



THE Bulletin

of Tau Beta Pi

September 2002

A Publication
for the Collegiate
Chapters

Detroit Delivers!

THE MEMBERS OF MICHIGAN EPSILON and the other District 7 chapters invite all Tau Bates to experience Motown in the Fall. Activities will be held in the heart of the automobile capital of the world.

The host chapter boasts many fine and talented members and distinguished alumni. The chapter is honored to host the second Convention in Detroit. The previous one was the semi-centennial of the Association in 1935. Much preparation and hard work has gone into making this a successful and memorable experience.

Arrangements Chair **Abha Tiwari**, *Michigan Epsilon '02*, and her outstanding crew have booked sleeping rooms at the Marriott Renaissance Center hotel. All meetings and most meals will also be held in the center. On Saturday, attendees will enjoy lunch, view the model initiation, and tour the Wayne State University campus prior to the final banquet.

Most delegates, national officers, and other attendees will fly into the Detroit Airport for the October 3-5 meetings, Engineering Futures sessions, ICE discussions, chapter and individual awards, and other activities.

Expenses of one student delegate per chapter and the on-site expenses of advisors will be paid by the Society. Non-voting delegates and alumni are encouraged and invited to attend at their own

expense, except that non-voting delegates' travel expenses are partly reimbursed.

Students who arrive early have the opportunity to take part in a new pre-convention "Issues & Answers"

Forum. Brainstorming in small groups, and using "sticky walls" to refine their initiatives, students can give voice to issues such as engineering education, membership participation, and job preparation.

With résumés in hand, delegates and local members may visit the third annual Recruitment Fair from Wednesday evening through Thursday afternoon. Once again, Duke Energy has stepped forward and doubled its lead contribution to the Convention and will host the major awards banquet on Saturday. Companies—including Fluor, General Motors, Lucent Technologies, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and Vector Supply Chain Management—are also partnering with Tau Beta Pi as major sponsors.

At the Saturday evening banquet, a new Executive Council will be installed. The members are from the four corners of the U.S. and will serve during 2002-06.

Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau



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Issue available at www.tbp.org

The purpose of the annual meeting is to conduct Tau Beta Pi business. Delegates, who are often chapter presidents or officers, begin their official duties Thursday afternoon. They meet to oversee the Association's fiscal and governmental policies, choose the major chapter award winners, prepare for District conferences, learn more about the Tau Beta Pi election and initiation process, receive leadership training, and plan future Conventions. They are assisted in their duties by the Executive Council, national officers, and chapter advisors.

The delegates are the legislative, executive, and judicial body of this primarily student-run organization. Each delegate arrives ready to participate and has already been assigned to one of the nine Convention committees. National officers serve as committee advisors.

Each committee elects a student chair to conduct its internal affairs and represent the group on the Convention floor. Any Constitution or Bylaw changes brought forth from the committees are voted on by the Convention during the major business meetings.

This year seven standing committees will survey the Association. Two *ad hoc* groups have been organized: one on candidate and electee duties and another on curriculum eligibility.

The committees and their advisors are outlined below.

Committees:

Petitions. A.J. Pinkus, advisor. This group will consider and recommend action on a petition from the local engineering society at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Constitution and Bylaws. C.W. Caldwell, advisor. A subject that has been assigned for direct consideration is a proposal to recommend that Bylaw X be amended to define the Scholarship



Michigan Epsilon hosts Chandra L. Roberts, Elizabeth S. Peterson, Chapter Advisor Curtis D. Gomulinski, Arrangements Chair Abha Tiwari, and Jill S. Logsdon.

Program and new Scholarship Board. Additional proposals may arise for consideration by this committee before and during the Convention.

Chapter and Association Financial Affairs. B.L. Frost III, advisor. Committee members are charged to: determine allowable delegate's expenses for the 2003 Convention; review the chapter accounts receivable to the national Headquarters; review the annual reports of the Association's auditor and Treasurer; and review a proposal to pay on-site expenses of either an advisor or non-voting delegate of each collegiate chapter.

