



November 2, 2016
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Tau Beta Pi Leaders Attend 111th Convention

San Diego, CA, was the site of the 111th annual Convention of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. Leaders of the organization met at the Town and Country & Convention Center to conduct the Association's business. Volunteers from three collegiate chapters assisted the San Diego Alumni Chapter in hosting the event, including: California Xi (San Diego State University), California Psi (University of California, San Diego), and California Alpha Epsilon (University of San Diego). Three hundred and twenty-four engineering students from 230 collegiate chapters received leadership and management training and practiced their skills in conducting the business of the Convention, held this year from October 6–8. A total of 479 members of Tau Beta Pi were on hand for this gathering of talented engineers.

One school was awarded a charter to establish a Tau Beta Pi collegiate chapter at Brigham Young University—Idaho to be known as Idaho Delta.

The R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award for 2015-16, the top honor to a collegiate chapter, went to the District of Columbia Alpha Chapter at Howard University. An honorable mention was given to Alabama Epsilon at the University of South Alabama.

The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award for 2015-16 was presented to Wisconsin Alpha at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Honorable mentions were given to Maryland Delta at the University of Maryland Baltimore County and Vermont Beta at Norwich University.

The J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership Award for 2015-16 was presented to North Carolina Gamma at Duke University. Honorable mentions were given to California Upsilon at California State University, Sacramento and North Dakota Alpha at North Dakota State University. The award was presented by **James D. Froula, P.E. (ret.)**, *Tennessee Alpha '67*, Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus. The Matthews, Nagel, and Froula awards are named for former Secretary-Treasurers of the Association.

N. Jan Davis, Ph.D., P.E., *Alabama Alpha '77*, vice president and deputy general manager of Jacobs Engineering and a former NASA astronaut; **Eugene M. DeLoatch, Ph.D.**, *District of Columbia Alpha '59*, founding dean of the Morgan State University School of Engineering; and

(more)

Michael D. Griffin, Ph.D., Maryland Beta '77, chairman and CEO of the Schafer Corp. and former Administrator of NASA, were presented with the 2016 Distinguished Alumnus Awards. A \$2,000 scholarship in each alumnus member's name will be awarded to a Tau Beta Pi student for the 2016-17 academic year.

Sandra "Sandy" Pitzak, Colorado Beta '00, Chief Advisor to the Colorado Beta Chapter and owner and spacecraft engineer at Tomorrow's Enterprise, LLC, was recognized as the 2016 Outstanding Advisor. Ms. Pitzak received a cash award of \$1,000 and a grant in the same amount will be presented to the dean of the college of engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder for his discretionary fund.

The McDonald Mentor Award celebrates excellence in mentoring and advising among Tau Beta Pi educators and engineers. **Antonette M. Logar, Ph.D., South Dakota Alpha '78**, professor in math and computer science department at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, was named the 2016 McDonald Mentor, receiving \$1,000 and an engraved medallion. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the South Dakota Alpha Chapter of Tau Beta Pi.

The Laureate Program recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding expertise outside the field of engineering. The Tau Beta Pi 2016 Laureates were: **Nathan J. Ferraro, Oklahoma Alpha '16**, cited for diverse achievements; **Angadbir S. Sabherwal, Iowa Alpha '16**, cited for diverse achievements; and **Kiersten K. Wang, Florida Alpha '16**, cited for achievements in athletics. Recipients received a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

Seventeen scholarships of \$500 each were presented for sustained excellent performance in project activities to the following chapters: Alabama Epsilon (University of South Alabama); Alaska Alpha (University of Alaska Fairbanks); California Alpha (University of California, Berkeley); California Epsilon (University of California, Los Angeles); District of Columbia Alpha (Howard University); Florida Alpha (University of Florida); Florida Theta (Florida International University); Iowa Alpha (Iowa State University); Michigan Gamma (University of Michigan); Michigan Epsilon (Wayne State University); Michigan Theta (Oakland University); Michigan Kappa (Western Michigan University); New York Tau (Binghamton University); Ohio Iota (Ohio Northern University); Puerto Rico Alpha (University of Puerto Rico); South Carolina Alpha (Clemson University); and Texas Alpha (University of Texas at Austin).

This year's Convention included two speakers and two performances. **Peter W. Likins, Ph.D., CA Gamma '57**, gave the welcoming address at the first business meeting. Dr. Likins is past president of Lehigh University and the University of Arizona. Friday evening, **Baldwin Chiu, P.E., CA Upsilon '98**, performed with his wife Larissa Lam. Chiu, also known as "Only Won," is a rapper and "lyrical engineer." His wife, Larissa, is an award-winning singer and producer. At the final awards banquet on Saturday, **Murray E. Rudin, NY Kappa '83**, gave the farewell address. Rudin is managing director of Riordan, Lewis & Haden. Engineer and comedian **Don McMillan, PA Alpha '81**, performed his "Engineer@Heart" show on Saturday afternoon.

This year, Friday was dedicated to professional development and the Recruiting Fair. There were 23 different professional development sessions conducted by Tau Beta Pi alumni and guests. At the same time, representatives from 12 companies, non-profit agencies, and government entities and from 29 graduate engineering programs manned recruiting booths. The Recruiting Fair was also financially supported by four additional companies.

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Tau Beta Pi is the Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 245 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 41 cities. It has initiated more than 574,000 members in its 131-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See <https://www.tbp.org/>)