



THE Bulletin

of Tau Beta Pi

March 2001
**A Publication
 for the Collegiate
 Chapters**

Is Tradition Hurting Chapter Membership?

TRADITIONS are wonderful things to have. Tau Beta Pi is full of traditions. From the key and certificate to the Tau Beta Pi yell at the end of the National Convention, just about every part of Tau Beta Pi has a tradition behind it. However, as important as traditions are, they sometimes need to be updated.

Over the past decade, the number of new members initiated into Tau Beta Pi each year has declined. One of the reasons given by eligible students is that they are too busy to participate in all of the activities required by the chapter. Tau Beta Pi must compete with other engineering societies such as ASME, IEEE, SAE, and SWE; honor societies, including Eta Kappa Nu and Pi Tau Sigma, and fraternities, sororities, and hundreds of other campus organizations. The choices for students are greater than ever. With all the competition for members, maybe it is time for Tau Beta Pi chapters to take another look at their traditions.

Tau Beta Pi Bylaw VII requires that chapters hold an electee activity prior to initiation. It does not specify what that activity must be, nor does it state how much time must be devoted to the activity. The number, duration, and time commitment of these activities vary from chapter to chapter. Some chapters require nothing more than attending a social function while others require participation in multiple chapter projects. Most of these activities are rooted in tradition.

From time to time it is a good idea for organizations to take a good look at themselves to update things that

are outdated and to make changes for the good of the organization. Tau Beta Pi is currently going through this process with the millennium logo, the new informational brochures, and revised look of THE BENT, THE BULLETIN, and the website. We believe that these changes will help to increase the number of new initiates each year. With the new century upon us, it is a good time for chapters to also look into their practices.

Each chapter should review its operations to ensure it is doing the best job possible in “conferring honor upon those with distinguished scholarship and exemplary character and fostering a spirit of liberal culture in engineering colleges.” Take a look at the number of eligible students that your chapter elects. Is this number close to the actual number of students initiated? If not, something is wrong. You need to ask yourself several questions. “Are the requirements my chapter puts on electees too stringent?” “Is too much time required to become a member of Tau Beta Pi considering all the other activities students participate in?” “Are our traditions getting in the way of a strong chapter membership?”

Russell L. Werneth, MD B '64, developed the “Chapter Growth Cycle” to demonstrate how improving in one area leads to growth in another.

When a chapter builds its membership, it is able to strengthen its leadership. It is then able to plan and conduct more activities or projects. The increase in projects builds tradition, which in turn improves the image of the chapter. By improving the chapter’s image,



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Is Tradition Hurting Chapter Membership? 1

by Edward J. D’Avignon, NY B ’88
 Vice President

adv./C.E. 3

Find a job—jobtrak.com 4

AlumNet Is for You 4

2001 District Conferences 4

Distinguished Alumnus 5

Electronic Reporting Ready 5

Win a GIG Grant 5

Nominate a Council 6

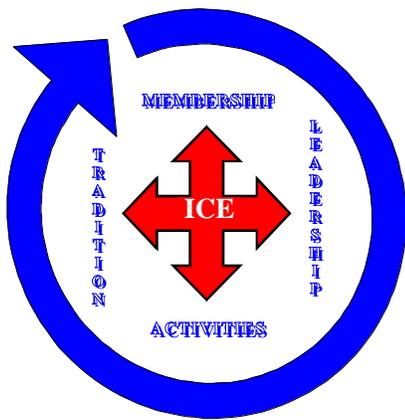
2001 Chapter Anniversaries 6

Issue available at www.tbp.org

more students will want to join, and the cycle repeats.

A chapter can start improving at any point of the cycle; one of the easiest is membership. However, in order to increase membership, a chapter may have to modify some of its traditions.

If an electee tells the chapter officers that he or she is unable to participate in all the required activities, do the officers consider the individual's situation before making a decision? Often, chapter officers will tell electees that they must participate in order to become members. While chapter tradition supports this answer, student



situations today are likely to be much different than in years past. Students with full-time jobs support families and/or participate in philanthropic activities with other organizations, while others spend many hours each week as members of their collegiate athletic teams. These students deserve to be members of Tau Beta Pi as much as a student who simply concentrates on studies and can devote time to a chapter's electee activities.

