



For Immediate Release  
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## Tau Beta Pi Announces 2020 McDonald Mentor Dean S. Papajohn, Ph.D., P.E.

Knoxville, TN — Tau Beta Pi, The Engineering Honor Society, has named its 15<sup>th</sup> McDonald Mentor. The award celebrates excellence in mentoring and advising among Tau Beta Pi educators and engineers who consistently support the personal and professional development of their students and colleagues.

**Dean S. Papajohn, Ph.D., P.E.**, *Illinois Alpha '85*, is the 2020 Tau Beta Pi McDonald Mentor from the University of Arizona in Tucson. Dr. Papajohn will receive \$1,000, an engraved medallion, and pin that matches the medallion. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the Arizona Alpha Chapter for nominating him.

Dr. Papajohn's biography follows:

**Dean S. Papajohn, Ph.D., P.E.**, IL Alpha '85, is an associate professor of practice in the department of civil and architectural engineering and mechanics at the University of Arizona (UArizona).

Dr. Papajohn was nominated by the Arizona Alpha Chapter at UArizona.

Established in 2005 by Marion and Capers W. McDonald, *NC G '74*, and the Association, the McDonald Mentor Award recognizes engineering educators or professionals in industry, government, or service organizations who have shown true concern for the individual, supporting an environment for developing talents, and who have earned respect and recognition for contributions to their field and to the greater community.

Dr. Papajohn received B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and a Ph.D. in civil engineering from Arizona State University.

His career began at Daniel Creaney Company (IL) in 1986 as a project engineer. Next, he joined UIUC as a teaching associate and then served as a civil engineering manager at Pima County Dept. of Transportation (AZ). Dr. Papajohn joined the faculty at UArizona in 2009 and became a fulltime associate professor of practice in 2015.

He established and leads the construction engineering management emphasis in civil engineering (CE) at UArizona. As an associate professor of practice, he bridges industry and academia to continually find ways to "connect industry with students and students with industry."

In the last five years, this program has grown to include about 20 percent of the CE students, with Dr. Papajohn serving as the primary advisor for juniors and seniors. He is also an unofficial advisor for many other students, due to his practical knowledge



**Dean S. Papajohn**

and his ability to help identify potential internships and job opportunities.

Dr. Papajohn's work has been recognized by both students and peers. He has received the Professor of the Year Award four times at UArizona, most recently in 2019 and is a repeated recipient of the Senior's Choice Professor Award. The nomination contained many personal accounts of how Dr. Papajohn's mentoring has been invaluable to students, including the following: "Dr. Papajohn gave me indispensable connections in the industry as well as (helped to) solidify my passion for civil engineering. He is one of the best professors and mentors I've had the privilege to work with. He cares for his students and gives each of us a strong foundation for our future."

In addition, he advises multiple student organizations designed to boost opportunities for successful careers, including two that he initiated at UArizona. The first is the student chapter of the Design-Build Institute of America and the second is the chapter of the Associated Schools of Construction; both organizations host annual build competitions. He has also been instrumental in launching programs (Topics in Engineering Leadership course and 'Take5' initiative) that further student connections to industry and professional mentors. Dr. Papajohn started the 'Rise Together' program, focused on increasing diversity in engineering by linking interested female CE students with a corresponding female industry mentor. This program was recognized in 2018 with a Diversity Award from the Southern Arizona Women in Transportation Seminar organization.

For his remarkable commitment to mentoring and his creation of new mentoring programs, we honor Dr. Dean S. Papajohn as the 2020 TBP-McDonald Mentor.

**Tau Beta Pi is The Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters in 250 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 46 cities. It has initiated more than 609,000 members in its 135-year history and is the world's largest engineering society.**

See <https://www.tbp.org/> or contact ([tbp.media@tbp.org](mailto:tbp.media@tbp.org)) for more details.

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