October 14, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tau Beta Pi Leaders Attend 100TH Convention

Salt Lake City, Utah, was the site of the 100th annual Convention of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. Utah Alpha, Beta, and Gamma, the collegiate chapters at the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, and Utah State University respectively, hosted the event. Nearly 360 engineering students from 213 collegiate chapters received leadership and management training and then practiced their skills in conducting the business of the Convention, held this year on October 6-8. More than 480 members of Tau Beta Pi were on hand for this gathering of talented engineers.

The growth of the Association is a testament to the steady and enthusiastic 120-year involvement of students in the world’s largest engineering society. National awards to outstanding members and chapters were presented.

Distinguished member Stephen D. Bechtel Jr., P.E., Indiana Alpha ’46, Chairman Emeritus and a director of Bechtel Group, Inc., delivered the keynote address at the Welcoming Banquet.

Dr. H. Vincent Poor, Alabama Alpha ’72, George Van Ness Lothrop Professor in Engineering at Princeton University’s department of electrical engineering, was recognized as Tau Beta Pi’s 2005 Distinguished Alumnus.

The R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award for 2004-05, the top honor to a campus group, went to Vermont Beta at Norwich University, with honorable mention to Ohio Iota at Ohio Northern University and New York Nu at SUNY at Buffalo.

The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award for 2004-05 was presented to Alabama Epsilon at the University of South Alabama, with honorable mention to Florida Gamma at the University of South Florida. Both the Matthews and Nagel awards are named for former secretary-treasurers of the Association.

Dr. Sally J. Steadman, Wyoming Alpha ’69, chief advisor to the Alabama Epsilon Chapter and instructor in the University of South Alabama’s college of engineering, was recognized as Tau Beta Pi’s 2005 National Outstanding Advisor.

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The Laureate program recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding expertise outside the field of engineering. Clara C. Shih, California Gamma ’05, selected for her diverse achievements, was honored as the Association’s 2005 Laureate, receiving a $2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

Eighteen scholarships of $500 (totaling $9,000) were presented for sustained excellent performance in project activities to the following chapters: California Alpha (University of California, Berkeley); California Psi (University of California, San Diego), District of Columbia Alpha (Howard University); Florida Alpha (University of Florida); Iowa Alpha (Iowa State University); Maryland Beta (University of Maryland); Michigan Gamma (University of Michigan); Michigan Epsilon
(Wayne State University); Michigan Theta (Oakland University); Michigan Iota (University of Michigan-Dearborn); New Mexico Gamma (New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology); New York Delta (Cornell University); New York Kappa (University of Rochester); Ohio Beta (University of Cincinnati); Ohio Iota (Ohio Northern University); Tennessee Alpha (University of Tennessee); Vermont Beta (Norwich University); and Wyoming Alpha (University of Wyoming).

Rowan University of Glassboro, New Jersey, was awarded a charter to establish a Tau Beta Pi chapter.

The Executive Council, or board of directors, comprises: President Matthew W. Ohland, Ph.D., Florida Alpha ’96, associate professor in Clemson University’s general engineering program; Vice President Ellen D. Styles, Alabama Delta ’85; Councillor Alison L. Hu, California Gamma ’96, global program manager in leadership development at Agilent Technologies; Councillor Russell W. Pierce, Washington Alpha ’70, president, Usbrit Consulting; and Councillor Dennis J. Tyner, Ph.D., Massachusetts Epsilon ’85, dean of engineering at Norwich University.

A new Executive Council-slate to serve the 2006-10 term was elected: Solange C. Dao, P.E., Florida Alpha ’95, president of Dao Consultants, Inc.; Dr. Jonathan F.K. Earle, P.E., Florida Alpha ’65, associate dean of student affairs and associate professor in the college of engineering at the University of Florida; Jason A. Huggins, P.E., Florida Alpha ’96, senior staff engineer at Armstrong World Industries, Inc.; Norman Ph, Tennessee Alpha ’82, field engineer in the medical products division of W.L. Gore & Associates; and Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., South Dakota Alpha ’69, Hoffert Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

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Tau Beta Pi is the engineering honor society, now with 229 collegiate chapters, 16 active alumnus chapters, and a membership of more than 478,000. Engineering students in the top eighth of their junior class or top fifth of their senior class scholastically are elected to membership on the basis of character. Graduate engineers may be elected on the basis of their eminent achievements in the engineering profession. The national Headquarters of the Tau Beta Pi Association is located in Knoxville on the main campus of the University of Tennessee.