Tau Beta Pi gives the power of setting electee requirements to a chapter's advisory board. In doing so, each chapter is free to customize its requirements to its individual needs. This includes allowing some flexibility in the requirements as necessary for individual situations. If chapter officers take the time to discuss requirements with members who may have problems fulfilling them, the officers may discover that an electee has a valid reason for being excused from them. A chapter should not simply ignore its traditions and excuse electees from required activities just because they ask. What is best for

Tau Beta Pi is for chapters to consider each situation individually. If an electee has a valid reason for not being able to participate, alternative activities should be devised for that individual. This could be anything from selecting new activities that the electee feels he or she could accomplish to simply reducing the amount of time required to fulfill the requirements by removing some.

For some chapters, large numbers of electee activities are rooted in traditions that go back to times before their current members were born. Often, while these chapters have high levels of activities, the majority of the participants are electees, not members. Chapters that make becoming a member less difficult could start new traditions. By increasing the number of members, the chapter's activity level could increase. This would build a tradition of the Tau Beta Pi members fostering an even greater spirit of liberal culture.

There are many members who believe that traditions should not be changed under any circumstances. While this is an admirable position, it causes an organization to become stagnant. For example, if Tau Beta Pi never changed its traditions, women would not be members, and the organization probably would have died. By breaking with tradition and initiating women since 1969, Tau Beta Pi has become a significantly stronger and more vibrant organization.

If you believe your chapter's traditions are causing students not to join Tau Beta Pi, it is time to consider changing them. There are many ways you could change your traditions to encourage more members while not harming the chapter. Chapters that require participation in multiple activities could allow electees to choose a smaller number of activities from a list of options. Chapters that require participation in a single activity could select different activities from which electees could choose. Another option is for chapters to develop alternative activities only for those electees who express concern with the required activities.

In order for Tau Beta Pi to continue to grow and be successful in the future, the number of electees who are initiated must be increased. Individual chapters are in the best position to increase membership. It is the chapters' responsibility to elect and initiate members. While the

Executive Council is working on initiatives to help increase membership, the ultimate responsibility lies within the collegiate chapters and their officers.

Tau Beta Pi is your organization. It is up to you to take the actions necessary to ensure that the Society thrives in the 21st Century. The officers and alumnus members of the Association are confident in your ability to keep Tau Beta Pi strong for many years to come.

Edward J. D'Avignon
New York Beta '88, Vice President

Welcome Ohio Nu!

One new chapter chartered by the 2000 Convention has been installed with the initiation of its first members this year.

Ohio Nu officially came into being on March 3, 2001, at Cedarville University with Vice President **Edward J. D'Avignon** as official installing officer.

This is the 221st active collegiate chapter of Tau Beta Pi. Stories of the installation and the harboring institution will appear in the Spring and Summer issues of THE BENT.

2001 District Conferences

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 urged to attend. The 2001 schedule is:

Dist.	Location	Date
1	Storres, CT	April 7
2	New Brunswick, NJ	Feb. 24
3	Philadelphia, PA	Feb. 17
4	Annapolis, MD	April 7
5	Miami, FL	March 31
6	Memphis, TN	March 17
7	Columbus, OH	March 31
8	Milwaukee, WI	April 7
9	Rolla, MO	Feb. 24
10	Houston, TX	Feb. 17
11	Minneapolis, MN	April 7
12E	Estes Park, CO	April 7
12W	Idaho Falls, ID	March 31
13	Flagstaff, AZ	Feb. 24
14	Portland, OR	April 7
15	Sacramento, CA	April 7
16	Los Angeles, CA	April 28

advl.C.E.

This is the second in a series of columns presenting issues typically explored through the Interactive Chapter Exchange or ICE.

The ICE program is a seminar presented at the national Convention in which delegates exchange and formulate ideas and successful solutions to situations that challenge most chapters. The issues discussed are organized into the four categories of Membership, Leadership, Activities, and Image.

In September's BULLETIN, this column offered suggestions related to increasing the acceptance rate of invitations. This column presents ideas on creating awareness of your chapter and the Association in general. The suggestions and solutions for both columns were taken from chapter presidents' summaries contained in their chapter reports and from a District 5 Chapter Guide created from a brainstorming session held at the 2000 District 5 Conference.

Question : What have chapters done to increase awareness of Tau Beta Pi?