Rituals. A.R. Hirsch, Director of Rituals and committee advisor. Members of this group will consider any proposal regarding motto secrecy/ ceremony



Alan R. Hirsch
Director of Rituals

privacy and will prepare the Model Initiation at the Convention. Members are asked to review the optional ceremony for Convention guests, which is on a PowerPoint file.

Convention Site. L.C. Pawlak, advisor. Delegates from this committee will recommend acting on invitations from Colorado Beta and from Utah Alpha/Beta/Gamma to host the 2005 Convention. In accord with the Constitution, the Convention site may not be selected more than three years in advance.

The Executive Council approved the selection of Florida Alpha/Delta as hosts of the 2004 Convention.

Texas Beta at Texas Tech University is hosting the 2003 Convention in Lubbock.

The committee will also review the cost estimates for the 2002-05 Conventions.

Resolutions. S. Jennings-King, advisor. Team members will present resolutions—statements of appreciation and mementos—to the Convention at the Saturday morning business meeting and the Saturday evening Initiation and Awards Banquet. Committee members are also charged with recommending whether to advise continuing or ending the Distinguished Alumnus Program, now at the end of its third, three-year trial.

Awards. L.A. Simonson, advisor. The principal assignment of this committee is to select the recipients of the R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award and the R.H. Nagel Most Improved

Chapter Award for 2001-02. The team will select a single winner in each category and as many honorable mentions as are deserved. Winners will be announced at the awards banquet on Saturday.

Candidate & Electee Duties (*ad hoc*). A.S. Plaskota, advisor. Members of this group are asked to clarify what recourse a candidate may have who objects to the duties that a chapter may require for membership.

Curriculum Eligibility (*ad hoc*). R.L. Werneth, advisor. Committee members will consider issues concerning the possible eligibility for all programs that are not obviously engineering programs.

Engineering Futures — Active Leadership Training! R.W. Pierce and Facilitators. Delegates will have the opportunity to explore ways to develop their own leadership skills to improve their local chapters and to



Russell W. Pierce
Director, Engineering Futures

strengthen District ties while the voting delegates conduct Convention business.

The Convention itself is

organized to assist the delegates in their roles as chapter leaders. The opening orientation is a lesson in parliamentary procedure. Parliamentarian James W. Johnson Jr. will act as a role model for delegates as they observe *Robert's Rules of Order* in action. Convention Chair Ronald M. Hickling will be leading the major meetings throughout the eventful three days.

On Thursday and Friday, non-voting delegates will be involved in Engineering Futures training sessions, designed to teach them practical solution-oriented leadership techniques such as motivation, planning, delegation, and team building.

Voting delegates who complete their committee assignments should join the sessions in progress.

District Directors will be meeting with chapter delegates daily to assist them with organizing their local chapter activities and with planning District conferences and other annual events. Chapter advisors have separate daily meetings.

Officers may familiarize themselves with chapter supplies and the newest insignia items—caps—which are available at the Headquarters display in the hotel lobby.

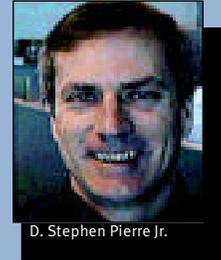
Focus groups of alternate delegates will convene to review Tau Beta Pi image materials.

Saturday evening is the highlight of the Convention when the annual Association awards will be presented. In addition to recognizing the R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter and the R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter, the 2002 Laureates, National Outstanding Advisor, and Distinguished Alumnus will be introduced, and the new Council will be installed.

Tau Beta Pi's 97th National Convention promises to be your convention opportunity of a lifetime. Join us!

2003 Fellowships

Tau Beta Pi's 70th annual program of graduate fellowships for study in the 2003-04 academic year will close January 15, 2003, when



D. Stephen Pierre Jr.

applications must be in the hands of Director of Fellowships D. Stephen Pierre Jr., P.E.,

Alabama Power Company, P.O. Box 2247, Mobile, AL 36652-2247.

Winners in the program will be selected by the Fellowship Board and notified in April.

Up to 22 cash awards will be given, each worth \$10,000. They will be made on the promise of future development in engineering or related fields and financial need.

