THE 101st Convention Reports

THE 101st Convention of Tau Beta Pi was held October 5-7, 2006, in Denver. The Colorado Beta Chapter at the University of Colorado at Boulder was official host of the second national meeting held in the state. The hundreds of out-of-town attenders were housed in the Renaissance Denver Hotel, where three business meetings were held and four meals were served.

A total of 463 members of Tau Beta Pi participated in the business of the Convention, the seventh-highest total ever. Of these, 326 were student voting and non-voting delegates and host-chapter members; 49 were chapter advisors; 65 were national officials, Convention leaders, and Engineering Futures Facilitators; four were alumnus chapter delegates; and 19 were alumnus visitors and petitioners. The attenders represented 223 collegiate and five alumnus chapters. Most of the chapter advisors attended at the special invitation and partial expense of the national organization. In addition, at least 50 non-member petitioners, consultants, and guests attended some events.

Arrangements Chair Stacey D. Bagg, CO B ’08, guided preparations for the Convention and its extensive logistics. She and chapter President Eric G. Wilson, CO B ’08, managed such duties as technology, hospitality, publicity, transportation, souvenirs, and campus tours.

The three days were filled with business, committee, District and Engineering Futures meetings, Interactive Chapter Exchanges (ICE), and the model initiation.

Early on Thursday, a successful (continued on next page)
In Tau Beta Pi’s usual method, Handshakes and opportunities abounded as Tau Bates and professional recruiters networked.

The Chapter Development Program of the Convention, including the District and Engineering Futures meetings and ICE seminars, is reported on page 7 in this issue. These informal sessions are extremely valuable benefits of the Convention, providing delegates the opportunity to exchange good ideas with other Tau Bates from all regions of the country. On Saturday afternoon during the homecoming football game on campus, a model initiation was conducted by a team of national officers and Rituals Committee members.

In all, four Convention business meetings were held; Ronald M. Hickling, CA E’80, the Executive Council-appointed permanent chair, presided and was assisted by James W. Johnson Jr., NC A’77, the Executive Council-appointed parliamentarian.

The Saturday initiation and awards banquet at the Wings Over the Rockies Museum brought the Convention to a festive conclusion, and the Resolutions Committee made its final report. The program included the presentation of Tau Beta Pi’s 2006 national awards. Biographical sketches of Outstanding Advisor Robert E. Barnes, Ph.D., NY N’84; Distinguished Alumnus William A. Anders, OH H’62; McDonald Mentor Carter J. Kerk, Ph.D., P.E., SD A’81, and Laureate Devin T. Wiley, AZ A’07, appeared in the Fall 2006 BENT.

In Tau Beta Pi’s usual method, Convention business is handled by committees, except for those few items that emerge during the meetings as new business. Seven standing committees are called for by the Constitution, and two ad hoc groups were also appointed.

Every collegiate-chapter voting delegate served on a committee, and a national officer advisor opened each group’s initial meeting on Thursday afternoon and then stood with other national officials for consultation. Each standing committee selected fellow students as chair, vice chair, and secretary to present reports, recommendations, and proposals to the entire Convention. The following reports summarize formal business.

Petitions
Crystal L. VanMeveren, MI I, Chair.
After studying the petitions, catalogs, and inspection reports and interviewing the petitioner’s representatives, the group recommended that new chapters be established at two institutions. The schools and leaders are: San Francisco State University: Matthew T. Willman and Dr. D.A.S. Ed Cheng, CA E’91, advisor; and the United States Military Academy: William M. Meier and Dr. Peter D. Hanlon, FL A’85, advisor.

The Convention granted the petitions by overwhelming votes. New York Upsilon will be officially installed in February and California Alpha Gamma on March 10, 2007, which will raise the number of active collegiate chapters to 232.

Constitution and Bylaws
Mehrad Hosni, KS A, Chair.
Two topics had been referred to the committee prior to the meeting for study and recommendations. The Convention adopted, by the required three-fourths vote, changes to Bylaw I, Sec. 1.05, to require Convention assessments to be payable within two weeks instead of 10 days and to Bylaw V, Sec. 5.01 (d), to allow chapters to suspend an elected officer for cause; these changes were effective immediately.

