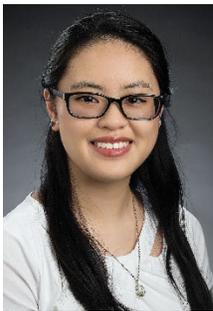


## Tau Beta Pi Announces 2021 Laureates

Knoxville, TN— Tau Beta Pi, The Engineering Honor Society, has named four Laureates to recognize gifted engineering students who have excelled in areas beyond their technical majors.

The Laureate Program exists to further Tau Beta Pi's mission to recognize academic and professional excellence rooted in personal integrity. The Society also promotes a well-rounded education essential for success. This prestigious award is accompanied by a \$2500 cash award and commemorative plaque. The 2021 Laureates are **Kara L. Combs**, *OH Mu '21*; **Carissa G. Dopman**, *NY Sigma '21*; **Tyler A. Kleinsasser**, *SD Alpha '19*; and **Michael Ustes**, *MI Iota '22*. A total of 118 remarkable Tau Bates have been named Laureates since 1982.



**Kara L. Combs** has been named a 2021 TBP Laureate for service. She will complete an industrial and human factors engineering master's degree in December, having already earned a bachelor's degree in industrial & systems engineering from Wright State University. Kara is a

well-rounded student who exhibits exemplary leadership through involvement with TBP, IISE, and the Dean's Student Advisory Board. In addition, she coached a middle school Academic Challenge team for three years, leading them to three top-ten finishes at The Ohio State Championships.



**Carissa G. Dopman** has been named a 2021 TBP Laureate for achievements in the arts. She is a recent graduate with a B.S. degree in glass engineering science from Alfred University and previously earned a B.F.A. in fine arts. According to the

nomination package, her mission is to "bridge the gap between art and science." After completing her art thesis, she was invited to show her work at the first all-female collection of neon artists. Carissa's neon work has been featured in numerous shows and highlighted in press releases and articles.



For diverse achievements, **Tyler A. Kleinsasser** has been named a 2021 TBP Laureate. Graduating with B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering and construction engineering management respectively, he is now working on a second master's, all from South

Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T). His strong record of leadership and extracurricular activities at SDSM&T as well as his participation in residence life, honor societies, and student government resulted in being selected for the university's prestigious Leadership Hall of Fame in 2019.



For diverse achievements, **Michael Ustes** has been named a 2021 TBP Laureate. He is working on an M.S. degree in mechanical engineering (ME) and previously earned dual B.S.

degrees in manufacturing and ME, from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He enriches the UM-Dearborn campus through his engagement, service, and leadership in student organizations such as Formula SAE Combustion Racing (as team captain and manufacturing lead in 2021), Society of Manufacturing Engineers (president 2019-21), Pi Tau Sigma (rebuilt the chapter and served as president 2019-20), and Catholics on Campus (VP in 2020).

Read more about the 2021 Laureates [here](#).