



2005
LAUREATE

One Laureate has been selected in the 24th year of Tau Beta Pi's annual program to recognize gifted engineering students who have excelled in non-technical areas. Selected for her diverse accomplishments, Clara C. Shih, California Gamma '05, joins 57 other outstanding Tau Bates who have been cited since the program began in 1982. She will be honored during ceremonies on October 8, 2005, at the 100th annual Convention in Salt Lake City, UT, where she will receive a \$2,500 check 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." A committee of District Directors considered seven nominees from seven chapters.

Clara C. Shih

CLARA C. SHIH, *California Gamma '05*, graduate of Stanford University, is a Tau Beta Pi Laureate for her ongoing commitment to personal excellence, community improvement, and global outreach.

As a first-generation immigrant to the United States from Hong Kong, she experienced the formidable barriers of a bewildering language, diverse cultures, and unfamiliar attitudes. For support, she relied on her father, an electrical engineer who fostered her budding interest in science and math, and her mother, who instilled an equally strong passion for education and social equality.

Accepted into one of the nation's top high schools, Clara's diverse interests and drive toward excellence soon became apparent. She became captain of the women's varsity tennis team, concert mistress in the orchestra, editor of the newspaper, and captain of the debate team. Yet even as she rose to become high-school valedictorian, she continued giving English lessons to newer immigrants.

Using technology to empower developing and marginalized communities is essential to Clara's ongoing efforts. She co-founded the Stanford engineering public-service center, which is intended to bridge service initiatives between the school of engineering and the university's Hass center for public service. She co-organized the Bay Area community technology non-profit conference in 2004, which helped 400 nonprofit community leaders identify, create, and adapt technologies that might better serve their constituents.



As part of her global outreach, Clara founded and now directs Camp Amelia, a nonprofit organization that develops open-source educational software and offers free summer and afterschool computer camps for at-risk youth around the world. It started with dozens of after-school and summer programs across America and Canada. An international pilot program in Ghana was started in 2003.

Throughout her school years, she proved herself to be an energetic worker and an accomplished leader. When Clara became president of the campus chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the membership hovered below 100 students. That number surpassed 500 after

she instituted new programs such as faculty dinners, upperclass student panels, and industrial mentorship programs. While chairing the campus Society of Women Engineers, she coordinated a networking banquet for 300 female engineering students.

Clara has won various awards for violin, poetry, prose, and tennis. One of her dreams is running in the San Francisco marathon. She is a Microsoft women's scholar, a Mayfield fellow, a Google Anita Borg scholar, a United States President's scholar, and a Merage Foundation for the American Dream fellow. She is a member of Mu Alpha Theta honor society.

Having completed her bachelor's degree in economics and co-terminal degrees in computer science (B.S., M.S.), Clara is attending the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom to pursue an M.Sc. in educational studies.