Curriculum Review (ad hoc)
Stephen H. Finley, SC A, Chair.
The committee diligently reviewed 34 appeals by 25 chapters to include non-ABET/EAC curricula as eligible. The Convention approved 28 programs and denied six.

Chapter/Association Financial Affairs
David J. Schmidt, CA N, Chair.
The group had been given the 2005-06 reports of the Association’s auditor and Executive Director and the Society’s budget for 2006-07. The committee reviewed the documents and concluded that Tau Beta Pi’s financial health is excellent.

The committee recommended, and the Convention adopted, specific allowable Convention expenses beyond those specified in the Bylaws for delegates to the 2007 meeting and approved the payment of Convention expenses for non-voting delegates to be chosen by District Directors through the 2006 Convention, which will review cost effectiveness.

Awards
Matthew J. Solomita, NJ A, Chair.
The committee spent long hours evaluating the chapters and selecting the 2005-06 R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter and R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter and honorable mentions. The winners are reported elsewhere in this issue, and special plaques for the awardees were delivered to them after the Convention.

Rituals
Nicholas G. Cooper, TX Z, Chair.
The Convention approved a simpler procedure to allow the Director of Rituals to modify the initiation kit design. On Saturday, delegates were favorably impressed by the model initiation for seven students of Colorado Beta, which the committee helped to organize.

**Convention Site**

_W. Blair Walden, TN A, Chair._

This group reviewed invitations from California Lambda and Upsilon to co-host the 2008 Convention and bids from New Jersey Beta and from Massachusetts Beta to host the 2009 Convention. Invitations were accepted from the California chapters for 2008 and New Jersey Beta to host the 2009 event. These recommendations were reviewed and upheld later by the Executive Council.

**Chapter Advisors (ad hoc)**

_Dr. Robert E. Ejimba, District of Columbia Alpha Chapter, Chair._

The team studied ways to improve the development of advisors and made recommendations on various materials, seminars, and communications to improve the skills, effectiveness, and knowledge of Chapter Advisors.

**Resolutions**

_Ranjith N. Raghunath, TX M, Chair._

This group prepared the appropriate resolutions for Convention adoption. At the final banquet, Mr. Raghunath presented resolutions of thanks to the host chapter, officials, sponsors, alumni, and others, whose support had been gratefully received by Tau Beta Pi.

**2006-10 Council Installed**

A highlight of the Convention was the formal installation of the Foundation Executive Council during the final banquet program. President Matthew W. Ohland and his Four Corners co-horts, who had faithfully served the 2002-06 term, turned over to incoming President Larry A. Simonson and his board the responsibility for leadership of the Association during the next four years. Elected by the 2005 Convention and attending Council meetings during the year, the Foundation team presented mementos to the retiring board.

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**NEATEST BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS:**

**TBP/SunTrust Bank Student Loan Consolidation Program**

As a result of a new partnership, SunTrust Bank is offering student loan consolidation interest rate reductions to Tau Beta Pi members and families.

- Federal Student Loan Consolidation
  - Obtain an APR as low as 7.25%
  - Reduce interest rate by an additional 1.5% for on-time payments and automatic debit payments on loans greater than $10,000.

- Private student-loan consolidation interest rate reductions also available. For more information, visit www.tbp.org/pages/ForMembers or call SunTrust at 877/855-9842.

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**OTHER DISCOUNTS OF INTEREST TO STUDENT MEMBERS AND FAMILIES:**

- **Kaplan AEC Education**—discounts for FE/PE exam preparation materials.
- **My Home Benefits**—moving services and real estate.
- **Princeton Review**—discounts for SAT, ACT, GRE, GMAT, LSAT, or MCAT.

