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Tau Beta Pi Announces Dr. Robert E. Barnes as 2006 National Outstanding Advisor

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named its 13th National Outstanding Advisor in its program to recognize engineering faculty who make important contributions to students and collegiate chapters. While the primary goal of Tau Beta Pi is to recognize students of superior scholarship and exemplary character and to honor eminent practicing engineers, the Association also lauds excellence in engineering education and in the ethical practice of engineering.

Dr. Robert E. Barnes, New York Nu '84, Chief Advisor to the New York Nu Chapter and associate dean for external affairs and adjunct associate professor of industrial engineering in the University at Buffalo School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, is the 2006 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor. He will be honored on October 7, 2006, at the 101st annual national Convention to be held in Denver, Colorado. Tau Beta Pi President Dr. Matthew W. Ohland will present \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque to Dr. Barnes. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the engineering college's discretionary fund.

A faculty advisor to Tau Beta Pi for nearly 19 years, Dr. Barnes was cited by students and peers for his strong personal commitment and direct involvement with his chapter, his infectious enthusiasm, and ability to empower students as they strive for excellence under his caring, patient leadership.

Barnes holds a B.S. in industrial technology from the State University College at Buffalo and earned both an M.S. and Ph.D. in industrial engineering at the University at Buffalo.

Dr. Barnes' ability to continue to be an effective faculty advisor after years of personal commitment and direct involvement with his chapter is testimony to the values of Tau Beta Pi members. According to colleagues and students, Dr. Barnes is an active leader who consciously avoids the spotlight. His enthusiasm is legendary, but he leads his very active student chapter in a quiet way. When his advice is sought, he gives his complete attention in a positive and enthusiastic manner without dominating the exchange. His low-key approach encourages students to step forward and accept leadership roles.

Although he avoids attracting personal notice, Dr. Barnes draws attention to Tau Beta Pi whenever possible. He has attended sporting events wearing his chapter's "hoodie" fundraising sweatshirt. He volunteered to be a target in a pie-throwing fundraiser called "Pie the Deans" for the Lung Cancer Association. Wearing his Tau Beta Pi shirt, he was among those faculty participants who raised the largest amounts of money.

His reputation for reliability, integrity, and personal charm has made him welcome throughout the university community. He builds positive relationships with faculty members and works closely with university alumni to establish scholarships. He acknowledges students' hard work and plays a part in every graduation ceremony. His door is always open to students who seek advice.

Dr. Barnes' association with the University at Buffalo began in 1973 while completing a master's degree. After working in industry for a few years, he returned to obtain his doctorate in 1980-81. He came to the dean's office part-time in 1983 and became full-time in 1984. Dr. Barnes was inducted into Tau Beta Pi as an Eminent Engineer in 1987 and, shortly thereafter, assumed the role of advisor for the New York Nu Chapter of Tau Beta Pi. In 1994, he became Chief Advisor and led the chapter as successful hosts of Tau Beta Pi's 89th national Convention.

He has maintained the same level of commitment to Tau Beta Pi's success in his support of the annual honors employment dinner, which has been held for the past 13 years. This job fair and dinner gives Tau Bates and other members of honor societies a rare chance to meet with representatives of local and national companies in a 2:1 ratio of students to employers. Dr. Barnes lends his personal interest to this event and introduces students to his contacts in the profession. Throughout the planning process, he allows students to organize and make the final decisions. Other faculty members credit Dr. Barnes with the good reputation the event has earned among participating employers.

Dr. Barnes has rarely missed an initiation ceremony or banquet, and, through his warm, enthusiastic welcome of the initiates and their parents, manages to instill in new members a great sense of pride in being a Tau Bate.

Under his guidance, the chapter has implemented new and innovative programs that have reinforced Tau Beta Pi's positive presence on campus. An undergraduate tutoring program provides a regular schedule of times when Tau Bates are available in the engineering library to help undergraduate students with their courses. Tau Bates also arrange social events on campus or at local establishments to promote interaction with engineering faculty. Through the professor and teaching assistant of the year award program, Tau Bates vote for and recognize their favorite professor and teaching assistant at each spring induction banquet. Because of Dr. Barnes' initiative, Tau Beta Pi is the only student engineering organization that has its own office. On a national level, the activities of New York Nu under his watch led to honorable mentions for Most Improved Chapter in 2001-02 and for Outstanding Chapter in 2004-05, plus numerous Secretary's Commendations.

Dr. Barnes became the school's associate dean in 1994 and now also holds positions as co-executive director of U.B.'s strategic partnership for industrial resurgence program and executive director of EngiNet, an engineering distance-learning program. He is a member of the Institute of Industrial Engineers and the American Society for Engineering Education.

In recognition of his leadership abilities and talent for inspiring students to create and maintain an effective chapter, Tau Beta Pi hereby recognizes Dr. Robert E. Barnes as the 2006 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor.

Tau Beta Pi, the world's largest engineering society, has initiated 485,000 members since it was founded in 1885. Headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, the Association has 230 active collegiate chapters and 16 active alumnus chapters throughout the country.