All members of Tau Beta Pi are eligible to apply. Students and alumni may obtain either word or pdf application files from www.tbp.org.

Constitutional Amendments Ratified

The 2001 Convention approved two 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 225 chapters eligible to vote, 169 or more affirmative chapter votes are required to ratify an amendment, and 57 or more negative votes would defeat the amendment.

The original voting deadline was April 1, but the polls were kept open until May 17, 2002. Headquarters received 129 valid ballots (plus 13 invalid for lack of a chapter quorum). The Council acted on the proposed amendments on June 7 and voted on behalf of those chapters submitting an invalid or no ballot.

Amendment

1. Make English the official business language of the Association. (Const. Art. I, Sec. 10)
2. Place a chapter on probation if it fails to hold an approved initiation during a fiscal year. (Const. Art. IX, Sec. 2)

Outcome

1. Unresolved by chapter vote; 121 affirmative, 8 negative. Ratified by Council vote for invalid and missing chapters.
2. Unresolved by chapter vote; 104 affirmative, 25 negative. Ratified by Council vote for invalid and missing chapters.

What Did You Do To Qualify?: 2002 Chapter Survey

IF YOU ARE A TYPICAL MEMBER, you worked hard to learn and to earn good grades, received and accepted an invitation to join, spent several hours working on chapter projects and polishing a bent, paid your initiation fee, and attended an initiation ceremony.

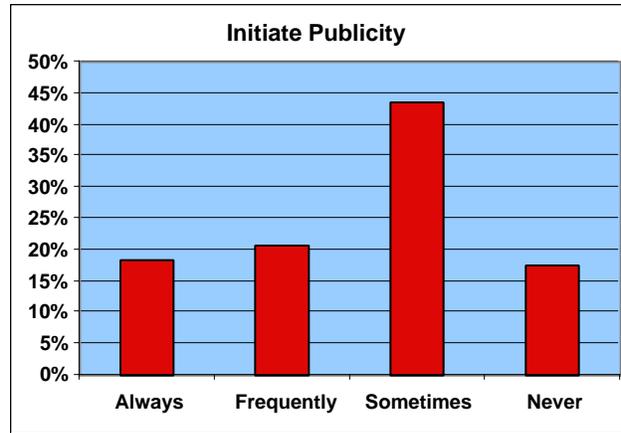
Membership in Tau Beta Pi is open to the top fifth of the senior engineering class and the top eighth of the junior engineering class. In addition to the academic requirement, students must demonstrate integrity, breadth of interest both inside and outside engineering, adaptability, and unselfish activity. Tau Beta Pi's Constitution provides for electees to participate in activities which foster a spirit of liberal culture.

The chart below shows the types of duties typically assigned to electees. The average chapter selects activities in three areas.

A majority of chapters involve electees in project work. In fact, chapters use this activity to compete for Project Awards. Projects cover a wide range of areas including social events and initiation banquets, helping their fellow students, advancing engineering, professional development, and serving the community at large. Thousands of hours are volunteered each year to the benefit of all involved.

Another activity requires students to meet those who are already members by collecting signatures. One chapter (Tennessee Alpha) even requires obtaining the signature of the Secretary-Treasurer. Being located on the same campus as Headquarters does make the task easier.

Having students polish a flat bent casting helps build pride and allows them to show off their handiwork. Wearing the shiny bent on initiation day increases awareness of Tau Beta Pi on campus. Polishing a chapter's bent monument accomplishes much the same purpose while providing an opportunity for electees to work together.



Exams test students' knowledge of Tau Beta Pi and the chapter they will soon be joining. Copies of the national Constitution and Bylaws and chapter bylaws are given to each prospective member. Reading these and the Information Book usually provides the knowledge required.