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**Take a Bow, Convention Donors!**

Tau Beta Pi gratefully acknowledges the following contributors to the 2006 Convention:

**Platinum Sponsors**

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- NCEES
- Sandia National Laboratories

**Major Sponsors**

- Avago Technologies
- Boeing
- Eaton Corporation
- Fluor
- General Motors
- INTEC Engineering Partnership
- Kaplan AEC Education
- L3 Communications
- Northrop Grumman
- Owens Coming
- Raytheon
- Schlumberger
- The Princeton Review

**Gold Sponsor**

- Rockwell Collins

**Silver Sponsors**

- Case Western Reserve University
- Institute for Management & Engineering
- Columbia University School of Engineering and Applied Science
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- Iowa State University College of Engineering
- Lehigh University - P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science
- Michigan State University Graduate School
- Pratt & Whitney
- Purdue University College of Engineering
- United States Patent and Trademark Office
- University of Florida
- University of Kansas School of Engineering
- University of Michigan College of Engineering
- University of Notre Dame College of Engineering
- University of Oklahoma College of Engineering
- University of Virginia School of Engineering
- Wayne State University College of Engineering
- **Newest Benefit for Members: TBP/SunTrust Bank Student Loan Consolidation Program**
- **Take a Bow, Convention Donors!**
- **Platinum Sponsors**
- **Major Sponsors**
- **Gold Sponsor**
- **Silver Sponsors**
Convention

$7,500 in Scholarships

Fifteen chapters, each of which had won Chapter Project Awards for three consecutive years, won $500 scholarships.

TBP “MONEY DANCE”

In a memorable Convention moment, Tau Bates poked good-natured fun at Headquarters staff, who reportedly break into dance when a sizeable donor check arrives. A large portion of those funds are given back as scholarships and fellowships to deserving Tau Bates.

2007 Spring Conference Schedule

The District Program provides a vital link between the national organization and individual chapters. Each year the Directors gather students for regional conferences to provide both retiring and new officers opportunities to discuss chapter operations and to socialize. All chapters are urged to elect new officers before their District conference. New and outgoing officers are encouraged to attend.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Durham, NH</td>
<td>Feb. 16-17</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Rochester, NY</td>
<td>Feb. 17-18</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>Feb. 9-10</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>College Park, MD</td>
<td>March 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Miami, FL</td>
<td>April 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td>Feb. 23-24</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Dearborn, MI</td>
<td>April 14</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Milwaukee, WI</td>
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<td>Wichita, KS</td>
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<td>Pocatello, ID</td>
<td>March 3</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Tucson, AZ</td>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
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<td>Spokane, WA</td>
<td>April 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>April 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2007 Spring Convention Schedule

69 Chapters Commended

Executive Director Jim Froula presented commendations to these chapters for punctual Headquarters reports in 2005-06:

Alabama Epsilon
Arizona Alpha
Arkansas Alpha
California Alpha
California Gamma
California Epsilon
California Mu
California Tau
District of Columbia Alpha
Florida Beta
Florida Gamma
Georgia Alpha
Idaho Beta
Illinois Alpha
Illinois Beta
Illinois Delta
Illinois Zeta
Indiana Gamma
Indiana Delta
Indiana Epsilon
Iowa Beta
Kansas Gamma
Kentucky Beta

Maryland Beta
Michigan Alpha
Michigan Beta
Michigan Gamma
Michigan Eta
Michigan Theta
Michigan Iota
Mississippi Alpha
Nevada Alpha
Nevada Beta
New Hampshire Alpha
New Mexico Alpha
New Mexico Gamma
New York Gamma
New York Eta
New York Kappa
New York Sigma
New York Tau
North Dakota Beta
Ohio Beta
Ohio Delta
Ohio Eta
Ohio Iota
Ohio Kappa
Ohio Lambda
Ohio Mu
Ohio Nu
Oregon Gamma
Pennsylvania Delta
Pennsylvania Epsilon
Pennsylvania Theta
South Carolina Alpha
South Carolina Beta
South Dakota Alpha
Tennessee Alpha
Tennessee Gamma
Tennessee Zeta
Texas Theta
Virginia Beta
Washington Gamma
Washington Delta
West Virginia Beta
Wisconsin Beta
Wisconsin Epsilon
Wyoming Alpha

Stephanie N. Yang, CA 06’07
Sherry Jennings-King, TX 06’07
Gabriel Trejo, TX 06’07

2007 Spring Convention Schedule

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Outstanding Chapter: Maryland Beta

