’s charter: “to recognize the students who have demonstrated excellence in the field of applied and basic engineering and related sciences.”

The new Laureates are Michael D. Chu, Arizona Beta ’96, named a Tau Beta Pi Laureate for his service to others while a student at Arizona State University, participated in Guadalajara, Mexico, last summer in a partnership for service-learning program. Fluent in Spanish, Michael’s primary mission near his home in Tempe has been working with the Hispanic and Native American residents of Guadalupe, where more than 100 children compete for only 30 spaces in a head-start group. In the fall of 1994, Michael set up a preschool in the community center, where he worked with two groups of four-and-five-year-olds three times a week. His hope is that the children from Guadalupe might begin public school prepared to compete effectively with those who attend private preschools. The high-school dropout rate in that community exceeds 50%.

Michael enrolled in mathematics courses at the university for three of his high-school years after completing calculus during his freshman year. He filled the void in his schedule by taking another course, volunteer community service. It was through this class that he began working with students in the English-as-a-second-language program, serving as an instructional aide for three years teaching basic arithmetic. His commitment to the Spanish-speaking community has continued in college. He is a member of the Sun Devil Mentoring Corps, tutoring two fifth-grade boys. Additionally, he has been leading “A World in Motion” project at a local elementary school and reading for the university’s disabled student resources group, recording textbooks onto audiocassette tapes for the blind.

A brilliant student, he completed 53 college credit hours before he had graduated from high school in 1992 — accumulating 23 college calculus and mathematics hours and the others in four AP examinations. Michael will graduate in May 1996 with his B.S.E. in industrial engineering and a B.A. in mathematics from the honors college. He is a member of Tau Beta Pi (and treasurer), Alpha Pi Mu, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Lambda Delta, and the IIE and is a USA Today all-USA college academic first team member.

Robin W. McCall, Ohio Gamma ’95, is a 1995 Tau Beta Pi Laureate in Athletics. A former U.S. national champion and world-record holder who graduated in May with her B.S.M.E. from Ohio State University, she plans to pursue a career in rehabilitative engineering after further studies as an NSF graduate fellow.

While a high-school student in Western North Carolina, she held 11 national rifle-shooting records; she was 1989 junior women’s prone national champion, gold medal winner in the junior women’s prone championships of the Americas in San Juan, 1988 Canadian junior national champion, 1989 Explorer Scout national air rifle champion, and 1987-90 North Carolina junior Olympic champion.

During her freshman year in 1990-91 on OSU’s varsity rifle team, she was named an academic All-American and became a member of the US shooting team, setting a world record in the Master’s of Strasbourg, France, competition. Later in 1991, she became the national champion in the women’s standard rifle prone (setting a record) and the junior women’s standard rifle prone, the collegiate champion in the women’s standard rifle prone, and a silver medalist in the junior women’s standard rifle 3-position. She was a gold medalist in the 1991 U.S. Olympic Festival women’s prone, member of the 1991 national junior olympics all-star team, and a finalist for the 1992 Olympic games.

During 1991-92, she was named all-American and academic all-American. In the fall of 1992, Robin retired from her 10-year career in competitive rifle to prevent permanent injury to the nerves of her feet, which had required surgery earlier. She began to spend several hours weekly as a therapy aide in the Heinzerling Developmental Center in Columbus, OH, helping to design and fabricate seating systems and adaptive devices for the profoundly disabled. She also worked as a summer intern in 1994 at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

Robin is a member of Tau Beta Pi, Pi Tau Sigma, and Mortar Board and is a licensed aircraft pilot and a former OSU band member.