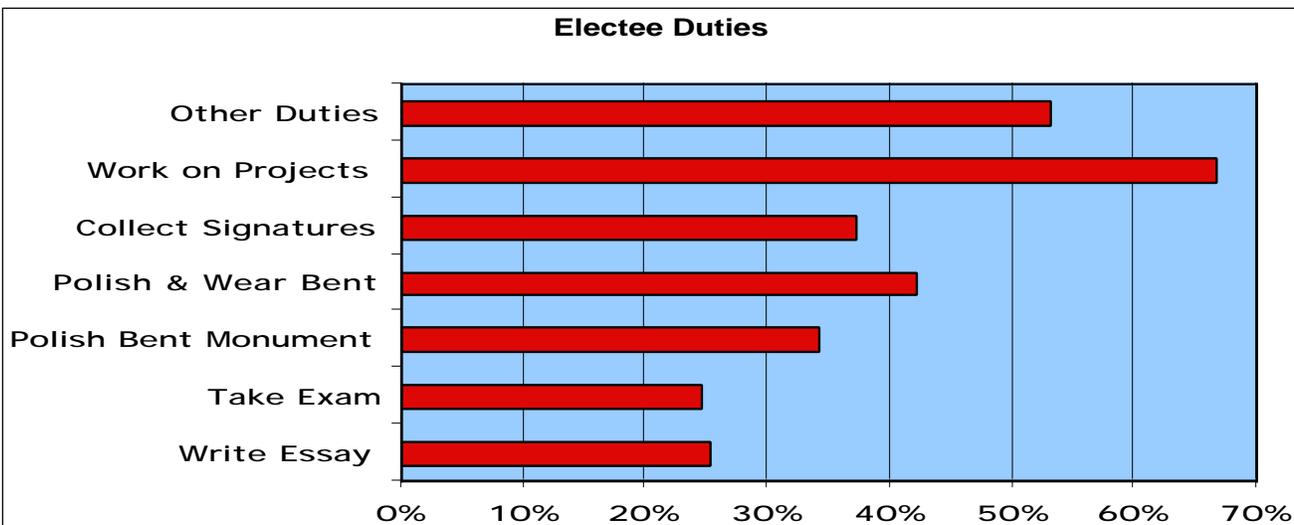
Other duties typically include interviews with chapter officers and attending required meetings.

Once the work is done and the money paid, electees participate in the Tau Beta Pi initiation ritual. Here they learn more about our Society and officially become members.

One final touch which many chapters add is to publish a list of the newest members. The chart above shows how often chapters provide this service. Such publicity not only introduces the new members, but can increase awareness of Tau Beta Pi.

What can you do now that you're in? Remain active in your chapter, and continue working to let others know about Tau Beta Pi.

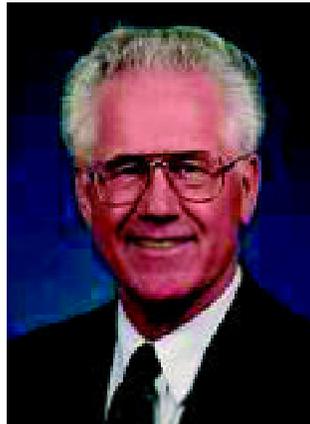
R.E.H



2002 Distinguished Alumnus Lyle D. Feisel

Tau Beta Pi has selected its 2002 Distinguished Alumnus from academe—Lyle D. Feisel—dean emeritus of the Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science at the State University of New York at Binghamton. Dr. Feisel exemplifies the Tau Beta Pi ideal of a person who fosters a “spirit of liberal culture” in the society and one whose character and leadership is a beacon to collegiate members.

He holds three degrees from Iowa State University and served as professor and department head at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology during 1964-83 before continuing his academic career at SUNY. Dr. Feisel was instrumental in chartering Tau Beta Pi’s New York Tau Chapter on the Binghamton campus in 1991. Under his guidance, the chapter received the Association’s highest honor—the R.C. Matthews Most Outstanding Chapter Award—one year later!



Dr. Lyle D. Feisel, P.E., IA '61

His influence on the engineering profession through his involvement in professional societies has helped to determine the direction of engineering education during the past three decades. He led the American Society for Engineering Education, first as chair of the electrical engineering

division, later as vice president for finance, and in 1997-98, as president. During his term, he represented the U.S. as the ASEE delegate to the *Internationale Gesellschaft für Ingenieurpädagogik* in Grenoble, France, where he reported on the status of engineering education in the U.S.. Through his work in ABET, he has sought to recognize engineering curricula in universities worldwide that are substantially equivalent to EAC/ABET curricula in the U.S. A fellow of the IEEE, he has served as president of its education society, and is now vice president of educational activities.