The Association's charge to each chapter has been to keep membership issues at the forefront of their operations. As the Chapter Growth Cycle illustrates, excellent traditions and increasing awareness of TBPI on campus will eventually increase membership. There are several target populations that you will want to consider in your approach: faculty, administration, engineering students, campus, and the community. There are many simple, non-project activities that can reach these targets to make TBPI more visible.

District 5 offers these suggestions:

- Keep an attractive **display or bulletin board** near the office always updated with pictures, names, and a schedule of chapter activities.
- All members can **wear the same chapter T-shirt** on a specific day of the week/month.
- Ask **professors** to talk about the organization and chapter activities.
- **Dean involvement** with the chapter always improves the chapter's image on campus.
- Use **campus radio, TV, and newspaper** to create awareness of TBPI and the members.
- Assign a member as the **public relations director** to develop and implement ideas to promote the chapter throughout campus.
- Encourage initiates to send notices of their initiation to their **hometown newspapers**. (A sample news release is available on the web in the President's Book, Sec. C.) Some campus public-relations departments, like Bucknell's, simply need a list of names of initiates, and they will take care of sending a notice to each student's hometown newspaper.

Iowa Alpha (Iowa State) opened up the general meetings to the whole student body. Despite this chapter's self-professed "serious nerd streak," several non-members attended the meetings. Iowa Alpha also obtained bulletin-board space in every engineering building and posted flyers wherever there was space.

Above all, use the image materials available from Headquarters

Chapter projects play a major role in developing TBPI's image. If well-publicized and attended, these activities and projects will give a big boost to a chapter's visibility and image. Several chapter presidents have seen a need to increase TBPI's visibility to freshmen and sophomores by involving them in selected activities. This could also be a crucial element in membership. Here are examples of appropriate freshmen-oriented events.

The University of Maryland's school of engineering hosts a picnic for new students, where **Maryland Beta** sets up a display depicting TBPI as "not just an honor society." U.C. Berkeley's college of engineering organizes "E-day," an event to welcome incoming students. **California Alpha** has a booth offering a fun event (like pumpkin bowling) and grilled burgers, soda, and chips. **Michigan Theta** (Oakland Univ.) fully sponsors a freshman/sophomore recognition night, awarding a scholarship to one engineering student in each of those classes. Members also make presentations about TBPI to all freshmen engineering students.

California Gamma (Stanford) distributes a TBPI information packet at freshman orientation, and **Wyoming Alpha** (Univ. of Wyoming) recognizes all engineering freshmen with a 4.0 average at the end of their first semester. **Pennsylvania Gamma** (CMU) hosts the dean's list recognition dinner, which honors top engineering students in all undergraduate levels, thus exposing TBPI to many students who would most likely become eligible to join TBPI. Last year, **Massachusetts Beta** (MIT) established a sophomore engineering scholarship, awarding \$1,000 each to three students. Most chapters offer free tutoring, which includes assistance to freshmen, and a few others have instituted a peer-mentoring program to support students in their first year.

Ohio Gamma (Ohio State) launched a trademark project, organizing an engineering scheduling fair last fall to help underclassmen students schedule their classes. A TBPI member from each engineering major volunteered for this event, and the turnout was high. Plans are to continue these fairs each quarter.

In planning your projects, keep in mind that it is not important how many you do, but that they are well-organized, consistent with the traditions and image that you want to project, and that all target populations for awareness be considered.



Patricia B. McDaniel
Director of Communications and Development



Electronic Reporting is here!

Electronic reporting is finally here! Software applications have been developed on the TBPI website to permit chapters to file membership (Eligibility, Election, and Final Action) reports. This new interactive system allows chapters to enter information and submit reports online. Chapters will receive acknowledgements/approvals via email. In addition, many of the required reports may be filed and orders for materials placed online.

Check out the new website and let us know what you think. Our webmaster wants to hear from you. Just remember your Engineering Futures people-skills training to be direct, specific, and *non*-punishing.

To reach these new applications, visit our website at www.tbp.org. The direct URL to the chapter reports and resources is www.tbp.org/chapters. Your life as a reporting chapter officer has just become simpler and easier.

jobtrak.com

Tau Beta Pi has entered into a contract with JobTrak to create a special job-listing site for our members. More than 400,000 employers list their position openings with JobTrak, advertising for entry-level and experienced full-time jobs, as well as internships. To use the site, e-mail headquarters at tbp@tbp.org to request the password, using jobtrak in the subject. Then visit the site at www.jobtrak.com and begin your search. We ask only that you maintain the confidentiality of the password and tell us your success stories. Nearly 400 Tau Bates have requested the password.