Maryland Beta at the University of Maryland was named the R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter for 2005-06 in a unanimous vote. Members have received a Secretary’s Commendation eight of the last nine years and a Chapter Project Award for many, many years in a row. This year they organized 35 projects including a blood drive, Earth Day activities, and EIT review sessions. One outstanding feature is the fact that they have spent more than 2,000 man-hours on projects in the past year alone. They have worked hard to achieve member participation with 90% of the members taking part in projects. The most notable project this chapter has completed was participation in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. This chapter organized two separate week-long trips to different areas that were severely affected by the hurricane. More impressive is the fact that students traveled hundreds of miles to provide this support.

Most Improved Chapter: Arizona Alpha

The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award was established in 1971 to recognize major improvement in chapter development, including project work and reports to Headquarters. The 2005-06 recipient is Arizona Alpha at the University of Arizona, which showed marked improvement in its Headquarters report grades. The number of projects completed by the chapter increased from 10 to 26 in a single year. Membership grew from 52 to 67 members.

Arizona Alpha officers who presided during the award-winning period were President Brianna M. Muhlenkamp, Vice President Jill S. Craven, Secretaries Jeffrey W. Goodhue and Asher D. Kells, and Treasurer Aaron M. Ireland.

Honorable Mention went to Florida Gamma at the University of South Florida, which improved in every area, including the successful completion of 40 projects.
# 23 Chapter Project Awards

At the Colorado Convention, Executive Director Jim Froula presented Chapter Project Awards for outstanding performance during 2005-06 to the following 23 chapters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER / INSTITUTION</th>
<th>NO. PROJECTS</th>
<th>CHAPTER / INSTITUTION</th>
<th>NO. PROJECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AL E University of South Alabama</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>MI E Wayne State University</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Held an Order of the Engineer ceremony</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Had electees make rubbing of ‘Faith of the Engineer’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Judged at Mobile Regional Science Fair</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Collected nearly 200 cans of food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA A University of California, Berkeley</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>MI O Oakland University</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Organized and presented a class ‘Berkeley Engineering: The Survival Guide’ for new students</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Helped teach middle &amp; high-school students as part of DAPCEP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hiked to the ‘Big C’</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Entertained and mentored at a local daycare</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CA Ψ University of California, San Diego</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>MI I University of Michigan-Dearborn</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Helped clean the beach</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Organized and conducted regional Science Olympiad</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reached out to elementary-school children</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Helped Habitat for Humanity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DC A Howard University</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>MI K Western Michigan University</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Celebrated the 50th anniversary</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Held car-wash benefit for Katrina victims</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Held dinner program for homeless women</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Assisted middle-school kids with activities with electronic circuits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL A University of Florida</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>NM Γ New Mexico Institute of Mining &amp; Technology</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provided Gator engineering mentors</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Collected money for Katrina victims</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Designed clocks for Weil Hall Tower</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Hosted the D13 Spring Conference</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FL Γ University of South Florida</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>OH B University of Cincinnati</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Helped the Hope Childrens Home</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Tutored math at Hughes High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Went trick or treating to collect canned food</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Planted daffodils and daylilies as part of Keep Cincinnati Beautiful</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL Z Florida Institute of Technology</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>OH I Ohio Northern University</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Created &amp; dedicated memorial to Columbia orbiter</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Were &quot;Helping Hands at Christmas&quot; for families in need</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Cleaned Coconut Point Park beach</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Presented scholarships to outstanding freshman and sophomores</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IL A University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>PA B Pennsylvania State University</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Presented a dinner-etiquette seminar</td>
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<td>• Adopted a highway</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Volunteered at local soup kitchen</td>
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<td>• Ran (literally), collected sponsorship money, and supported a benefit dance marathon</td>
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<tr>
<td>IN A Purdue University</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>VT B Norwich University</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Tutored freshmen</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Helped with Vermont State Mathematics &amp; Science Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Cleaned cages (and played with the animals) at the humane society shelter</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Held a barbeque for engineering students</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IN Δ Valparaiso University</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>WA A Gonzaga University</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Visited a local high school</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Assisted a St. Mary’s family center</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Adopted a family</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Helped Habitat for Humanity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD B University of Maryland @ College Park</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>WY A University of Wyoming</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Helped Katrina victims in Biloxi &amp; New Orleans</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Sponsored and coordinated engineering honors banquet</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Cleaned the woods in Greenbelt, MD</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Rang bells for the Salvation Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>MI Γ University of Michigan</td>
<td>51</td>
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Chapter Development at the 101st Convention

