



FOR RELEASE
August 10, 2016

CONTACT: Dylan Lane
865/546-4578

Tau Beta Pi Announces 2016 Laureates

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

The 2016 Tau Beta Pi Laureates are Nathan J. Ferraro, a recent graduate from the University of Oklahoma, cited for his diverse achievements; Angadbir S. Sabherwal, a recent graduate from Iowa State University, cited for his diverse achievements; and Kiersten K. Wang, a recent graduate from the University of Florida, cited for her achievements in athletics. This brings the total to 102 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 2016 Association award winners on October 8 at the 111th annual Convention in San Diego, CA. Tau Beta Pi President J.P. Blackford, will present each with a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque. Their biographies follow:

(more)

NATHAN J. FERRARO, *Oklahoma Alpha '15*, earned bachelor's and master's degrees in architectural engineering and civil engineering, respectively, from the University of Oklahoma (OU).

Prior to his collegiate academic career, Nathan spent four years in the U.S. Navy as a nuclear communications expert aboard the E-6B Mercury aircraft. He is also active in ultra-endurance athletic competitions, including iron-distance triathlons and ultramarathons.

Nathan is a volunteer tutor, hull design lead for OU's Concrete Canoe Competition team, and vice president of the Architectural Engineering Institute student chapter. He also served as a student advisor to the local ASCE chapter and individually raised funds for the Action for Healthy Kids charity and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

He is a program director of OU's Warrior-Scholar Project and dedicates himself daily to organizing and developing the week-long academic reorientation aimed at helping veterans transition from the battlefield to the classroom. Nathan is a leader who fosters a liberal culture through his success in academics, charity fundraising, veteran's education, and ultra-endurance athletics.

ANGADBIR S. SABHERWAL, *Iowa Alpha '16*, is a mechanical engineering graduate of Iowa State University (ISU) and will complete his economics degree in the fall.

His motivation for pursuing these degrees is his personal recognition of the importance of technology in helping to meet basic needs and to address the challenges of climate change and the long-term preservation of the environment. Angadbir has been environmentally conscious from an early age starting an after-school recycling program in his youth and later receiving a 'Youth – Change Makers' award from the United Nations.

On campus, he has provided leadership for food programs, creek cleanup, and raising money for electricity, sanitation, and education in rural India. He also served as a Minds for Tomorrow ambassador leading outreach events to assist K-12 students with STEM related in-class and extracurricular activities.

His research and industrial experience included co-ops, internships, and research positions. He worked as a student engineer for the Dept. of Energy – Industrial Assessment Center at ISU, as a R&D intern for Compressor Controls Corp., and as a quality engineer intern at the Van Gorp Corp. His commitment to these ideals is evident in awards such as the ISU Learning to Live a Life award and being selected as a 2015 DiscoverE New Faces of Engineering – College Edition as one of the nation's 12 most promising engineering professionals of tomorrow.

KIERSTEN K. WANG, *Florida Alpha '16*, is a graduate of the University of Florida (UF) with a degree in civil engineering with a focus on water resources.

Kiersten is a three-time NCAA National Champion member of the UF gymnastics team. Personal accolades include SEC Academic Honor Roll and NACGC/W Scholastic All-America team. Her specialties are the vault and floor exercise events.

In addition to factoring into the team's performance success, she also contributed through service events, including promoting cancer awareness, food drives, and serving as a gymnastics camp counselor.

According to her nomination, Kiersten has also become one of the most dedicated members of the FL Alpha Chapter. Her passion has focused on K-12 outreach through the chapter's GatorTRAX (MindSET) program, where she serves as elementary GatorTRAX coordinator. In this role, she has set up six successful sessions attended by more than 100 participants. At each event, she teaches STEM concepts from water filtration to kinetic & potential energy.

Her athletic achievements coupled with her ability to manage her schedule to include important service endeavors makes her a deserving recipient and unrivaled role model to others.

Tau Beta Pi is the Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 245 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumnus chapters in 40 cities. It has initiated more than 574,000 members in its 131-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See <https://www.tbp.org/>)