His contributions to the *Journal of Engineering Education* as the reviewer for “The Academic Bookshelf” extended from 1993 through 1997. An example of his personal writing style and good-sense advice will appear in the Fall issue of THE BENT and begins a new series in the magazine.

Tau Beta Pi proudly names Dr. Feisel as the 2002 Distinguished Alumnus.

advl.C.E. Eligibility Lists . . . Are we getting the truly eligible?

Our recent survey of the membership process has uncovered several points that need to be addressed. For example, not only are chapters having difficulty obtaining eligibility lists in a timely manner, but the lists often include students who are not truly scholastically eligible for membership in Tau Beta Pi.

Concern for the integrity of membership standards led Dr. Matthew W. Ohland, SC A’s Chief Advisor, to automate the process and to create a consistently accurate eligibility list. Dr. Ohland has shared his ideas for this column.

The eligibility list can have two types of errors:

- 1) students are invited who are not technically eligible, and
- 2) students who should be eligible are not on the list.

We suspect that (1) is most common, but sometimes (2) is related. Here is an example:

A chapter requests a list of “the top 1/8 of junior and the top 1/5 of senior engineering students,” and the registrar uses the university definition of “junior” and “senior.” At

Clemson, a junior is a student having 60-94 credit hours, and a senior is a student having a minimum of 95 credit hours.

A large (and growing) number of students enter a university with credit from AP/IB/transfer. A true example: an incoming freshman had taken four AP exams, and the institution transferred in the courses for 30 credit hours. He also had transfer credit for one-two courses taken in the past year, and had taken two summer courses. When school began in the fall, he had 45 credit hours. After ONE semester, he will have 60 hours and be considered a junior. A high enough GPA would place him in the top 1/8th. Since he is not a transfer student, the chapter would think he is eligible without knowing that he is not necessarily taking junior classes. By calling that student an eligible junior, a “real junior” who would have been eligible may be pushed off the list, causing (2) above.

Students who have not begun the coursework of their major should not be eligible [C-VIII, 2 (g)]. We should avoid this problem by using a more careful definition of “junior” and “se-

nior.” A junior must have junior standing with the university, a major in engineering, and be taking at least one 300-level or higher engineering course. Seniors need senior standing and at least one 400-level course. Similar criteria for other schools must be defined at the local level.

These two sets of criteria establish the junior and senior class lists from which the top 1/8 and 1/5 of the respective classes are eligible. Further checking can identify the transfer students who are rightly counted as members of the junior class, but are not eligible for initiation.

The bottom line is that eligibility mistakes happen, partly because the students don’t know what to ask for and partly because the school administrators are understandably marginally cooperative about sharing student data with undergrads. Dr. Ohland can help chapter advisors who have access to student records set up a similar query to obtain an accurate eligibility list. He can talk to the data administrators about how to create an accurate list. Email him at—ohland@clemson.edu.

New Tau Beta Pi Ware

Classic new logo hats to show your pride in membership! You'll want to add both to your collection.

A.



Garment washed 100% cotton, unstructured, six-panel, low-profile cap. White crown, black visor with blue logo on front and "Tau Beta Pi" on side. Adjustable cotton back strap with antiqued brass buckle and sewn slot. \$15.00.

Price includes shipping.

B.



Prewashed brushed canvas, two-tone, constructed cap. Khaki crown, navy visor with navy logo on front, and "Tau Beta Pi" on side. Classic low profile, soft lining. Adjustable cotton back strap with brass buckle. \$15.00.

Price includes shipping.

Order from the General Store on the web at tbp.org.

Devon, Sarah & Erik are 2002 Laureates

Three Laureates have been selected in the 21st year of Tau Beta Pi's annual program to recognize gifted engineering students who have excelled in non-technical areas.

