

# Greater Interest in Government Maryland Beta Focuses on High Schoolers

**T**HE MARYLAND BETA CHAPTER of Tau Beta Pi planned an outreach event to introduce high-school students to different engineering disciplines. This program was conducted with the Tau Beta Pi Greater Interest in Government Grant. On April 17-18, 2002, Maryland Beta held the "Engineering Outreach Program at High Point High School." The GIG Grant allowed our chapter to host the event, including the purchase of presentation materials and food for the students. The chapter invited its Tau Bates and University of Maryland engineering professors to make 30-minute presentations in physics, calculus, biology, and chemistry. Each presentation was unique in that a different combination of students and professors conducted each session.

An example of the unique combinations was Dr. Bowden and Brian Ross, two members of the aerospace engineering department who discussed the different types of tools and equipment that aerospace engineers designed for astronauts to use in space. Dr. N.S Wang and T. Holoman, professors in chemical engineering, visited chemistry and medical-science classes and discussed biochemical engineering and bio-separations. Chinmay L. Hegde and Cheryl L. Malatras, Maryland Beta computer engineering students, visited physics classes and presented the basics of electromagnetic wave propagation.



Engineering outreach program at High Point High School.

Professors, the director of the women in engineering program, and Tau Bates in aerospace, biological resources, fire protection, electrical, and chemical engineering participated in 11 sessions during the program.

The high-school students enjoyed the presentations and were extremely interactive with the presenters. Most of the sessions were extended to an hour

because of the plethora of questions from inquisitive students. The head of the high-school science department, Martha Alexander, said that "Engineering Week was a big hit. Every teacher [she] spoke to raved about the presentations." Maryland Beta has even been invited back to the school to assist in pre-college engineering programs, such as Final Frontiers and SECME.

The participating Tau Bates were grateful for having the opportunity to reach out to their community and to encourage young students to excel in life and aspire to be engineers. Maryland Beta extends its gratitude to the Greater Interest in Government Grant selection committee for allowing us the opportunity to begin this inspiring program that we hope to continue next year.

—Ivy T. Liu, President, 2001-02

—Elicia M. John, GIG Program Coordinator

*The purpose of the Greater Interest in Government Program, established in 1969 by Frederick A. Faville, Illinois Beta '19, is to stimulate interest in civic affairs and public-policy issues among student members of Tau Beta Pi. The Executive Council awards annual grants up to \$750 each for these activities from the investment earnings of the Greater Interest in Government Fund.*