

July 22, 2005

FOR RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2005

CONTACT: Patricia McDaniel
865/546-4578

Tau Beta Pi Announces Dr. Sally G. Steadman as 2005 National Outstanding Advisor

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named its 12th 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. Sally G. Steadman, *Wyoming Alpha '69*, advisor to the Alabama Epsilon Chapter and instructor in the College of Engineering at the University of South Alabama, is the *2005 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor*. She will be honored on October 8, 2005, at the 100th annual national Convention to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Tau Beta Pi President Dr. Matthew W. Ohland will present \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque to Dr. Steadman. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the engineering college's discretionary fund.

A faculty advisor for 15 years (13 at the University of Wyoming and two at the University of South Alabama), Dr. Steadman was cited by students and peers at both institutions for her devotion to leadership, her personal integrity, and tireless work to encourage excellence, all of which have established her as an invigorating role model for students, faculty, and advisory peers.

She holds a B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Wyoming and an M.A. in mathematics from the University of Denver. Dr. Steadman earned a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Wyoming in 1994. In addition to Tau Beta Pi, she is a member of Mortar Board and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies.

(more)

Dr. Sally Steadman is once again on her way to establishing another legacy of giving new life and national recognition to a Tau Beta Pi chapter. As a new advisor to Wyoming Alpha, she was faced with a chapter that was holding initiations but had minimal activity. She helped officers generate a list of potential members, and soon, the number of initiates more than doubled. Meetings became more regular, timely reports were filed, and new projects flourished. Wyoming Alpha rose not only to the top of its District, but won the national R.C. Matthews Most Outstanding Chapter award in 2001 and 2004, and honorable mention in 2002.

Because of her concern about engineers' responsibility to society, she initiated activities that improved the college and positively impacted the community. Tau Beta Pi members hosted the popular Engineering Honors Banquet, scheduled participants in a professional speakers series, and staffed an extensive tutoring program for freshman and sophomores, which was cited by the dean as having a positive effect on engineering student retention. Tau Beta Pi provided leadership in pre-college services to the community, such as engineering college tours for 130 fifth graders, the MathCounts program, the Wyoming State Science Fair, and "Women in Engineering Day."

While teaching at the University of Wyoming, Dr. Steadman won the Mortar Board "Top Prof" award four times and UW's prestigious John P. Ellbogen Meritorious Classroom Teaching Award. She won the 2002 Wyoming Engineering Society president's outstanding engineer award. A faculty advisor to Mortar Board, she also served as the focal point for minority activities in the college in her advisory capacity to the minority engineering program.

In 2003, she became chief advisor to Alabama Epsilon, which was languishing. After her arrival, report filings increased, funds were raised, and chapter officers became more active, pulling together to increase attendance and participation. Members volunteered to be "meeting reminders" who personally located others on meeting days and offered friendly reminders. Her own routine attendance encouraged students to attend more regularly. Under her direction, initiations doubled and membership increased dramatically. On campus, the Bent monument was moved to a prominent location near the steps of the college of engineering's administrative building, symbolic of the increasing support and participation from the engineering college and dean.

The chapter hosted the 2005 District 7 conference and attracted the highest attendance in five years. At last year's Convention, the chapter received an award for outstanding project activity, completing 14 projects. This year, the members are eyeing the Most Improved Chapter award and even higher goals beyond.

In recognition of her mentoring abilities and talent for inspiring students to create and maintain effective chapters, Tau Beta Pi hereby recognizes Dr. Sally Steadman as the 2005 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor.

Tau Beta Pi, the world's largest engineering society, has initiated 477,000 members since it was founded in 1885. Headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, the Association has 229 active collegiate chapters and 16 active alumnus chapters throughout the country.