The 2002 Laureates were selected for their creative and diverse achievements. They are: Devon J. Battaglia, *Pennsylvania Alpha '03*, honored for his contributions to the performing arts; Sarah T. Bauer, *Iowa Alpha '03*, recognized for her achievements in music performance and her music ministry; and Erik C. Porse, *Connecticut Gamma '02*, for his service to the policy and law-making community as a WISE intern.

They join 51 other outstanding Tau Bates who have been cited



Devon J. Battaglia



Sarah T. Bauer



Erik C. Porse

since the program began in 1982.

The new Laureates will be honored during ceremonies on October 5, 2002, at the 97th annual Convention in Detroit, MI, where each will receive a \$2,500 check and a commemorative plaque.

The Laureate Program was inaugurated to further Tau Beta Pi's second basic purpose as stated in the preamble to the Constitution: "to foster a spirit of liberal culture in engineering colleges." A committee of District Directors considered 11 nominees from 10 chapters.

70 Scholarships!

The Tau Beta Pi Association Scholarship Program for senior-year study during the 2003-04 academic year will close March 1, 2003, when applications must be in the hands of Director of Fellowships D. Stephen Pierre Jr., P.E., Alabama Power Company, P.O. Box 2247, Mobile, AL 36652-2247.

A record total of up to 70 cash awards, each worth \$2,000, will be given in our fantastic, expanding program. They will be made on the basis of high scholarship, strong recommendations, extracurricular activities, and financial need. Winners will be selected and notified in early April. Junior members of Tau Beta Pi are eligible to apply. Applications are available on the web at 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 Secretary-Treasurer Jim Froula at the national Headquarters in Knoxville, TN.

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 of his and other chapters 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 Secretary-Treasurer Jim Froula at the national Headquarters in Knoxville, TN.

On-line System Update

By Raymond H. Thompson

Some significant changes are occurring with the computer systems used by Tau Beta Pi. The changes are all designed to improve service to the members.

First is that I have joined the Headquarters staff. I have more years than I care to admit dealing with computer systems, programming, and web interface. I have worked with and developed programs for multi-room size computers all the way down to desktop systems.

All internal applications that were based on FoxPro have been moved to a web interface. ColdFusion is being used as the background processing language to implement the internal functions. Processing address changes, subscriptions, mailing lists, and the main website (www.tbp.org) are now all driven by ColdFusion.

One reason is to eliminate client programs on the workstations. There is a mixture of PC and MAC platforms, and the FoxPro applications would not work on the MACs. Using a web interface requires nothing more than a standard web browser and will allow more flexibility in our hardware requirements.

Another reason is that we are in the process of moving the member's database (and others) to SQL Server 2000. FoxPro is not an enterprise database and imposes some significant limitations. SQL Server will remove some of these boundaries. SQL Server will also provide for a higher level of data security in terms of data integrity and recovery capabilities.

These are significant changes to accomplish. It is even more of a challenge to manage the changes and not disrupt service to our members. It is a challenge that can and will be met and will continue to improve the efficiency of Headquarters operations. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments you may contact me at ray@tbp.org.

Undergraduate membership reporting is now electronic and all chapters are required to use the on-line system. The fully automated system helps chapters receive timely responses through email. Most reports may be submitted on-line.

For information on how to use the system, see: www.tbp.org/chapters or call Headquarters.

Larry Simonson is 2002 National Outstanding Advisor

Dr. Larry A. Simonson takes pride in his membership in the 117-year-old engineering honor society—and he has personally committed himself to sharing that pride with new initiates. He constructs a hand-made plaque with each new member's name, date of initiation, and symbolic bent, creating a lasting memory. For 16 years, he has served as the Chief Advisor to the South Dakota Alpha Chapter on the campus of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City. He was cited for his energy, enthusiasm, and initiative, factors that have garnered recognition for students on his campus.

Although Dr. Simonson is busy with his schedule as chair of the department of electrical and computer engineering, and since 1994 as Director for Tau Beta Pi's District 12 and an Engineering Futures Facilitator, his office door is always open; he is a friend to all.

