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Tau Beta Pi Leaders Attend
104th Convention

East Brunswick, NJ, was the site of the 104th annual Convention of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. The members of New Jersey Beta, the collegiate chapter at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, hosted the event. Three hundred and thirty engineering students from 219 collegiate chapters received leadership and management training and then practiced their skills in conducting the business of the Convention, held this year on October 15-17. There were 502 members of Tau Beta Pi on hand for this gathering of talented engineers.

The growth of the Association is a testament to the steady and enthusiastic 124-year involvement of students in the world’s largest engineering society. National awards to outstanding members and chapters were presented.

Richard H. Stanley, P.E., Iowa Alpha ’55, chair of the Stanley Foundation, chair emeritus of the Stanley Group of Companies, and director of Stanley Consultants, Inc., was presented the Tau Beta Pi 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award. A $2,000 scholarship in his name will be awarded to a Tau Beta Pi student member for the 2010-11 academic year.

The R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award for 2009-10, the top honor to a campus group, went to Florida Alpha at the University of Florida. Honorable mention was given to Michigan Gamma at the University of Michigan.

The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award for 2009-10 was presented to Minnesota Alpha at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Both the Matthews and Nagel awards are named for former Secretary-Treasurers of the Association.

Patrick D. Homen, California Upsilon ’85, Advisor to the California Upsilon Chapter and faculty instructor of mechanical engineering at California State University, Sacramento, was recognized as Tau Beta Pi’s 2009 National Outstanding Advisor. Homen received a cash award of $1,000 and a grant in the same amount will be presented to his college of engineering.

Established in 2005, the Tau Beta Pi–McDonald Mentor Award celebrates excellence in mentoring and advising among Tau Beta Pi educators and engineers. Dr. Thomas E. Wade, Florida Alpha ’67, retired professor of electrical engineering at the University of South Florida and former

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Chief Advisor of the Florida Gamma Chapter, was named the 2009 Tau Beta Pi–McDonald Mentor, receiving $1,000 and an engraved medallion. Another $1,000 grant has been presented to the Florida Gamma Chapter of Tau Beta Pi at the University of South Florida.

The Laureate Program recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding expertise outside the field of engineering. The Tau Beta Pi 2009 Laureates are: Chad R. Fusco, Ohio Alpha ’09; Kathryn C. Kellogg, South Dakota Alpha ’09; Uchechukwu D. Monu, District of Columbia Alpha ’09; and Samantha van der Drift, Texas Beta ’10. Recipients received a $2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

Boise State University and Western Kentucky University were awarded a charter to establish a Tau Beta Pi chapter. The chapters will be known as Idaho Gamma and Kentucky Gamma, respectively.

Greater Interest in Government (GIG) Chapter Project Grants were awarded to three chapters in 2009-2010. California Alpha (University of California, Berkeley) received $750 for its “Engineering for Kids Day” project; California Psi (University of California, San Diego) received $750 for its “ThinkGREEN!” project; and District of Columbia Alpha (Howard University) received $500 for its “Discover Engineering Family Day” project.

Seventeen scholarships of $500 (totaling $8,500) were presented for sustained excellent performance in project activities to the following chapters: Alabama Epsilon (University of South Alabama); California Alpha (University of California, Berkeley); California Psi (University of California, San Diego); District of Columbia Alpha (Howard University); Florida Alpha (University of Florida); Florida Gamma (University of South Florida); Indiana Delta (Valparaiso University); Iowa Alpha (Iowa State University); Michigan Gamma (University of Michigan); Michigan Epsilon (Wayne State University); Michigan Iota (University of Michigan-Dearborn); New Mexico Gamma (New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology); New York Tau (Binghamton University); Ohio Iota (Ohio Northern University); Texas Alpha (University of Texas at Austin); Vermont Beta (Norwich University); and Wyoming Alpha (University of Wyoming).

NASA astronaut, Dr. Michael J. Massimino, New York Alpha ’84, was the featured speaker at the Convention. At Friday’s luncheon, he reviewed slides of his space walk on the Atlantis mission STS-125 to upgrade the Hubble Space Telescope. He encouraged the delegates to follow their dreams and do what they want to do, to find and use an effective mentor, and to follow him as Astro_Mike on Twitter.

The Executive Council, or board of directors, comprises: President Larry A. Simonson, Ph.D., P.E., South Dakota Alpha ’69, associate dean for advancement, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Foundation; Vice President Solange C. Dao, P.E., Florida Alpha ’95, president of Dao Consultants, Inc.; Councillor Jonathan F.K. Earle, Ph.D., P.E., Florida Alpha ’65, associate dean emeritus at the University of Florida; Councillor Jason A. Huggins, P.E., Florida Alpha ’96, plant engineering manager at Armstrong World Industries, Inc.; and Councillor Norman Pih, Tennessee Alpha ’82, W.L. Gore & Associates. These five individuals were re-elected to serve the 2010-2014 term.

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Tau Beta Pi is the engineering honor society, now with 234 collegiate chapters, 18 active alumni chapters, and a membership of more than 509,000. 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 international Headquarters of the Tau Beta Pi Association is located in Knoxville on the main campus of the University of Tennessee.