



The Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Advisor Award has been presented every year since 1994. Selection is made by a national committee of deans of engineering colleges.

## 2007 OUTSTANDING ADVISOR

# Dr. Thomas E. Wade

**d**R. THOMAS E. WADE, Florida Alpha '67, is the 2007 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor. He is currently a professor of electrical engineering at the University of South Florida and Chief Advisor of Florida Gamma.

He has been an active member and exceptional officer of collegiate chapters of Tau Beta Pi for the past 40 years. Initiated at the University of Florida in 1967, he became President of Florida Alpha in 1969. During that academic year, the chapter was named the Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Chapter. The chapter repeated the achievement in 1970 with new officers, and, when Dr. Wade returned as interim president, the chapter received the top honor for a third consecutive year!

He obtained his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Florida. In 1976, he moved to Mississippi State University and served as Advisor of Mississippi Alpha until 1985. He became Chief Advisor of Florida Gamma in 1986 after relocating to the University of South Florida as the associate dean for research within the college of engineering. There, he has remained for the past 21 years.

A true believer in the values of Tau Beta Pi, Dr. Wade had his class ring inscribed with the letters TBPI. For several years his personalized car tag read "USF TBP!" With good reason, colleagues affectionately refer to him as "Mr. Tau Beta Pi."

A former dean of engineering describes Dr. Wade as an involved, caring, and concerned mentor for students whose dedication is unique and genuine. Students note that he devotes time nearly every day to his chapter, "no matter how busy or tired," and his involvement is quite diverse. He can be relied upon to motivate candidates to join each semester with his fabulous speech at new



candidate meetings, write letters of recommendation, reserve meeting space and equipment, set up bank accounts, monitor chapter finances, regularly participate in chapter meetings and initiation ceremonies, invite officers to his home for Christmas dinner and caroling, and participate in chapter fundraisers, most recently as the good natured target of the water-balloon toss.

As a former associate dean of engineering, Dr. Wade has acted as an "irreplaceable liaison" between the chapter and the college, easily obtaining student eligibility lists and completing essential mailings in a timely manner. His access to the dean and other administrators allows him to maintain a high profile for the chapter and to "market" Tau Beta Pi and its members for inclusion in meaningful projects and to

recruit the best students.

Dr. Wade has always encouraged students "to strive for the best, and he expects nothing less." On a national level, the activities of Florida Gamma under his watch led to a Most Improved Chapter Award in 1991-92, honorable mention for Most Improved Chapter in 2004-05, eight Chapter Project Awards, and five Secretary's Commendations. The chapter is a serious contender for the 2007 R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award.

Professionally, Dr. Wade specializes in solid-state microelectronics and related topics; VLSI/ULSI multilevel interconnection systems; fluctuation phenomena (electric noise) in semiconductors and solid-state devices; and fabrication and characterization of solid-state devices and related materials.

In recognition of his leadership abilities, selfless contributions, and talent for inspiring students to create and maintain an effective chapter, Tau Beta Pi hereby recognizes Dr. Thomas E. Wade as the 2007 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor.