TWO LAUREATES have been selected in the 18th year of Tau Beta Pi’s annual program. The 1999 Laureates were selected for their achievement in athletics. They are Tracey C. Ho and Rikke Ulslev Pedersen, Arizona Gamma ’99, recognized for her times as a long jumper since the program began in 1982.

The new Laureates were honored during ceremonies on October 9, 1999, at the new TBP Northern Pacific Region commemorating plaque. The Laureate Program was inaugurated to further Tau Beta Pi’s goal of nurturing a spirit of liberal culture in engineering colleges.” A committee of District Directors

Tracey C. Ho entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1995 after attending Raffles Junior College in her native Singapore. There, she was one of four students annually to receive a president’s scholarship and one of 36 in the Asia-Pacific region to be awarded an AT&T Asia Pacific scholarship. Even though she has excelled in various pursuits, she was never able to compete athletically until she came to the U.S. She had, however, competed in piano competitions, national physics, chemistry, and mathematics contests, and in international mathematics olympiads.

At the institute, she became involved in women’s pistol sports. Her rise to excellence was meteoric, considering she had no previous shooting experience. Because Tracey completed both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in four years instead of five, her added effort and practice time is extraordinary. Practice is officially two hours a week on four days, and she frequently devotes time on Fridays as well. Matches occur two-to-three weekends each month. She was able to make significant contributions after four months, helping her team acquire first-place status at the 1995 state junior Olympic pistol championship. Later that season she qualified individually in women’s air pistol.

Her sophomore year, she was on the varsity team and was scoring in women’s air and women’s sport pistol at nationals. She took part in the traditionally male free-pistol event, because several team members had recently graduated.

Each competition has five events: women’s air, open air, women’s sport, standard, and free pistol. An air gun is used in women’s air and open air, whereas a standard gun is used in women’s sport and standard. The free pistol event, however, uses a gun with a hair trigger and a long barrel, making free pistol the most exhausting physically, because of its greater difficulty, longer duration, and more distant targets.

Tracey became among the best shooters nationwide during her junior year, placing first in free pistol and women’s air pistol, and second in open air pistol. She was the only female free-pistol qualifier in the event, and her qualifying score for women’s air pistol was the nation’s highest. She won an individual gold in women’s air pistol and propelled her team to first place. She won these events even though she completed the grueling two-hour free pistol immediately before the women’s event and while suffering from the flu.

Tracey C. Ho, MA B ’99

Tracey’s perseverance galvanized alumni, who endowed a national trophy for women’s air pistol, which was presented for the first time at the national championships this year. For her 1997-98 season performance, she was named to the all-American first team for women’s air pistol, voted the most outstanding female athlete at the institute, and received the 1998 Betsy Schumaker trophy from the athletic department.

In her final season, Tracey continued to improve her average and personal best scores, placing first in open air pistol, women’s air pistol and women’s sport pistol and second in free pistol in the sectionals in February. The team qualified in all events except sport pistol.

Tracey has returned to Singapore, where she has been asked to join the national squad.