ICE: ‘Interactive’ Chapter Exchange

Each chapter develops at a different pace, with its own distinctive style. Officers and members working together help create this style. Chapters with a long history of consistent excellent performance have an easier time keeping the tradition going. Ample opportunities exist for members and initiates alike to contribute.

Chapter development is the reason that ICE meetings occupy much of the Friday activities at the Convention. And the reason these meetings are so popular lies in the first word: Interactive.

This year, the team of National Officials responsible for conducting the ICE sessions decided to use the skills of our Engineering Futures Facilitators as co-leaders of ICE. Students shared problems facing all chapters and worked together to develop solutions. This interaction took different forms ranging from a humorous mock-brainstorming session to an ICE Dating Game skit.

One ICE group comprised returning delegates who had participated in previous Convention ICE sessions. These veterans joined in a pilot session focusing on how to motivate more members to participate in chapter activities.

Chapter development occurred at other times during the Convention as well. Convention Chairman Ron Hickling and Parliamentarian Jim Johnson instructed delegates in the dos and don’ts of parliamentary procedure. Delegates were presented some of Robert’s Rules of Order; a classic method for conducting orderly meetings. Chapter presidents were encouraged to learn and apply this system at home, and then pass it along to others.

Committees met and selected chairs, vice chairs, and secretaries. These leaders gained valuable experience guiding their teams and presenting reports. Non-voting delegates gained interpersonal, team-building, and meeting-management skills at Engineering Futures sessions.

District meetings gathered delegates in each of the 16 geographical regions to renew friendships and begin new ones. A special presentation on leadership by Dr. Cameron H.G. Wright, LA G’83, followed dinner on Thursday. Developing effective leadership skills is vital to success in today’s increasingly competitive world.

Committees met Thursday evening and Friday morning before the second business meeting. This meeting provided ample opportunity to practice Robert’s Rules of Order as Tau Bates debated the many motions and amendments. An ‘occasional’ point of order could be heard from time to time.

After Friday’s dinner, Sherry Jennings-King offered an instructive video presentation that asked and answered the question “what is philanthropy?” Delegates gained revealing insights into the inner workings of the Association as the Solid Brass Dancers entertained everyone with examples of how certain National Officers and staff do the ‘money dance.’

Chapter advisors—priceless assets to all chapters—gathered in a committee of their own to decide how they might better serve the Society and their chapters.

The enduring strength of Tau Beta Pi is you, the members. You will carefully elect the new members who will then improve and strengthen the organization. Take time to interact with them. You never know what will happen.

—Roger E. Hawks
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

POINT OF ORDER

ABOVE: When the point of order, “Does anybody have a napkin?”, was raised, the interactions between Tau Bates and napkins became obvious.
The Laureate Program

Exceptional Tau Bates are recognized annually at each Convention for their talents and contributions to society beyond the normal perimeters of engineering. This year, Devin T. Wiley, AZ Α'07, was recognized for his outstanding musical accomplishments and diverse talents. He received a $2,500 cash prize, a plaque, and publicity in THE BULLETIN and on the web.

The Tau Beta Pi Laureate Program has been honoring collegiate members since 1982 and has recognized contributions of Tau Bates in the arts, athletics, diverse activities, and service. Chapters select nominees from their members; information on how to proceed is found in the President’s Book (pp. C-29 & 30) and on the web at tbp.org/chapters.

If an extraordinary member in your Chapter qualifies, submit a nomination package in triplicate to national Headquarters by April 1—to the attention of Secretary-Treasurer Froula.

PHOTO CREDITS: All Convention photographs in this issue were taken by Raymond H. Thompson, TBP Systems Administrator.