Student Assistance Fund

The Tau Beta Pi Student Assistance Fund was endowed in 1992 through the interest and generosity of C.C. Young, *Illinois Alpha '24*. Its purpose is to make funds available to student members who would otherwise be without sufficient financial resources to remain in college. Repayment is not required, no interest is charged, and grantees are requested to help others in need should they become financially secure.

Interested students should write directly to Executive Director Jim Froula at the national headquarters in Knoxville, TN.

New! AlumNet for Students

Tau Beta Pi began the AlumNet Program last fall as a three-year trial, creating a way for alumni to share valuable experience with interested student members. The program pairs students with alumni in various settings, such as graduate programs, academe, industry, etc., to allow sharing of information and to facilitate the establishment of networks that are so critical for the attainment of pre-professional and career development.

Students have asked for this service, and thanks to the efforts of the Central Illinois Alumnus Chapter and the Illinois Alpha Chapter, AlumNet was begun. Many alumni from various disciplines are already registered in the database. To get in touch with an alumnus about a certain field, company, or institution, simply register on-line with AlumNet by going to the TBPI website at www.tbp.org and clicking on the AlumNet link on the "For Members" page. Complete the brief, three-to four-line contact request form, and alumnus contact information will be e-mailed to you by the program coordinator. It is the student's responsibility to follow-up and to make contact with the alumnus.

Alumni can register on-line in the same way described above. Encourage your peers to try out this service. AlumNet is one more example of the unique value of membership in Tau Beta Pi and another opportunity to gain life-long benefits from the Association.

Constitutional Amendments Pending

The 2000 Convention approved three amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of Tau Beta Pi and sent them to the chapters for ratification. In accord with the Association's amending procedure, with 220 chapters eligible to vote, 165 or more affirmative chapter votes are required to ratify an amendment, and 56 or more negative votes would defeat the amendment.

As of February 5, 2001, Headquarters received 32 valid ballots (none invalid). The Council will consider action on the proposed amendment on June 8 and vote on behalf of those chapters submitting an invalid or no ballot by April 1.

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Vote as of Feb. 5, 2001</i>
Include equivalent insurance in requirement for bonding. (Const. Art. IV, Sec. 5)	32 affirmative, 0 negative.
Replace "Officers of the Association" with "These Directors." (Const. Art. IV, Sec. 2(f))	31 affirmative, 1 negative.
Define requirements for international chapters. (Const. Art. I, Sec. 3, 10, & 11, ++)	31 affirmative, 1 negative.

Nominations are now open for –

a Distinguished Alumnus

The Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumnus Award recognizes members who have continued *to live up to the ideals of Tau Beta Pi as stated in our Eligibility Code and to foster a spirit of liberal culture throughout their lives after their college years*. These alumni serve as examples of excellence and leadership in character and liberal culture to collegiate members so as to influence their professional careers and personal lives.

Honored alumni have made exceptional efforts to demonstrate our ideals and to foster a spirit of liberal culture on local, national, and international scales. They have demonstrated integrity, breadth of interest, adaptability, and unselfish activity.

Awardees are chosen by a committee of national officers and invited to the Convention, where their achievements are recognized and they each receive a special plaque. A \$500 scholarship in honor of each awardee is given to a student selected by a chapter chosen by the Distinguished Alumnus.

Anyone may nominate any alumnus member, except a national officer, for the award. Due by March 15, each nomination must be sponsored by a collegiate or alumnus chapter and must be signed by the president. There is no limit on the number of nominations by a chapter.

First given in 1997 as the Tau Beta Pi Standard of Excellence Award, the Distinguished Alumnus Award was renamed by the 1999 Convention.

Nominations from chapters or any individual are requested. The following documentation in four sets must be sent to the Executive Director by March 15:

- (1) A one-page nomination form of biographical information and a summary of the achievements and/or contributions of the nominee exemplifying the objective of the award. (President's Book, C 32-33.)
- (2) A citation (one-page limit) appropriate for presentation, documenting the nominee's outstanding adherence to the Tau Beta Pi ideal of *fostering a spirit of liberal culture* in our society. It may be written by the nominating party.
- (3) A letter of reference from a person, excluding the nominator(s) or president, knowledgeable about the nominee's contributions and achievements.
- (4) The nominee's current résumé.
- (5) One additional supporting item that the nominator considers appropriate.



the 2002-06 Executive Council

Slates of candidates for the next Executive Council of Tau Beta Pi should be submitted by April 1, 2001. The voting will take place at the 2001 Convention in Columbus, OH, and the successful slate will take office at the 2002 Detroit, MI, Convention and serve through the 2006 Convention.

