



FOR RELEASE  
JULY 12, 2012

CONTACT: Dylan Lane  
865/546-4578

## **Tau Beta Pi Announces 2012 Laureates**

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named five Laureates in the Association's annual program to recognize gifted engineering students who have excelled in areas beyond their technical majors.

The 2012 Tau Beta Pi Laureates are Carl J. Kirpes, a 2012 summer graduate in mechanical and industrial engineering from Iowa State University, cited for his diverse achievements; Steven Limpert, a graduate of Arizona State University with a degree in electrical engineering, cited for his achievements in the arts; Jason D. Metzger, an aerospace engineering graduate of The United States Naval Academy, cited for his achievements in the arts; Steven D. Prendergast, a 2012 aerospace engineering graduate of the University of Notre Dame, cited for his diverse achievements; and Kyle E. Zobeck, majoring in mechanical engineering at Valparaiso University, cited for his achievements in athletics. This brings the total to 83 remarkable Tau Bates that have been named Laureates since 1982.

The Laureate Program exists to further Tau Beta Pi's second fundamental purpose as stated in the Association's Constitution: "*. . . to foster a spirit of liberal culture in engineering colleges.*" The primary concern of the Society is to recognize students of superior scholarship and exemplary character and to honor eminent practicing engineers. The Society also encourages excellence in engineering education and in the ethical practice of engineering.

The Laureates will be honored with other 2012 national award winners on September 29, 2012, at the 107th annual Convention to be held in Lexington, Kentucky. Tau Beta Pi President Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., will present each with a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque. Their biographies follow:

(more)

CARL J. KIRPES, *Iowa Alpha '12*, will graduate this summer with degrees in mechanical and industrial engineering from Iowa State University.

Carl is a member of six campus honor societies and takes advantage of these opportunities to develop his leadership skills. He is currently writing a fictional novel incorporating his philosophy of “reflective leadership” as part of his capstone honors project.

He spent two seasons as a walk-on varsity football player for the Cyclones before a medical injury ended his football career. He is a published undergraduate researcher and a residence hall honorary, recognized for his accomplishments as a president of his residence house.

Dedicated to community service, Carl has been involved with the local Des Moines YMCA as a volunteer since high school. In 2007, his extensive service efforts were recognized by being named the United Way Youth Volunteer of the Year. He was described by a presenter of his senior award as being the epitome of a well-rounded ISU student who has consistently displayed a passion for learning and leading.

STEVEN LIMPert, *Arizona Beta '12*, is an electrical engineering graduate of Arizona State University.

Steven is a nationally recognized jazz trumpeter and has excelled as a performer, composer, recorder, compiler, and publisher of music. During his time at ASU, Steven performed in more than 100 shows with a variety of musical ensembles, most notably the ASU Concert Jazz Band and the Bad Cactus Brass Band.

While in high school, he won awards in the National Trumpet Competition and from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. He has released a CD, *haploid 23*, and operates a thriving music services company.

Last year, Steven won a scholarship from the Circumnavigators Club Foundation to study the development and commercialization of solar energy technologies in six countries. He served as president and industrial relations coordinator of the collegiate chapter of Eta Kappa Nu, the electrical engineering honor society. As a leader in engineering and the arts, he excels in providing fellow students the opportunity to give back to the community.

JASON D. METZGER, *Maryland Gamma '12*, is an aerospace engineering graduate of The United States Naval Academy (USNA).

Jason has always embraced the performing arts. At the age of 16, he voluntarily assumed the role of choir director at his church, planning the musical liturgy for each service, and leading weekly rehearsals and Sunday Mass.

At the Academy, all music and art courses are performed on a voluntary basis. Jason has been a member of the Men's Glee Club since his freshman year. He served as the producer and show director of the USNA annual Halloween Concert for two consecutive years. He also was the president and producer of a winter musical production of *South Pacific* in his senior year.

He served as the president of the Maryland Gamma Chapter of Tau Beta Pi during 2011-12. Jason becomes a leader in all of his activities, promoting the success of all participants and sharing his love of the arts with others.

STEVEN D. PRENDERGAST, *Indiana Gamma '12*, is a graduate in aerospace engineering from the University of Notre Dame.

Steven is a proven and knowledgeable leader who has excelled in coursework, leadership roles, research, and community outreach.

He has been involved as a ROTC Midshipman all four years of college, steadily rising in rank and developing his leadership skills. He is currently the Battalion Commanding Officer.

As a resident assistant his senior year, Steven counseled freshmen to help them transition into college life. He has volunteered in the Salvation Army Band-Link program as an after-school mentor, teaching underprivileged students to read and play music. He has also served in the Trident Naval Society, helping to host fundraisers for various charities, such as the Wounded Warrior Project.

Steven is an Eagle Scout and trumpet player in the UND Marching Band. He plans to continue his research in reprocessing spent nuclear fuel at the Naval Nuclear Power School and pursue a career in naval engineering.

KYLE E. ZOBECK, *Indiana Delta '12*, is a mechanical engineering senior at Valparaiso University and plans to minor in mathematics.

Last season, he led the men's soccer team to their first Horizon League Conference championship, was selected as a NSCAA 3<sup>rd</sup> Team Academic All-American, and was chosen first team All Horizon as a goalkeeper.

Kyle has amassed more than 200 hours of community service while in college, volunteering for organizations such as the St. Baldrick's Foundation, for which he helped organize events to raise money for children's cancer research. He has also volunteered at the Grant Wood Area Educational Agency since 2005, packing and delivering science kits for local elementary and junior high schools.

He enjoys promoting the game of soccer among young children as a volunteer coach at numerous soccer camps and clinics. Kyle has been selected as the team captain for his final year of varsity men's soccer and plans to pursue a career in professional athletics after graduation.

---

**Tau Beta Pi is the Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 238 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumnus chapters in 18 cities. It has initiated more than 535, 000 members in its 127-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See [www.tbp.org](http://www.tbp.org))**