

# President Simonson Reports to the 2014 Convention

**T**HE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL leads the Association under the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws and the Acts of the Convention. It provides leadership to guide the Society's programs through Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer Curt Gomulinski, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Roger Hawks, the Headquarters staff, District Directors, Chapter Advisors, and many additional outstanding volunteers. The Council receives guidance from and reports to the Convention.

## THE CONDITION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Tau Beta Pi is the largest engineering society in the world with more than 550,000 initiated members. The number of active members is most important to the health of the Association. Tau Beta Pi's 242 chapters had a very good year last year, initiating more than 9,000 members. Congratulations to all who have been involved with the initiation process. Your efforts are well recognized. We still have a ways to go before we can match the all-time record of over 13,000 initiates in 1984.

Tau Beta Pi is a very active honor society, providing many member benefits. Your attendance at this Convention is an opportunity for you to be involved in conducting the business of TBPI. Your participation is important for the future of our Association. Please accept your responsibilities and be actively involved. Student input has always been and will always be valued by Tau Beta Pi.

This Convention is funded from many sources, including a portion of each member's initiation fee, contributions from over 10,000 members, and earnings from the Association's Trust Fund. Looking at the numbers, Tau Beta Pi's annual budget is about \$3 million. This year, alumni contributions again exceeded \$1 million. The assets of the Association include more than \$24 million of endowed portfolio investments. Well over half of this amount is used to generate scholarship and fellowship support for student members. Would everyone in the audience who has ever received a scholarship or a fellowship please stand and be recognized. Thank you.

This Convention alone costs the Association more than \$500,000. With this half million dollar investment, TBPI is counting on each of you to make sure that this investment pays huge dividends and that the momentum of our Association continues to move forward.

Our 14-member staff in Knoxville, TN, is talented, efficient, and loved by the Association. 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.

I would like all former members of the Executive Council to stand and be recognized. As long as we are in the standing mode, I would like everyone who has

attended at least one prior Convention to stand and be recognized with applause. Those who have attended 5 or more Conventions remain standing...10 or more Conventions...20 or more Conventions...30 or more Conventions...39 or more Conventions. Jim Froula is attending his 39th Convention and Russ Werneth is attending his 41st Tau Beta Pi Convention...that deserves applause!

## 2013 CONVENTION BUSINESS

Each year the Convention has an opportunity to make changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. The 2013 Convention in Ames, IA, approved four amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association. The most significant of these changed the structure of the initiation fee from \$32 and a \$7 convention assessment to a flat \$45, the first fee increase since 2004. I expect that additional amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws will



result from your work during the next two days.

The 2013 Convention was very busy with the following actions.

1. The Elevate Executive Council Slate was elected. The current Executive Council and the Executive Council Elect have been meeting together for the past year and the official transition will take place at the close of this Convention on Saturday night...51 hours and 30 minutes from now...but who's counting!
2. The University of Texas-Pan American was granted a chapter, Texas Nu.
3. A committee was formed to study different publishing options for *The Bent*. Executive Director Gomulinski will provide details in his report tomorrow.
4. A new process for selecting Convention sites has been adopted.
5. A committee has been appointed to conduct a general revision of the Constitution and Bylaws over the next two to five years. This is going to require substantial effort. Be prepared to participate where you can.

Other recommendations of the 2013 Convention include reviewing practices associated with the Distinguished Alumnus Award program, the MindSET program, image and insignia updates, and website enhancements.

At this Convention, you will have an opportunity to meet a Tau Bate who has really pursued liberal culture. Don McMillan, an engineer turned comedian, will

entertain us later tonight in the Davenport Hotel. Harry Lange presented two Personal Finance workshops this afternoon and will have one more presentation this evening as part of the many Professional Development programs held today. The last of the Professional Development sessions will be tonight at 7:25 p.m. I encourage you to attend one of the many parallel sessions.

### CHALLENGE

Let's have a great Tau Beta Pi year. I challenge each of you to convert the energy that you bring to this Convention into productive projects to benefit your chapter's members and to positively impact the future of the engineering profession. It is my hope that you will personally benefit from your experiences while you are in Spokane and while you are working with your chapter activities throughout the year.

We have the privilege to be guests of the Davenport Hotel, the Davenport Tower, the Spokane Convention Center, the city of Spokane, and the Gonzaga WA Delta Chapter for the next 2-1/2 days. Let's be responsible Tau Bates and represent our honor society and our respective universities well in all that we do.

Each delegate is responsible for attending all meetings according to the very busy Convention schedule. Many of you attended the career fair earlier today. During the next 2-1/2 days, you will conduct the business of

the Association, meet outstanding engineering students from chapters other than your own, and have the privilege of helping us honor the five 2014 Tau Beta Pi Laureates, the 2014 Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Advisor, the 2014 McDonald Mentor Award recipient, and the three 2014 Distinguished Alumni. Enjoy the experience.

### 2006-14 PRESIDENT

**Larry A. Simonson**, *South Dakota Alpha '69*, Ph.D., P.E., received B.S., M.S., and doctorate in electrical engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and returned as a member of the faculty in 1976 after working for Texas Instruments for three years. He served as department chair of electrical and computer engineering for five years and retired as professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering in 2008. He currently works for the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Foundation and makes efficient use of his time not only investigating new opportunities for his university but also visiting Tau Beta Pi alumni individually and in groups.

He has served as Chief Advisor of South Dakota Alpha since 1986, District 12 Director during 1994-2006, and Engineering Futures Facilitator during 1990-2008.

## Special Thanks!

Tau Beta Pi would like to recognize those who led professional development sessions at the 2014 Convention.

### Ask the Alumni

Aaron R. Alpert, *CA A '10*  
Edward D. Basta, *OH E '82*  
Tricia E. Gomulinski, *SD A '98*  
Colleen L. Hill-Stramsak, P.E., *MI E '00*  
Kaitlyn H. Krukar, *VA B '10*  
Caitlin M. Ryberg, *WA T '13*  
Robert W. Streeter, *WY A '11*

### Business Etiquette Speed Networking

Solange C. Dao, P.E., *FL A '95*



### The Elevator Speech Robert's Rules

Ronald M. Hickling, *CA E '80*

### Engineering Your Career Identity

Joey P. Wilson, Ph.D., *FL A '07*  
Teach for America

### Managing Your Investments for Retirement

Harry W. Lange, *MI Z '75*

### Move Up the Ladder

Christina M. Harrison, *TN A '93*

### Nailing your Job Interview

Scott E. Fable, *CA T '96*

### Nuclear Technology of The Navy

Lt. Matthew Snyder, USN

### Oh, the Places You'll Go: Uncommon

Career Choices in Engineering  
Wayne B. Paugh, Esq. *FL T '93*

### Problem Solving with Mom

Rebecca M. Davis, TBII Headquarters



### Should I go to Graduate School?

Bruce A. Lindvall, Ph.D.  
Northwestern University

### What the Career Office Didn't Tell You: Resume & Interview Tips

Edward J. D'Avignon, *NY B '88*

### Winning a Fellowship & Scholarship

Lauren H. Logan, *OH Δ '10*  
D. Stephen Pierre Jr., P.E., *AL E '90*

Photos: Dao, above, and Lange, left.