His chief concern is for the students—he not only offers pride in belonging, but he promotes group unity. He actively participates with the students and encourages them to interface with each other—he assists in organizing social events, drives members to Conventions and District gatherings, and travels to other chapters within the District to conduct Engineering Futures sessions. The distances are great—650 miles between some chapters.

Dr. Simonson interfaces with the administration. He seeks the assistance of the registrar to obtain the names of eligible candidates for membership, coordinates the fall initiation banquet with university officials during parent's weekend, and maintains a close relationship with the school's alumni association, which reports on the accomplishments of chapter members.

In helping the students and chapter leaders create worthwhile goals, he has spearheaded unique projects, such as starting Youth Engineering Adventure, a week-long summer camp on the SDSM&T and South Dakota State University campuses that introduces high-school sophomores to engineering. He also helped



Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., SD '69

to sponsor the first annual engineering and science spring career fair on campus this year, and last year he helped the Association with a project to initiate Sigma Tau members into Tau Beta Pi. During the holiday season, South Dakota Alpha designed and assembled a lighted Christmas tree, which was on display at the school's parade of trees and the town's festival of lights. This year Dr. Simonson received the university's Virginia Simpson award in recognition of his involvement as a staff member in the Rapid City community.

South Dakota Alpha has received numerous awards during Dr. Simonson's 16-year tenure as chapter advisor—nine Secretary's Commendations (consecutively for the past six years) and Project Awards for the past three years, in addition to a GIG grant for its involvement with the Youth Engineering Adventure. The chapter is proud of its well earned recognition by the state board of regents, which presented members with its award for academic excellence in 1989, 1997, and 2001.

For his pride in membership, promotion of group unity, interface with the university administration, and his enthusiastic encouragement of worthwhile goals, the Society is proud to recognize Dr. Larry Simonson as the 2002 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor!



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Important Deadlines

- GIG Project Proposal (any time)
- January 15
Fellowship Application
- March 1
Scholarship Application
- March 15
Laureate Nomination
Distinguished Alumnus Nomination
- March 21
Outstanding Advisor Nomination
- June 1
Convention Bid for 2006

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National Headquarters
508 Dougherty Engineering Building, UT
P.O. Box 2697
Knoxville, TN 37901-2697
Telephone: 865/ 546-4578
FAX: 865/ 546-4579
Email: tbp@tbp.org
www.tbp.org

Executive Director and Editor: James D. Froula,
P.E., Tennessee Alpha '67
Asst. Secretary-Treasurer: Roger E. Hawks,
New York Lambda '75

Executive Council

President: Dr. Douglas M. Green, P.E.,
Texas Beta '65, Milwaukee, WI
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New Radio Program Highlights the Wonders of Engineering

If you are or know of an engineer whose work can help bring a new understanding and awareness of engineering to the public, your story can be told via *Voices of Innovation*.

Developed by the American Association of Engineering Societies, of which Tau Beta Pi is an associate member, *Voices of Innovation* will be a daily public radio series of two-minute radio spots featuring engineers talking about their innovations, careers, and work.

The program allows engineers to tell their own stories and speak with personal passion about their professions and how engineering contributes to the overall well-being of society. A pre-launch demo CD has been produced featuring engineers talking about artificial hands, earthquake engineering, and the world's fastest plane.

Voices of Innovation is slated to begin broadcasting on September 2, 2002. It is made possible by a generous grant from the United Engineering Foundation and is being produced by Jim Metzner, the radio personality behind the widely successful program *Pulse of the Planet*. Several major-market radio stations will be carrying the series.

For more information on this exciting new concept and to submit your story idea, see www.voicesofinnovation.com. You do not need to know the engineer whose story idea you are submitting. *Voices of Innovation* will do the research and make the contact. You may also contact David Gately, AAES director of communications and public awareness, at 202/296-2297 or dgately@aaes.org.

\$\$\$ 2003 GIG
Grants \$\$\$

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

Send your chapter's 2002-03 proposal to the national Headquarters. Application guidelines are in Section C-IV of the *President's Book* on the web. There is no deadline, and joint chapter projects are encouraged.