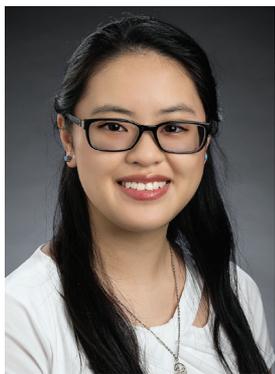


# Association Awards

## ★ Laureates

Four Laureates have been selected in the 39<sup>th</sup> year of Tau Beta Pi's annual program to recognize gifted engineering students who have excelled in areas beyond their technical majors. Award categories include arts, athletics, diverse achievements, and service. This year's Laureates join 113 other outstanding Tau Bates to be cited since the program began in 1982.



### KARA L. COMBS

OHIO MU '21

Kara has been selected a 2021 TBPI 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 (WSU).

Kara is a well-rounded student who exhibits exemplary leadership through participation in TBPI, 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.

She is heavily involved in the local Quiz Bowl circuit and volunteers her time as a WSU College of Engineering and Computer Science student ambassador/mentor and in the audio room at her church.

Kara has been a key member of WSU's Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE) chapter since her freshman year. She served two terms as vice president and as the media master, helping lead the chapter to eight straight Gold Awards. In addition, Kara helped start a STEM Idol program, speaking to local high school students. The program introduces students to IISE and will expand to virtual sessions on statistics and programming.

After initiation into the OH Mu Chapter in 2018, she was immediately elected corresponding secretary, later served as chapter vice president, and currently is a chapter advisor. After graduating with a B.S. degree, she was selected to serve on the TBPI Student Advisory Board.

In Kara's nomination packet, she was described as a "mature, helpful, service-oriented, and bright young woman." Her chapter believes that she "exemplifies the spirit of liberal culture in engineering."



### CARISSA G. DOPMAN

NEW YORK SIGMA '21

For her achievements in the arts, Carissa has been named a 2021 TBPI Laureate. She is a recent graduate with a B.S. degree in glass engineering science from Alfred University (AU) and previously earned a B.F.A. in fine arts.

According to the nomination packet, 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.

Carissa's motivation to study glass engineering as a neon artist comes from a desire to understand the materials and physics that allow artists to manipulate glass. Her thesis work explains the connection between engineering and art as she researches an alternative to mercury to be used to produce colors in neon. Discovering the solution to enhance the UV properties of argon would be a huge contribution to the neon art industry.

In 2019, she was initiated into the NY Sigma Chapter and was elected vice president. Her work for the chapter has included providing eligible students with special/handmade invitations and creating electronic templates of important chapter documents. She recently served as NY Sigma Chapter president and is now an advisor to the chapter.

In a recommendation letter from the dean of the Inamori School of Engineering, Carissa was lauded for an "incredible work ethic, serving her peers (especially women), community service, and finding creative solutions to keep the TBPI chapter engaged and interactive during the pandemic."

The nominating chapter cited her for earning two degrees in six years, instructing art students, dedication to service, and tirelessly contributing to liberal culture with unmatched passion.

## ★ Laureates



### TYLER A. KLEINSASSER

SOUTH DAKOTA ALPHA '19

Tyler's diverse achievements have led to being named a 2021 TBII 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.

Tyler is committed to cultural and global inclusion evidenced by international volunteer work in places like Chile, Jamaica, Haiti, and Guam. He is active in the communities of Rapid City, SD, and his hometown of Huron, SD.

In a letter supporting Tyler's nomination, he was cited as a "well-rounded individual with a strong work ethic, impressive interpersonal skills, and a positive attitude."

Initiated into the SD Alpha Chapter in 2016, his activities include helping plan a campus-wide leadership conference in 2019, volunteering at initiation ceremonies, and participating in chapter socials. He is a Tau Beta Pi Scholar (2017) and Fellow (2019).

On campus, Tyler is heavily involved with the Professional Development Institute that provides training for engineering students and also completed the Mines Advantage Professional Development Program.

The nominating chapter highlighted Tyler's scholarly excellence (he owns a 4.0 GPA), commitment to community service, and focus on lifelong learning and development of his exceptional talents both in and outside of the field of engineering.

### MICHAEL USTES

MICHIGAN IOTA '22

Michael has been named a 2021 TBII Laureate for diverse achievements. 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 engagement, service, and leadership in student organizations such as Formula SAE Combustion Racing (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).

Michael has stepped up as a leader and redefined many societies on a commuter campus where these organizations play a key role in bridging the gap to offer opportunities to keep students engaged.

In a recommendation letter, Michael was described as "an exceptional student with outstanding analytical and problem solving skills and a provider of citizenship to the college leading to a stronger sense of community and pride."

After initiation into the MI Iota Chapter in 2018, he has been a chapter officer mentor while serving two terms as chapter president and one concurrently as recording secretary. He has worked to better publicize TBII and promote student recruitment leading to growth in membership.

Michael also gives back to the UM-Dearborn community as a mathematics tutor and by volunteering to reestablish the core engineering tutoring program of the MI Iota Chapter. As a grad student, he is redesigning an undergraduate course in ME for better student retention and future application in a practical sphere.

The nominating chapter cited him for incredible leadership, dedication to improvement of the student experience, and as a role model for all.