

President Simonson Reports to the 2010 Convention

The Executive Council leads the Association under the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws and the Acts of the Convention. It provides leadership to guide national programs through Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer Jim Froula, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Roger E. Hawks, the Headquarters staff, District Directors, chapter advisors, and many additional outstanding volunteers. The Council receives guidance from and reports to the Convention. Therein lies your responsibility.

THE CONDITION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Tau Beta Pi is the largest society in the world with more than 517,000 initiated members and 455,000 living members. The number of active members is most important to the health of the Association. Tau Beta Pi's 236 chapters had a very good year, initiating 8,704 members, an increase of more than 1,000 initiates reported three years ago. I challenge you to allow me to report another increase in initiates at next year's Convention in Indianapolis.

Tau Beta Pi is a very active honor society, providing many member benefits. Your attendance here is an opportunity for you to be involved in conducting the business of the Society. Your participation is important for the future of our Association. Please accept your responsibilities and be actively involved. This Convention is funded from many sources, including each initiate's Convention assessment, contributions from more than 12,000 members, and earnings from the Association's Trust. Looking at the numbers, contributions from alumnus members are just under \$1,000,000 each year. The assets of the Association include \$17,000,000 of portfolio investments, an increase of 10.6% compared to last year. As you are painfully aware, the economy of the United States has faced many challenges in the past two years. Tau Beta Pi's financial situation is solid despite the shared pain of financial turbulence. The annual budget of the Association is about \$3 million. Approximately \$700,000 is spent for Headquarters operations located in Knoxville, TN. The staff is talented, loved by the Association, and efficient. Approximately \$380,000 is spent to support students with fellowships and scholarships. Would all of the Tau Beta Pi Fellows and Scholars, past and present, please stand and be recognized. Approximately \$350,000 is spent on this Convention. Fourth on the list of expenditures is the BENT publication—\$300,000. Next will be \$200,000 for the District Program, which includes the spring conferences, and \$100,000 for the Engineering Futures Program. We are supported by hundreds of volunteers and thousands of donors. Every year we are joined in our mission by several thousand top engineering students.

2009 CONVENTION BUSINESS

Each year the Convention has an opportunity to make changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. One constitutional amendment and one bylaw amendment were approved by the chapters based on action of last year's Convention in East Brunswick, NJ. Several matters were referred to the Executive Council (EC) for action.

Based on a recommendation from last year, a Tau Beta Pi Investment Policy has been prepared and will be submitted to the Committee on Chapter and Association Financial Affairs at this Convention.

OTHER EC ACTIONS SINCE THE 2009 CONVENTION

The Executive Council has met face-to-face three times since last year. We also held several meetings via teleconference to reduce travel expenses. We plan to continue this schedule this year. We are watching the expense side of the ledger very carefully in an attempt to not compromise the benefits enjoyed by you, the members of Tau Beta Pi.

You will hear much about Tau Beta Pi's K-12 Math and Science Program, MindSET. Councillor Dr. Jonathan Earle continues to lead this effort. The organizational structure is in place, and many Tau Beta volunteers are working diligently through the National Management Committee, the Regional Management Committees, and the chapter implementation teams. We expect this program to be nationally prominent in its impact on the future of our profession. Please take time to learn how your chapter may become involved. This is exciting stuff.

In order to promote interest in our MindSET Program, a Tau Beta Pi K-12 MindSET summit on November 20 in Kansas City is being planned. The purpose of the meeting is to form a working network for key people involved in the implementation of the MindSET Program. Chapters are invited to prepare and submit an application to send a team of three people to the summit. The three people for each team will be the student MindSET coordinator, the MindSET advisor, and a school district liaison. Many chapters have an elected officer in charge of leading their MindSET outreach work. The MindSET advisor is the key person providing continuity. This person does not need to be one of the four chapter advisors. He or she could be a campus person involved with university outreach programs for the engineering college or could be an industrial person who has a vested interest in promoting math and science initiatives for K-12 students. The school district liaison needs to be identified also. Applications should include a commitment from each of the three people mentioned and a brief description of past and projected MindSET activity for your chapter.

Dylan Lane, MindSET coordinator and Communications Specialist at Headquarters, is the point person to receive chapter applications. Applications are due on October 21. Ten chapter teams will be selected to attend

the November 20 summit and will be notified on October 22, allowing time to make transportation arrangements three-to-four weeks in advance of the November 20 Summit. Please contact Dylan or me with any questions that you may have. We are available during the Convention and via e-mail.

During the past year, Tau Beta Pi alumnus receptions have been held in Phoenix, AZ; Pasadena, CA; San Diego, CA; Naples, FL; Louisville, KY; Detroit, MI; Dayton, OH; Knoxville, TN; Houston, TX; Arlington, VA; and, two days ago, right here in King of Prussia, PA. On October 10, we will meet for the fourth time in the past four years with Washington, DC, area alumni at a reception at the Army Navy Club in Arlington, VA, to begin another year of active involvement with our alumni throughout the United States. Attendees are very pleased to re-connect with the Society and often comment that it is the first contact they have had with Tau Beta Pi since they graduated from college.

In addition to our receptions around the nation, the formation of Alumnus Chapters provides another way to stay connected to Tau Beta Pi. We would like to provide many opportunities for Tau Bates to remain connected to the Association.

During this Convention you will have a chance to review the petition for chapter from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL.

You will also have an opportunity to review the convention site bids from two chapters to host the 2013 Convention: Iowa Alpha at Iowa State University and Washington Delta at Gonzaga.

Let's have a great Convention and a great Tau Beta Pi year. I challenge you to convert the energy that you bring to this Convention into productive projects to benefit your chapter's members and to impact positively the future of the engineering profession. The Executive Council looks forward to another great year.

2006-10 PRESIDENT

Larry A. Simonson, South Dakota Alpha '69, Ph.D., P.E., received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. de-



grees in electrical engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and returned to his *alma mater* as a member of the faculty after working for Texas Instruments for three years. He is former departmental chair and current Hoffert Professor and associ-

ate dean for advancement. He travels extensively to meet with School of Mines alumni and corporate officials throughout the country. Dr. Simonson also serves as a program evaluator for ABET.

He was initiated into Sigma Tau in 1968 and has served as Chief Advisor of South Dakota Alpha since 1986, District 12 Director during 1994-2006, and Engineering Futures Facilitator since 1990. He was recognized as his university's presidential outstanding professor in 2004 and as the Tau Beta Pi 2002 National Outstanding Advisor. Dr. Simonson is a registered professional engineer and has served as president of the South Dakota Electrical Commission since 1996. In 2001, he founded Youth Engineering Adventure, a week-long program for high-school students interested in mathematics and science.

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