Tau Beta Pi's Constitution and Bylaws, particularly Constitution Article III, Sections 3, 4, and 5, delineate the nominating and electing procedures and the Executive Council's responsibilities.

A slate of five alumnus candidates for Executive Council may be nominated by any chapter or group of chapters. Among them, the nominees should be from different branches of the profession and should have experience in a variety of functions — management, finance, teaching, business, research, etc. Candidates must agree to serve if elected, but all nominees on a slate need not reside in the same geographic area.

Nominations of Council slates must be sent to the headquarters for publication to all the chapters. If fewer than two slates are nominated by the deadline, additional slates may be nominated at the 2001 Convention in Ohio; but if two or more slates are nominated by April 1, nominations will then be closed.

In 1992, the Executive Council revised the travel reimbursement policy for Council slates whereby the Association will provide on-site expenses, plus prorated travel expenses up to \$3,000 total, for all slates.

a Laureate

Tau Beta Pi inaugurated the Laureate Program in 1981 to honor those student members who have demonstrated exceptional talents outside the field of engineering. Look among your members for an outstanding student. Chapters may nominate one or more members as a Laureate based upon their contributions in arts, athletics, service, or diverse achievements. Laureates each receive a \$2,500 cash award, recognition at the Convention, and publicity in THE BENT.

A chapter nominating committee, excluding but in consultation with the candidate, should assemble the nomination package and send it to the Secretary-Treasurer by March 15—in triplicate. (Please refer to the President's Book, Section C-VI, www.tbp.org.)

Educational Loan Fund

Since 1935, Tau Beta Pi has assisted student members with their financial needs while in school or with payment of their initiation fee through our Student Loan Fund. We are pleased to offer this service for student members in amounts up to \$2,500 per member.

Repayment is required after three years, and a simple interest rate of 6% is charged from the day the loan is received.

Interested students can obtain promissory notes and loan applications from their chapter presidents or directly from Executive Director Jim Froula at the national headquarters in Knoxville, TN.



**THE Bulletin
of Tau Beta Pi**
P.O. Box 2697
Knoxville, TN 37901-2697

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Knoxville, TN

Important Deadlines

- GIG Project Proposal (any time)
- January 15
Scholarship/Fellowship Application
- March 15
Laureate Nomination
Distinguished Alumnus Nomination
- March 21
Outstanding Advisor Nomination
- April 1
Executive Council Nomination
Ratification Ballot
- June 1
Convention Bid for 2004

\$\$\$ 2001 GIG Grants \$\$\$

Your chapter may receive up to \$750 to conduct a project involving civic affairs and public policy issues. The money is available and waiting under Tau Beta Pi's Greater Interest in Government Program to involve engineers in their communities and the political process.

Endowed in 1969 by Frederick A. Faville, *Illinois Beta '19*, the program has awarded chapter grants for Tau Beta Pi to visit their state's general assembly; to conduct conferences involving legislators, educators, deans, and students; to bring together leaders in industry and academe; and to build playground and park equipment and bridges. (See *Chapter Projects* at www.tbp.org.)

How can you participate? Send your chapter's 2001-02 proposal to the national headquarters. Newly revised application guidelines are in Section C, IV, of the President's Book on the website. There is no deadline, and joint chapter projects are now encouraged.

THE Bulletin of Tau Beta Pi

(ISSN 8755-5670)

Vol. LXXV March 2001 No. 3

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2001 Chapter Anniversaries

75th	Oklahoma Alpha	April 3, 1926
	University of Oklahoma; Norman	
	Montana Alpha	April 15, 1926
	Montana State University; Bozeman	
	Alabama Beta	November 20, 1926
	University of Alabama; Tuscaloosa	
	Arizona Alpha	November 24, 1926
	University of Arizona; Tucson	
50th	Louisiana Gamma	February 17, 1951
	Louisiana Tech University; Ruston	
	Michigan Epsilon	March 10, 1951
	Wayne State University; Detroit	
25th	Illinois Epsilon	April 3, 1976
	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale	